

## **INTRODUCTION**

The First Summit between the Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union, with the participation of the President of the European Commission, was held in the city of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on the 28th and 29th of June 1999, under the Co-Presidency of the President of the Federative Republic of Brazil, the President of the United Mexican States and the Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany in his capacity as President of the European Council. On the basis of this First Summit and the implementation of its decisions, a Second Summit could be organised in due course.

This historic Summit was convened as a result of the political will to enhance the already excellent biregional relations based upon shared values inherited from a common history. The objective of the Summit is to strengthen the links of political, economic and cultural understanding between the two regions in order to develop a strategic partnership.

The meeting of Foreign Ministers held on the eve of the Summit also reinforced this fruitful co-operation by their substantial contribution to the biregional dialogue.

To advance this process, the Heads of State and Government decided to implement the commitments contained in this declaration through the accompanying "Priorities for Action". This will be achieved through the well-established fora of political dialogue and co-operation and through further biregional efforts.

As a result of the deliberations that took place at the Summit, the Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union decided to adopt the following:

### **DECLARATION OF RIO DE JANEIRO**

1. We, the Heads of State and Government of the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean, have decided to promote and develop our relations towards a strategic biregional partnership, based upon the profound cultural heritage that unites us, and on the wealth and diversity of our respective cultural expressions. These have endowed us with strong multi-faceted identities, as well as the will to create an international environment which allows us to raise the level of the well-being of our societies and meet the principle of sustainable development, seizing the opportunities offered by an increasingly globalised world, in a spirit of equality, respect, alliance and co-operation between our regions.
2. The strategic partnership gathers together two important actors on the current international stage. Latin America and the Caribbean is set to be one of the most flourishing regions in the 21<sup>st</sup> century as a result of important progress made in the political, economic and social spheres in recent years. For this reason, the region is determined to persevere in the advancement of democratic processes, social equality, modernisation efforts, trade liberalisation and broad-based structural

reforms. The European Union, in its turn, has advanced towards a historic integration with multiple implications at the global level on political, economic, social, financial and trade matters, which has brought about constant improvement in the living standards of their societies.

3. This strategic partnership is based on full compliance with International Law, and the purposes and principles contained in the Charter of the United Nations, the principles of non-intervention, respect for sovereignty, equality among States, and self-determination are bases for the relations between our regions.
4. This partnership is built upon and will contribute to the furthering of common objectives, such as strengthening representative and participatory democracy and individual freedom, the rule of law, good governance, pluralism, international peace and security, political stability and building confidence among nations.
5. We highlight the universality of all human rights; the need to reverse environmental degradation and foster sustainable development through the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources; co-operation for the recovery, preservation, diffusion and expansion of cultural heritages; the efficient incorporation of scientific knowledge and technological advances in educational systems at all levels and the fight against poverty, as well as against social and gender inequalities.
6. We welcome the progress made in integration in Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean in the political and economic areas under the principle of open regionalism.
7. In this process we envisage providing new momentum and equal attention to the three following strategic dimensions: a fruitful political dialogue respectful of International Law; solid economic and financial relations based on a comprehensive and balanced liberalisation of trade and capital flows; and more dynamic and creative co-operation in the educational, scientific, technological, cultural, human and social fields.
8. The priorities for action adopted by the Summit will be promoted and implemented through the current ministerial discussions between the European Union and the countries and groups in Latin America, and between the European Union and Caribbean countries, in the framework of the Lome Convention. These discussions will maintain their present format and regularity. Ministerial meetings could also be held on certain matters of common interest, such as education, research, science.
9. We also decide to establish a biregional group at a Senior Official level. This group will meet regularly, monitor and encourage the achievement of the priorities for action, from a political viewpoint, and with the objective of contributing, on the basis of existing mechanisms, towards global dialogue with a view to

strengthening the strategic biregional partnership in its political, economic, social, environmental, educational, cultural, technical and scientific dimensions.

In this context, we commit ourselves to:

**In the political field:**

10. Reinforce the existing institutional dialogues between both regions and promote direct communication between governments on matters of regional integration, in particular its political dimension, and international co-operation based on an exchange of experience and information.
11. Preserve democracy and the full and unrestricted functioning of democratic institutions, pluralism and the rule of law, by guaranteeing the holding of free, fair and open electoral processes based on universal suffrage as fundamental elements for economic and social development and strengthening of peace and stability.
12. Promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, taking into account their universal, interdependent and indivisible character, recognising that their promotion and protection is a responsibility of States and of all citizens. We stress that the international community has a legitimate interest in this task, under the Charter of the United Nations, with emphasis on the implementation of universal and regional human rights instruments and standards.
13. Strengthen education for peace and reject all forms of intolerance including xenophobia and racism, for the benefit of international and regional security and national development, as well as promote and protect the rights of the most vulnerable groups of society, particularly children, youth, disabled and displaced persons and migrant workers and their families.
14. Defend the principles of an independent and impartial judiciary, to promote, implement and uphold International Law and international humanitarian law. Recognise the importance of progressive development in the norms regarding the criminal responsibility of the individual who commits certain crimes of international repercussion. For this reason, we note with interest the recent approval of the Constitutive Statute of the International Criminal Court.
15. Reaffirm full gender equality as an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, thus committing ourselves to incorporate a gender perspective into the public policies of our governments.
16. Promote and protect the rights of indigenous populations, including their right to equally participate in and enjoy the opportunities and benefits of political, economic and social development, with full respect for their identities, cultures and traditions.

17. Intensify efforts to meet the needs of present and future generations through the adoption and fulfilment of sustainable development strategies, making compatible economic growth, environmental protection and social progress.
18. Give priority to overcoming poverty, marginalisation and social exclusion, within the framework of sustainable development promotion, as well as to modify patterns of production and consumption, to promote conservation of biological diversity and the global ecosystem, the sustainable use of natural resources and to prevent and reverse environmental degradation, especially that arising from excessive industrial concentration and inadequate patterns of consumption, the destruction of forests and erosion of the soils, as well as the depletion of the ozone layer and the increasing greenhouse effect, which threaten the world climate.
19. National and regional efforts in these fields, combined with international co-operation, will promote the right of individuals to a better quality of life and incorporate the whole population in the processes of economic and social development.
20. Recognise that, in the majority of countries, there is insufficient availability of internal resources to implement the range of the actions being proposed internationally to promote sustainable development. As such, we stress the need to promote adequate levels of investment and technology transfer.
21. Underline the importance of the contribution of new actors, partners and resources from civil society with the objective of consolidating democracy, social and economic development and deepening respect for human rights. International co-operation involving public resources requires a dialogue in which both governments and civil society participate. Development co-operation partners will have to comply with the laws of the countries involved, as well as with transparency and accountability. We will encourage exchange and co-operation of civil society between Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union.
22. Work together to confront the threats to international peace and security and intensify efforts to continue the disarmament process under strict and effective international control, with emphasis on the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. In the framework of the Disarmament Agenda, we consider that, after entry into force of the convention of the prohibition of chemical weapons, one of the main objectives is the conclusion and adoption of the verification protocol of the convention on the prohibition of biological weapons, leading to eradicate this category of mass destruction weapons.
23. Attach special importance to achieving universal adherence to the Treaty of the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, to fight against excessive and destabilising accumulation of small arms and light weapons, and their uncontrolled

dissemination, and call upon all States to join efforts to achieve the total elimination of anti-personnel landmines.

24. Tackle the global drug problem under the principle of common and shared responsibility based on a global, comprehensive and balanced approach in full conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and International Law. The Panama Comprehensive Action Plan on Drugs is based on these principles and will give a new dimension to co-operation on drugs. The Co-ordination and Co-operation Mechanism between the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean should be used to develop this co-operation.
25. Also express our will to fulfil and to follow-up on the agreements reached at the XX Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly Dedicated to Common Action to Counter the Problem of Drugs.
26. Join efforts to combat all forms of organised transnational crime and related activities, such as money laundering, trafficking of women, children and migrants; the illegal manufacture and trade of firearms, munitions and other related materials.
27. Reinforce individual and joint actions against terrorism in all forms and manifestations, since the latter erodes peace, the rule of law and democracy.
28. Strengthen individual and joint actions and increase collaboration among our Governments to face corruption in all its forms, taking into account the important instruments recently adopted in both regions, since this serious problem erodes the legitimacy and functioning of institutions and represents a threat to democracy, society, the rule of law and development.
29. Join efforts to increase dialogue, international co-operation and the exchange of knowledge in the prevention of natural disasters, while taking advantage of experience gained through the United Nations International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction. Moreover, initiatives in this field should consider the links between prompt emergency aid, rehabilitation and reconstruction, while observing criteria for long-term sustainable development.
30. In this context, acknowledge the efforts undertaken by the Governments and people of Central America for the reconstruction and transformation of their countries after the tragedy of hurricane "Mitch". We also attach great significance to international co-operation for the relief and reconstruction of Central America, in particular to contributions from Latin American and Caribbean countries, and to the successful implementation of the European Union plan for reconstruction of Central America, as well as to the efforts of the European Union Member States, amounting together to more than one billion euros.
31. Strengthen multilateral institutions, particularly as fora for international dispute resolution and the promotion of development. In this regard, we jointly support

intensifying multilateral relations, including advancing the process of reforming the United Nations system, in the search for a new balance between its principal organs, so as to improve their effectiveness.

**In the economic field:**

32. Enhance international economic co-operation, to promote a comprehensive and mutually beneficial liberalisation of trade, as a means of increasing prosperity and of combating the destabilising effects of volatile financial flows. In this context, the asymmetries in development level shall be taken into account.
33. Reaffirm our conviction that regional integration plays an important role in growth promotion, trade liberalisation, economic and social development, democratic stability and a more symmetrical inclusion in the process of globalisation. We particularly stress our willingness to strengthen the multilateral trade system, open regionalism, and intensify economic relations between our regions.
34. Recognise the shared responsibility for an effective and result-oriented contribution to all these aspects.

Through our new interregional partnership we resolve in particular to:

35. Join our efforts to guarantee the complete and timely entry into force, and effective application of the Uruguay Round commitments.
36. Highlight the importance of the World Trade Organisation as the main forum to promote trade liberalisation and the establishment of basic rules and guidelines for the international trade system.
37. Jointly propose, at the next WTO Ministerial meeting, to launch a new round of comprehensive trade negotiations without excluding any area, directed towards the reduction of tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade in goods and services.
38. Reiterate our firm rejection of all measures of a unilateral character and with extraterritorial effect, which are contrary to International Law and the commonly accepted rules of free trade. We agree that this type of practice poses a serious threat to multilateralism.
39. Promote further development and diversification of trade, taking into account ongoing and future multilateral and bilateral negotiations for the liberalisation of trade, such as in the case of the European Union with Mexico, Mercosul and Chile, as well as future developments in our regions.
40. Promote dialogue on and stimulate a favourable climate for financial flows and for productive investment between Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union, in particular the promotion of joint ventures, through the

European Investment Bank (EIB), as well as of other co-operation instruments, such as bilateral investment promotion and reciprocal protection agreements.

41. Provide special attention and support for countries with smaller economies, including through incentives for productive investment. Favourable financing conditions and measures should be examined and implemented to provide a fair and adequate treatment to highly indebted poor countries in the specific and competent fora. In this regard, we welcome the agreement by the G7 Heads of State and Government of a new package of debt relief measures for the highly indebted poor countries.
42. Promote greater contact between economic agents and to encourage an enlarged dialogue between the members of the business community and sectoral fora on both sides, which are important for the relations between our regions, and in particular for sustained economic and social development.
43. Promote co-operation in science and technology in order to strengthen national capabilities in these areas and contribute to efforts, to tackle global problems; to encourage investment and business partnerships involving the transfer of technologies and know-how.
44. Support the strengthening and enforcement of intellectual property rights in all areas as an important condition for enhancing trade and investment flows.
45. Promote, in the context of globalisation and the progress of the information society, trade in services and to support new forms of co-operation in this field as important factors for closer economic ties between both regions.
46. Encourage technology transfer in order to improve the processes and standards of economic links between the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean in the fields of the production of goods, foreign trade, port infrastructure, and telecommunications and transport.
47. Promote a favourable climate for small and medium enterprises whose role is important in the context of the development of stable market economies, for the furthering of economic exchanges and for the implementation of joint ventures between the two regions.
48. Underline the decisive role of efficient infrastructure, including transport, and administrative procedures for the liberalisation of trade and the intensification of economic co-operation.
49. Strengthen our partnership in development co-operation, which offers an important opportunity to put the shared values and ideals into practice and to mutual benefit.

50. Actively participate, in view of the seriousness and recurrence of financial crises and the severity of their impacts at national and international levels, in the design of a new international financial architecture, to allow both regions to obtain the full benefits of capital markets integration and reduce the risks involved with their volatility.
51. Continue strengthening the financial systems of our countries and to develop regulation and monitoring mechanisms, in order to implement international best standards and practices. This will contribute to establishing a dynamic, stable, international economic and financial system. Such a system will ensure the prevention of future crises or, should they occur, assure their early identification and their rapid and effective solution so as to contain their spread.
52. Acknowledge that the introduction of the euro does contribute to strengthen our biregional economic and financial ties as well as the international monetary and financial system, and provide it with stability and dynamism.
53. Promote the active participation of our Governments in the consultations taking place at the United Nations on current trends in global financial flows. Joint efforts to reform the international financial system, as well as to define and to implement an agenda for international financial stability, which includes monitoring the global financial system for crisis prevention.

**In the cultural, educational, scientific, technological, social and human fields:**

54. Reiterate our commitment towards the establishment of a solid partnership between Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union in the educational, cultural and human spheres, based on shared values and on the recognition of the importance of education for achieving social equality and scientific and technological progress. We also commit ourselves to conduct our relationships on the basis of the principles of equality and respect for plurality and diversity, without distinction of race, religion or gender, precepts that constitute the ideal means of achieving an open, tolerant and inclusive society where the individual's right to freedom and mutual respect is enshrined through equitable access to productive capacity, health, education and civil protection.
55. Agree that there is no better investment than developing human resources, which is both a commitment to social justice and a requirement for long-term economic growth.
56. Assign more resources to address the just and urgent social demands and to improve the scope and quality of our social programs.
57. Intend to share experiences between our two regions on diverse social policies that we apply so as to strengthen co-operation in this area, particularly in health, nutrition, education and employment.

58. Also stress the importance of creation of sufficient and well-paid and productive employment in our countries. For this purpose, education and professional training of workers of all ages is essential.

In particular, we agree to:

59. Promote the recuperation, preservation and a better knowledge of our vast cultural heritages, including patrimony, and of our diversity as a fundamental link of integration between Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union, permitting closer and more enduring relations between our peoples and promoting cultural creativity as a dialogue for peace and tolerance.

60. Foster actions, in both regions as well as in multilateral fora, to promote cultural diversity and pluralism in the world.

61. Encourage interregional exchanges among educational and cultural actors as one of the most efficient and effective means to promote mutual understanding, learning and cultural production. The promotion of close contacts between artists and organisation in all cultural sectors will encourage respect for cultural and linguistic diversity, guaranteeing human dignity and social development.

62. Encourage further co-operation and exchange between cultural industries as well as in the audio-visual sector as major pillars in the cultural and economic co-operation, meeting an increased interest in high quality productions.

63. Consider the strengthening of educational co-operation as a special challenge, with particular emphasis on basic education, vocational training and co-operation between higher education institutions, including universities, and distance education, and take into account the particular needs of our societies. In this context we recall the successful co-operation programmes already in existence.

64. Promote universal access to education and professional training as determining factors for diminishing social inequalities, reducing poverty and achieving better paid employment, assuring a full basic education for all people of school age and the right of peoples to maintain their cultural and linguistic identity; we stress the right to education itself, based on the specific national responsibility of each country to provide adequate education to all its citizens.

65. Promote scientific research and technical development as fundamental elements in our relations and as an essential condition for the successful insertion of countries in a globalised world, which requires the advances of scientific knowledge, its mastery and adaptation to constantly evolving technology.

66. Favour innovation and technology transfer in order to obtain greater economic and technical linkage between the two regions in the fields of production of goods and services, foreign trade, infrastructure, and telecommunications and transport, among others.

67. Welcome the various events promoted before and during the Summit involving different sectors of civil society

68. These solemn commitments guide our current dialogue and our co-operation in inter-regional and international fora. At the same time, they contribute to the successful establishment of our strategic partnership.

69. The participants expressed their profound gratitude to the people and Government of Brazil for the courtesy and support received in carrying the work of the Summit through to a successful conclusion.