



*Forum for East Asia-Latin America Cooperation*

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## **Report of the 20<sup>th</sup> FEALAC Senior Officials' Meeting**

**November 8, 2019 at Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic**

1. The 20th Senior Official's Meeting (SOM) of the Forum for East Asia – Latin America Cooperation (FEALAC) was held on November 8, 2019 at the Convention Center of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.
2. The meeting was co-chaired by His Excellency Hugo Francisco Rivera Fernández, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for Economic Affairs and International Cooperation for the Dominican Republic, and Mr. Virasac Somphong, Director General of the Department for Economic Affairs for Lao PDR.
3. The meeting was attended by delegates from 32 member countries, UN ESCAP and ECLAC, and FEALAC Cyber Secretariat. (The list of heads of delegations appears as **Annex 1**).
  - East Asia: Brunei, Cambodia, People's Republic of China, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam.
  - Latin America: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay.

### **Agenda Item 1: Opening words by the Regional Coordinators.**

4. His Excellency Hugo Francisco Rivera Fernandez expressed his warm welcome to all delegates to the Dominican Republic. In his statement, he highlighted the opportunity that this 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary gave for strengthening the ties between the two regions as well as strengthening FEALAC itself. He also highlighted the Dominican Republic's commitment to increase cooperation in the working areas of FEALAC and their desire to create new dynamism in FEALAC's leadership.
5. Mr. Virasac Somphong expressed his sincere thanks to the Dominican Republic for their organization of the meetings. In his statement, he highlighted that Lao PDR attaches great importance to FEALAC cooperation. He remembered the progress that FEALAC has achieved in the last 20 years, including the FEALAC Multi-Donor Trust Fund and the celebration of bi-annual Foreign Ministers' Meetings.

**Agenda Item 2: Adoption of the agenda.**

6. The Dominican Republic suggested some changes to the agenda, including the movement of Item 4 about the Official Photograph to the end of the first session, as well as the creation of a Drafting Committee in parallel for the revision of the 9<sup>th</sup> Foreign Ministers' Declaration.
7. Republic of Korea expressed that, after reviewing the 19<sup>th</sup> SOM reports, two items are not duly incorporated into the agenda. Firstly, the previous SOM proposed the raising of the issue of the transition of FEALAC into a Summit, as well discussion of the Expert Group, to this 20<sup>th</sup> Senior Officials' Meeting. Republic of Korea thus suggested that these items should be discussed during this 20<sup>th</sup> Senior Officials' Meeting.
8. Dominican Republic duly noted Republic of Korea's suggestion and stated that Agenda Item 6 about the revision of the Santo Domingo Declaration includes the issue about the transition of FEALAC into a Summit, which would be discussed at the Drafting Committee.

9. The agenda was approved with Dominican Republic's proposed modifications. The modified agenda appears as **Annex 2**.

**Agenda Item 3: Discussion of the relevant issues of the IX FMM.**

10. The minutes of the discussion of the Santo Domingo Declaration for the first session of the Senior Officials' Meeting appear as **Annex 3**.

**Agenda Item 4: Official Photo**

11. After the adjournment of the first session, the Official Photo of the Senior Officials Meeting was taken at the stairs of the Convention Center of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic.
12. Dominican Republic began the second session, stating that given that the Business Innovation Forum must begin at 4:00 pm, a Draft Committee for the review of the Declaration will be held in another room in parallel. The minutes of the Drafting Committee meeting appear as **Annex 4**.

**Agenda Item 5: Considerations of the Working Group Reports (Working Group Co-Chairs).**

13. Culture, Youth, Gender and Sports

The meeting was chaired by Indonesia and Ecuador. According to the list from FEALAC Cyber Secretariat, The CYGS WG received 10 national projects and 3 regional projects. 6 national projects have already been completed while the other 4 projects are still ongoing. 2 regional projects have already been implemented, and 1 is still ongoing.

According to the summarized reports, Panama will hold the Caribbean Games in 2022 and invites countries to take part. Viet Nam reported that they will continue the 9<sup>th</sup> Latin American cultural exchange. Argentina reported the project to promote translation of Argentinean works.

The Working Group also discussed ways in which it could be strengthened. Colombia highlighted the special nature of the working group and its ability to lead to better understanding between the

working groups. Finally, the Working Groups reported that Indonesia and Ecuador would continue chairing the Working Group. The final working group report for CYGS appears as **Annex 5**.

#### 14. Trade, Investment, Tourism and MSMEs

The meeting was chaired by Republic of Korea and Argentina.

Republic of Korea invited a special expert who gave a presentation titled “Smart Tourism Cooperation” about the change in the tourism industry due to the increase of millennial who are familiar with technologies, and reported on the “2019 FEALAC TITM Seminar on Trade and SMEs” held in Seoul on September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Overall, two national projects were carried out by Japan and People’s Republic of China and two regional projects were carried out by Argentina and Republic of Korea since the 5<sup>th</sup> TITM WG Meeting.

Proposals for new projects included Thailand’s holding of training programs for FEALAC countries in the area of the Working Group and Argentina’s regional project for sharing experiences on Electronic Phytosanitary Certification.

Republic of Korea and the Dominican Republic also proposed the “Guideline for FEALAC Cooperation Projects” to further enhance the working mechanism of the Working Groups. Republic of Korea and Argentina will continue chairing the Working Group. The final working group report for TITM appears as **Annex 6**.

#### 15. Science, Technology, Innovation and Education (STIE)

The meeting was chaired by Japan and Panama.

Both co-chairs took note of the fact that this Working Group has registered the largest number of projects. Japan reported that since the 5<sup>th</sup> STIE WG Meeting, 7 projects were completed or are in implementation, all of which are national projects.

New proposals included the “Global Campus” project by Argentina that aims to foster international movements of students, teachers, artists and researchers and Panama’s “Estudiar sin

hambre” (Studying without hunger) program. Japan and Panama will continue to co-chair the Working Group. The final working group report for STIE appears as **Annex 7**.

16. Socio-Political Cooperation and Sustainable Development

The meeting was chaired by People’s Republic of China and Costa Rica.

The members of the Working Group presented the projects carried out from 2018 to 2019, which includes 10 national projects and 2 regional projects. In terms of regional projects, Argentina reported on the project for Expertise sharing for the Construction of Affordable and Sustainable Housing for Vulnerable Sectors and Thailand reported on the Workshops on Drug Law Enforcement Cooperation.

In terms of national projects, People’s Republic of China reported on the 2 projects they have carried out, including the “Bridge to the future” training camp for young leaders, which they reported will continue.

New proposals included Panama’s initiatives “Colmena”, about improving the quality of life of vulnerable communities; and “Studying without hunger”, with the objective that students in vulnerable communities may have nutrition available to them. In terms of regional proposals, Panama introduced a program for a logistical center for facilitating logistical cooperation in the case of natural disasters and Argentina introduced a city-level cooperation project about the utilization of bamboo for industrial use. People’s Republic of China and Costa Rica will continue to chair the Working Group. The final working group report for SPCSD appears as **Annex 8**.

**Agenda Item 6: Report on the FEALAC Trust Fund Steering Committee Meeting**

17. Republic of Korea reported on the FEALAC Trust Fund Steering Committee Meeting.

Republic of Korea reported that as of November 4 2019, a total of 2,225,000USD were contributed to the FEALAC Trust Fund from Lao PDR, Mexico, Republic of Korea, Peru,

Thailand and Philippines. 961,995 USD have been assigned to the ongoing FEALAC-wide projects.

Republic of Korea also reported pledges pending to be received from Panama with amount of 100,000 USD. Additionally, new contributions from Costa Rica with amount of 5,000 USD, Chile with amount of 10,000 USD, and Dominican Republic with amount of 5,000 USD were reported. The Republic of Korea will contribute additional 1 million USD to the FEALAC Trust Fund in follow up to its 2017 and 2018 contributions.

Peru and Republic of Korea were selected as co-chairs of the FEALAC Trust Fund for the term 2019 to 2021. The 4<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee Meeting of the FEALAC Trust Fund will be held back to back with the 21<sup>st</sup> Senior Officials' Meeting in 2020. In addition, the steering committee members agreed to hold an ad-hoc steering committee meeting on the occasion of the 10<sup>th</sup> Cyber Secretariat Workshop in the first quarter of 2020 tentatively.

**Agenda Item 7: Future activities of the Cyber Secretariat.**

18. The Cyber Secretariat reported on their activities from 2018 to 2019. These included:

- The hosting of the 9<sup>th</sup> Cyber Secretariat Workshop and the Interim Coordination Meeting,
- Support for Special Meeting of Troika in Santo Domingo,
- Support for the 20th Senior Officials' Meeting and 9th Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Santo Domingo,
- The Submission of the "Guidelines for FEALAC meetings",
- The follow-up of progress on the New FEALAC Action Plan,
- Managing the database of the cooperation projects among FEALAC member countries,
- Digital activities including updating the mailing list and management of Official social media.

19. Cyber Secretariat reported on the actions taken to promote the visibility of FEALAC:

- The creation of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary logo for use by Member Countries
- Co-operating the FEALAC Supporters Program
- Operating official FEALAC social media and publishing promotional publications such as Newsletters, Factsheets and etc.,

20. Cyber Secretariat plans to continue support in the following areas:

- Holding the 10<sup>th</sup> Cyber Secretariat Workshop in 2020.
- Support of the official meetings in 2020.
- Continuation of following-up on FEALAC cooperation projects.
- Plans to promote FEALAC through social media, publication of documents, and a publicity project for FEALAC

#### **Agenda Item 8: Interim Report on the New FEALAC Action Plan.**

21. Dominican Republic reported on the activities that the Dominican Republic participated in in their capacity as Regional Coordinator, including the Special Troika Meetings and the Business Innovation Forum. Dominican Republic reported on the state of the FEALAC Trust Fund, including the projects being worked on with UN ECLAC and ESCAP. Dominican Republic introduced a plan for international communication to increase the visibility of FEALAC. Chile made the note that Chile is undergoing the process to start donating to the FEALAC Trust Fund. The complete interim report appears as **Annex 9**.

#### **Agenda Item 9: Future Meetings**

22. Dominican Republic reported that the 21<sup>st</sup> Senior Officials' Meeting will be held in Santo Domingo in 2020. The 10<sup>th</sup> Foreign Ministers' Meeting will be held in Asia in 2021, although it is not clear at this point which country will hold the meeting.

#### **Agenda Item 10: Designation of next Regional Coordinators and WG Co-Chairs**

23. People's Republic of China and Costa Rica will remain as co-chairs of the Working Group on Socio-Political Cooperation and Sustainable Development. Indonesia and Ecuador will remain as co-chairs of the Working Group on Culture, Youth, Gender and Sports. Republic of Korea and Argentina will remain as co-chairs of the Working Group on Trade, Investment, Tourism and MSMEs. Japan and Panama will remain as co-chairs of the Working Group on Science, Technology, Innovation and Education.

**Agenda Item 11: Other Matters.**

24. Cyber Secretariat explained the “Guidelines for FEALAC Meetings” and invited the Member Countries to adopt the document at this Senior Officials’ Meeting. Member Countries approved the adoption of the “Guidelines for FEALAC Meetings”. The approved Guidelines appear as **Annex 10.**
25. Cyber Secretariat reported on the fact sheets on Member Countries published by the Secretariat during the working year. They requested an official mandate for the publication of the fact sheets and the confirmation of data included in the fact sheets before the publication. They also requested that Member Countries allow the publishing of promotional publication without needing the consensus of all of the member countries. These requests were approved.

**Agenda Item 12: Review of the IX Foreign Ministers’ Meeting Agenda.**

26. Dominican Republic explained the agenda for the 9th Foreign Ministers’ Meeting.

**Agenda Item 13: Approval of the report.**

27. The meeting approved the report of the 20<sup>th</sup> FEALAC Senior Officials’ Meeting in Santo Domingo.

**Agenda Item 14: Closing of the meeting.**



28. The meeting concluded with words by His Excellency Hugo Francisco Rivera Fernandez and Mr. Virasac Somphong as co-Regional Coordinators for Latin America and East Asia, respectively. In their statements, they highlighted the Dominican Republic's successful holding of the 20th Senior Officials' Meeting and the 9th Foreign Ministers' Meeting as well as the achievements made by Member Countries during the Senior Officials' Meeting.

**ANNEX LIST**

- Annex 1. List of SOM Participants
- Annex 2. SOM Agenda
- Annex 3. Santo Domingo Discussion Minutes
- Annex 4. Drafting Committee Minutes
- Annex 5. CYGS Working Group Final Report
- Annex 6. TITM Working Group Final Report
- Annex 7. STIE Working Group Final Report
- Annex 8. SPCSD Working Group Final Report
- Annex 9. Interim Report of the New FEALAC Action Plan
- Annex 10. Guidelines for FEALAC Meetings