

## **Brussels Declaration**

*“Shaping our common future: working together for prosperous, cohesive and sustainable societies for our citizens”*

1. We, the Heads of State and Government of the European Union (EU) and of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), and the Presidents of the European Council and the European Commission, met in Brussels, on 10 and 11 June 2015, for the II EU-CELAC Summit, our eighth bi-regional meeting, under the theme “Shaping our common future: working together for prosperous, cohesive and sustainable societies for our citizens”.
2. As an expression of our shared determination to further strengthen our relationship, deepen our dialogue and given the importance we attach to the bi-regional strategic association, we have adopted a Declaration on a ‘Partnership for the next generation’, which outlines our shared vision of the ties that bring us together and demonstrates our willingness to shape a joint future and to work together for prosperous, inclusive, fair, cohesive and sustainable societies for the benefit of our peoples.
3. We recall the Santiago Declaration and reaffirm the consensus reached in previous EU-LAC Summits, as the repository of our long-standing partnership and the foundation on which we continue to build our strategic association.
4. We welcome the holding of various side events which took place in the context of the Summit and we thank non-governmental organisations, businesses, trade unions, young people, academics and other social organizations for the points of view submitted, which could contribute to our discussions and to the strengthening of our bi-regional partnership. We particularly acknowledge the contribution of the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly and the parliamentary political dialogue to our partnership.

## Global challenges: shaping our common future

5. We reaffirm our commitment to all the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. We reaffirm our decision to support all efforts to uphold the sovereign equality of all States, to respect their territorial integrity and political independence, to refrain in our international relations from the threat or use of force in any manner inconsistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations, to uphold the resolution of disputes by peaceful means and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law.
6. We underscore the need to strengthen the multilateral system and to promote more effective and inclusive global governance, respectful of international law. To that end, we renew our commitment to its reform with the view to its democratization, inclusiveness and transparency in order to strengthen our collective capacity to face the many challenges posed by the new millennium. In this context, we recognise the need to pursue the comprehensive reform of the main United Nations bodies, in particular the revitalization of the General Assembly, and ECOSOC, and the reform of the Security Council with a view to enhancing the representativeness, transparency, efficiency, accountability and effectiveness of the United Nations system.
7. We agree to strengthen our dialogue, collaboration and cooperation on the global agenda and our positions in international fora.
8. We reaffirm that the promotion and protection of all human rights of all persons, as laid down in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, lie at the core of our Strategic Partnership. We are further committed to the realisation of the right to development. We further reaffirm our commitment to fulfilling our obligations stemming from international human rights covenants and conventions which we have ratified, and to continuing to improve international cooperation and the promotion and protection of all human rights, through the United Nations and human rights bodies such as the Human Rights Council. We renew our commitment to fighting all forms of intolerance and discrimination and to promote the universal respect for and observance of all human rights and fundamental freedoms.
9. We reaffirm our commitment to fight impunity, in particular for the most serious crimes under international law, notably those referred to in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC). Their prosecution should be ensured by taking measures at the national or appropriate level and by enhancing international cooperation. We invite those countries which are not parties to consider the possibility to ratify or accede, as applicable, to the Rome Statute.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The Government of Nicaragua notes with concern the continuing violations that systematically occur against international human rights and international humanitarian law worldwide, in many cases with open impunity. Nicaragua does not tolerate impunity with respect to crime against the international community and has developed robust judicial processes that are of exclusive competence of the Nicaraguan judiciary. The Government of Reconciliation and National Unity of Nicaragua has expressed its reservations to the subscription or ratification to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, because it considers that the conditions to join this institutional instrument are not yet given.

10. We call on all States to observe the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and other international human rights covenants and conventions to which they are Parties.
11. We reiterate our strong condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes. We express our determination to effectively combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law, including international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law.
12. We recognise that transnational organised criminal activities may, in some cases, threaten the stability and security of States, weaken the rule of law, governance systems, national economies and their development, and human rights. In this regard, we vow to continue implementing, as appropriate, concrete actions, aimed at strengthening, inter alia, law enforcement cooperation, mutual legal assistance, trans-border intelligence sharing, in order to dismantle criminal organizations, all within the full respect for human rights and international law.
13. Taking into account that Citizen Security is a shared concern, we undertake to promote our dialogue on this subject and to explore opportunities to enhance our cooperation, with full respect for sovereignty and domestic legislation and according to national priorities.
14. We recognise that the trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants are crimes with a growing impact at the global level that expose thousands of people to unacceptable risks and are deeply concerned by the loss of lives. This requires a concerted international assessment and response, in close partnership among countries of origin, transit and destination and the contribution of international organisations, in particular in the framework of the United Nations.
15. We expect that the Arms Trade Treaty, the first multilateral legally binding instrument on the arms trade, which includes small arms and light weapons in its scope, will contribute to provide an effective response to the serious consequences of illicit trafficking and non-regulated trade in arms to many people and States, in particular through the diversion of arms to non-state actors, unauthorized users, often linked to transnational organized crime and to drug-trafficking. We also expect that this Treaty could contribute to the prevention of armed conflict, armed violence and violations of international law. At the same time, in the light of the entry into force of the Treaty in December 2014, we invoke the treaty is applied in a balanced, transparent and objective manner, respecting the sovereign right of all states to ensure their self-defence, in accordance with Article 51 of the United Nations Charter. We recall the offers of the Governments of Austria, Switzerland and the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to host the Secretariat of the said instrument.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Nicaragua is aware of the serious consequence and humanitarian impact that illicit arms trafficking has on people worldwide, for which it remains committed to multilateralism as a mean for its global eradication, but does not endorse mentioning the Arms Trade Treaty in this Declaration considering that the Treaty does not explicitly prohibit arms transfer to non-State actors; does not clearly reaffirm the sovereign right of States to acquire, manufacture, export, import and retain conventional arms, parts and components for self-defence and security needs, and it does not prohibit the transfer of arms for States that threaten other States with the use of force, or attack other States and/or carry out destabilization policies and practices.

16. In view of the contribution that CELAC and the EU can make for peace in the international arena, we agree to explore together ways to foster cooperation for peace and the peaceful settlement of disputes, as well as the promotion of disarmament and non-proliferation at the international level. We welcome the commitment of CELAC, in declaring Latin America and the Caribbean as a zone of peace, to solve disputes through peaceful means. We also recall the Tlatelolco Treaty and its Additional Protocols and the commitment by the Parties to the Treaty and the Signatories to the Additional Protocols to keep Latin America and the Caribbean free of nuclear weapons, and encourage other regions to pursue the same objective. We are united in regarding the Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT) as the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime, the essential foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament in accordance with article 6 of the NPT and an important element in the further development of nuclear energy applications for peaceful purposes.
17. We welcome the progress made on the peace process in Colombia. We encourage the Colombian government and the FARC-EP to make their best efforts to conclude these negotiations as soon as possible and we express our readiness to provide assistance to support the implementation of a comprehensive peace agreement. The EU and its member States are working towards the establishment of a Trust Fund in support of the post-conflict phase. We strongly support the efforts of the Colombian government and the FARC-EP that seek to reconcile the Colombian people to achieve stable and lasting peace in Colombia and take into account the rights of victims of the armed conflict. We also hope that the formal talks between the Government of Colombia and the ELN will start as soon as possible.
18. In a spirit of cooperation the EU and Cuba initiated negotiations in early 2014 on a Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement which will serve, once concluded, as the enabling framework for closer relations and engagement in support of the on-going modernisation process in Cuba. This agreement will also contribute to the further consolidation of the overall structure of the EU-CELAC bi-regional relations.
19. We welcome the announcement made last 17 December by the Presidents of the Republic of Cuba and the United States of America, Raul Castro Ruz and Barack Obama, on the reestablishment of diplomatic relations. In this context, we expect all necessary steps to be taken towards an early end to the embargo. With reference to UNGA resolution A/RES/69/5, we reaffirm our well-known positions rejecting coercive measures of unilateral character as well as on the application of the extra-territorial provisions of the Helms-Burton Act. These measures have provoked undue humanitarian consequences on the Cuban people and are damaging to the legitimate development of economic ties between Cuba, the European Union and other countries.
20. Reiterating our rejection of coercive measures of unilateral character with extraterritorial effect that are contrary to international law, we reaffirm our commitment to the peaceful settlement of disputes. We take note of the Special Declaration of CELAC on unilateral actions against Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela of 29<sup>th</sup> of January 2015 and the CELAC communiqué in solidarity of 26<sup>th</sup> of March 2015.

21. We confirm our disposition to work together at global level to achieve strong, inclusive, sustainable, balanced growth, with a view to pursuing sustainable development and delivering better and more equitable living standards, dignified and productive employment and decent work, in particular for all vulnerable groups, in our respective economies. In addition, we emphasize our commitment to continuing our joint efforts towards the full implementation, by all IMF members, of the 2010 agreed quota reforms. In this regard, we reiterate our commitment to continue working together towards a new international financial architecture, as agreed in the Madrid and Santiago Summits. We also remain committed to the full, timely and consistent implementation of the international financial regulation agenda so as to strengthen the resilience of the financial system and reduce systemic risks which is key for a comprehensive reform of the global financial system.
22. Given the challenges litigation poses and in order to strengthen the orderliness and predictability of the sovereign debt restructuring process, we welcome the international work on strengthened collective action and pari passu clauses. We call for their inclusion in international sovereign bonds and encourage the international community and private sector to actively promote their use. We take note of ongoing international discussions in relevant fora to build consensus on the sovereign debt restructuring process.
23. We reiterate our commitment to avoid protectionism in all its forms. We support an open and non-discriminatory, rules-based multilateral trade system and the full respect of its disciplines. We recognise the contribution of that system to the recovery from the economic crisis, and in promoting growth and development in line with the principle of special and differential treatment for developing countries, where appropriate, as expressed in the Madrid and Santiago Summits.
24. In this context, we agreed on the importance of strengthening the multilateral trading system by achieving an ambitious, comprehensive and balanced conclusion of the Doha Development Round. We call on Members of the WTO to implement the decisions emanating from the 9<sup>th</sup> Session of the WTO Ministerial Conference held in December 2013 in Bali, Indonesia, including the ratification of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation with the view to its entry into force as soon as possible. We also call for the development of a post-Bali Work Programme by July 2015, as agreed by the decision of the General Council of the WTO of 27 November 2014, so as to allow for a ministerial agreement on the outstanding issues of the Doha Development Round by the 10<sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial Conference in Nairobi.

25. We are determined to eradicate poverty in all its forms and achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions, that is, economic, social and environmental in a balanced and integrated manner. To this end, we reaffirm our commitment to adopt an ambitious, universal and transformative post-2015 development agenda that ensures no one is left behind. Achieving this shared agenda requires commitment and action by all countries. We commit to strengthen the global partnership for development, promote policy coherence at all levels, and a comprehensive innovative approach to the mobilization and effective use of all available public, private, domestic and international resources as well as development, transfer and dissemination of knowledge to foster scientific and technological cooperation for the achievement of sustainable development and innovation. In this regard, we recognise the need for regular follow-up and review of the Post 2015 Agenda at the global level in the context of the High Level Political Forum, including on means of implementation, as well as at the national and regional levels, as appropriate. We note the EU's collective commitment to achieve the 0.7% ODA/GNI target within the time frame of the post-2015 agenda. We agree on the importance that this target be met in a timely and effective manner and call on the other developed countries to also commit to achieve the 0.7% ODA/GNI target within the same time frame. We also call on other countries to increase their commitments to developing countries and to LDCs in particular.
26. We recognise that the particular challenges facing the countries in special situations, such as least developed countries, land-locked developing countries and small island developing states, require a specific attention in the Post-2015 Development Agenda. We reaffirm our commitment to address their special development needs through the full, timely and effective implementation of the relevant international conferences. In the case of land-locked developing countries, special attention should be paid with a view to facilitate freedom of transit to the territory of transit States according to international law.
27. We recognise the different visions, approaches, models and tools to achieve sustainable development in harmony with nature in order to achieve a just balance among the economic, social and environmental needs of present and future generations, recognizing that planet Earth and its ecosystems are our home and that "Mother Earth" is a common expression in a number of countries and regions. In this regard, we acknowledge that green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication could enhance our ability to manage natural resources sustainability and with lower negative environmental impacts, increase resource efficiency and reduce waste.
28. We recognise that migration and mobility can make a positive contribution as an enabler to inclusive growth and sustainable development. We acknowledge the opportunities and challenges of migration in the implementation of the post-2015 Development Agenda, recognising its positive economic, social, labour, cultural and political impact in both origin and host societies.

29. We reiterate our adherence to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and all its principles, to protect the climate system for the benefit of present and future generations of humankind on the basis of equity and in accordance with common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities (CBDR-RC) and we remain convinced that climate change is one of the main problems of our time, and that its global nature also requires global solutions.
30. We urge all countries of the international community, particularly the developed countries, to fulfil their commitments under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol, and to ratify urgently the Amendment to the Protocol to allow the entry into force of the second period of commitments as soon as possible.
31. We express our will to adopt a global legally binding agreement under the UNFCCC by 2015 and for it to come into effect and be implemented from 2020, applicable to all parties. We underscore our commitment to reach an ambitious agreement in 2015 in accordance with principles of CBDR-RC, in light of different national circumstances, with a view to reducing greenhouse gas emissions so as to hold the increase in global average temperature below 2° C, or below 1.5° C, above pre-industrial levels; building resilience to the adverse effects of climate change and addressing climate change impacts considering its implications on sustainable development and poverty eradication. In this context, we strongly support an effective treatment of mitigation and adaptation and means of implementation in the 2015 agreement, in a balanced manner. CELAC and the EU will work together ahead of and at the 21st Conference of Parties in Paris in December 2015, to bring about the ambitious and balanced agreement that is needed to address the challenges emanating from climate change.
32. We acknowledge the adoption of the “Lima Call for Climate Action” during COP20/CMP10, as a major step forward in the negotiation of the elements of the 2015 Agreement, the preparation and early presentation of intended nationally determined contributions and the acceleration of pre-2020 Climate Action. We invite all parties to the UNFCCC that have not yet done so to come forward for those countries that are ready to do so well in advance of the 21<sup>st</sup> Conference of the Parties with their nationally determined contributions to the new agreement.
33. We underline the importance of mobilizing financial resources, public and private to achieve the mitigation objective and to support adaptation actions. In this context, we underline the need of providing new and additional financial resources from all sources to developing countries. We reiterate the importance of the commitment to mobilize USD 100 billion per year by 2020 from all sources and in the context of the meaningful mitigation actions and transparency of implementation, which could be achieved, inter alia, by establishing a monitoring, reporting and verification mechanism and we welcome the initial pledges totalling more than USD 10 billion that have been made for the Green Climate Fund, which since 21<sup>st</sup> May 2015 can allocate resources for project implementation.

34. We also recognise the importance of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, urge to commit in the implementation and follow-up of this Framework, and call to strengthen international cooperation in order to achieve the goal, the outcome, the global targets and the four priorities defined. In this context, we highlight the importance of the provision of early warning systems to mitigate the resulting damages associated with natural disasters
35. We also stress the importance of addressing the mitigation and adaptation needs of Latin American and the Caribbean countries in particular those most vulnerable to climate change, including small island developing states and landlocked developing countries, through the mobilization of financing, as well as technology and capacity building support, in accordance with the UNFCCC.
36. We commit to strengthen bi-regional cooperation in order to better understand the causes and consequences of disasters and slow onset events caused by climate change in our regions, of the problems and consequences of climate change and biodiversity loss and the importance to build the resilience of countries, societies and ecosystems, mitigation and adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change, prevention, preparedness and early warning. Furthermore, we commit to enhance cooperation on climate resilient development policies, strategies and actions, e.g. in the areas of renewable energy use and energy efficiency, and on preserving and restoring forest resources. We will promote the integration of these issues into sustainable development strategies and in policy design. We also stress the need to create and reinforce the capacity to deal with them through technology transfer and training in disaster risk reduction and management, cooperation, particularly from developed to developing countries, and strengthening of institutional mechanisms. In that sense, we agree to exchange experiences and information between CELAC and EU States to facilitate the design of climate change adaptation, mitigation and recovery strategies, including the possibility of developing regional projects on climate change.
37. We reaffirm our commitments adopted under the Convention on Biological Diversity including its Aichi Targets, and we reiterate our readiness to comply with them in order to continue our efforts to reduce significantly the loss of biodiversity.
38. We also note that attention needs to be paid to the peculiarity of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) as emphasized by the outcome document of the Third United Nations Conference on SIDS, the SAMOA (SIDS Accelerated Modalities for Action) Pathway, which reiterates that SIDS are a special case for sustainable development in view of their unique and particular vulnerabilities and that they remain constrained in meeting their goals in all three dimensions of sustainable development, and whose efforts require the additional support of the international community to overcome the impact of climate change. We welcome the inclusion of SIDS in the category of countries most in need by the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) at its High Level Meeting in December 2014, because of their vulnerability. We also welcome the progress in establishing the Caribbean Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (CCREE) under the umbrella of the Sustainable Energy for All Initiative (SE4ALL) as a positive step towards supporting countries with these special vulnerabilities.

39. We support the Caribbean countries and their regional organizations as appropriate, in their efforts to protect the Caribbean Sea from all forms of pollution, as reflected in UNGA Resolution 69/216 and in accordance with relevant international rules and standards.
40. We stress the importance of bi-regional consultation in the run-up to the UN General Assembly Special Session on Drugs in 2016 and we commit to continue promoting an open, transparent and inclusive preparation in order to encourage a fruitful, wide ranging and pragmatic debate, in accordance with UNGA Resolutions 67/193, 69/200 and 69/201. We reaffirm the commitments made in the Montevideo Declaration as adopted in February 2015 by the XVII High Level meeting of the MCCMD. In that regard, we commit to counter the World Drug Problem and its negative effects, in all its dimensions, taking into account the existing and new realities on the basis of the principle of common and shared responsibility, with a comprehensive, evidence-based, integrated, multidisciplinary and balanced approach to all aspects of the problem, including a perspective of public health, in conformity with the purposes and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, underscoring that the United Nations Drug Conventions and other relevant international instruments constitute the framework of the international drug control system.
41. We pledge to promote the effective implementation of the international instruments of prevention and fight against corruption in our countries, in particular the Convention of the United Nations against Corruption, and promote the transparency of public policies, strengthening access to information, citizen participation, social control, effective and efficient public management.
42. We highlight the importance of information and communication technologies, including the Internet, as well as innovation, as tools to encourage peace, promote well-being, human development, knowledge, social inclusion and economic growth, highlighting their contribution to the improvement of coverage and quality of social services. Likewise, we reaffirm the peaceful use of information and communication technologies in a way compatible with the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter and International Law and never with the objective of subverting societies nor create situations with the potential of fostering conflict amongst States. We therefore agree to take all efforts possible to guarantee stability and security of Internet and ensure its governance, based on full participation of all stakeholders, both from developed and developing countries, in the exercise of their respective roles and responsibilities.
43. We reaffirm our commitment in bridging the digital divide based on our conviction of the role of ICTs as tools for promoting sustainable development and innovative solutions for the challenges identified after 10 years of implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on Information Society – WSIS. We uphold the principles of multilateralism, multistakeholderism, democracy and transparency in our efforts towards the improvement of Internet governance.

Bi-regional association: “Working together for prosperous, cohesive and sustainable societies for our citizens”

44. We reaffirm the importance of our strategic partnership, based on the principles of international law, mutual respect and benefit, as an integral part of our common efforts to deliver sustainable development and bring about more democratic, prosperous, equitable, inclusive, cohesive and fair societies in our countries. Our bi-regional dialogue and cooperation is based on shared values and a shared conviction that our interests are tied together in an interconnected and interdependent world.
45. We recognise that our economic links are drivers of sustained and inclusive economic growth, and should further allow the protection of the environment and promotion of social equity and inclusion, and dignified and productive employment and decent work in both regions. We welcome the growth in trade in goods and services between our regions. In addition, we recognise that the EU continues to be the leading foreign investor in CELAC countries, as well as the increase in investments from CELAC towards the EU. We reaffirm our commitment to adopt policies that promote increased trade and social and environmentally responsible investment between CELAC and EU countries, convinced that this will contribute to a framework that supports sustained, sustainable and inclusive development.
46. We highlight the strong commitment to achieve the effective ratification and implementation of existing Association and Trade Agreements between the EU and the countries and regions of CELAC. The Parties to these agreements recognise their value as instruments to enhance bi-regional trade and investments as well as having a direct positive impact on jobs and contribute to inclusive growth and development in both regions.
47. We stress the importance of investing in, promoting and facilitating the competitiveness and participation of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises in bi-regional trade, as well as their internationalisation and integration in global value chains, in order to enhance their crucial role in increasing productivity and creating wealth and decent work and quality jobs in both regions. We commit to create an enabling environment taking into account respective capabilities and levels of development to allow these enterprises to access markets, capacity building, financing, human capital and innovation.
48. We reaffirm our commitment to adopt policies that promote trade and investment between CELAC and EU countries, convinced that this will contribute to ensuring sustainable development and can foster economic growth and the generation of employment, especially youth employment, in both regions. Policies promoting trade and investment should be based on cooperation and complementarity, solidarity and social inclusion and cohesion, respective capabilities and levels of development, equity and equal opportunities on mutual benefits of CELAC and EU countries.

49. In this regard, these policies should aim at facilitating and deepening, as appropriate, trade agreements, the integration of productive chains, technology transfer, and at promoting the participation of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, as well as of local and indigenous actors in bi-regional trade. We recognise the importance of stable and transparent regulatory frameworks in both regions and of maintaining legal certainty for economic operators. We commit to maintain a supportive business environment for investors, while recognizing the sovereign right of States to regulate in order to meet their national policy objectives in accordance with their national and international commitments and obligations. Likewise, it is also vital that investors comply with national and international law, in particular, *inter alia*, on taxes, transparency, protection of the environment, social security and labour.
50. We commit to increase our joint efforts on corporate social responsibility, and in this context encourage the implementation of policies, National Actions Plans and other initiatives aiming at promoting and strengthening the compliance with corporate social responsibility dispositions, principles and processes within the framework of the relevant international fora.
51. We recognise the importance of international cooperation based on mutual interests as a way to better face global challenges and build a more inclusive development agenda. We are committed to strengthen bi-regional cooperation and to improve coherence and effectiveness of our development cooperation policies. We reaffirm our commitment to continue cooperating with middle income CELAC countries to define and agree the most appropriate forms of cooperation for the future. We pledge to pursue the dialogue on this matter, in the bi-regional context and international fora including at the upcoming III Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa from 13-16 July 2015, which is expected to result in an inter-governmentally negotiated and agreed outcome, which should constitute an important contribution to the post-2015 development agenda.
52. We stress the importance of north-south, triangular, south-south, and other modalities and mechanisms of cooperation. We also stress the importance of cooperation for capacity-building and greater involvement of indigenous peoples and local communities as well as corporations, higher education institutions and research institutes for development initiatives that support, among others, high quality knowledge, entrepreneurship and innovation in the pursuit of sustainable development.
53. We welcome the adoption of the EU's 2014-2020 multiannual indicative programmes for Latin America and the Caribbean as a tool to strengthen our strategic partnership by delivering concrete results in areas of shared interest building on the priorities of CELAC States. These should give preference to projects that address the three dimensions of sustainable development, in consistency with the agreements reached at this Summit and in the Santiago Summit Declaration. We reaffirm the importance of regional cooperation programs that support sustainable development. We acknowledge the multidimensional nature of poverty, and as such, our efforts to eradicate it must address its multiple causes.
54. We welcome recent developments of cooperation in CELAC based on the principles of unconditionality, solidarity, mutual benefits and voluntary participation, among others.

55. We reaffirm the importance of triangular cooperation between the European Union and the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, which enhances our ability to better leverage efforts and resources and to expand the scope of cooperation activities.
56. The EU and the Caribbean States in the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group are committed to continuing their development cooperation under the 11th European Development Fund, in support of the objectives spelled out in the joint Caribbean-EU partnership strategy and in national development strategies. We reaffirm our shared interest in working on the priorities of regional economic integration, environment, climate change and energy, and crime and security. We reaffirm the importance of close cooperation in the regional programming of the European Development Fund and other EU funds between all countries, territories and entities related to the ACP group.
57. We recognise the need to continue supporting Haiti in its efforts to combat extreme poverty and achieve inclusive, equitable and sustainable development, in accordance with the priority areas defined by its government, for the benefit of the Haitian population, through the bilateral and multilateral cooperation. Improving governance and security, in this regard, is also key for ensuring and maximising the impact of our development efforts. Hereof, we fully support the Haitian government efforts to hold presidential, legislative and departmental elections in 2015, and call upon all donors to support the implementation of the National Development Strategic Plan (NSDH) of the Haitian Government.
58. We recognise the contribution that the EU's Latin America Investment Facility and the Caribbean Investment Facility can play in mobilising financial resources for development and in leveraging funds for jointly identified priority sectors and projects, such as climate change adaptation and mitigation, transport infrastructure, energy, connectivity and promotion of the private sector, including micro, small and medium-sized enterprises. We acknowledge the European Investment Bank's support to private and public investments in Latin America and the Caribbean and we recognise its new 2014-2020 external mandate for Latin America which allows for a ceiling of EUR 2.3 billion for investments over this period. In this context, we recognise the importance of infrastructure development in Latin America and the Caribbean countries as an essential tool for the regional and sub-regional integration.
59. During the last decade, Latin America and the Caribbean countries have implemented policies that helped to make significant progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, particularly by lifting millions of people out of poverty. We agree to integrate the lessons learnt from these successful experiences as well as the commitments we will make towards the Sustainable Development Goals, into our bi-regional cooperation. In this regard, we welcome the EU's setting-up of a regional facility to develop through jointly conceived and implemented mechanisms, modern and innovative forms of triangular and international cooperation that take account of these experiences.

## An updated bi-regional Action Plan

60. We acknowledge the progress made in implementing our bi-regional Action Plan. We adopt the EU-CELAC Action Plan 2015-2017, which is annexed to this Declaration. We welcome the expansion of our bi-regional cooperation and commit to the effective implementation of this updated EU-CELAC Action Plan. This Action Plan will guide our joint work to make further progress on essential issues of common interest.
61. We commend the advances in the joint initiative for research and innovation, continuing to build the EU-CELAC knowledge area moving towards a Common Research Area based on increased mobility of researchers, exchange of best practices and enhanced cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation and the strengthening of human talent. We welcome the strengthening of our cooperation by the implementation of the network on research and innovation (ALCUE NET) through strategic activities in articulation with other thematically related projects supporting policy dialogues, as well as the selection of jointly funded projects and the launching of a new call by the EU-funded networking project (ERA-NET-LAC) that brings together research funding agencies from both regions. We further welcome EU Horizon 2020 - the world's largest collaborative research programme with a EUR 80 billion budget over seven years - also open to participants from both regions, including for funding where applicable.
62. We believe that information and communication technologies and the development of the information society and the enhancement of internet access for all are essential to sustained and inclusive economic growth and delivery of social services and to bridge the digital divide. In order to improve cooperation between the EU and CELAC in this field, we support the reinforcement of private and public sector efforts for the improvement of the interconnection of education and research networks through the enhancement of transatlantic links, including through new fibre-optic cables. In this regard, we welcome that the EU is ready to financially contribute to a new fibre-optic cable between both regions.
63. We have continued to strengthen our bi-regional cooperation on environmental and climate change-related challenges, through among others, the Euroclima programme, roundtable dialogues and renewable energy projects financed through the Latin America Investment Facility and proposed for the Caribbean Investment Facility.
64. We remain committed to achieving higher levels of social inclusion and economic, social and territorial cohesion, equality and access to public services, in accordance with national policies and bi-regional programmes on a voluntary basis such as the Eurosocial programme. We welcome close collaborations in addressing urbanisation challenges in a comprehensive way. Our cooperation and exchanges will be supported by a new EU programme on sustainable urban development. In this context, we note the decision of the UN General Assembly to hold the UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) in Quito-Ecuador in October 2016, where the "New Urban Agenda" could be decided by securing renewed political commitment to sustainable urban development and assessing accomplishments to date, including efforts to address poverty.

65. We highlight the importance of bi-regional dialogue on urban development and the strengthening of local governments, including through voluntary initiatives such as the Latin American Network of Public Policies for Regional Development in order to facilitate the sharing of experiences and knowledge on national policies of regional development, in pursuit of greater territorial cohesion within their countries.
66. We recognise the need to build on the synergies between migration and development, understanding that it is an obligation of all States –origin, transit and destination- to guarantee the full respect of all human rights of all migrants regardless of their migration status. We confirm our engagement to the structured and comprehensive dialogue on migration through the effective implementation of Chapter 4 of the Action Plan CELAC-EU, in particular the adoption of the “CELAC-EU roadmap on migrations” with specific joint actions related to the bi-regional dialogue, human mobility and cooperation, while ensuring full respect of the human rights of all migrants, including of unaccompanied minors.
67. We also reaffirm the importance of sharing information regarding ongoing and new initiatives and practices which may affect migrants’ situation in both regions, policies and practices, exchange views on issues of common interest, and explore ways to cooperate further in the area of migration, for instance the establishment of an appropriate mutually agreed mechanism, in order to facilitate the monitoring and follow up of the implementation of the dialogue.
68. We are also committed to ensure the implementation of labour rights, in line with the relevant obligations derived from conventions of International Labour Organization and facilitate the transition from informal to formal employment. We reiterate our willingness to improving workplace safety and health in both regions. We regard as a priority the support and promotion of decent work. As regards social security systems, we are ready to exchange experiences and best practices and explore possibilities for bi-regional cooperation, including through bilateral social security agreements between individual CELAC countries and EU Member States wishing to do so, respecting domestic legislations and existing bilateral and/or multilateral social security agreements between CELAC-EU states, such as the Ibero-American Social Security Convention.
69. Academic and research cooperation between our regions has fostered the modernisation, accessibility and internationalisation of higher education. We welcome the support for bi-regional cooperation in higher education through the EU programmes, such as Erasmus+, Marie Skłodowska Curie Programme, the Paulo Freire and the Pablo Neruda Academic Mobility Programmes. We remain committed to promoting academic mobility as an instrument to improve quality, joint research, support the capacity of higher education institutions, enhance the career prospects of students and strengthen intercultural understanding, whilst taking into account the need to prevent “brain drain” and promoting the return of human resources.

70. In recent years, on the basis of the principle of common and shared responsibility, we have successfully advanced towards comprehensive cooperation in addressing in an effective and balanced approach to the World Drug Problem, through political, operational and technical exchanges. We are convinced that this dialogue and cooperation have already created a solid foundation of shared principles and supported a progressive convergence of views and practice. We welcome the extension of the Copolad programme for a further four-year period, guaranteeing support for our bilateral activities, as well as the full involvement of the Caribbean countries in this programme.
71. We celebrate the decisions taken in Santiago to include a chapter on gender equality and women's empowerment in our action plan and establish a bi-regional dialogue on gender issues. We welcome the high-level launch event and workshop on violence against women held in Argentina in November 2013, and the side event held in March 2014 at the UN Commission on the Status of Women. We agree to work together to explore ways of consolidating this dialogue, in particular through joint initiatives to accelerate the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, in light of the review and assessment carried out on its 20th anniversary, taking into account the situation of rural, indigenous women and women with disabilities, among others.
72. We commend the inclusion of new chapters on "Higher Education" and "Citizen security" into the EU-CELAC Action Plan that we adopt in its revised version annexed to this Declaration. The chapter on "Sustainable development, Environment, Climate change, Biodiversity, Energy" will be updated in light of COP 21 outcome. A chapter on "Food Security" is being elaborated. This Action Plan will guide our joint work to make further progress on essential issues of common interest.
73. We welcome the conclusion of the negotiations and the initialling of the agreement for the establishment of the EULAC Foundation as an international organisation. We look forward to its swift signature and early entering into force.
74. We reiterate our commitment to supporting the EULAC Foundation as an important instrument of the EU-CELAC partnership. The Foundation shall work in close cooperation with EU and CELAC States, to promote the partnership and make it better known to the public and shall encourage cultural cooperation between our regions.
75. We welcome the progress made and take note of the initiatives made since the Santiago Summit on deepening relations between CELAC countries and sub-regions and the EU, particularly:
  - The progress made towards the full ratification and implementation of the EU-Colombia-Peru Trade Agreement and the trade provisions of the EU-Central America Association Agreement between the EU and Central American countries;

- The conclusion of negotiations, and subsequent initialling by the EU and Ecuador on 12 December 2014, of the resulting text of a Protocol of Accession, as part of the process, for Ecuador to join the Trade Agreement between the EU, on the one part, and Colombia and Peru, on the other;
- The progress made in the CARIFORUM-EU EPA in terms of its institutionalization and the commitment to address the challenges identified by the 5-year review process in order to attain true economic development in both regions;
- The signature of the EU-Colombia and EU-Chile Framework Partnership Agreements on participation in EU crisis management operations;
- The entry into force in May 2014 and the holding of the first Joint Committee meeting of the Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement between the EU and Central America, which provides an instrument that ensures a framework for political dialogue and cooperation, until the entry into force of the CA-EU Association Agreement in its three pillars;
- The adoption of the national and regional indicative cooperation programmes for Central and South America for the period 2014-2020;
- The EU's adoption of its Citizen Security Strategy for Central America and the Caribbean;<sup>3</sup>
- The opening and progress of negotiations on a landmark Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement with Cuba;
- The implementation of actions under the Joint Caribbean-EU Partnership Strategy, which aims at fostering closer relations and increased joint action towards common objectives including regional integration, Haiti reconstruction, climate change, citizen security and joint action on multilateral and global issues;
- The signature of national and regional indicative cooperation programmes for the Caribbean for the period 2014-2020;
- The signature on 28 May 2015 of bilateral short stay visa waiver agreements with Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago;
- The negotiations and initialling of the short stay visa waiver agreements between EU-Colombia and EU-Peru;
- The continued commitment of the EU and Mercosur to complete a balanced, comprehensive and ambitious Association Agreement as soon as possible;

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<sup>3</sup> Reservation by Nicaragua: The Government of the Republic of Nicaragua does not accept this mention in this Declaration, since it considers that the Central American Security Strategy is the only binding instrument for development of regional security in Central America.

- The important progress, in the context of the EU-Mexico strategic partnership, in the work for the modernization of the EU-Mexico Global Agreement, including the deepening of trade, investment, political dialogue and cooperation, with the aim of launching the negotiations as soon as possible;
- The sixth meeting of the Association Council established by the EU-Chile Association Agreement was held in Brussels on 21 April 2015. This was a propitious opportunity to highlight the excellent level of bilateral relations between Chile and the EU on all aspects, as well as to agree to move forward in the process towards the modernisation of the bilateral Association Agreement through the establishment of a Joint Working Group.

## Future of the Partnership

76. To strengthen the bi-regional strategic partnership, and as a sign of our willingness to inject more dynamism into our political dialogue, we agree to task our Foreign Ministers to meet between Summits, in addition to their role in Summit preparations, to ensure a comprehensive follow-up of Summit decisions and to sustain a regular high-level dialogue between our two regions.
  77. The next EU-CELAC Summit will be held in 2017 in the country holding the CELAC Pro-Tempore Presidency in that year.
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