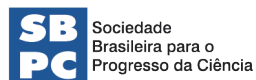




DECLARATION OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN FOR THE SIXTH WORLD SCIENCE FORUM

RIO DE JANEIRO, NOVEMBER 2013



Oficina Regional de Ciencia
para América Latina y el Caribe





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The countries of Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling the agreements adopted on the 'Declaration on Science and the Use of Scientific Knowledge' and on the 'Science Agenda - Framework for Action,' approved on the World Conference on Science, in June 1999, as well as the agreements adopted in the context of the World Science Forums,

Considering the 'Declaration of Latin America and the Caribbean on the Tenth Anniversary of the World Conference on Science,' presented in the fourth World Science Forum, organized in Budapest, Hungary, in 2009,


Considering the results of the Regional and Subregional Workshops on Science and Technology Policy organized by UNESCO as a follow up of the Declaration of 2009,

Considering the Final Document of the Regional Preparatory Meeting to the Rio+20, celebrated in México in 2011 organized by ICSU and UNESCO,

Considering the 'Rio de Janeiro Declaration,' approved in the Ministerial Meeting of Science, Technology, and Innovation, 'Innovation and Structural Change in Latin-America and the Caribbean: Strategies for Inclusive Regional Development,' organized by the ECLAC and held in June 2013, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil,

Considering the 'Declaration of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) for the Sixth World Science Forum,' approved in the first Senior Officials Meeting on Science and Technology of CELAC, held in October 2013, in Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil, at the Itaipu Technology Park (PTI),

Recognizing that significant progress has been achieved during the last years in the region, regarding economic growth; reduction of unemployment, poorness and homelessness; as well as reduction of income inequality, but also recognizing that important challenges are still pending to advance in the path to sustainable and inclusive development,



Aware of the improvement in life conditions of millions of inhabitants of the region during the last years, expanding their possibilities of goods consumption and basic services access, and of the considerable part of population that is still under inadequate welfare levels,

Recognizing that the region's productive structure has significantly grown based on the renewable and nonrenewable natural resources exploration and on the increase of goods and services demand resulting from the increase of families' income; but aware of the visible gap compared to more developed countries regarding the capacity of production of manufactured goods, especially those with more complex technology,


Considering that the specific characteristics of the region make it visibly different from other regions in the world as regards natural resources richness and the capacity of food and energy production, but also regarding the relatively lack of highly qualified human resources, the nature and dynamics of the urbanization process, and the limitations of the investment capacity,

Aware of the fact that region's specific characteristics result in common challenges that demand a joint effort to build new capacities, based on scientific and technologic knowledge and on the strengthening of innovation capacity,

Emphasizing that the countries of the region have advanced in the field of science, technology and innovation, through the implementation of national policies, the formulation of more adequate legal frameworks, the creation of new instruments, and the increase of funds aimed at the promotion of scientific, research, technologic development and capacity building activities, and that there is still a considerable gap in relation to the achievements of developed countries,

Recognizing that the region's progress regarding science, technology and innovation is demonstrated through the improvement of the scientific production and capacity building indicators, but aware of the necessity to progress further, mostly ensuring that the scientific-technologic development contribute more directly to sustainable development and to the transformation of the region productive profile,

And aware of the fact that science, technology and innovation are essential for the region's sustainable development, the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean update the Declaration we presented on the fourth World Science Forum in 2009, and declare:

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- To be convinced of the necessity of designing and implementing strategies for the region's sustainable development, based on the capacity of generating, obtaining and using scientific and technologic knowledge to innovate;
 - Being committed to the significant increase of capacities in science, technology and innovation;
 - Being committed to cooperation in science, technology and innovation projects with regional scope, as well as to activities aiming at the promotion of inclusive innovation, capacity building and good practices diffusion and transfer.

According to the stated and considering the recommendations of the regional and sub-regional forums mentioned above, as well as of the seven preparatory meetings for the sixth World Science Forum, held in Brazil in 2012 and 2013, the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean propose the following terms to articulate actions as regards science, technology and innovation.

Regional Cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation


To strengthen the cooperation in science, technology and innovation, defining priority areas and common strategies for knowledge production and dissemination in strategic areas for the region and establishing regional research networks.

To establish new South-South and Triangular cooperation mechanisms, as well as to strengthen the existing ones, in order to face common challenges in Latin America and the Caribbean and in developing countries from other regions.

To create new opportunities and mechanisms for the Latin American and Caribbean researchers to access international networks, therefore allowing the region to participate in the knowledge internationalization process.

To implement regional projects of development of technologic and scientific competences and of innovation and production capacity building in strategic sectors and areas of common interest, as regards economic, food, environmental, energy, cybernetic and health security, and citizen and social welfare in the countries of the region.

To develop new coordination mechanisms and modalities among the countries of the region in relation to projects of common interest.



To harmonize national legal frameworks, in order to facilitate the exchange of information, experiences, human resources, genetic material, and other elements for the development of research and innovation promotion activities. To consolidate, strengthen and clarify the regional and sub-regional structures through senior official agreements. To continue organizing Regional Forums of STI Policy, as well as Sub-regional Forums, in cooperation and coordination with all involved organization (UNESCO, ECLAC, OEI, IDB, SEGIB, OAS, CYTED, etc).

To pursue the harmonization, normalization and homologation of Higher Education certificates, as well as of quality assurance systems of S&T Higher Education.

To establish coordination mechanisms in order to take the opportunities offered by regional and extra-regional institutions of STI financing.

To expand and disseminate best practices of regional cooperation and to establish facilities to regionally support the research project's peer evaluation process.

To regionally articulate the instruments of repatriation of scientists who are living and working abroad.


To establish a common platform for the strengthening of mechanism of intellectual properties protection (in cooperation with WIPO, UNCTAD, and others)

To promote the inclusion of STI in the UNDAF and in others planning documents of United Nations system.

To influence the Governments to strengthening the STI position in the presidential agendas, as a State issue.

Strengthening of Scientific Research

To promote the development of advanced scientific research, in order to reduce the region's asymmetries and increase the Latin American and Caribbean presence in the world science scene.



To create new opportunities and mechanisms for researchers in Latin America and the Caribbean to access international network, aiming their participation in the knowledge internationalization process. To identify research groups of excellence in the region and encourage them to expand their international presence in strategic research areas for the region.

To strengthen scientific research, consolidating existing national laboratories and creating new multiuser laboratories for shared use by the countries of the region. To promote the formation of a common place for STI in LAC, from regional mechanisms for STI activities financing, as a regional facility model.

To expand free access to world scientific literature by digital means to all the countries of the region. To promote Open Access environments and regional and sub-regional scientific journals. To establish mechanisms of joint negotiation with suppliers (journals, digital libraries, etc.) in a regional scale.

To promote incentives to regional inter institutional collaboration (prizes and other mechanisms)

Knowledge for the Preservation and Rational Use of Natural Resources

To promote the preservation and rational use of forest, water and mineral resources, on a solid scientific and technological basis.

To promote research to improve the knowledge in tropical agriculture and to increase the production and diversification of food and food security.

To promote knowledge and sustainable exploration of biodiversity in Latin America and the Caribbean.

To support research that will be able to contribute to improving the knowledge and sustainable exploration of marine resources.

To promote research on energy renewable sources.

To promote the establishment of oriented problem solving networks to sustainable development research, in particular in the area of 'sustainable science'



Education and Culture in Science and Technology

To strengthen the teaching of sciences in all educational system levels, from primary to higher levels, including capacity building of science teachers who may stimulate in their students the vocation for research. To exchange in regional level best practices on teaching and curriculums in science, to promote regional instruments of teachers' capacitation, to promote the Program of Micro science and similar.

To value the scientific career offering new opportunities, especially to young researchers, to renew and expand the number of researchers in the countries of the region.

To strengthen the teaching in the area of engineering, which is an essential effort in the process of industrial development of the countries of the region, and to meet the increase in the demand of engineers and qualified scientific personnel resulting from the economic growth during the last years.

To strengthen the inter university cooperation, in particular to the establishment and strengthening of postgraduate education in areas such as sustainable development.

To value technical and professional education, in order to strengthen the innovation capacity and to increase the productivity of region's economies, consolidating, at the same time, the recent process of primary and secondary school expansion.

To promote gender equity in science and technology, through explicit policies, as well as regional activities and studies, like those developed by the UNESCO's Regional Chair "Woman, Science and Technology in Latin America".

To establish regional instruments for the promotion of entrepreneurship (prizes, educational campaigns, curriculum).

To build mechanisms in order to associate ancestral knowledge of Latin America and the Caribbean indigenous cultures with the modern scientific knowledge, under the principles of indigenous communities' participation adequate to international principles. To promote the incorporation of themes related to indigenous knowledge systems and ancestral knowing to the STI policies.



Development and Innovation

To promote scientific research in areas considered as the innovation frontier in the current transformation of the global economy technical base (biotechnology, nanosciences, energy, information and communications technology).

To stimulate the business sector to make greater efforts in innovation, especially in research and development (R&D), in order to reach new markets in the region and the world.

To stimulate companies to incorporate researchers in their staff and to build stable cooperation links with scientific and technological research institutions, in order to strengthen their innovative capacity.

To strengthen public-private partnership mechanisms (technology parks, business incubators, accelerators) to support the emergence of technology-based companies in fast-growing areas and with great potential for innovation.

To establish regional instruments of regional cooperation related to Technology Parks and scientific and technologic poles.

Environmental and Social Vulnerability

To promote research on climate change and on prevention and mitigation of natural disasters.

To support research aiming at the control of desertification processes, illegal logging and water and atmospheric pollution, as well as to promote knowledge about semi-arid regions.

To promote knowledge as regards the development of sustainable and inclusive urban systems.

To promote research on tropical medicine and global health.

To promote technologic development of resources to improve life conditions and inclusion for the disabled and for those with chronic degenerative disease.



Ethics and Access to Knowledge

To promote the ethical and social commitment in Latin American and Caribbean scientists' practices.

To strengthen public and private mechanisms directed to assure the principles of science and technology ethics and bioethics in the region.

To promote the use of scientific knowledge for social inclusion, welfare promotion, and poorness reduction.

To strengthen science communication mechanisms and open access to STI information and research results in LAC. To promote the establishment of a regional website for scientific publication access.

To strengthen mechanisms of scientific diffusion and science popularization in the countries of the region.

To promote regional activities of science popularization and social appropriation. To support networks like 'Red-POP', regional Workshops of scientific journalism, regional activities of fairs and science clubs, regional exchange on dedicated channels of digital TV.

Strengthening of capacities for management and formulation of STI Policies

To consolidate the regional actions for STI managers' capacity building and to establish regional or sub-regional summer schools on scientific and technological policies.

To strengthen strategic management of science, technology and innovation information, through regional STI information and indicators platforms and networks.

To strengthen regional capacities for science, technology and innovation measurement and statistics.

To establish mechanisms to incorporate the region to the global systems of scientific and technologic information and observation, and their use in regional activities.



To promote, in order to anticipate global trends and to design new STI policies, the establishment and consolidation of regional research networks in STI policies. To produce regional and sub-regional diagnosis and to edit regional documents of inputs to the STI decision make process.

To promote prospective analysis studies of political, economic, scientific and technologic trends, and studies of elaboration, monitoring and evaluation of national plans in STI, suitable to the LAC context and to the STI current trends.

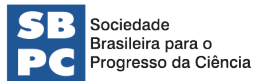
To promote and strengthen institutional mechanisms suitable to the region in order to increase the linkage between science and technology, through the counseling in STI to the decision makers.

To intensify the planning process generated in several countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and to offer the regionalization of this tool in order to strengthen the science, technology and innovation policies in the cooperation and regional integration places.

To promote the accomplishment of studies and exchange of experiences on themes expressed in this and other meetings, paying attention and providing resources to actions of implementation and evaluation.

To promote strategies to the establishment of multiple actors consulting forums to the research program definition related to social inclusion, to participation of scientific community, civil society groups, social movements and Government.

To design institutional systems and frameworks to make STI more flexible and to create new governance structures to regional cooperation.



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