

IX ITALY-LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN CONFERENCE

“TOGETHER FOR A SUSTAINABLE GROWTH”

FINAL DECLARATION

The Representatives of the participating States:

- ✓ Recognizing that Latin America and the Caribbean is a relevant region in the international context with development needs in various areas, which provides opportunities for sustainable growth
- ✓ Recognizing the special character of the relationship between Italy and the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, based on long-standing historic, cultural, and socio-economic links and the common heritage based on the shared values of peace, democracy, rule of law, security, multilateralism, human rights and equitable and sustainable development, also present in the UN Charter and in international law;
- ✓ Aware that the commitment made by Italy and the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to expand and diversify this relationship contributes to the intensification of political dialogue among the different countries as well as to the realization of shared projects and common strategies at the bilateral, regional and multilateral levels;
- ✓ Emphasizing the mutual and beneficial exchange of experiences, as well as the identification of joint actions in favour of inclusive growth and sustainable development, in the awareness that in an interconnected and interdependent world, cooperation - especially between States united by strong affinities and common values - is extremely beneficial to the achievement of sustainable and inclusive development, including the reduction of inequalities and poverty, the respect for gender equality, the fight against climate change, the repression of corruption and the consolidation of the rule of law, as agreed in the Objectives of Sustainable Development of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- ✓ Recognizing the role of the Italian-Latin American Institute (IILA) as an international organization and a privileged forum for intergovernmental dialogue, which undertakes numerous initiatives of paramount importance for each Member State and recognizing the efforts it has made to align its program of work with the achievement of the Objectives of Sustainable Development;
- ✓ Congratulating IILA on achieving recognition by the European Commission of the status of Delegated Entity for European Cooperation;
- ✓ Welcoming with satisfaction the Joint Communication of the European Commission to the European Parliament and the Council dated April 16, 2019 "European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean: joining forces for a common future", to which Italy has actively contributed with a view to strengthening prosperity, democracy, resilience and global governance in the region;

- ✓ Recalling the signature of the Strategic Association Agreement between Mercosur and the European Union, which was concluded in Brussels on June 28, 2019, after twenty years of negotiations;
- ✓ Encouraging the adoption, at the European level, of a bi-regional cultural Charter;
- ✓ Noting with satisfaction the intention of IILA and the Association of Caribbean States to explore the possibility of the latter joining IILA as an Observer;
- ✓ Satisfied with the results achieved in the commitments undertaken during the VIII Italy-Latin America and the Caribbean Conference (Rome, 13 December 2017),, and in particular:
 - a) *The holding of important Political Dialogue bilateral meetings and the reactivation of consultation mechanisms (Uruguay, Cuba, Bolivia, and Peru).*
 - b) *The signing of three bilateral Memoranda of Understanding with El Salvador (with which the first meeting has already been held), Costa Rica and Panama, with a view to institutionalizing a bilateral political dialogue mechanism, as well as the signing of the Collaboration Agreement with SICA;*
 - c) *The establishment, at the Italian level, of the Working Group on Latin America and the Caribbean, with the aim of defining a coherent strategy and agenda in the region among the numerous public and private sectors that are key stakeholders in the region;*
 - d) *The creation of an "Italian-Latin American Alliance for the Promotion of Gender Equality" on the occasion of the Forum held in Rome on April 11 and 12, 2019, which generated - thanks to the web page managed by IILA - a network of personal contacts and a permanent forum for the exchange of good practices in the area of gender equality;*
 - e) *The implementation of new projects with the Organization of American States (OAS)¹ in order to support the Organization in particular in the context of the electoral observation processes, such as the creation of the Election Observers website and the implementation of a Security Protocol for OAS Electoral Observation Missions, fully financed by Italian contributions;*
 - f) *Italy's participation in other mechanisms created by the OAS in support of some Member States, including the Mission to Support the Fight Against Impunity and Corruption in Honduras (MACCIH-OAS), the Mission to Support the Peace Process in Colombia (MAPP-OEA), actions in favor of victims of anti-personnel mines in Colombia (AICMA-OEA);*
 - g) *Support activities of legal diplomacy in support of the rule of law within the framework of the programmes Plan de Apoyo to ESCA (Estrategia de Seguridad en Centroamérica) and EL PAcCTO of the European Union, carried out in co-operation with IILA, and in particular the numerous and qualified training activities in the sector of the prevention and the fight against transnational organized crime, the strengthening of both institutions and regulatory frameworks, as well as the dissemination of the values of legality and justice;*

¹ Cuba does not consider itself a Member State of the OAS and does not participate in any of its mechanisms.

- ✓ Taking into account the theme of the Conference and the discussions that have taken place both in the Plenary Session and in the two Thematic Sessions

decide:

1. To adopt the document "*Transition toward a circular city. A common vision*" with a view to drafting a document focusing on cities in Latin America and the Caribbean;
2. To use the Website on Italy-Latin America and the Caribbean, called "Common Strategies for Development", whose main page www.italiamericalatina.it was presented today, and to provide news and updated information on the opportunities for mutual collaboration that States can make available in the social, cultural, economic fields and particularly in the framework of sustainable development;
4. To participate in the new training initiatives that Italy will offer in the sectors of the fight against transnational organized crime, the strengthening of the culture of legality and the rule of law, the fight against corruption in all its forms, as well as in the field of transparency of tenders for the construction of infrastructures;
5. To ensure an adequate level of participation in the V Italian-Latin American Forum of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) organized by IILA in Padua on October 28, 29 and 30, 2019, funded by the Directorate General for Development Cooperation of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. The Forum is a consolidated tool for technological collaboration and commercial opportunities among SMEs and for sustainable regional development, with the ambition to become a Euro-Latin American project on SMEs financed by the European Union and led by IILA;
6. To support the activities of scientific diplomacy, environmental sustainability, innovation and training of young researchers that IILA is developing with CERN (Consiglio Europeo per la Ricerca Nucleare, Geneva), ICTP (Centro Internazionale di Fisica Teorica, Trieste), ICGEB (Centro Internazionale per l'Ingegneria Genetica e la Biotecnologia, Trieste), ISPRA (Istituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale), INGV (Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia), CNR (Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche), ASI (Agenzia Spaziale Italiana), ENEA (Agenzia Nazionale per le Nuove Tecnologie, l'Energia e lo Sviluppo Economico Sostenibile), INFN (Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare, Gran Sasso), INAF (Istituto Nazionale di Astrofisica) TWAS (The Academy of Sciences for the Developing World), IIT (Istituto Italiano di Tecnologia, Genova), Istituto Superiore della Sanità, Italian, Latin American and Caribbean Universities, among others;
7. To promote IILA's socio-economic and cooperation activities, carried out with both European (EUROsociAL and PACCTO) and Italian funding (projects to offer support to small Latin American and Caribbean agricultural producers, with special attention to women's empowerment and sustainable territorial development as a support for the defense of cultural heritage and the security of the most vulnerable sections of the population);

8. To support IILA's new cultural activities, especially the re-launch of the historic IILA-Literature Prize, and the first major exhibition - worldwide - on the Qhapaq Ñan, the Great Andes Trail - UNESCO Heritage.

Rome, October 10, 2019