



## **CELAC AND CHINA JOINT PLAN OF ACTION FOR COOPERATION ON PRIORITY AREAS (2019-2021)**

The Second Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Forum of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and the People's Republic of China, was held in the city of Santiago, Chile, on January 21 and 22, 2018.

In order to promote sustainable development of the CELAC-China Forum countries and to encourage cooperation in various areas of common interest and, taking into account the presentation made by China on the possibilities offered by the Belt and Road initiative, it was agreed to adopt the CELAC-China Joint Plan of Action for Cooperation on Priority Areas (2019-2021).

This Action Plan will be developed as follows:

### **I. Politics and security**

1. To intensify high-level reciprocal visits and meetings in multilateral forums between leaders of the Member States of CELAC and the People's Republic of China, in order to increase mutual trust and increase the efficiency of the CELAC-China Forum as a platform to promote cooperation, strengthen communication and dialogue between both Parties.
2. To continue to bring to a successful conclusion the China-CELAC, the Young Politicians Forum of China and LAC, and the draft Annual training courses for young cadres in CELAC. From 2019 to 2021, the Chinese side will invite more than 200 members of the political parties of the member countries of CELAC to visit China.
3. To promote joint dialogue and collaboration in cyber-security towards the development of an open, safe and stable environment of information and communication technologies (ICTs). As tools to foster peace, wellbeing, development, knowledge, social inclusion and the economic growth compatibles with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Law, underlining the need that, with the use of ICTs, the right to privacy of

people is not violated. This cooperation shall be subject to full respect for national sovereignty and applicable international rules and principles.

4. To intensify the exchange of knowledge, policies, technologies and experiences, in terms of preventing terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including its financing, as well as terrorist activities carried out through the use of internet, within the framework of the States and the norms and principles of International Law.

5. To strengthen dialogue and cooperation, as well as to explore, in the framework of legal system of states and the norms and principles of international law and the establishment of mechanisms of joint work in areas such as the exchange of information, and good practices, in the fight against transitional organized crime in its different modalities, including illegal trafficking in narcotic drugs and chemical precursors.

6. To coordinate efforts to effectively advance disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons) in accordance with Resolution 1540 of 2004, of the Security Council, as regards its application, as well as illicit trafficking in conventional arms, including ammunition.

7. To expand cooperation among the authorities responsible for the fight against corruption, in the framework of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption, as well as bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the fight against smuggling, money laundering and the prevention of tax evasion practices and of illicit financial flows, as well as to improve efficiency and transparency in public management, promote accountability at all levels, as well as citizen participation in the control of public affairs and access to information, in accordance with national legislation and international instruments to which States are party.

8. To reinforce mutual legal assistance and cooperation among competent authorities, through the exchange of information related to the combat of money laundering, custom violations, asset recovery and extradition in accordance with the national legal systems and international conventions to which the countries are states parties to carry out projects aimed at capacity building and reinforce and implement mechanisms that allow a practical, judicial, direct and efficient cooperation.

9. To optimize the instances of prevention and the combatting of transnational and organized crime and explore mechanisms of cooperation in subject of equipment and training to police, in accordance to national legislations and international conventions signed by the states.

## **II. Infrastructure and transport**

1. To promote cooperation in infrastructure between CELAC and China, in terms of design, consulting, execution of works, operations and administration. To continue the work of the Cooperation Forum on LAC-China Infrastructure and promote mutually beneficial cooperation in the fields of interest that are defined individually, with the Member States of CELAC.
2. To promote, in accordance with the infrastructure development plans of the Member States of CELAC, cooperation and/or investment in sectors such as: railways, roads, ports, airports, logistics systems, telecommunications, Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), radio and television, agriculture, electric power and urbanization, among others.
3. To promote the integral implementation of the New Urban Agenda (NUA), through the strengthening of cooperation and exchange in the housing and sustainable development sector of urban and rural zones.
4. To enhance relations of cooperation between China and CELAC, as well as to participate in priority projects that favor the integration of Latin America and the Caribbean and the interconnectivity between the Member States of CELAC and China, through the various existing mechanisms.

## **III. Trade, investment and finance**

1. To recognize the importance of the multilateral trading system as a fundamental tool for the sustainable and inclusive development of our peoples, as well as to intensify the cooperation and dialogue of the members within the framework of the World Trade Organization (WTO), to defend together a multilateral system of trade, transparent, non-discriminatory, open and inclusive, which has the WTO rules as a basis, in order to promote global trade and sustainable development in a balanced and mutually beneficial manner.
2. To raise the level of trade facilitation, combat protectionism in all its manifestations and establish bi-regional cooperation mechanisms to properly deal with trade disputes.
3. In this process, mechanisms will be encouraged to stimulate and facilitate trade exchange including the exports of the member countries of CELAC and China, and the facilitation of the procedures related to tariff and non-tariff barriers.

4. To strengthen exchanges and cooperation in electronic commerce and trade in the services sector between both Parties, in order to jointly explore and encourage new areas of bilateral trade growth. These commercial schemes may encourage new mechanisms for the entry of agricultural goods into the markets of Latin America and the Caribbean.
5. To strengthen the exchange between the institutions promoting trade and investment between China and CELAC member countries and promote the development of bilateral and multilateral cooperation mechanisms in industry and trade, taking the China LAC Business Summit as a platform to deepen the exchange and practical cooperation between companies as well as to boost their integration in global value chains, through the celebration of economic-commercial promotion activities.
6. To jointly define the priority areas, investment cooperation and productive capacity that benefit the long-term socio-economic development of both Parties, in order to achieve a consistent increase in reciprocal investment flows and a better coordination that allows the orderly implementation of projects, contributing to the development of cooperation between the Member States of CELAC and China.
7. To promote the facilitation of investments through the establishment of businesses and associations, protecting the legitimate rights and interests of businesses and States of both Parties, in accordance with national legislation.
8. To intensify the dialogue and cooperation between the Central Banks and the financial regulatory authorities, supporting the extension of settlement in local currencies between the CELAC countries and of these with China, as well as supporting the establishment of cooperation mechanisms between the regional Banks of Latin America and the Caribbean and of these with the China Development Bank. In both cases the national interests, needs and capacities of the Parties will be taken into account.
9. To strengthen the advantages offered by the Chinese financing package towards CELAC countries for the socioeconomic development of the region, as a contribution to development strategies. The Chinese side will provide cooperation items aimed at socio-economic growth in the Latin American and Caribbean countries, with an emphasis on Developing Small Island States and low lying coastal development countries, Central American Isthmus countries of CELAC; and will be willing to collaborate with them in the generation of integral programs, as well as in the planning and feasibility study of the projects linked to their development plans.
10. To continue promoting the work of the China-Latin America and the Caribbean Business Summit. The Chinese party welcomes all the CELAC countries to the International

Exhibition of Chinese imports, as well as, invites all the members of CELAC to the World Horticultural Expo 2019, in Beijing, China.

#### **IV. Agriculture**

1. To establish specific cooperation programs that allow integral productive development in the agricultural area of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, including agricultural research and innovation, livestock, poultry, industrial plant development, fisheries, aquaculture and tropical agriculture, olericulture, floriculture and ornamental plants, preserving natural resources and the environment. To fulfill this purpose, and to increase the capacity for technological innovation, both Parties agree to promote agricultural research and training programs, increase reciprocal exchange in the training of technicians, generate and transfer technologies, as well as the strengthening of the various agro-industrial areas in the Latin American and Caribbean region, with a view to obtaining mutual benefit.

2. To promote cooperation in training of human resources, as well as to exchange experiences in the area of administration and advanced agricultural technologies, through the holding of policy seminars on agricultural sciences and technologies.

3. To encourage trade and reciprocal investment in the agricultural sector, including family farming, to assist associations, businesses, cooperatives and other agricultural institutions of both Parties to participate in investment and trade.

4. To recognize the adverse effects caused by climate change on agricultural production in the region; in this regard, both Parties commit themselves to make every effort to promote the resilience and adaptability of agricultural production to counteract the negative effects of climate change.

5. To promote and strengthen family farming and, sustainable agriculture, with the purpose of improving the food and nutrition security and of our people.

6. To support the institutional strengthening related to the conservation, research, sustainable utilization, development and distribution of the benefits resulted from the use of phyto-genetic resources for agriculture and food; likewise, to strengthen the diagnostic infrastructure for phyto-zoosanitary surveillance, safety and grain drying for food security, among others.

7. To contribute and support the use, management and conservation of water resources for human, agricultural and industrial consumption.

8. To contribute to the technological development and the innovation of the agricultural sector, as well as to promote the use of solar energy of protected agriculture and use of solar energy in the agricultural, livestock, forestry and hydrobiology sector.

9. To continue consultations with the countries concerned to sponsor the celebration of the Forum of Ministers of Agriculture China-CELAC.

## **V. Industry, science and technology**

1. To strengthen the exchange of good practices and experiences between the departments responsible for the industry, telecommunications and ICT of both Parties, through seminars, training courses and research and joint laboratories, among others.

2. To hold, at the opportune moment, the Forum of Industrial Development and China-CELAC Cooperation.

3. To promote cooperation with regard to production capacity in manufacturing, supporting the technology-based companies of both Parties to participate reciprocally, in the development of industrial parks and special economic zones; also deepen cooperation for mutual benefit in the automotive, machinery, electronics, and aviation sectors, among others.

4. To promote the transfer of technologies between companies; increase the cooperation margin of the emerging industries supported by alternative energies, to achieve a complementarity of advantages and promote the updating of industries.

5. To support the efforts of Chinese companies that have investment projects in CELAC countries, as well as the companies in CELAC countries that have investment projects in China.

6. To promote cooperation in the areas of energy including renewable energy, mining and infrastructure, in order to establish production bases and maintenance services for construction materials, non-ferrous metals, railway transport, development of software, and telecommunications equipment and Information and Communication Technologies, among others, in order to raise the level of local integration and serve local economic development.

7. To expand the cooperation margin in the information and telecommunication and ICT industries, deepen cooperation in areas such as broadband networks, the Internet, cloud computing, smart cities and digital television, among others, as well as to strengthen the exchange of knowledge and coordination in the study and dissemination of the new

generation of computer networks and technologies and telecommunications, to raise together the level of computerization.

8. To promote exchange and cooperation between SMEs of both Parties, encourage domestic companies to participate in exhibitions, fairs and other important activities held by the other Party in order to create a good environment for the internationalization of SMEs, especially those led by women.

9. To promote and strengthen cooperation in science and technology in the sectors of information technology and communications, railway transport, biomedicine, electrical networks and food, and medical equipment among others.

10. To strengthen the intergovernmental mechanisms for scientific and technological dialogue and cooperation between the Member States of CELAC and China. To hold, at the opportune moment, the II Technological Innovation Forum between China-Latin America and Caribbean. To continue to implement the China-Latin America and Caribbean Scientific & Technology Association and the Exchange Program between China-Latin America and Caribbean Young Scientists.

## **VI. Cooperation on the environment**

1. To promote dialogue on conservation policies and policies on sustainable use of biological diversity and its components between China and CELAC, including the sustainable management of forests, the conservation of wild fauna and flora, the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands, coasts, seas and the fight against desertification, among others.

2. To make the necessary efforts for the effective implementation of the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty.

3. To encourage cooperation on climate change in the framework of South-South Cooperation, including the adoption of actions to strengthen the capabilities of mitigation and adaptation to increase resilience against the adverse effects of climate change.

4. To urge developed countries to take the lead in the global response to climate change and to fulfill commitments to provide means of implementation to developing countries, particularly in terms of financing, technology transfer and capacity building, including the pre-2020 commitments under the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol.

5. To strengthen collaboration in the protection of the marine-coastal ecosystem, the prevention and management of maritime disasters, access to satellite information, within

the framework of cooperation agreements, the conservation and sustainable use of maritime resources and hydric, the prevention and management of pollution, among other areas, in order to jointly improve the capacity to protect the environment.

6. To promote the implementation of courses and related training in the development of public policies in relation to eco-efficiency and clean technologies, clean and renewable energies in the member countries of the CCF, with the aim of contributing to the sustainable development effort in its three dimensions - social, economic and environmental - compatible with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

## **VII. Cultural exchange**

1. To strengthen the exchanges between young academics, entrepreneurs and young people in situations of social vulnerability, and regional and extra-governmental exchanges, and to continue celebrating of the Friendship Forum between the China-LAC Peoples and the Forum of Cooperation between the Territorial Governments China-LAC. The Chinese side is willing to send young volunteers to the CELAC countries in accordance with the real needs of the member states of CELAC and by mutual agreement.

2. To promote the exchange of artists from different disciplines in festivals and art exhibitions held in China and in the countries of the Latin American and Caribbean region; encourage exchanges and cooperation, both in traditional cultural expressions, and in cultural and creative industries.

3. To strengthen dialogue and encourage exchange in the areas of thought and culture, jointly promoting the research and development of sinology and China studies on Latin American and Caribbean cultures and thinking at the international level.

4. To promote cooperation in the field of material and immaterial cultural heritage, concerning the former, exchanges in the field of museology and museography, joint archaeological exploration, the protection and restoration of cultural property and the prevention and combat against the illicit trafficking of said goods and the safeguard in case of immaterial heritage.

5. To reaffirm the right of all States in their fight for the restitution of their cultural assets within the framework of the pertinent mechanisms, including the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property of UNESCO.

6. To promote the creation of cultural centers between China and CELAC countries, to offer a new platform for cultural exchange between both Parties.

7. To deepen and expand cooperation in human resources and academic exchanges. Between 2019 and 2021, the Chinese side will offer the CELAC member states 6,000 government scholarships.

8. To promote the integration of the Universities and Think tanks of the member countries of CELAC with the Chinese counterparts, in academic, research and development aspects.

9. Both Parties will strengthen the cooperation and exchange in the field of press and media.

10. The Chinese side will continue to properly hold the China-LAC Think Tank Exchange Forum, as well as the "Bridge to the Future" program to train 1,000 young leaders from China and LAC.

11. Both Parties will promote follow-up policies, in order to evaluate the impact of the cooperation programs implemented.

#### **VIII. Cooperation in other areas**

1. To intensify dialogue and exchange in the health sector and, especially, in areas such as clinical medicine, control and prevention of diseases including non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and their risk factors, response to health emergencies, prevention and treatment of the use of psychoactive substances, research and development and access to medicines, among others.

2. To encourage and support direct cooperation between governmental, regional, local entities and medical and health institutions, in order to strengthen the health systems of the different countries of the region.

3. To strengthen collaboration and promote the exchange of experiences and good practices in disaster risk management among the Parties, particularly with regard to risk knowledge and information systems, in order to promote transformative actions through innovation.

4. To strengthen dialogue and collaboration between the governmental tourism Departments of China and the member states of CELAC. To encourage and support the participation of state tourism authorities and public and private tourism companies in tourism promotion activities. To hold the China-CELAC Ministerial Tourism Meeting at the appropriate time.

5. To support the Latin American and Caribbean countries in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. To intensify to a greater extent high-level dialogues and exchange of good practices on the issues of poverty eradication in all its forms and dimensions and sustainable development. To hold, on an agreed date, the Forum for Social Development and Poverty Eradication of China-CELAC, with a view to jointly launching a new type of international relations of exchange and cooperation in the eradication of hunger and poverty.

6. To consider studies on the multidimensional character of the treatment of poverty, carried out by the different Think Tanks, that allow to formulate suggestions for public policies in accordance with the socioeconomic conditions and poverty levels of the different countries of the region, as well as sharing good practices and measures for the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, particularly those targeting especially vulnerable groups.

7. To encourage and support civil society organizations to promote exchange and cooperation in the eradication of poverty in all forms and dimensions through their participation in multilateral forums, voluntary services, exchange of knowledge and personnel, as well as incentive and support to organizations of public interest, among others.

## **IX. Implementation**

The areas of cooperation in this Plan are not exclusive of other areas of interest.

The Parties may implement this Plan in accordance with the principles of flexibility and voluntary participation. Its implementation will not affect any agreed bilateral cooperation program, nor will it replace the agreements, decisions or bilateral commitments already established, and its effectiveness will be assessed.

During the implementation of this Plan of Action, due consideration will be given to the challenges and needs of the developing countries, in particular the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Countries, Small Island Developing States, Middle Income Countries and countries in conflict or emerging from conflict situations of CELAC.