



II MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY OF LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STATES (CELAC) SENIOR OFFICIALS IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY San Jose, Costa Rica, April, 2014

Declaration of San Jose of Human Talent in Science, Technology and Innovation for the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States Competitiveness

During the II Meeting of Senior Officials in Science and Technology, held in San José on April 01 and 02, 2014, the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) Member States recognizes the importance of providing the ideal conditions for regional human talent to become a catalyst element in knowledge society.

Whereas consideration of the achievements made during the II Summit of CELAC Chiefs of State, held on January 28 and 29, 2014 in Havana, Cuba, and recalling the agreements adopted during the I Meeting of Senior Officials in Science and Technology, held in Foz de Iguazú, on October 01 and 02, 2013.

Whereas recognition that the I Meeting of CELAC Senior Officials in Science and Technology highlighted the need to stimulate the interest of children and youths in basic sciences and engineering to foster the development of the region.

Whereas science, technology and innovation are essential for the sustainable development of the region, and the availability of human talent with increased skills and capacities constitutes a differentiating element for the progress and competitiveness of nations.

Whereas the acquisition of knowledge and update of capacities should be a permanent and inclusive process in the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States that allows undertaking the challenges and demands of modern society.

Whereas the intra and interregional cooperation should take into account the national priorities and the asymmetries in the level of development of the countries as well as the continuity of the scientific workforce in places of origin.

Whereas the advances in information and communication technologies, convergent technologies and computer sciences have had a positive effect in the development of new ways to create and share knowledge, as well as the importance that scientific information financed with public funding is available to drive human potential and scientific progress.

The Community of Latin American and Caribbean States Senior Officials in Science and Technology declares:

1. To strengthen training programs on science, technology, engineering and mathematics, including early promotion of vocations as a strategic topic in order to allow for the development of youths' cognitive affinities and inclinations in a systemic, clear and permanent way, as well as an approach to scientific and technological careers. It will also be important to promote capacity building in issues related with knowledge and innovation management.
2. To promote the development of synergies between the national and regional programs aiming at training high-level scientists and technologists including also mobility of researchers, as well as the exchange of information on best practices and experiences, in order to cater for the growing demand of qualified engineers and scientific personnel required to generate knowledge, technologies and other products of high added value for our societies. This should consider the differences in the level of scientific and technological development of the countries and ensuring the sustainability of the scientific workforce in the countries of origin.
3. To highlight the importance of technical training programs, professional on-going and specialization training as a valuable complement to the formal educational system, allowing the increase of the countries' competitiveness and offer of dignified, sophisticated, and well-remunerated employment.
4. To promote spaces for dialogue between academic, corporate and public sectors as well the social society so that professional training and curricular programs include recommendations on technical knowledge and abilities required by the productive sectors of our countries.
5. To provide greater recognition to scientific careers through the promotion of the social value of scientific work, the offer of new opportunities and incentives to increase the number of researchers in the countries and region, as well as through the creation of networks for cooperation and scientific information exchange within the scope of CELAC or in partnership with other existing networks.
6. To potentiate social inclusion, taking into consideration equality of gender, individuals with special needs and ancestral populations in all the processes of improvement of human talent in science, technology and innovation the Latin American and Caribbean countries.