

Declaration to Heads of State Meeting for the Summit of the Americas in Port of Spain

Sharing the same hopes and concerns, business and community leaders participating in the World Economic Forum on Latin America in Rio de Janeiro, the fourth regional meeting of the Forum, address this message to the heads of state attending the Summit of the Americas in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

At this time with change affecting everyone in the world, we emphasize that, while distinctive features drive private and public initiatives, a stronger collaboration is needed to address the global economic turbulence. We believe that, together, we must strengthen democracy in the region and envision a new cycle in our economic history with governments, business and communities working more closely together.

Fundamentals of such a new development cycle are to be based on a solid international financial architecture, sound educational opportunities, clean technologies, sustainable use of natural resources, diversified sources of energy and an equitable socio-economic setting.

To address the present crisis and start a new development cycle, we need a new dawn in international cooperation, based on enlightened values and mutual trust. Efforts should focus on strong institutions, free trade and sustainable technologies described in five priorities, as suggested by the Global Agenda Council on the Future of Latin America:

1. Support funding for international agencies and development banks to provide programme assistance and resources for counter-cyclical policies, with special attention to the most vulnerable countries.
2. Encourage short-term liquidity through bilateral and multilateral systems.
3. Promote efforts to reinvigorate world trade and investment, preventing trade barriers and protectionist measures.
4. Extend well targeted social protection networks based on assessed regional experience, for example, programmes for poverty reduction related to improved educational systems.
5. Lead global cooperation on climate change initiatives towards a green economy that includes clean technology, sustainable energy sources and ecosystem conservation.

These issues, which will be addressed at the Summit of the Americas, require the dogged commitment of an entire generation to improve the future for their descendants. Government, business and community leaders must partner to promptly achieve tangible goals resulting from sound strategies, practical ideas and credible attitudes.

Latin American entrepreneurs extend their hands to all leaders now gathered in Port of Spain. Our aim is to ensure an open dialogue to promote structural reforms regarding the financial system and, without delay, increase new investments to create a safer, cleaner and more inclusive economy.

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