

XII MEETING OF MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRSS OF THE MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE AMAZONIAN COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION

(EL COCA, 3 MAY 2013)

MINUTES

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Member Countries of the Amazonian Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) held their XII Meeting in El Coca, Province of Orellana, on 3 May 2013 by attending the kind invitation from the Government of the Republic of Ecuador.

The Delegations were headed by: Ambassador Mr. David Choquehuanca, Minister of Foreign Affairs from the Plurinational State of Bolivia; Ambassador Mr. Antonio Patriota, Minister of Foreign Affairs from the Federative Republic of Brazil; Ambassador Mrs. María Ángela Holguin, Minister of Foreign Affairs from the Republic of Colombia; Mr. Ricardo Patiño Minister of Foreign Affairs from the Republic of Ecuador; Mrs. Merlin Udho, from the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, Ambassador of Guyana in Brazil; Ambassador Julio Garro from the Republic of Peru, General Director for Multilateral and Global Affairs; from the Republic of Suriname, Ginmardo Kromosoeto, Minister of Physical Planning, Land and Forest Management ; and from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, D. Rúben Darío Molina, Director of the Office of Multilateral Affairs and Integration; Yet, the Permanent Secretary of the Amazonian Cooperation Treaty Organization was represented by the General Secretary, Ambassador Robby Ramlakhan.

The complete Delegations list may be found as **Annex I** in this Minute.

OPENING CEREMONY

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador, Ambassador Ricardo Patiño extended his warmest greetings to the Delegations that participated in this XII Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member Countries of the Amazonian Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO). He submitted for approval of the Delegations the Agenda of the XII Meeting of Foreign Ministries proposed by the Amazonian Cooperation Council (ACC), the same that was approved unanimously. The approved Agenda is included as **Annex II** in this Minute.

Minister Patiño expressed the importance the ACTO Countries have to the common megadiverse space they share. He expressed the need of giving more attention to the existence of a supposed environmental consciousness which the region intends to internationalize. The region must be preserved and the countries must exercise effective sovereignty upon their Amazonian territories. Biodiversity and cultural wealth in the region must be valued. ACTO cannot only wish for preserving the Amazon but it is a strategy for obtaining the development of its Countries. Proposals that claim for the total value the Amazon has acquired such as the Net Emissions Avoided and Nature Rights, must be a vision worked as a group within ACTO.

Patiño has also highlighted the transcendence of Regulation for Commercial Navigation . Ecuador considers the need of evaluating and agreeing on its importance for all the Member Countries and made a plea for submitting it as soon as possible, considering all aspects of interest to the Parties.

Issues of extreme importance for the future, relaunching and consolidation of ACTO will be discussed on this session. Adopted decisions related to institutional, financial, programmatic and normative restructuring will reflect the Member Countries results to be shown to ACTO in the coming years.

2. REPORT REGARDING THE PROGRESS ON IMPLEMENTING MANAUS COMMITMENT – PERMANENT SECRETARY

ACTO's General Secretary, Ambassador Robby Ramlakhan, after greeting the Delegations, thanked the Ministers and Heads of Delegation for their cooperation and support given during the last ten months of management and to the Ecuadorian Ministry of Foreign Affairs for organizing the Meeting, and then he continued to introduce the Permanent Secretary Activities Report from November 2011 to April 2013. Accomplishing the mandates of the Manaus Commitment from November 2011 and the Amazonian Cooperation Strategic Agenda was one of the highlighted aspects on the Activities Report.

PS/ACTO focused its actions on 5 priorities in order to guarantee the success of relaunching ACTO, initiated in 2009: i) implementing the Strategic Agenda; ii) giving higher visibility to ACTO; iii) adapting to the Amazon region current reality and increasing the participation of social society on ACTO's activities; iv) identifying alternative modes of financing; and v) reinforcing ACTO's institution.

Regarding the implementation of the Strategic Agenda, the Secretary highlighted that it consists of 261 programs, projects and activities which 126 are rated as short-term activities. From these 126 short-term activities, 57 (45%) were about Environmental issues; 14 (11%) about Indigenous Subjects; 6 (5%) about Managing Knowledge; 20 (16%) about Health; 13 (10%) about Infrastructure, Tourism and Transport; 11 (9%) about Institution-building, and 5 (4%) about emerging issues.

From these 126 short-term activities, the Secretariat reached an implementation rate of 73% in a little more than two years. Besides, the Secretariat collected the Mandates of the Manaus Commitment, the activities implemented to accomplish these mandates and results achieved and the activities being implemented and those that will be undertaken. The outstanding issues related to the Strategic Agenda as well as to the Manaus Commitment were included in the 2013 Work Plan.

After introducing other issues, it was highlighted that the Secretary accomplished the mandates entrusted to it with a considerable success. It is worth pointing out that in some cases the Member Countries did not agree with some activities that were in full conformity with the Strategic Agenda, and because of the unanimity value, the implementation of these activities suffered significant delays. It is the case of KfW, which ACTO is on risk of losing these funds because of the lack of response from the Member Countries. However, it is extremely important for the national participation within ACTO to be fully leveled in order to achieve the objectives of the Amazonian Cooperation Treaty.

Finally, the Permanent Secretary distributed an update of ACTO's legal base, which will certainly support the debates inside the Organization.

The President thanked Ambassador Ramlakhan's for his presentation and after his approval he proceeded with point 3 of the Agenda.

3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR THE XVII ORDINARY MEETING OF THE AMAZONIAN COOPERATION COUNCIL REGARDING THE RESULTS ACHIEVED

The President of the XVII Ordinary Meeting of the Amazonian Cooperation Council (ACC), Ambassador María Soledad Córdova transmitted the results achieved in the meeting held on 2 May 2013; In relation to the PS/ACTO's report, she highlighted as significant points: accomplishing the implementation of short-term activities of the Strategic Agenda; accomplishing Manaus commitments; the number of regional meetings; the linkage with regional organisations ; the financing subject and the complement held by the international cooperation, focusing more on the South-South cooperation; the participation of the Amazonian society and the need of giving ACTO more visibility.

Among the core reached agreements are: i) the decision to establish a Special Committee to analyze the establishment of a Network of Research Centers, which will gather on the 25 and 26 June 2013 in Quito; ii) the agreement for suggesting to the Ministers of Foreign Affairs the establishment of the Amazonian Regional Observatory, leaving its Regulation waiting for approval; iii) the progress on the analysis for developing initiatives and strategies of cooperation and collaboration in issues like social inclusion and fight against poverty, highlighting Brazil's support through a specific project which will ease the proposal of mainstreaming the issue of Social Inclusion on the Strategic Agenda; iv) Venezuela's decision to reactivate the Group of Commercial Navigation and hold the V Meeting this year; v) the PS/ACTO report regarding the implementation of the main programs and projects, highlighting technical and financial aspects, showing that all approved portfolio projects are under execution.

Regarding the subject on finance and considering the document "Proposal for updating fees and prospects for financing ACTO", submitted by PS/ACTO, and the proposal prepared by CCOOR regarding the possibilities of financing of public companies from the Member Countries, it was informed that the ACC agreed to forward two proposals of Resolution to the Ministers of Foreign Affairs to consider.

PS/ACTO informed that seven National Seminars have been held so far highlighting the broad participation of different Amazonian actors, counting almost one thousand participants. The ACC suggested the approval of a Resolution by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs to define the structure for the Regional Seminar to be held in Bolivia in the second half of 2013.

Regarding the projects of Resolution, the ACC studied and agreed to bring fourteen consensual proposals for the Ministers of Foreign Affairs to consider. Regarding the Declaration of El Coca, a draft which will be evaluated at the meeting was finally agreed on.

4. MINISTERS DIALOG

- PROJECT OF REGULATION FOR COMMERCIAL NAVIGATION IN THE AMAZONIAN RIVERS**
- POSSIBILITIES OF PUBLIC COMPANIES OF THE MEMBER COUNTRIES FINANCING ACTIVITIES, PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS OF ACTO**

-INTRODUCTION TO THE EQUATORIAN INITIATIVE OF NET EMISSIONS AVOIDED AND NATURE RIGHTS

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brazil expressed his satisfaction for the process of modernization and update of the regional work. It is important to remember that it is the first meeting of ACTO's Ministers of Foreign Affairs after Rio+20. The Amazon had an important role at the Meeting when coordinating positions and values, which were submitted to the Conference. In Rio de Janeiro it was given a new unprecedented treatment regarding the sustainable development which leads to debate the post 2015 goals. The Minister said that the process of regional cooperation earned a new level with the Strategic Agenda.

It was highlighted that the project for Monitoring Forest Cover will contribute to the public policies and that the National Bank of Social and Economic Development of Brazil (NBSDE) approved on 30 April 2013, by the Amazonian Fund of the second stage of the (rushed) project, from the first international Fund project, an amount of twelve million dollars. He also highlighted that with the support of the National Water Agency a Regional project of training and capacity-building is created. The elimination of poverty in the region is considered by him to be an ethical and practical objective. The social dimension of Amazon cooperation is earning space, for which the Secretary of Strategic Affairs from the Presidency of Brazil is giving its support to reach the objective to incorporate the issue regarding social inclusion in the Strategic Agenda.

It is important to move forward on a debate regarding a regional productive agenda, reinforcing the capability of local people, and giving them opportunities. Current experiences have shown that it is possible to grow, include, protect and preserve. The future we want for the Amazon is related to the creation of local knowledge through the Regional Observatory and the Scientific Knowledge Network, where it could be elaborated a list of professionals of the Member Countries of ACTO.

The donation of a land from Brazil is another development for the construction of ACTO's headquarter proposing that the cornerstone is placed on the next 3 July 2013. Regarding the institutional strengthening, the fees are being updated and Brazil has already realized 70% of that committed on the first stage. It is very important to move forward on identifying public and mixed-capital companies to finance ACTO's issues. It is necessary to address new objectives and challenges, such as the registry of the internet domain .amazon. The negotiation of the Commercial Navigation Regulation must be completed. ACTO depends on each Member Country and on the work of all. Brazil's commitment was reaffirmed to relaunch ACTO as a diplomatic privileged instrument.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia highlighted the privilege of the eight Member Countries for occupying and being responsible for the Amazon, showing the importance of ACTO for reinforcing the work of the regional cooperation. She said that it is the moment to focus more on the subject related to finance and to look for national public companies so that they can contribute, and to think on a higher national commitment to the regional activities through financing specific ones. The Regulation of Commercial Navigation is priority to all Member Countries and it is crucial to think on its utility to help improve connections.

The consolidation of the Regional Observatory and the establishment of the Amazonian Network Research Centers are essential. The Minister proposed that each Member Country gives five scholarships to Amazonian students on the environmental subject. ACTO can be a

promoter for that region. There is a big challenge for preserving natural resources, focusing on the post 2015 agenda. The subject related to social inclusion is very relevant and it was seen on the National Seminar held by Colombia. It is necessary to consider that there is a big magnitude and that the initiatives should follow the same proportion. She ended up making clear acknowledgement to Brazil and calling to work more for the region.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bolivia called the importance of values for Indigenous people and specially the need for sharing, communicating and expressing the responsibility towards the Amazon as a natural space of life. It is important to care for the Amazon, human beings are very important as well as all lives treasured in this region. We need to recognize when talking about ACTO there is no clear understanding from society regarding the importance and role of the organization, it is important to give a bigger visibility to the work and strengthen social participation on regional activities.

It is correct to discuss how to properly preserve biodiversity, but it must also be discussed the best way to achieve the required balance for taking care of it. She highlighted the need for counting on Research Centers which allow us to know the reality. Own resources must be considered, having imagination, searching for the social corporate responsibility with the Amazon, taking care of this source of life and avoiding the indiscriminate use of land. There is the need for building a small engine to take care of a source of life. In the Amazon there is the need of counting on the participation of the Amazonian society.

The General Director of Multilateral Affairs of Venezuela explained the importance of the homeland plan pushed in his country and that in 33 years from the ACT validity, he allows the confirmation to ratify the commitment of Venezuela with the process of the Amazonian Cooperation. It is crucial the search for alternative mechanisms of financing. There is a commitment with the sustainable development of the Amazonian people. It is important to establish the Amazonian Regional University, where the Research Network is essential. Venezuela is getting prepared for assuming the responsibility of the Permanent Secretary in 2015 and because of that it commits to reinforce ACTO's activities. He ratified the desire of Venezuela to hold in 2013 the V Meeting of the Working Group of Commercial Navigation, searching for a balanced and satisfactory agreement that reflects adequately the benefits of the river interconnection.

The Minister of Physical Planning, Land and Forest Management of Suriname expressed the importance of the meeting and excused the presence of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of his country. He highlighted the relevance of the work carried out by all Member Countries. He expressed that having the Strategic Agenda is a substantial progress and that it reinforces the process of regional cooperation. The Amazonian youth must be included in the activities of the Organization. Suriname expressed a strong call for incorporating the youth in the programs of regional work. The results reached show that ACTO is one of the main instruments to move forward in the regional cooperation.

The Ambassador of Guyana expressed the importance of considering what the populations have as priorities, highlighting the need of working on a coordinated and joint manner. The niche opportunity that owns the Organization regarding sustainable use and biodiversity preservation must be exploited. There is the support to search for new financial sources, specially the petroleum companies that work in the region.

The General Director of Multilateral and Global Affairs of the Peruvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs highlighted the importance of holding the Meeting in the Amazon region, which means to give the opportunity of creating Amazonian regional cooperation from the Amazon itself. The Strategic Agenda is one expression of the regional relaunch and the decision for moving forward together. For Peru the Amazon must also be seen as a future subject. The multinational forum discussions on topics such as intellectual property rights, the challenges of climate change or the new problems arising from the information society, shows that.. In this sense, it is very important to consider subjects such as protecting the geographic name facing attempts by appropriation by third parties in the relevant forums. Social participation must be reinforced. Financing is a subject that must be addressed and Peru is willing to do it jointly with the rest of the Member Countries.

5. PRESENTATION OF NET EMISSIONS AVOIDED AND NATURE RIGHTS

The Government of Ecuador after holding a presentation about the subject, expressed its interest for the Countries of ACTO to recognize and support the initiatives of mitigation and adapting to climate change that develops in the region voluntarily, according to the values of common but differentiated responsibilities. The importance of its efforts when promoting the initiatives presented before the United Nations Framework Convention related to Climate Change for stimulating the mitigation in the various sectors of economy and to safeguard the environmental integrity.

Yet, it highlighted the importance of recognizing that the harmony with nature is necessary for the sustainable development. Within this framework, he said that the Member Countries of ACTO, on its strong commitment of preserving biodiversity and ecosystems, must look to create spaces of debate and discussion addressing holistic visions. Consequently, it was requested a support to the countries of the region on their initiatives regarding the promotion of Nature Rights/Mother Earth, to reach for the sustainable development and planned to carry out a seminar that allows the dialog about this theme which would be held on the second half of 2013. This presentation encouraged the elaboration of a proposal of Resolution for the Ministers of Foreign Affairs' consideration.

Minister Patiño highlighted by the time he ended up talking about this point of the agenda, the high level of commitment that the Member Countries expressed with the work of the Organization and reiterated his call for the addressed aspects so they could be transformed in concrete action in favor of the Amazonian population.

8. CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

The President of the Meeting submitted for approval of the Plenary the following Resolutions:

DOC XII MRE-OTCA_Res_1_ Net Avoided Emissions and Rights of Nature/Mother Earth
DOC XII MRE-OTCA_Res_2_ Regional Observatory
DOC XII MRE-OTCA_Res_3_ Amazon Social Inclusion
DOC XII MRE-OTCA_Res_4_ Regional Seminar on the Perspectives of ACTO
DOC XII MRE-OTCA_Res_5_ Food Sovereignty
DOC XII MRE-OTCA_Res_6_ Climate Change
DOC XII MRE-OTCA_Res_7_ Objectives on Sustainable Development
DOC XII MRE-OTCA_Res_8_ Effective Participation of the Indigenous Peoples
DOC XII MRE-OTCA_Res_9_ Cooperation Projects
DOC XII MRE-OTCA_Res_10_ Management Report

DOC XII MRE-OTCA_Res_11_Acknowledgements
DOC XII MRE-OTCA_Res_12_Domain ".Amazon"
DOC XII MRE-OTCA_Res_13_Contributions Update
DOC XII MRE-OTCA_Res_14_Financial Proposal

The Resolutions were approved and adopted by the XII Meeting of Minister of Foreign Affairs of ACTO. Their complete texts, which are integral part of this Minute, are included as **Annex III**.

9. PROJECT OF EL COCA DECLARATION

The President of the Meeting requested to the Plenary to approve the joint Declaration of El Coca, facing the hard work of consultation that preceded the Ministers of Foreign Affairs meeting, highlighting the main commitments assumed by the Member Countries of ACTO. The Declaration was approved and set out as **Annex IV**.

The Delegations thanked the Republic of Colombia for providing the XVIII Meeting of the Amazonian Cooperation Council to be held in that country on the second half of 2013.

It was equally highlighted that the Republic of Suriname decided to be the venue of the XIII Meeting of Minister of Foreign Affairs in 2014. Furthermore, they welcomed the commitment of Venezuela to host the XIV Meeting of Minister of Foreign Affairs in 2015.

At the end of the XII Meeting of Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Heads of Delegation expressed their greetings to the Government of the republic of Ecuador for its hospitality and given attention, while congratulating the Permanent Secretary for the efficient work which with no doubt allows to institutionally reinforce and consolidate ACT and the Organization.

Adopted in El Coca, Ecuador, on 3 May 2013.

ANNEX I

PLURINATIONAL STATE OF BOLIVIA

Ambassador David Choquehuanca, Minister of Foreign Affairs
Mr. José Antonio Zamora Gutiérrez, Minister of Environment and Water
Mr. José Crespo, Director General of Multilateral Relations
Ing. Ruzena Maribel Santamaría Mamani, Ambassador of Bolivia in Ecuador
Councilor Manuel Monroy, Embassy of Bolivia in Ecuador
Mrs. Ana Lia López, Minister of Foreign Affairs
Mrs. Alexandra Moreira, Minister of Foreign Affairs

FEDERATIVE REPUBLIC OF BRASIL

Ambassador Antonio Patriota, Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ambassador Clemente Baena Soares, Director of South America Department II
Ambassador Fernando Simas Magalhães, Ambassador of Brazil in Ecuador
Secretary Natalia Shimada, South America Department II
Secretary Marcelo Hasunuma, South America Department II
Mrs. Tania Jardim, Brazilian Cooperation Agency

REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA

Ambassador María Ángela Holguín, Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ambassador Francisco Coy Granados, Director of Territorial Sovereignty and Border Development

REPUBLIC OF ECUADOR

Mr. Ricardo Patiño, Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ambassador María Soledad Córdova, Subsecretary of Latinamerica and the Caribbean a.i.
Mr. Francisco Racines, Director for Regional Integration
Mr. Franklin Quishpe, Directorate for Regional Integration. Focal Point of ACTO

COOPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA

Amb. Merlin Udho, Ambassador of Guyana in Brazil
Mrs. Berverly McDonald, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Guyana

REPUBLIC OF PERU

Ambassador Julio Garro, Director General for Multilateral and Global Affairs
Minister Gonzalo Guillén, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

REPUBLIC OF SURINAME

Minister Ginmardo Kromosoeto, Ministry of Physical Planning, Land and Forest Management
Wendell Alfons, Desk Officer Regional Integration Department. Ministry of Foreign Affairs

BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA

Mr. Rubén Darío Molina, Director of the Multilateral and Integration's Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mrs. Marelvis Bastos, Director of Mechanisms of Political Agreements and Integration
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

PERMANENT SECRETARIAT OF ACTO

Ambassador Robby Ramlakhan, Secretary General
Ambassador Mauricio Dorfner, Executive Director
Mr. Carlos Aragón, Administrativo Director

ANNEX II

AGENDA

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
2. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MANAUS COMMITMENT –
PERMANENT SECRETARIAT
3. REPORT BY THE CHAIR OF THE 17th ORDINARY MEETING OF THE AMAZON
COOPERATION COUNCIL ON THE RESULTS REACHED
4. DIALOGUE OF THE MINISTERS
5. PRESENTATION OF THE ECUADORIAN INITIATIVE OF NET AVOIDED EMISSIONS AND
NATURE RIGHTS
6. APPROVAL OF THE RESOLUTIONS (PS/ACTO)
DOC XII MRE-OTCA_Res_1_ Net Avoided Emissions and Rights of Nature/Mother earth
DOC XII MRE-OTCA_Res_2_ Regional Observatory
DOC XII MRE-OTCA_Res_3_ Amazon Social Inclusion
DOC XII MRE-OTCA_Res_4_ Regional Seminar on the Perspectives of ACTO
DOC XII MRE-OTCA_Res_5_ Food Sovereignty
DOC XII MRE-OTCA_Res_6_ Climate Change
DOC XII MRE-OTCA_Res_7_ Objectives on Sustainable Development
DOC XII MRE-OTCA_Res_8_ Effective Participation of the Indigenous Peoples
DOC XII MRE-OTCA_Res_9_ Cooperation Projects
DOC XII MRE-OTCA_Res_10_ Management Report
DOC XII MRE-OTCA_Res_11_ Acknowledgements
DOC XII MRE-OTCA_Res_12_ Domain “.Amazon”
DOC XII MRE-OTCA_Res_13_ Contributions Update
DOC XII MRE-OTCA_Res_14_ Financial Proposal
7. APPROVAL OF COCA DECLARATION
8. SOCIAL/CULTURAL EVENT IN TRIBUTE OF THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFIARS,
CHIEFS OF DELEGATION AND THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT OF ACTO

**12TH MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE MEMBER COUNTRIES OF
THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION**

RES/XII MRE-ACTO/01

WHEREAS:

In the 11th Ordinary Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, the Member States determined to reaffirm the commitment to the sustainable development of the Amazon, as well as the importance of adopting measures to promote cooperation, exchange and the joint projection of the Member Countries to face the new international challenges;

The 17th Meeting of the Amazon Cooperation Council assessed positively the proposal submitted by the Republic of Ecuador and commissioned this Council to provide support to Ecuadorian initiatives;

That the presentation of these proposals is a historic landmark, which protects biodiversity, respects indigenous peoples and other tribal communities, and also seeks to promote a model of sustainable development;

RESOLVES:

To recognize and support the initiatives for the mitigation and adaptation of climate change that are naturally taking place in the region according to the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

To take note of Ecuador's efforts in its proposal presented to the Framework Convention of the United Nations on Climate Change by encouraging the mitigation of various sectors of the economy, safeguarding the integrity of the environment, ensuring that emissions of greenhouse gases are avoided, leading to a net reduction in overall levels.

To recognize that harmony with nature is necessary for sustainable development. In this setting the Member Countries of ACTO, in their firm commitment to conserve biodiversity and ecosystems, must seek to create opportunities for discussion, touching on holistic, integral visions. They support the countries in the region in their initiatives related to the promotion of the Rights of Nature/Mother Earth in order to achieve sustainable development. In this context, to request that the PS/ACTO hold a workshop allowing for the exchange of regional experiences, in the second half of two thousand and thirteen.

Adopted in the city of El Coca, Ecuador, on May 3, 2013.

**12TH MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE MEMBER COUNTRIES OF
THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION**

RES/XII MRE-OTCA/02

CONSIDERING:

That Articles 7 section a) and 9 of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty (ACT) express the decision of the Contracting Parties to promote scientific research and the exchange of information and technical personnel among the competent authorities of the respective countries, in order to broaden knowledge on the fauna and flora resources of their Amazonian territories; and to establish close collaboration in the fields of scientific and technological research, aiming to create more appropriate conditions to accelerate the economic and social development of the region;

That in the Declaration of Heads of State on ACTO, adopted in Manaus on 26 November 2009, it was decided to promote a regional science and technology agenda, including respect to traditional knowledge;

That the Declaration of Lima, adopted by the 10th Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the ACTO (November 30, 2000), states “the necessity to deepen cooperation and the exchange of experiences and good practices of the Member Countries: in the scientific and technological scopes, in terms of establishing institutional and regional academic networks, of means of communication and information...”;

That upon RES X/MRE-OTCA/5 of 30 November 2010, the Amazon Cooperation Strategic Agenda is approved, including the topic of Knowledge and Information Exchange Management, aiming to foment the exchange of information, knowledge and technology in all of the theme areas of the Strategic Agenda, enabling dialogues on knowledge and inter-scientific dialogues as assurance of technology development and innovation;

That in the Manaus Commitment, adopted on the 11th Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the ACTO (November 22, 2011), the Member Countries made a commitment to intensify actions of cooperation in the fields of innovation, science and technology, and in compliance with what was established on the Regional Meeting of Puyo, Ecuador, in June 2011, to develop an integrated information system and standard regional indicators to facilitate research on the Amazon carried out by national and regional institutions; and to promote the inclusion of ancestral knowledge and community and local practices of indigenous peoples. In this context, the Permanent Secretariat was instructed to proceed with the implementation of the “Amazon Observatory”, a permanent forum that will bring together institutions and authorities related to the topic, emphasizing the study on Amazon biodiversity;

That the 2nd Regional Meeting on Science, Technology and Education, held in Leticia, Colombia, on 18 and 19 October 2012, approved the proposal for the establishment of the Amazon Regional Observatory, according to recommendations from the 1st Regional Meeting convened and developed in Manaus on 11 and 12 September 2012;

RESOLVES:

To establish the AMAZON REGIONAL OBSERVATORY as a permanent forum that brings together institutions and authorities linked to the study of the Amazon, as a point of reference for regional information on biodiversity, natural resources and social

diversity of the Amazon region. To support their activities, the Regional Observatory will have an Information Platform and a Regional Training Service. Its operation will be governed by an annex Regulation that is part of the present Resolution.

To instruct the Amazon Regional Observatory to begin its activities by creating, within a year, the 1st Regional Report on the Scenario of Water Resources or Forests or Biodiversity in the Amazon for 2030.

To instruct the Permanent Secretariat, in coordination with the national institutions which will be a part of the Regional Observatory, to carry out the necessary efforts to ensure the requested funding in order to fulfill its mandate.

Adopted in the city of El Coca, Ecuador, on May 3, 2013.

**12TH MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE
AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION**

RES/XII MRE-OTCA/03

CONSIDERING:

That the Amazon Cooperation Treaty expresses the common purpose of the Contracting Parties to unite efforts they have been making, both in their respective territories and among themselves, to promote the harmonious development of the Amazon, which allows an equitable distribution of the benefits of said development to improve the living standards of their peoples, and aiming to achieve the full incorporation of their Amazonian territories to the respective national economies;

That in the Declaration of Heads of State on the ACTO, adopted in Manaus on 26 November 2009, it was decided that an integral vision of regional cooperation in the Amazon be built;

That the Declaration of Lima, adopted at the 10th Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the ACTO (November 30, 2011), expressed the belief that the development of the respective Amazonian territories must be characterized by sustainability and environmental conservation criteria, considering cultural and social values at all times;

That in the terms of RES X/MRE-OTCA/5 of 30 November 2010, the Amazon Cooperation Strategic Agenda was approved including, among its Emerging Topics regional development, aiming to promote the economic and social development of integrated and sustainable Amazon spaces upon the articulation and diffusion of public policies regarding the promotion of employment and income generation inside a vision of sustainable economic development for the Amazon region;

That in the Manaus Commitment, adopted at the 11th Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the ACTO (November 22, 2011), the Member Countries express that the current cooperation process among the countries in the Amazon region and their peoples must take into account the economic, social and environmental aspects of sustainable development, thus deciding to initiate the dialogue between experts in the field of social inclusion, fight against poverty and extreme poverty eradication, to which the ACC was instructed to create an Ad Hoc Working Group to propose and examine initiatives in the field of social development in the Amazon region;

RESOLVES:

To adopt the recommendations of the 1st Meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group given the task of proposing and examining initiatives in the field of social development in the Amazon region, with emphasis on social inclusion, the fight against poverty, and the eradication of extreme poverty so as to develop the issue of social inclusion in ACTO's Strategic Agenda in the course of 2013.

To instruct the ACC, in coordination with the Permanent Secretariat, to continue to support the Group's work on social inclusion in the Amazonia, avoiding the duplication of efforts.

Adopted in the city of El Coca, Ecuador, on May 3, 2013.

**12TH MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE MEMBER COUNTRIES OF
THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION**

RES/XII MRE-OTCA/04

CONSIDERING:

That on the 10th Ordinary Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, the Member Countries agreed to begin a joint reflection to allow the strengthening of participation and commitment of national institutions in the process of Amazon cooperation, for which they entrusted the PS/ACTO with the organization of a Regional Seminar with broad participation, on the role and perspectives of the ACTO, aiming at better meeting the expectations of the Amazonian society;

That, in delivering said mandate, the 15th Ordinary Meeting of the Amazon Cooperation Council positively evaluated the proposal presented by the PS/ACTO and entrusted it with the administration of resources necessary to support the delivery of National Seminars in each one of the Member Countries;

That on the 11th Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs held in Manaus on 22 November 2011, it took charge of promoting Seminars in the scope of each Member Country, which helped to deepen the process of political re-launch of the ACTO; develop broader spaces for dialogue with Amazon populations, by delivering a regional seminar, in order to study and analyze the proposals presented on each of the national seminars;

That by the offering made by the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the Council decided that the aforementioned Seminar should take place in said Member Country;

That to this date, seven National Seminars took place which constituted historic milestones for the opening of the Organization for Amazonian populations;

RESOLVES:

To acknowledge the progress made in the National Seminars conducted by the Member Countries and call for the delivery of the pending National Seminars as soon as possible.

To establish that the Regional Seminar adopts the following thematic structure: i) The Amazon today: social, economic and environmental situation; ii) The Amazon in the international scene: Amazon and ACTO after Rio+20; iii) Local society's participation in development – alternatives for interaction with the ACTO, and iv) the ACTO as a scenery for regional cooperation: progress and successes of the Amazon.

That the PS/ACTO carry out the necessary efforts for the organization and funding of the Regional Seminar to be held in Bolivia on the second semester of 2013.

Adopted in the city of El Coca, Ecuador, on May 3, 2013.

**12TH MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE MEMBER COUNTRIES OF
THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION**

RES/XII MRE-OTCA/05

CONSIDERING:

The Amazon Cooperation Treaty (ACT) was signed on July 3rd, 1978 by the Governments of Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela, aiming to “make joint efforts and actions to promote the harmonious development of their respective Amazonian territories, in order for these joint actions to produce equitable and mutually beneficial results, as well as for the preservation of the environment and the conservation and rational use of natural resources in these territories”.

The Amazonian Strategic Agenda for Cooperation points out the promotion for sustainable use and conservation of the biological diversity, through regional actions that favor investments and the trade of products derived from the biodiversity of the ACTO's Member Countries, emphasizing the aggregation of value in the country of origin and in the fair and equitable distribution of benefits, prioritizing the local development and food security.

That it is important to conserve and develop sustainable production systems of wild fauna and flora for food safety, with the sovereignty of local populations and protection and appropriate use of genetic resources for food.

RESOLVES:

To call the Member Countries of ACTO to a meeting of analysis and development of several concepts such as that of food sovereignty and its relation to food security and the right to food as an initial activity for considering the productive issue in the framework of the Strategic Agenda.

Hence, it is requested of the Permanent Secretariat that the necessary efforts are put in place to convene the aforementioned meeting as soon as possible.

Adopted in the city of El Coca, Ecuador, on May 3, 2013.

**12TH MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE MEMBER COUNTRIES OF
THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION**

RES/XII MRE-OTCA/06

CONSIDERING:

The Amazon Cooperation Treaty (ACT) was signed on 3 July 1978 by the Governments of Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela, aiming to “make efforts and joint actions to promote the harmonious development of their respective Amazonian territories, in order for these joint actions to produce equitable and mutually beneficial results, as well as for the preservation of the environment and the conservation and rational use of natural resources in these territories”;

The ACTO’s vision focuses on reaching the sustainable development of the Amazon Region in terms of balance between the utilization of their resources, their protection and conservation, respecting an equity that ensures its sustainable integral development, with the effective presence of the State in its different levels of Government and Amazonian populations fully exercising their rights and obligations in the scope of national norms and international agreements;

The Amazon Cooperation Strategic Agenda considers among its line of actions Climate Change as an emerging topic of high priority to coordinate and unite efforts in the region in order to tackle the impacts of climate change, in particular the conservation of the Amazon and its local populations;

Climate Change is of common interest for the member countries of the ACTO, regarding the convergent thought of the urgent necessity and priority to tackle the risks in store for the Amazon region and more vulnerable communities;

RESOLVES:

To convene a meeting of experts from member countries of the ACTO, to address the subject of climate change, bring about the exchange of experiences and generate discussion.

The meeting of experts may, among other matters, contribute to learning of each country’s efforts, providing opportunities for updating, informing, training and forging closer relations with important funding networks.

Hence, it is requested of the Permanent Secretariat that the necessary efforts be made in order for this meeting to be held as soon as possible.

Adopted in the city of El Coca, Ecuador, on May 3, 2013.

**12TH MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE
AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION**

RES/XII MRE-OTCA/07

CONSIDERING:

That the Amazon Cooperation Treaty (ACT) was signed on 3 July 1978 by the Governments of Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela, aiming to carry out efforts and joint actions to foster the harmonious development of their respective Amazonian territories, in order for these joint actions to produce equitable and mutually beneficial results, as well as for the preservation of the environment and the conservation and rational use of natural resources of these territories;

That the ACTO constitutes a permanent forum for cooperation, exchange and knowledge, guided by the principle of reducing regional asymmetries among its Member Countries, supporting national processes for social and economic progress allowing a gradual incorporation of these territories to the respective national economies; promotes the adoption of regional cooperation actions that result in the improvement of living standards of the inhabitants of the Amazon; acts under the principle of sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, in harmony with nature and the environment, and takes into account the internal norms of the Member Countries;

That one of the results of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development Rio+20 was the launch of a process for the generation of the “Sustainable Development Goals” under the United Nations General Assembly;

RESOLVES:

To create an opportunity for dialogue allowing for reflection, analysis and exchange of opinion on the discussion of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) that is being conducted in the United Nations.

Adopted in the city of El Coca, Ecuador, on May 3, 2013.

**12TH MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE MEMBER COUNTRIES OF
THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION**

RES/XII MRE-OTCA/08

CONSIDERING:

The Member Countries of the ACTO are intent on strengthening, deepening and broadening the dialogue to continue to fully conserve and protect their Amazonian territories, to facilitate the rapprochement of their peoples and to provide their harmonious, participatory and sustainable development.

The vision of the Amazon region is to reach sustainable development by means of the balance between resource efficiency, its protection and conservation, respecting an equity that ensures its sustainable integral development, with the effective presence of the State in its different levels of Government, and Amazonian populations fully exercising their rights and obligations in the realm of the national norms in effect, and international agreements.

That in the 10th Regular Meeting of Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Member Countries agreed to begin a joint reflection to allow the strengthening of participation and commitment of national institutions in the process of Amazonian cooperation, where PS/ACTO was put in charge of organizing a Regional Seminar, with broad participation, about ACTO's role and perspectives, aimed at better meeting the Amazonian society's expectations.

RESOLVES:

To promote the effective participation of the Amazonian populations in the ACTO through dialogue and broad, democratic, intercultural, transparent, pluralistic, diverse and independent interaction, with the several players in the Amazon, establishing effective channels of information, and follow-up on the different activities of the ACTO.

The Member Countries and bodies of the ACTO also commit to generating mechanisms and innovative spaces that encourage the discussion of different topics, ensuring that the proposals presented by the Amazonian populations receive the appropriate consideration that, among others, may arise in the framework of Regional Seminars

The Permanent National Commissions commit to reporting annually to the organs of ACTO on progress in the implementation of this Resolution in order to learn from successful experiences and difficulties encountered.

Adopted in the city of El Coca, Ecuador, on May 3, 2013.

12TH MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION

RES/XII MRE-OTCA/09

WHEREAS:

RES X/MRE-OTCA/5 of 30 November 2010 approved the new Amazonian Strategic Cooperation Agenda and tasked the Permanent Secretariat with disseminating it at the national, regional and international levels, seeking to identify new sources of cooperation to ensure its implementation;

RES X/MRE-OTCA/7 of 30 November 2010 establishes the procedures, mechanisms and terms for the Permanent Secretariat to negotiate and sign agreements with third

countries, international organizations or other entities, in addition to approving the guidelines for relations with international cooperation agencies;

RES/XI/MRE-OTCA/4 of 22 November 2011 recognizes how much international cooperation contributes to fulfilling the goals and mandates of the ACTO Member Countries through member country governments, friendly nations and international organizations by financing projects of the Amazonian Strategic Cooperation Agenda;;

The 16th Ordinary Meeting of the Amazon Cooperation Council held on 18 May 2012 in Cochabamba, Plurinational State of Bolivia, adopted a series of measures to improve the short-term financial situation of ACTO and further consolidate funding alternatives for its activities, projects and programs, in addition to sharing views about the future contributions of the Member Countries;

It is a priority to continue adopting decisions to enable the signature and implementation of agreements and/or memorandums with cooperation in the framework of RES X/MRE-OTCA/7.

It is necessary to promote progress in the implementation of South-South and/or triangular cooperation in the framework of ACTO.

RESOLVES:

To express their recognition to the Government of Brazil for supporting the implementation activities of the Amazonian Strategic Cooperation Agenda in the context of RES/XI MRE-OTCA/03 of 22 November 2011, by executing the projects "Support to the ACTO Amazonian Social Agenda" in the framework of the respective Resolution, and "Regional Action in the Area of Water Resources, and call on the other Member Countries to explore new funding options under this scheme.

To applaud the materialization of a new stage of support to ACTO for the period of 2013-2017 through the project Institutional Strengthening of ACTO - Amazon Regional Program (BMZ-DGIS).

To highlight the advances in implementing the Work Plan of the Technical Cooperation Agreement between ACTO and the Pan-American Health Organization, signed on 27 September 2011 in Washington, which led to three new project profiles that will be consulted with the Member Countries pursuant to RES X/MRE-OTCA/7 of 30 November 2010.

To agree with the importance of advancing the consultation process to prepare the regional project about "Forest protection, biodiversity conservation and climate change", to which the Government of Germany has pledged a contribution through KfW, and call on the Member Countries to conclude the process according to the readjusted schedule presented by the PS/ACTO.

To particularly underscore the results of the project "Monitoring Deforestation, Land Use and Land Use Change in the Pan-Amazonian Forest", whose first stage made it possible to install seven national observation rooms, train 47 regional professionals assisted by the Brazilian National Space Research Institute (INPE), and start the preparation of the 1st Regional Amazonian Deforestation Map 2000-2010. In this context, they instruct the relevant bodies to conclude and present the mentioned Regional Map.

To highlight the approval of the project for the Forest Coverage Monitoring Project by the Government of Brazil through the National Economic and Social Development Bank (BNDES), in the framework of the Amazon Fund, pursuant to Dec. Dir No. 471/2013 of 30 April 2013. In this context, they instruct the PS/ACTO to sign the non-reimbursable financial cooperation agreement with BNDES as soon as possible.

To express their satisfaction with the results being achieved by the projects "Integrated and Sustainable Management of Transboundary Water Resources in the Amazon River Basin considering Climate Variability and Climate Change", "Strategic Framework for Developing a Regional Agenda for the Protection of Indigenous Peoples Living in Voluntary Isolation and Initial Contact", and by the program "Environmental Health Surveillance System for the Amazon Region".

To applaud the PS/ACTO for its efforts to materialize funding for the projects "Institutional Strengthening of the ACTO Member Countries for ecologically responsible forest governance and biodiversity conservation in the forests of the Amazon", "CITES Electronic Permits in the Member Countries of ACTO" and "Harmonization of Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management".

To express their satisfaction with the substantial progress made in negotiating of the draft of the Framework Agreement for Cooperation between ACTO Member Countries in the Fight against Cross-border Forest Fires.

To call on the countries once again to express their opinion on the following agreements and memorandums: Framework Technical Cooperation Agreement with the Andean Development Corporation (CAF); Inter-Institutional Cooperation Memorandum with the Coordinator of the Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin (COICA); Memorandum of Understanding with the Association of Nations of Southeast Asia (ASEAN) and the Executive Secretariat of the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC); Memorandum of Understanding with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); Memorandum of Understanding with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN); Memorandum of Understanding between the United Nations Development Programme and ACTO and Framework Cooperation Agreement with the Andean Community of Nations.

Adopted in the city of El Coca, Ecuador, on May 3, 2013.

12TH MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION

RES/XII MRE-OTCA/10

WHEREAS:

The Regulations on the Permanent Secretariat of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization requires the compulsory filing of six-monthly reports to Member States on activities conducted;

The Permanent Secretariat of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization has fulfilled the duty of filing the relevant six-monthly reports for the second half of 2012 and January – April 2013 terms;

The Management Reports have been received, for the mentioned period terms by the ACTO Secretary General;

RESOLVES:

TO CARRY the Management Reports filed by the Permanent Secretariat;

TO acknowledge the Secretary General of ACTO, Ambassador Robby Ramlakhan, as well as the Executive Officers and Steering Officers, and the Coordinators, for all efforts made towards completing the implementing efforts of the Amazon Cooperation Strategic Agenda, and the strengthening of the Organization's relaunch process.

Adopted in the city of El Coca, Ecuador, on May 3, 2013.

**12TH MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE MEMBER COUNTRIES OF
THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION**

RES/XII MRE-OTCA/11

WHEREAS:

The actions carried out the Permanent Secretariat of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) for the year 2012 have led to the determinants in the successful implementation of the mandates for the X Meeting of Foreign Affairs Ministers, especially the RES/XMRE-ACTO/5 "Amazon Cooperation Strategic Agenda", as well as the Manaus Commitment agreed at the 11th Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, and in the setting up and coordinating of this meeting;

The efforts made along the same lines by the Republic of Ecuador together with all other Organization's Member States and with the ACTO Permanent Secretariat have also been determinants for the important decisions hereby adopted;

RESOLVES:

TO STATE its gratitude to the authorities, the Government of the Republic of Ecuador, to the Province of Orellana, city of el Coca, , and to its inhabitants for the excellent organization of the XVII Meeting of the Amazon Cooperation Council and the XII Meeting of Foreign Affairs Ministers of the ACTO, as well as for all attentions received.

TO ACKNOWLEDGE likewise the support of the ACTO Permanent Secretariat in the implementation of the X and XI Meetings of Foreign Affairs Ministers mandates, especially RES/X MRE-ACTO/5 "Amazon Cooperation Strategic Agenda", on the setting up of these meetings, which have allowed for the strengthening and projecting of the Amazon regional cooperation procedure, by implementing agreed upon and fruitful actions for Member States in the areas of sustainable development and conservation of the environment in the Amazon Basin.

Adopted in the city of El Coca, Ecuador, on May 3, 2013.

**12TH MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE MEMBER COUNTRIES OF
THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION**

RES/XII MRE-OTCA/12

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member Countries of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization. (ACTO)

WHEREAS:

On 3 July 1978, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela signed the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, agreeing to undertake joint actions to promote harmonious development in their respective territories;

The Amazon Cooperation Treaty reiterates that the exclusive use and utilization of natural resources within their respective territories is a right inherent to the sovereignty of each state and that the exercise of this right shall be subject to no restrictions other than those imposed by international law;

The Amazon Cooperation Treaty calls on the countries to protect indigenous cultures and natural resources;

The Amendment Protocol to the ACT, dated 14 December 1981, instituted the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization as an international organization with the power to sign agreements governed by international law;

The company Amazon EU S.a.r.l, subsidiary of Amazon.com.Inc has applied to the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) to register the top level domain (gTLD) ".amazon" in English, Japanese and Chinese;

This domain name may be wrongfully associated to the Amazon countries and peoples, which the applicant does not represent, and may hinder them opportunities to use the internet to support economic and social development;

That to this effect the application for registration. "Amazon", contrary to the principles on new gTLDs submitted by the Governamental Advisory Committee (GAC), on March 28, 2007, which state that new gTLDs should respect the sensitivities regarding terms with national significance, cultural, geographical or religious and that ICANN should avoid registering the names of countries, territories or places, unless mutually agreed with relevant governments.

Top and second level domain names and others related to the names "amazonía", "amazônia", "amazon", "amazone" or their equivalents in other languages must be preserved as heritage of the Amazon countries and peoples;

The current and future interests and rights of the Amazon countries and peoples in the information society must be safeguarded by preventing any circumstances capable of limiting their legitimate opportunities for promotion and development;

The name of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization must also be safeguarded against undue use or situations that might cause it to be confused with others.

That in the "Beijing Communiqué", the GAC reiterated its recommendation to the ICANN Board to establish appropriate prevention and protection of the names and acronyms of international organizations, based on a previous list to be implemented so that no new top level domain name is launched.

The countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in the Montevideo Declaration that was unanimously adopted in April 5, 2013, resolved "to reject any claim of ownership, without due consent of the countries of the region, of the denominations Amazonia and Patagonia in any language and any other top-level domain (gTLD) names based on geographical, historical, cultural or natural, which must be preserved as part of their heritage and cultural identity. "

RESOLVE:

To express their staunch rejection to any ownership claims by third parties to geographical names of the Member Countries of ACTO in general and to the top-level domain name "amazon" or associated names without the due consent of the Amazon countries.

To thank the Federative Republic of Brazil and the Republic of Peru for taking measures within the (GAC) of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) to defend regional interests against the intended registration of the top-level domain "amazon", and to ask them to continue taking the respective action in said body, reaffirming the right of the Member Countries of ACTO in defense of the sovereignty, interests and rights, whether present or future, of the Amazon peoples and their inclusion in the information society.

They instruct the Permanent Secretariat of ACTO to support all measures referred to in previous paragraphs and any others needed to defend its name.

Adopted in the city of El Coca, Ecuador, on May 3, 2013.

**12TH MEETING OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTERS OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE AMAZON
COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION**

RES/XII MRE-ACTO/13

WHEREAS:

Through Resolution X MRE-OTCA/04 of November, 30th 2010, the first phase was started of the process to update Member Countries' annual contributions, whose original amounts and distribution were adopted by Resolution VI MRE-ACTO/06 of April, 6th 2000;

The updating of annual contributions is an essential element to grant greater technical and budgetary autonomy to the Permanent Secretariat, so that it is able to respond to the renewed wish of the Members to increase and intensify their bonds of cooperation for the implementation of the Amazon Cooperation Strategic Agenda and for the full adoption of the Organization's functional organogram;

The updating process aims to recover the annual contribution value, achieving the total updated rate of 140% and the first phase of implementation allows us to reach the average target of 46%;

RESOLVES:

To continue in 2014 with the updating of the annual contribution system, that should preferably seek to achieve the final target by 2018, with each country adopting a specific timeline and updating percentages in accordance with its budgetary structures.

Adopted in El Coca, Ecuador, on May 03rd of the year 2013.

**12TH MEETING OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTERS OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE AMAZON
COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION**

RES/XII MRE-ACTO/14

WHEREAS:

Through Resolution XI MRE-OTCA/03, additional funding sources for the Organization were established, whose implementation was started in 2012;

As part of the implementation of the decisions regarding funding, new opportunities that should be explored have been identified;

The search for new funding opportunities is essential to grant greater technical and budgetary autonomy to the Permanent Secretariat, so that it is able to respond to the renewed wish of the Members to increase and intensify its bonds of cooperation, for the implementation of the Amazon Cooperation Strategic Agenda and for the fully adoption of the Organization functional organogram;

The broadening of cooperation sources is necessary to strengthen regional cooperation.

RESOLVES:

To instruct the Amazon Cooperation Council to prepare a long term funding strategy for the activities of the Amazon Cooperation Strategic Agenda, preferably with resources originating from the countries themselves, setting up for this purpose a Work Group that shall met within sixty days with effect from today and shall complete its work by December 2013;

The Work Group shall meet in the office of the Permanent Secretariat of the Organization, the participation of delegates shall be covered by its own country. The Work Group will include in its analysis and proposal, among other initiatives, funding with resources from public or mixed economy companies of the Member Countries.

Adopted in El Coca, Ecuador, on May 03rd of the year 2013.

**12Th MEETING OF THE MINISTERS
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE AMAZON
COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION**

DECLARATION OF EL COCA

Thirty-three years after the Amazon Cooperation Treaty (ACT) came into effect, fifteen years after the creation of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) and eleven years after the establishment of its Permanent Secretariat, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member Countries of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization, gathered at their twelfth meeting in the city of El Coca, Republic of Ecuador, on May 3, two thousand and thirteen:

REAFFIRM the principles, purposes and goals of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty;

HIGHLIGHT the contribution of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization to consolidate the importance of their populations and Amazonian regions to each Member Country as integral parts of their territories;

REAFFIRM the full sovereignty and rights of the Member Countries over their Amazonian regions;

EXPRESS their commitment to deepen, broaden and strengthen the process of Amazon regional cooperation, promoting the harmonious and integral development of their respective Amazonian territories in exercise of their sovereign rights, allowing to reach the goal of an equitable distribution of the benefits of said development;

ACKNOWLEDGE that development must be achieved upon the balance between the sustainable use of resources, their protection and conservation, in a way that will promote the transformation of the current model in economically inclusive development models, which are also harmonious and respectful of the rights of nature/Mother Earth, its ecosystems and the rights of peoples as a part of an integral process guided towards the well-being of local populations and, particularly, indigenous peoples and other tribal communities, in accordance with the spirit of democracy and solidarity of ACTO's Member Countries;

EXPRESS their will to continue cooperating in environmental, economic, technologic, scientific and social matters, especially in the field of health and education, and in the commercial field, within the scope of what was established by the ACT, as well as to acknowledge the need to increment cooperation for research and the sustainable utilization of the Amazon's resources, respecting the sovereign rights of the Member Countries;

UNDERScore the decision to create an opportunity for dialogue allowing for reflection, analysis and exchange of opinion on the discussion of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) that is being conducted in the United Nations;

HIGHLIGHT the support and contribution of South-South cooperation as an instrument for the reduction of asymmetries and for an appropriate and coordinated regional action, and consider that these initiatives must be promoted and strengthened, upon the possible provision of new and additional resources, and an effective transfer of technology and training;

RESTATE the importance of the challenges brought by climate change to the Amazon region and the responsibility that must be taken by the Member States of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, according to their shared but differentiated responsibilities and respective capacities;

ACCENTUATE the special attention the Amazon deserves as natural heritage of the Member Countries of the ACTO, from the viewpoint of its populations, ecosystems and its biodiversity, to which they reiterate the need to reduce the economic, environmental and social vulnerability of the region, strengthening the responsiveness of Member Countries in a coordinated way in order to handle these challenges;

ASSERT their satisfaction with the progress and achievements in the process of relaunching the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization, in compliance with the mandates of the Declaration on the ACTO by Heads of State in November two thousand nine, as well as the decisions adopted in the Declaration of Lima in November two thousand ten, and the Manaus Commitment in November two thousand eleven, and **RENEW** their most vehement decision to continue to strengthen the ACTO and its Permanent Secretariat both institutionally and financially, providing new and additional resources for the full implementation of the mandates entrusted to it and the Amazon Cooperation Strategic Agenda;

And, within the scope of the expressed above, **RESOLVE** to adopt the following Declaration:

1. Strengthen the Amazonian identity of the Member Countries, in compliance with that established by the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, primordial instrument for the sustainable development of the Amazon populations.
2. Promote the strengthening of institutional actions in the implementation of the Treaty, with the active participation of Amazonian populations, particularly indigenous peoples and other tribal communities, in order to strengthen the sustainable use of natural resources and the fair and equitable distribution of its benefits.
3. Highlight the important participation of the ACTO at the United Nations Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development, upon carrying out a side event and presenting opportunities for regional cooperation. In this context, create an opportunity for dialogue allowing for reflection, analysis and exchange of opinion on the discussion of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) that is being conducted in the United Nations.

4. Coordinate joint policies and strategies to safeguard the Amazonian territory, aiming to respond to challenges that affect the environmental and social surroundings of the Amazon region, taking into account the respect for sovereignty, International Law and the domestic legal system.
5. Foment cooperation in a spirit of solidarity between the Member Countries in the scientific and technological scopes, in order to support actions carried out by the Governments to strengthen their respective capabilities in the integral defense of the biological mega-diversity in the Amazon, as well as to counteract illicit activities that affect human, cultural and natural resources in the region, in compliance with the objectives generated by the Regional Meetings on Science, Technology and Education.
6. Recognize and support the initiatives for the mitigation and adaptation of climate change that are naturally taking place in the region according to the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. To take note of Ecuador's efforts in its proposal presented to Framework Convention of the United Nations on Climate Change by encouraging the mitigation of various sectors of the economy, safeguarding the integrity of the environment.
7. Recognize that harmony with nature is necessary for sustainable development. In this setting the Member Countries of ACTO, in their firm commitment to conserve biodiversity and ecosystems, must seek to create opportunities for discussion, touching on holistic, integral visions. They support the countries in the region in their initiatives related to the promotion of the Rights of Nature/Mother Earth in order to achieve sustainable development. By virtue thereof, they instruct the PS/ACTO to hold a workshop allowing for dialogue on this matter, to be held in the second half of two thousand and thirteen.
8. Hold a meeting of ACTO Member Countries in the city of Quito on 25 and 26 June 2013 to draw up a proposal for the creation of the network of research centers, using a base document prepared by Ecuador.
9. To establish the AMAZON REGIONAL OBSERVATORY as a permanent forum that brings together institutions and authorities linked to the study of the Amazon, as a point of reference for regional information on biodiversity, natural resources and social diversity of the Amazon region. To make its operation possible, the Observatory shall have Regulations. These shall be discussed at a meeting of a Special Work Group on the Regional Observatory to be held on 25 and 26 June 2013 in Quito, Ecuador.
10. Protect and rescue, in the scope of national legislation and International law, traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and other tribal communities of the Amazon, and ensure them the collective right to equitable participation in the benefits generated by said knowledge.
11. Cooperate for the development of tools that allow the Member Countries to strengthen the rights of indigenous peoples over their traditional knowledge

associated to the biological diversity of the Amazon. In this sense, they highlight the 4th Meeting of High Authorities on Indigenous Affairs of the Member Countries held in Paramaribo, Suriname, from twenty-four to twenty-six of April of two thousand twelve and entrust the ACC to prepare a Regional Initiative proposal as soon as possible.

12. Encourage the process of cooperation between Member Countries aiming to facilitate the process of coordination between the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization, the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, the Union of South American Nations, the Andean Community, MERCOSUR, and CARICOM with the purpose of avoiding the duplication of efforts and strengthen the process of regional and South American integration.
13. To express their satisfaction with the results being achieved by the project "Integrated and Sustainable Management of Transboundary Water Resources in the Amazon River Basin considering Climate Variability and Climate Change".
14. Prioritize public policies for the sustainable management of the Amazon forest, as well as promote the access to sustainable technologies for forest management and the establishment of regional networks of research and development of forest activity. In this context, highlight the progress of the Regional Program for Monitoring Deforestation in the two meetings of the Steering Committee held in two thousand and twelve and two thousand and thirteen.
15. Highlight the approval of the Forestry Cover Monitoring Project by the Government of Brazil through the National Economic and Social Development Bank (BNDES), in the framework of the Amazon Fund. In this context, ratify its support for the concession contract of non-refundable financial aid to be signed as soon as possible between PS/ACTO and BNDES.
16. To adopt the recommendations of the 1st Meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group given the task of proposing and examining initiatives in the field of social development in the Amazon region, with emphasis on social inclusion, the fight against poverty, and the eradication of extreme poverty so as to develop the issue of social inclusion in ACTO's Strategic Agenda in the course of 2013.
17. To instruct the ACC to continue, in conjunction with the Permanent Secretariat, to support the Working Group on Social Inclusion in the Amazon region, avoiding the duplication of efforts.
18. To call the Member Countries of ACTO to a meeting for the analysis and development of several concepts such as that of food sovereignty and its relation to food security and the right to food as an initial activity for considering the productive issue in the framework of the Strategic Agenda..
19. To convene a meeting of experts from member countries of the ACTO, to address the subject of climate change, bring about the exchange of experiences

and generate discussion. The meeting of experts may, among other matters, contribute to learning of each country's efforts, providing opportunities for updating, informing, training and forging closer relations with important funding networks.

20. Stimulate processes that allow to promote the image of the Amazon as a tourist geo-destination on a global level; strengthening the regional information on the subject and promoting eco-tourism and productive activities associated with the sustainable development of the Amazon, incorporating environmentally sustainable community based tourism as a transversal axe. Consequently, they stress the result of the 3rd Regional Meeting on Tourism, held in Georgetown, Guyana, from twelve to thirteen of June of two thousand twelve.
21. Continue in 2014 with the updating of the annual contribution system, which should preferably seek to achieve the final target by 2018, with each country adopting a specific timeline and updating percentages in accordance with its budgetary structures.
22. Instruct the Amazon Cooperation Council to prepare a long-term funding strategy for the activities of the Amazon Cooperation Strategic Agenda, preferably with resources originating from the countries themselves, setting up for this purpose a Working Group that shall met within sixty days with effect from today and shall complete its work by December 2013;
23. Decidedly boost the necessary measures to effectively inject the approval and implementation processes of regional cooperation projects with greater dynamism. In this context, highlight the progress in the Programs and Projects under implementation in the forest cover monitoring areas, integrated management of water resources, environmental health surveillance, strategic framework for the protection of indigenous peoples in isolation or in initial contact, criteria and indicators for the sustainable management of the Amazon forest, electronic permits for the preservation of fauna and flora species and forest biological diversity, among others.
24. Highlight the prioritization of the Project Profile for the Management, Monitoring and Control of Wild Fauna and Flora Threatened by Trade, to be carried out with non-refundable financial cooperation resources. In addition, salute the agreement reached for the execution of a new phase of the Amazon Regional Program in the period of two thousand and thirteen to two thousand and seventeen.
25. To acknowledge the progress made in the National Seminars conducted by the Member Countries and call for the delivery of the pending National Seminars as soon as possible. To establish that the Regional Seminar adopts the following thematic structure: i) The Amazon today: social, economic and environmental situation; ii) The Amazon in the international scene: Amazon and ACTO after Rio+20; iii) Local society's participation in development – alternatives for interaction with the ACTO, and iv) the ACTO as a scenery for regional cooperation: progress and successes of the Amazon.

26. To promote the effective participation of the Amazonian populations in the ACTO through dialogue and broad, democratic, intercultural, transparent, pluralistic, diverse and independent interaction, with the several players in the Amazon, establishing effective channels of information, and follow-up on the different activities of the ACTO. Generate mechanisms and innovative spaces that encourage the discussion of different topics, ensuring that the proposals presented by the Amazonian populations receive the appropriate consideration that, among others, may arise in the framework of Regional Seminars.
27. Foster mutual cooperation between the Member Countries to combat preventable, endemic and vector-borne diseases, upon the establishment of regional academic and institutional networks, and communication and information mechanisms. In this context, salute and welcome the results of the 2nd Regional Meeting on Health, held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, on the eighteenth and nineteenth of July of two thousand twelve.
28. Create a specialized Working Group to develop the common strategy on illegal mining in the Amazon and propose the necessary cooperation mechanisms to enforce said strategy, taking into account the guidance from the Declaration on Illegal Mining in the Amazon Basin, adopted by the 2nd Meeting of Ministers of the Environment of ACTO of March two thousand twelve.
29. Highlight the progress that has been made to exchange experiences on matters related to genetic resources of biodiversity and traditional knowhow. Heed the recommendations of the Regional Technical Meeting on a mechanism for the protection of traditional knowledge associated with biological biodiversity, held on 22 and 23 May 2012, instructing PS/ACTO to distribute the draft work plan as soon as possible.
30. Recognize the major role of the collective action of indigenous peoples, other tribal communities and local communities as a clear contribution to the conservation, protection and sustainable use of biodiversity.
31. Express their staunch rejection to any ownership claims by third parties to geographical names of the Member Countries of ACTO in general and to the top-level domain name "Amazon" or associated names without the due consent of the Amazon countries. Thank the Federative Republic of Brazil and the Republic of Peru for taking measures within the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) to defend regional interests against the intended registration of the top-level domain "Amazon", and to ask them to continue taking the respective action in said body, reaffirming the right of the Member Countries of ACTO in defense of the sovereignty, interests and rights, whether present or future, of the Amazon peoples and their inclusion in the information society.
32. In the framework of Resolution XI MRE-OTCA/07 of 22 November 2011, urge the reactivation of the Working Group on Commercial Navigation, chaired by the

Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, and instruct it to resume its activities and hold the fifth meeting in 2013 with a view to concluding the negotiations of the Regulations.

33. Applaud the announcement of the donation of a plot of land by the Government of Brazil for the new headquarters of the ACTO, thus fulfilling the commitment made on the signing of the Headquarters Agreement. Re-stress the need to channel efforts for the construction of the headquarters and think of funding options.

34. The Government of Suriname offers to host the 13th Meeting of Foreign Ministers in two thousand and fourteen. The Government of Venezuela offers to host the 14th Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs in two thousand and fifteen.

We thank our Ecuadorian brother nation and its Government and congratulate the Permanent Secretariat on its work for the success of this 12th Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of ACTO.

El Coca, Ecuador, third of May, two thousand and thirteen



For the Government of the Plurinational
State of Bolivia



For the Government of the Federative
Republic of Brazil



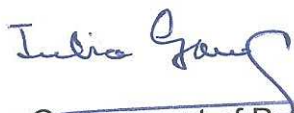
For the Government of the Republic
of Colombia



For the Government of Ecuador



For the Government of the Cooperative
Republic of Guyana



For the Government of Peru



For the Government of the Republic
of Suriname



For the Government of the Bolivarian
Republic of Venezuela