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VIII SOM  
Report

***Coordinators' Report on the  
Eighth Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM VIII)***

***Forum for East Asia -Latin America Cooperation***

***Brasília, August 20-21, 2007***

The *Forum for East Asia-Latin America Cooperation* (FEALAC)'s Eighth Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM VIII) took place in Brasília, Brazil, August 20-21, 2007.

The Meeting was co-chaired by the Undersecretary-General for Africa, Asia, Middle East, and the Pacific of the Ministry of External Relations of Brazil (MRE), H.E. Ambassador Roberto Jaguaribe, and the Director-General of the Latin America and Caribbean Affairs Bureau of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Republic of Korea (MOFAT), H.E. Ambassador Han Byung-Kil.

Delegations from the 32 member countries participated in the meeting: Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Brunei, Cambodia, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Mexico, Myanmar, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Uruguay, Venezuela and Vietnam.

The list of delegates is hereto attached as Annex I (SOM/2007/INF. 06)

The following topics were discussed and agreed upon by the participants:

**1. Adoption of the Agenda**

The agenda of the Meeting (Annex II) was approved and adopted by the participants.

**2. Consideration of the Reports of the Working Groups.**

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3 1) *Working Group on Politics, Culture and Education:*

The SOM VIII considered the final Report on the fourth meeting of the Working Group on Politics, Culture and Education, presented in Brasília, August 20-21, 2007 by the co-chairs, Colombia and Singapore, and decided to submit the recommendations to the approval of the Third Foreign Ministers' Meeting (III FMM). The SOM VIII expressed its appreciation for the results achieved by the Working Group.

Delegations presented their projects and contributions, which have been duly recorded in the WG's final report (Annex III). The delegations brought to attention new initiatives within the scope of the WG:

- The delegations of Paraguay and New Zealand announced the intention to update the Report on Political and Cultural Linkages between East Asia and Latin American countries.
- China offered scholarships for young diplomats to attend courses on the Chinese language and culture and indicated that it will continue its visiting programs for senior diplomats from FEALAC countries.
- The SOM VIII welcomed the proposal from Brazil to upgrade the academic network under FEALAC to an Academic Observatory, through the designation of academic focal points to be responsible for facilitating and fostering further exchanges on current research and programs. The SOM VIII also agreed that ongoing initiatives in this area within FEALAC shall be duly taken into account, specially the *FEALAC Academic Network (FAN)* initiative undertaken by Singapore and Chile, under the auspices of the IDB-Japan Fund.
- Chile referred to the importance of taking the existing database on scholarship programs available to researchers and students from member states as a basis for strengthening exchanges and generating academic networking. Peru suggested that FEALAC's home page on the internet be employed for this purpose.

- Thailand presented co-operation schemes on academic exchange, to be operated, on its side, by Burapha University.
- Thailand offered, moreover, to host the 4<sup>th</sup> FEALAC Buakaew Roundtable International for FEALAC member countries at a date to be informed later.
- Cuba stressed the importance of fighting illiteracy and promoting basic education in FEALAC member countries and offered to share its own methodology for illiteracy eradication with members of the FEALAC.

The Senior Officials welcomed Indonesia as the new co-chair of the WG on Politics, Culture and Education, as the representative of East Asia. They also confirmed Colombia for a further term as the Latin American co-chair of the Group.

## *II) Working Group on Economy and Society*

The SOM VIII considered the report on the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the WG on Economy and Society (Annex IV), which was presented by Japan and Argentina in Brasília, August 20-21, 2007 and decided to submit the recommendations to the approval of the III FMM. The SOM VIII expressed its appreciation for the results achieved by the Working Group.

Delegations brought some points to the attention of SOM VIII:

- Korea announced its intention to host the fifth meeting of the WG in October 2007 in Seoul. Korea also called for a seminar on self-governance best practices, to be held November 11-17, 2007, also in Seoul.
- Singapore emphasised the importance of sharing expertise and best practices among member countries, offering training programs opened to officials from all member states in the following areas: port management

and operations, airport terminal operations and management, civil aviation management programme, environmental protection and health management, water supply and distribution management and urban planning and environment management.

- As regards the strengthening of small and medium enterprises (SME), Ecuador referred to its intention to go forward with the project of establishing a Centre for Practical/Theoretical Studies on SMEs.
- Chile announced a new project on migrant workers, consisting of new social policies oriented to the situation of migrants.
- China announced the organization of the 1<sup>st</sup> China-Latin America Business Summit, to be held in Santiago in November.
- Brazil presented a proposal for the establishment of a network among FEALAC countries to share experiences in the strengthening and development of SMEs and suggested a draft decision to be approved by the III FMM.
- Brazil highlighted the need to establish a specific subgroup on trade and investment. Initiatives envisaged by the proposal would include the establishment of information networks on trade and finance, information to be made available by government agencies, businesses and trade associations from member states.
- The Venezuelan delegate called to attention the need to join efforts to alleviate poverty and promote social attention, especially in the areas of health and education. Venezuela also offered to host a seminar on social policies to be held in the first trimester of 2008.
- Brazil proposed to strengthen discussion on tourism in the WG on Economy and Society. Delegations agreed on the importance of tourism as a tool to enhance mutual knowledge and economic development among FEALAC countries. In this regard, they agreed to recommend to the III FMM the setting up of a specific subgroup on the matter under the WG on Economy and Society.

The Senior Officials welcomed the Republic of Korea and Ecuador as the new co-chairs of the WG on Economy and Society.

### *III) Working Group on Science and Technology*

The SOM VIII considered the report of the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the WG on Science and Technology (Annex V) presented by Costa Rica and Thailand in Brasília, on August 20-21, 2007 and decided to submit the recommendations to the approval of the III FMM. The SOM VIII expressed appreciation for the results achieved by the Working Group. Delegations announced some additional points:

- Peru reiterated the need to strengthen further cooperation in the implementation of ENSO project – *Southern Oscillations of “El Niño”*, with special emphasis on the FEALAC Information Exchange Network and on the participation of member countries in the project.
- Brazil stressed that FEALAC should give special emphasis on greater co-operation and research on the subject of renewable and non-renewable energy sources. The SOM VIII agreed that a starting point shall be the consolidation of information on the topic available among and to FEALAC members. The establishment of a wider information network on the use of renewable energy sources could be considered.
- Thailand invites FEALAC member countries to participate in the Study Visit on HIV/AIDS Prevention and Problem Management in Thailand in May 2008.

The Senior Officials welcomed Panama and New Zealand as the new co-chairs of the WG on Science and Technology.

### **3) Consideration of the Brasília Declaration**

The SOM VIII considered the draft Brasília Declaration (Annex VI) and recommended its approval by the Foreign Ministers. It also agreed to submit to the III FMM four specific decisions regarding: 1) promotion of tourism in both of FEALAC's regions; 2) exchange of information and implementation of best practices in both regions concerning the strengthening of SMEs; 3) upgrading and strengthening of the existing FEALAC Academic Network (FAN); and 4) establishment of a network information on trade and investment opportunities within FEALAC (Annexes VII to X, respectively).

#### **5) Other matters**

The Senior Officers recommend to the Working Groups that all proposals and projects submitted by member states specify essential information such as costs involved, deadlines and budgetary sources, whenever possible.

They also agreed to submit to the III FMM a statement regarding the situation of Korean hostages in Afghanistan, included as Annex XI of the Report.

#### **6) Consideration of the Coordinators Report**

The SOM considered and approved the present Coordinators' Report.

#### **7) Acknowledgements**

The SOM VIII expressed its appreciation to the host country, Brazil, for hosting the VIII SOM and warm reception and hospitality extended to the delegates. The appreciation is also extended to the Republic of Korea for co-chairing the meeting.