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CENTRAL AMERICAN
COMMISSION
ON ENVIRONMENT
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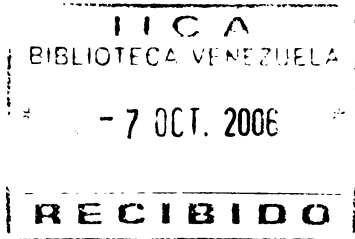
CENTRAL AMERICAN ALLIANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



KUKULCAN

Mythical god who represents renovation
and the rebirth of nature





CENTRAL AMERICAN
ALLIANCE FOR
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

October, 1994

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June, 1996
San Jose, Costa Rica

We have always lived here, it is just and fair that we continue to live and die where we wish to. Only here can we come to life again, in other places we would never find ourselves whole again and our pain would be eternal.

Popul Vuh

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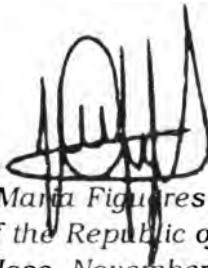
FOREWORD

Our political commitment has to do with promoting sustainable development. The term "development" refers to the age-old desire of the world's peoples to achieve ever-greater levels of social well-being, economic progress and political democracy. The term "sustainable" reminds us that, if development is to be cumulative and lasting, we must maintain the great social, political, economic and ecological balances which are at its foundation. Every day it becomes clearer to us that the very survival of our planet and our societies hinges on the success of this endeavor.

Given the urgency of addressing sustainable development as a commitment that can not be postponed, we have reached the consensus that Central America, as a group of small nations, must take action and set an example for the world.

At the initiative of the President of Guatemala, Ramiro de Leon Carpio, we, the Presidents of Central America, launched a broad and participatory process which culminated with the approval of the Alliance for Sustainable Development. Through it, we will join forces to overcome the limitations of our individual circumstances and build a society that is more integrated, more just and more respectful of the environment.

As Secretary Pro-tempore of the Meetings of Central American Presidents, I am honored to present to the consideration of the international community and those institutions and persons interested in our future, the Central American Alliance for Sustainable Development.

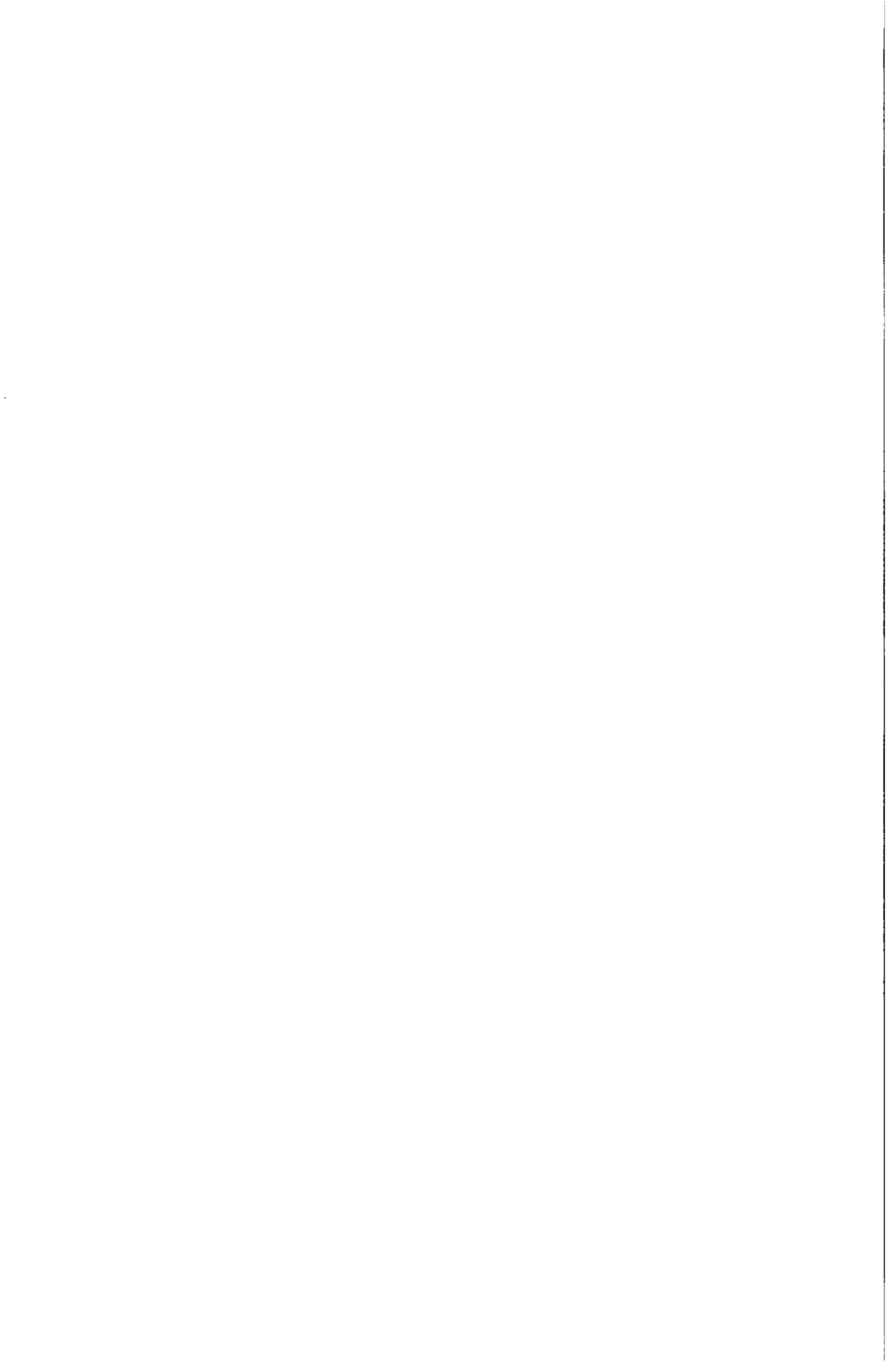
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jose Maria Figueres Olsen', positioned above the printed name.

*Jose Maria Figueres Olsen
President of the Republic of Costa Rica
San Jose. November 1994*

INTRODUCTION

It is an honor for the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the Central American Commission on Environment and Development (CACED) to contribute through this publication to the dissemination of the Central American Alliance for Sustainable Development, which aims to make Central America a model for coexistence between human beings and nature.

This publication includes the documents issued at three meetings of Central American presidents: the Declaration of Guacimo, signed in Guacimo, Limon, Costa Rica on August 20, 1994; the Central American Ecological Summit for Sustainable Development, held in Managua, Nicaragua on October 12, 1994; and the International Conference on Peace and Development in Central America, held in Tegucigalpa, Honduras on October 25, 1994. During these meetings, the heads of state of the seven Central American countries, after a broad participatory process, defined a comprehensive strategy for the region in the Central American Alliance for Sustainable Development.



We, the Presidents of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama, together with the Prime Minister of Belize, meeting during our fifteenth regular meeting in Guacimo, Limon, Republic of Costa Rica, have assessed the current situation in Central America and the notable progress made to bring about peace and consolidate democracy in the region. We agree that these new circumstances have set us on a new course and we have therefore agreed to adopt a comprehensive sustainable development strategy for the region, in the spirit of which we issue the following:

DECLARATION OF GUACIMO

Central America has changed. In the short time that has elapsed since the initial Esquipulas Accords, Central Americans have been able to almost totally stem the political violence occurring in the countries of the region, democracies have been established and renewed, respect for human rights has been strengthened, and a new system of regional integration has been defined.

Today, with a deep sense of community and a vigorous spirit of regional solidarity, we ratify our commitment to democracy and integration, and to that end we pledge to

continue to work to further strengthen our democratic processes, to double our efforts for peace, in order to firmly establish constitutional governments and the rule of law which will create the political setting necessary for improving the well-being of all Central Americans.

This new course of action means respect for the inherent dignity of all human beings and advocacy in promoting their rights, as well as respect for nature that sustains our lives. These combined will contribute to steadily bettering the quality of life and require a change in our attitudes and conduct *vis-a-vis* our patterns of production and consumption. We have set down our ideas in a national and regional strategy which we have called the "Alliance for Sustainable Development," a comprehensive Central American initiative that addresses political, moral, economic, social and environmental issues. It is accompanied by a program of immediate actions through which we hope to become a model for other regions.

We Central Americans are convinced that lasting democracy can be achieved only through consensus-building, tolerance, transparency and justice. Therefore, we shall continue to dedicate our efforts to upgrading and strengthening democratic institutions in order to guarantee basic freedoms and the creative participation of civil society in the management of development, in order to bring into the mainstream sectors which have not benefitted from development in the past.

We will follow the course set at the Tegucigalpa Summit in pursuit of human development in Central American society, taking a comprehensive approach that aims to meet the basic needs of the population and overcome severe poverty. This will give a new social perspective to integration efforts in Central America, and will be based on a sustainable development strategy that promotes social investment. With

this in mind, we will hold an International Conference for Peace and Development in Central America, in Tegucigalpa, Honduras from October 24-25. We were also pleased to receive the draft Social Integration Treaty which was presented by the Regional Committee for Social Affairs (CRAS).

We view economic growth as growth with equity that does not damage our natural resource base, but that is also capable of generating true opportunities for progress for the most high-risk sectors of Central America. We firmly believe that successful participation in world trade must be based on improving the quality, skills and abilities of workers, as well as on the modernization of businesses. We will pursue integration with the world through joint foreign trade negotiations.

We recognize before the world the unique and indivisible nature of the natural wealth of Central America and we assume responsibility for conserving it. At the same time, we trust that the world will recognize these efforts to benefit present and future generations. We Central Americans are aware of the direct relationship that exists between environmental protection and the quality of human life; for this reason, we have decided to hold an ecological summit in Managua, Nicaragua from October 12-13, at which time we will further discuss the Alliance for Sustainable Development in order to present it to the world as a Central American position.

The essential task that lies before Central America is to promote the governability of democracy. To this end, we must strengthen the legitimacy and moral fiber of our governments. We will openly oppose corruption, the abuse of power, impunity and the lack of safety for our citizens. We will support transparency and honesty in the management of information on public affairs.

The firm commitment of our governments to a strategy for sustainable development has led us to adopt a program of concrete actions with specific objectives to be executed in given time frames. Our aim is to ensure implementation of the commitments assumed herein. The political, economic and social agendas approved by the respective cabinets are included as appendices to this Declaration.

The agreements we adopted during this fifteenth meeting, combined with those we approve at the Ecological Summit in Managua and the International Conference for Peace and Development in Central America, to be held in Tegucigalpa, constitute the new agenda of the region. We will orient the actions and administration of our governments and Central America's integration entities accordingly, striving, in this way, to make our efforts as consistent as possible.

In signing this Declaration, we express to the Government and people of Costa Rica, and particularly to the communities of Guacimo and Siquirres, our sincere and profound gratitude for the hospitality they showed us and for the support we received for our work. At the same time, we hereby agree to hold the sixteenth meeting of Central American Presidents in El Salvador during the first semester of 1995.

Guacimo, Limon, Costa Rica, August 20, 1994.

CENTRAL AMERICAN ALLIANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Introduction

The Presidents of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama, and the representative of the Prime Minister of Belize, meeting during the Central American Ecological Summit for Sustainable Development, in Managua, Nicaragua, agree that the circumstances prevailing in the region require a new approach and we have therefore agreed to adopt a comprehensive strategy for sustainable development in the region.

As indicated in the Declaration of Guacimo, we hereby set down our ideas in a national and regional strategy we have called the "Alliance for Sustainable Development," a comprehensive Central American initiative that addresses political, moral, economic, social and ecological issues, which we have translated into a program of immediate actions through which we hope to become a model for other regions.

The Alliance for Sustainable Development is a complex of short-, medium- and long-term policies, programs and actions that aim to bring about changes in the current development model, as well as in our individual and collective attitudes and in local, national and regional policies and actions, in

pursuit of the political, economic, social, cultural and environmental sustainability of our societies.

The Alliance is a regional strategy to coordinate and build consensus on interests, development initiatives, responsibilities and the harmonization of rights. The Alliance will be implemented through the existing institutional framework; it will not replace existing regional integration mechanisms or instruments, but rather complement, support and strengthen them within and outside the region, especially in the process to make sustainable development the key strategy and policy of the countries and the region as a whole. The Alliance will strengthen and renew commitments that have already been assumed by the countries vis-a-vis the new pursuit of sustainable development in the Isthmus.

In this effort and commitment to sustainable development, as it applies to the Central American community, we pledge to make better and more efficient use of the resources of our region.

We believe that the international community can and should contribute to the sustainable development of Central America by changing its own attitudes, policies and actions in the region. This will totally redefine the relationship between the international community and the countries of the isthmus to make it mutually beneficial.

The Central American Council for Sustainable Development, which is promoting the Alliance, will promote and negotiate with individual countries, blocs of countries and regions, as well as with regional and international cooperation agencies, through mutual agreement and with the support of the pertinent national and regional institutions, the signing of agreements that contribute to sustainable development in Central America.

Central America will define rights and responsibilities under Agenda 21, approved in Rio de Janeiro, with a view to becoming a model of sustainable development for all countries. The principles that guide us in the future will be respect for all life forms; steady improvement in the quality of life; respect for the vitality and diversity of our land; peace; participatory democracy; respect for, promotion and protection of human rights, as well as respect for the cultural plurality and ethnic diversity of our peoples; economic integration in the region and with the rest of the world, and an intergenerational commitment to sustainable development.

The concept of sustainable development

Based on the peculiarities and unique characteristics of the Central American region, we have adopted the following concept of sustainable development:

Sustainable development is a process that pursues progressive change in the quality of human life and which targets human beings as the central and primary target of development. It is achieved through economic growth with social equity and changes in production and consumption patterns, based on ecological equilibrium and the support of the region. This implies respect for regional, national and local ethnic and cultural diversity, and the enhanced and full participation of all citizens, living together in peace and harmony with nature, not jeopardizing but rather guaranteeing the quality of life of future generations.

Principles of the Alliance for Sustainable Development

The following are the seven fundamental principles that we the citizens of Central America have adopted in our pursuit of sustainable development. They will be reflected in all the policies, programs and activities promoted by our countries, individually or collectively, and by civil society, inasmuch as they are the basis of objectives and commitments of common interest.

1. *Respect for All Life Forms*

Life involves a system of ethics and a scale of moral values based on respect, personal responsibility and consideration for all other living things and the Earth. Sustainable development cannot be achieved at the expense of other groups or future generations, nor can it threaten the survival of other species.

2. *Improvement of the Quality of Human Life*

The goal of sustainable development is to improve and guarantee the quality of human life. This will enable people to develop their potential and lead a full and dignified life. To this end, it is imperative that they be given security through human development, which will enable them to fully develop and participate in democratic processes, respect cultural plurality and ethnic diversity, and have access to education and technical and professional training that contributes to economic growth with equity.

3. *Respect for and the Sustainable Use of the Vitality and Diversity of the Earth*

Local, national and regional development will be based on the sustainable use and management of the Earth's resources, as well as the protection of the structure, functions and diversity of natural systems, on which all living things depend. Therefore, actions will be taken to:

- conserve life-sustaining systems and ecological processes that affect the climate and the quality of air and water, regulate the water supply, recycle essential elements, create and generate soils and enable ecosystems to regenerate themselves;
- protect and conserve the biodiversity of all plant and animal species and other organisms, as well as the different genetic populations of each species and the variety of ecosystems; and
- ensure the sustainable use of natural resources, particularly of soils, wild and domesticated species, forests, cultivated lands and marine and fresh water ecosystems.

4. *The Promotion of Peace and Democracy as the Basic Forms of Human Coexistence*

The following are essential for promoting peace and democracy as the basic forms of human coexistence: political freedom; the respect for, protection and promotion of human rights; the struggle against violence, corruption and impunity; and respect for duly formalized international agreements.

Peace and democracy are strengthened by citizen participation. Hence, sustainable development must

include the strengthening of democratic institutions, mechanisms for participation and the rule of law.

5. *Respect for Cultural Plurality and Ethnic Diversity*

To different degrees, the countries of Central America are ethnically and culturally diverse societies that constitute a great wealth that must be preserved. Conditions must be such that, within a framework of freedom, all expressions of culture can be developed, particularly the cultures of indigenous people, who have descended from cultures that were subjugated during the conquest and colonization periods. The right to a cultural identity is a basic human right and the key to coexistence and national unity.

Indigenous peoples generally live in areas of great biological diversity, and their lifestyles are frequently in harmony with the natural environment. Their world view is compatible with the objective of sustainable development in that it perceives nature as inseparable from human beings.

Therefore, respect for ethnic diversity and the development of indigenous cultures, an objective in itself, is synonymous with respect for the environment. Nevertheless, if respect for the environment is to translate into an effective practice, people must have access not only to ideas, but also to possibilities for self-sustaining development.

Respect for ethnic diversity can only be achieved within a framework of peace and democracy, and by promoting access to opportunities for sustainable development.

6. *Achieving Greater Degrees of Economic Integration among the Countries of the Region and Between Them and the Rest of the World*

Within the framework of globalization, the benefits of free trade must be accessible to the entire region, particularly through the promotion and implementation, by the more developed countries, of policies that will make it possible to establish, in the short term, a large free-trade zone and economic integration that involve the countries of Central America under suitable terms and that take into account the level of development of each.

7. *Intergenerational Responsibility Vis-a-vis Sustainable Development*

The strategies, policies and programs of the countries will foster sustainable development and the well-being of present and future generations, promoting human development in a variety of areas: political, economic, social, cultural and environmental.

Bases of the Alliance for Sustainable Development

Sustainable development is a comprehensive approach to development that calls for parallel efforts in four key areas of this Alliance, as well as well-balanced progress in all four areas.

Democracy, characterized by the population's participation in decisions that affect society, requires that public policies, the patterns of production and the ways in which citizens coexist be expanded and made participatory. Likewise, in order to successfully combat poverty, there must be economic growth. This means using social policies to

upgrade human resource capabilities and improve economic opportunities for the most disadvantaged sectors.

Democracy and economic and social development will not be sustainable if they do not preserve the environment and natural resources. For this reason, the thrust of this approach to sustainable development depends on simultaneous efforts to strengthen democracy, promote economic growth with equity, foster social development and the sustainable management of natural resources, and improve the quality of the environment.

1. *Democracy*

There is a very close relationship between democracy, as the basic form of human coexistence, and sustainable development. Well-being and justice will be attained in Central America only in a democratic and participatory society where the rule of law prevails.

Support for the consolidation of democratic processes and the protection and absolute guarantee of human rights are expressions of respect for human dignity and, therefore, one of the main pillars of sustainable development.

The decentralization and deconcentration of the state's political, economic and administrative activities will contribute to the viability of the process, as will the strengthening and consolidation of democratic institutions and local and municipal governments. It is also important to upgrade nongovernmental and community organizations.

Through this type of human coexistence, strong and lasting peace will make it possible to achieve sustainable

development, which calls for harmonious relations among all human beings and between them and the environment.

2. Social and Cultural Development

The major social challenge is to overcome extreme poverty in the countries. Poverty is not only a manifestation of serious backwardness but also one of inequality, which is an obstacle to harmonious conciliation and national integration and is a potential threat to democratic coexistence and firm and lasting peace.

Social development as part of sustainable development in Central America is based on the criteria of assistance, solidarity, shared responsibility, self management and meeting the basic needs of the population; it is also based on training for and participation of the communities.

The communities and their organizations, intermediate-level organizations and local governments will have principal responsibility in these efforts. The success of sustainable development in the region will depend on the establishment and strengthening of the municipal structures responsible for community organization and participation, as well as on decentralized social services that involve broad participation of beneficiaries.

Efforts will focus on the following:

- a) Investments in human resources. Here, priority will be given to basic education, preventive health, environmental protection and training.
- b) Execution of programs that support the family and high-risk groups, with a view to fostering integrated development of minors, adolescents, women and the elderly;

- c) Greater access to social services and social and economic infrastructure for lower-income groups;
- d) More job opportunities. The aim is to establish the necessary conditions for generating production activities by providing more credit to micro- and small businesses, as well as technical assistance and other actions that improve economic opportunities for the needier sectors of the population.

Considerable emphasis will be placed on raising the awareness of the public as to the importance of promoting sustainable development.

Respect for all life forms and the resource on which they all depend—land—requires a value system that champions a national identity that values cultural plurality and ethnic diversity. Sustainable development also requires a set of attitudes, habits and lifestyles that strengthen solidarity among peoples and, as a result, their sense of identity. Our historical, cultural and natural heritage will be duly analyzed and appropriately used to promote sustainable economic and social activities, and creativity in the arts, sciences and technology.

3. Sustainable Economic Development

Sustainable economic development in Central America will be based on freedom, dignity, justice, social equity and economic productivity.

The sound and efficient administration of macroeconomic and sectoral policies, as well as the establishment of clear and consistent rules, are indispensable for achieving and maintaining economic and social stability. Our future socioeconomic organization will bring together everything that is necessary for peaceful coexistence of all members

of society and the humanization of the economy; cost-benefit values, environmental degradation and natural resource management will also be important considerations.

Economic infrastructure, especially electricity, telecommunications and transportation, must be improved not only for boosting the region's economic productivity, but also for stimulating overall economic activity.

The economies of our region still depend overly on the exportation of a limited number of raw materials; this is reflected in the persistence of a substantial external debt. For this reason, our products must have better access to industrialized economies.

Our foreign debt and the cost of servicing it have seriously limited our countries's ability to accelerate growth and eradicate poverty. In order to reactivate development, an immediate solution must be found to the problems associated with the foreign debt.

Financial strategies will be developed for securing resources for sustainable development from both internal and external sources, and mechanisms will be contemplated for cancelling, converting and rescheduling bilateral and multilateral debts, in accordance with the situation in each country. Other mechanisms could include the establishment of revolving or trust funds, as well as restructuring and reallocating national budgets to give appropriate priority to the objectives of sustainable development, and readjusting security and defense expenditures to bring them into line with circumstances in the countries and the climate of peace that is being consolidated in the region.

The sustainable development model pursued in the region will promote greater participation by the private sector and the full development of its creative capabilities. It will encourage direct investments to provide services to the most disadvantaged groups, as this will be a means of boosting productivity and competitiveness, and of mitigating poverty.

Initiatives will be developed to make sound use of renewable energy sources, expand trade and increase sustainable investments in production, encourage savings and the de-bureaucratization of public administration, provide support for research and the development of clean technologies through research centers that facilitate the development of technical-environmental standards for Central America, and initiate environmental certification of our exports. This will contribute to the industrial reconversion process currently under way in the region, and will make use of sustainable production processes that use preventive measures, such as ongoing environmental impact assessments, rather than ones that attempt to remedy a faulty situation.

Human resource development is both a basic requirement for improving productivity and an important vehicle for establishing greater social equity. Special emphasis must be placed on investments in education and health, especially for the most disadvantaged groups, as a way to boost productivity, enhance competitiveness and reduce poverty in the region.

Growing tourist activity in the region requires that steps be taken to ensure that a balance be established between environmental protection and conservation and the development of tourist activity, taking into account the natural and cultural wealth of our peoples.

A strengthening and consolidation of Central America's commitments to integration will result in improved standards of living in the region, greater intraregional trade, the development of new markets and a better position for Central America in the world economy.

To this end, all the countries must meet their commitments to halt protectionism and provide greater access to markets, particularly for those sectors of greatest interest to developing countries. Better access must be obtained for raw materials through a gradual dismantling of barriers that restrict the importation of raw and processed products from Central American countries, and a steady and substantial reduction in the different types of support that reduce competitiveness, such as production and export subsidies.

4. *Sustainable Natural Resource Management and Improved Environmental Quality*

A major obstacle to Central American development is the depletion and deterioration of the region's renewable natural resource base. Water, air and land pollution have grown at an alarming rate and, unless current development and industrial processes are reoriented, they are likely to continue. The most serious threats to the environment are deforestation and deteriorating water supply and quality which, in turn, are among the principal causes of disease and death among the poor.

Sustainable natural resource management and improved environmental quality provide protection for ecological processes and genetic diversity, both of which are essential for maintaining life. They also contribute to efforts under way to preserve biological diversity, conserve protect areas, control and prevent water, air and soil

pollution, make sustainable use of ecosystems and rehabilitate those that have been degraded.

In order to ensure that environmental conservation is used as an instrument for implementing and promoting sustainable development, the countries of Central America pledge to design policies that are based on internal and external legal frameworks and that address land-use planning, energy, transportation, human settlements and population, forests and biological diversity, and measures for controlling water, air and soil pollution, among others.

In view of the serious situation faced in Central America, it is imperative to formulate a policy and a master plan for the generation, marketing and consumption of energy, promoting the use of renewable and alternative energy sources and energy efficiency programs, and for linking the electrical services of the Central American countries.

Objectives of the Alliance for Sustainable Development

General Objectives

1. To make the Isthmus a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development, by promoting a change in personal and social values for building a model of sustainable political, economic, social, cultural and environmental development, within the framework of Agenda 21.

2. To manage the territory in a sustainable and integrated manner in order to ensure the conservation of the region's biodiversity, for our benefit and for the benefit of all humanity.
3. To inform the international community of the Alliance for Sustainable Development, and of the importance and reciprocal benefits of supporting this sustainable Central American model.
4. To foster conditions that will contribute to improving, on an ongoing basis, the capabilities and participation of society in improving the quality of life now and in the future.

These objectives are described in greater detail in the appendix, which is an integral and inseparable part of this Alliance for Sustainable Development.

Instruments of the Alliance for Sustainable Development

1. National Councils for Sustainable Development

The Governments have agreed to establish National Councils for Sustainable Development, to be made up of representatives from the public sector and civil society.

The areas of action and responsibilities of the National Councils for Sustainable Development in each country will be to ensure that national policies, programs and projects are consistent with the sustainable development strategy.


2. *Central American Council for Sustainable Development*

The Central American Council for Sustainable Development will be made up of the Presidents of the Central American countries and the Prime Minister of Belize, who may be represented by their delegates.

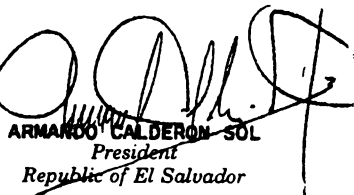
The Council shall adopt and execute its decisions, commitments and other agreements related to sustainable development through Central American organizations and institutions. The Council of Ministers of Foreign Relations, with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belize, will coordinate the implementation of presidential decisions, with the support of the General Secretariat of the Central American Integration System (SG-SICA), which will work in close coordination with the technical secretariats of regional subsystems and entities.

The Central American Council for Sustainable Development will establish mechanisms to ensure the participation of civil society throughout the sustainable development process, particularly the Advisory Committee, which is mentioned in the Tegucigalpa Protocol.

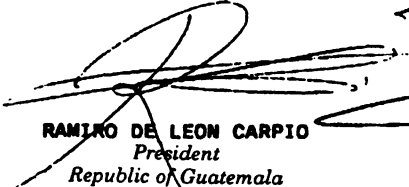
We hereby adopt this Alliance for Sustainable Development, in the city of Managua, Republic of Nicaragua, on the twelfth day of October of nineteen hundred ninety-four.



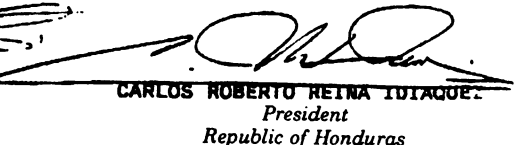
JOSE MARIA FIGUERES OLSEN
President
Republic of Costa Rica




ARMANDO CALDERON SOL
President
Republic of El Salvador



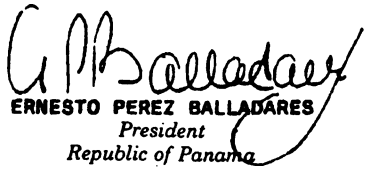
RAMIRO DE LEON CARPIO
President
Republic of Guatemala



CARLOS ROBERTO REINA Irujoquez
President
Republic of Honduras



VIOLETA BARRIOS DE CHAMORRO
President
Republic of Nicaragua



ERNESTO PEREZ BALLADARES
President
Republic of Panama



Representative of the Prime Minister
of Belize

APPENDIX

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF THE ALLIANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Political Objectives

- 1. To support the peace and reconciliation processes in the countries of the region.**
- 2. To promote full observance of human rights.**
- 3. To strengthen the rule of law and democratic institutions.**
- 4. To combat corruption and impunity.**
- 5. To enhance the administrative and managerial capabilities of municipal governments and equip them to directly address their problems.**
- 6. To upgrade mechanisms for participation in political and electoral processes.**
- 7. To support different types of community organizations that preserve national identity so as to foster cultural plurality and ethnic diversity.**
- 8. To combat the roots of violence and criminality, including drug trafficking.**

9. To modernize state institutions so they can carry out their functions efficiently.

Economic Objectives

1. To promote a strategy for sustainable development and domestic and external integration, based on an expanded domestic market and the promotion of national and foreign investments.
2. To promote policies for reducing intraregional disequilibria that can limit sustainable development in the region.
3. To boost economic growth rates in order to eliminate poverty and, in this way, ensure the social and political sustainability of trade liberalization and the democratic process in the countries of the region.
4. To seek joint solutions to the foreign debt problem.
5. To harmonize macroeconomic and sectoral policies in the region.
6. To stimulate investment and sustainable production processes.
7. To promote a full study and discussion of the economic and institutional reforms needed by the Central American countries to negotiate jointly a free trade and investment agreement with the countries of the hemisphere.
8. To foster the generation and transfer of clean technologies for boosting productivity and developing technical-environmental standards, and to encourage environmentally sound production systems.
9. To promote and develop sustainable ecotourism.

10. To formulate policies for planning and encouraging agricultural activities that contribute to rural development, strengthen the intraregional trade of agricultural products, guarantee food security and increase and diversify exports, strengthening links in production, commercial and service chains.
11. To make greater use of science and technology in production processes by improving the technological capabilities of human resources, creating and strengthening centers for technology innovation, and facilitating the development of new businesses and technology packages.
12. To promote the reconstruction, rehabilitation and modernization of infrastructure in the region, especially transportation, telecommunications and energy, in order to enhance the efficiency and competitiveness of the production sectors at the national, regional and international levels.

Social Objectives

1. To eliminate all types of *de facto* or legally-sanctioned discrimination against women in order to improve their social position and their quality of life.
2. To reduce the incidence of extreme poverty, especially by creating jobs.
3. To appropriately reintroduce refugees, displaced or uprooted persons into safe and stable settings in Central America, enabling them to enjoy full rights as citizens and to improve their quality of life through equal opportunities.

4. To include the criteria of assistance, community solidarity, shared responsibility and self-management into policies that combat poverty through development, community participation and the economic and administrative decentralization and deconcentration of state services.
5. To place high priority on investments in human resources, in order to encourage full, personal development.

Cultural Objectives

1. To promote ethical values that foster and contribute to strengthening sustainable development.
2. To reinforce the development of a national identity that values cultural and ethnic diversity.
3. To promote, protect and make sound use of the cultural and natural wealth of the region.
4. To foster means of cultural expression that promote a sound relationship with the environment.
5. To promote education on the care and sustainable use of natural resources.
6. To champion the restitution and return of cultural assets that have been illegally removed from the region.

Environmental Objectives

1. To harmonize and modernize environmental parameters, legislation and pertinent national institutions.

2. To lower the levels of air, water and soil pollution.
3. To save, study and use the biodiversity of the region and to promote, among other things, the development of biological corridors and protected areas, centers of biodiversity and biological gardens.
4. To enhance capabilities for regulating, monitoring and enforcing environmental norms, and for classifying environmental violations.
5. To improve the awareness and active participation of the population at large, by incorporating environmental issues into formal and informal education systems.
6. To steadily reduce the deforestation rate and, at the same time, promote reforestation and productive forestry activity at the regional level.
7. To appropriately manage watersheds in order to protect the quality and supply of water resources for their different uses.
8. To foster regionwide discussion of common policies on new environmentally sound products, green stamps and environmental impact studies.
9. To promote sustainable development projects in border areas.

INTERNATIONAL DECLARATION OF TEGUCIGALPA ON PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT IN CENTRAL AMERICA

The Presidents of Central America and the Prime Minister of Belize, meeting in the city of Tegucigalpa, Honduras, have completed the basic commitments associated with the Alliance for Sustainable Development, signed in the city of Managua, Nicaragua, on October 12 of this year. This effort, together with the agreements reached in Guacimo, Costa Rica, and the Commitments of Masaya Volcano in Nicaragua, are evidence of the growing capacity for regional action of the governments of the region in achieving higher levels of integration, democracy, progress and well-being for our peoples.

As Central America approaches the new century, it has set as a goal to construct an alliance among its countries and with the rest of the world in order to give direction to and consolidate the changes that have taken place in recent years. This includes a determination to foster the democratic process and a steadfast commitment to implementing sustainable development to the fullest, expressed not only in the actions undertaken by the governments in each of their countries, but also in the greater integration and consensus

being achieved among states and between them and the different sectors of society.

Convinced that peace is a prerequisite for sustainable development, we express our sincere wishes for a successful conclusion of the Guatemalan peace talks by the end of this year. We reiterate our support for the determination of the people of Guatemala, and their President, Ramiro de Leon Carpio, to sign the agreement as soon as possible, and we applaud the actions being taken by the parties, with the support of the United Nations (UN). Central America awaits with great expectations the conclusion of the last remaining internal conflict in the region.

In this hopeful setting, Central America will approach the future by pursuing sustainable development, the primary target of which will be human beings; efforts will seek to enable them to realize their potential and use it to serve the community. This complex task will only be possible through our own efforts and with the firm support of the international community.

After many years of struggle, our region is finally moving, unequivocally, toward sustainable development. In Tegucigalpa, we held a series of conversations that opened a new era of relations among the governments of the area and between them and the different players in Central American societies, integration organizations and the international community. This will make it possible to better understand the problems we face as we enter a new century and rethink how international cooperation and solidarity can help us meet the needs and achieve our aspirations for sustainable development.

We will encourage dialogue among the governments, civil society, regional institutions and the international community in order to ensure broad discussion of the implementation of

the commitments assumed within the framework of the Central American Alliance for Sustainable Development.

Given this consensus, and honored by the presence of the international community at this conference, we renew our call to friendly nations and international agencies to provide, as a visible manifestation of their solidarity with peace and development in the region, the cooperation necessary for contributing to the Central American effort to bring about sustainable development.

We are grateful for the warm hospitality extended to us by the people and Government of Honduras, which has contributed greatly to the success of this International Conference on Peace and Development in Central America.

Tegucigalpa, Honduras, Central America, October 25, 1994

COMMITMENTS OF THE ALLIANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

POLITICAL COMMITMENTS

Peace

We pledge to actively focus our efforts on strengthening and continuing to build peace in the region, with a view to promoting the integrated development of our societies, intensifying efforts to combat poverty, strengthen democracy and the rule of law, modernize production, conserve the environment, promote the sound use of renewable natural resources and modernize the state.

In view of the above, we call upon the international community to provide greater support to this endeavor. We also invite international and regional lending and technical cooperation agencies to consider and reflect in their policies, plans and work programs, the circumstances of Central America as a region, and the qualitative differences in the levels of development among the countries and, as a result, to design their actions so as to reflect the different economic and social situations of the countries.

Democracy

We pledge to establish a plan of action to further develop and upgrade the decentralization and deconcentration of state

services, with due respect for the cultural and ethnic diversity of the region.

We urge the National Councils for Sustainable Development to exchange experiences and progress in this area. We also agree, as the Central American Council on Sustainable Development, to meet with the members of the National Councils on Sustainable Development during the first semester of 1995.

We will implement a plan for developing and strengthening the administrative, financial and political capabilities of local governments.

We pledge to do our utmost to strengthen the different forms of organization of civil society.

As part of efforts to strengthen respect for human rights, we pledge to promote these rights ever more vigorously in our respective countries.

To this end, we urge the Central American Council of Ombudsmen for Human Rights, with the support of the SG-SICA, to conduct a study and submit a report on their activities, proposing ways and means for promoting and systematizing them.

We pledge to implement a plan of action for education on peace and democratic coexistence by updating, expanding and improving school curricula.

We hereby instruct education authorities of all the Central American countries to prepare a plan of action for updating, expanding and improving the content of curricula for all educational levels to address education for peace and democratic coexistence. We underscore the importance of UNESCO's support in establishing in El Salvador the first

International Center for the Culture of Peace, the activities of which will be instrumental in promoting a culture of peace in our region.

We also stress the importance of implementing as soon as possible the "Program for the Culture of Peace and Democracy in Central America," which has already been endorsed by the University for Peace.

In order to provide continuity and to further pursue the discussions initiated in Tegucigalpa, we propose that the International Conference for Peace and Development be established as a periodic activity, and that it involve the participation of civil society organizations of regional scope and the governments of the region, as well as the institutions of Central America and the international community.

To this end, we instruct the Council of Ministers of Foreign Relations to submit a proposal for holding the event successfully.

Regional Security

We reiterate our commitment to improving the administration of justice and efforts to combat delinquency, in order to guarantee safety for all inhabitants.

We hereby instruct the Council of Ministers of Foreign Relations to study and transfer for implementation to the corresponding national and regional authorities, as soon as possible, the plan of action "Justice on the March" which has been prepared by the United Nations Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Delinquents (ILANUD), in order to strengthen and consolidate the rule of law and democratic institutions.

We reiterate our commitment to the unrelenting struggle against drug trafficking and delinquency, as set forth in our Agenda and Program of Action adopted at the fifteenth meeting of Central American Presidents.

As a part of these efforts, we charge the corresponding national authorities and the Central American Standing Committee to Eradicate the Illegal Production, Trafficking and Consumption of Drugs and Psychotropic Substances with preparing a detailed report on the progress made in complying with agreements reached during the Guacimo Meeting. We reiterate our instructions that, within the time frame agreed upon at the Summit, a regional anti-drug team be set up. We also express our renewed determination to augment efforts to gather data and exchange information for combatting delinquency.

We will promote actions and measures that have a direct and positive impact on increasing and enhancing the effectiveness of security for all the inhabitants of the region.

To this end, we reiterate our support for the work of the pertinent authorities to establish and launch, as soon as possible, a Central American training institute for upgrading the capabilities of civil police.

We pledge to strengthen and modernize, both technically and financially, the institutions and mechanisms needed to prevent and control corruption and tax evasion, and to promote the harmonization of our countries' legislation in these areas.

In view of the decisions adopted on regional security during our fifteenth meeting, we hereby agree to immediately reactivate the Central American Security Commission, so that it can proceed to finalize the regional model for democratic security referred to in item 11 of the Guacimo Agenda.

We hereby agree to continue promoting and supporting the execution of the plan to remove mines in Central America, an effort that requires the support of the international community.

We express our interest in the establishment in Honduras of the auxiliary headquarters for Central America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Center for Disarmament, Peace and Development.

SOCIAL COMMITMENTS

Investments in Human Resources

We hereby commit ourselves to making human beings the focus of the Alliance for Sustainable Development, within a framework of equity, solidarity, equal opportunities and full participation in society. Our commitment includes ensuring universal access to basic social services, the quality of which must be improved progressively.

We hereby instruct our Social Cabinets to organize immediately, in coordination with the Regional Commission on Social Affairs, a meeting to discuss and prepare general guidelines for establishing, in the short term, the bases of a social policy for the region which will be submitted to the following meeting of Central American presidents once it has been completed.

Social Integration Treaty

In line with the above and as agreed to in our fifteenth meeting, we will continue to support the broadest process of consultation possible to formulate the Central American Social Integration Treaty, which will take into account the

different sectors of the region, and be submitted by the Regional Commission on Social Affairs, through the Central American Integration System, during the upcoming meeting of Central American presidents.

Overcoming Poverty

We pledge to undertake development programs that enhance the real impact of actions to combat poverty, in order to overcome the structural factors of poverty and to ensure social investment, in the medium and long terms, in accordance with the provisions of the Alliance for Sustainable Development.

We hereby instruct our Social Cabinets to submit, in coordination with the Regional Commission on Social Affairs, a plan and program for technical and financial implementation of this commitment.

We appeal to international funding agencies to join in this Central American effort and to support, among others, the Central American Social Investment Program against poverty.

We will strengthen mechanisms for combatting poverty, based on the criteria of assistance, solidarity, shared responsibility and self management, placing priority on training and support for the municipal structures responsible for community organization and participation.

Actions Against Discrimination

We pledge to continue striving to eliminate from Central American societies all actions that may encourage discrimination because of gender, ethnic background, nationality, age, health, religious and political beliefs.

We reiterate our commitment to establish the necessary conditions for eliminating all forms of discrimination from our societies.

Developing the Sectors of the Population Affected by Armed Conflict

We pledge to fully incorporate into the development process the sectors of the population affected by armed conflict, pursuing reconciliation and nondiscrimination in order to foster the transition to development.

Education and Health

We pledge to place priority on providing education and health for the people of Central America, as prerequisites for sustainable development in the region.

To this end, we hereby instruct the ministers of education to implement the regional projects approved during the fourteenth regular meeting of the Central American Office for Educational and Cultural Coordination (CECC); in addition, we call on the Council of Ministers of Health (COMISCA) to promptly apply the principles, areas, components and objectives of phase III of the Central American Health Initiative, within the context of the Alliance for Sustainable Development. We ratify our support for the contents of the

Nariño Commitment, which was adopted during the Second American Meeting on Children and Social Policy.

Food and Nutritional Security

We aim to guarantee an effective food and nutritional security system for the peoples of Central America, in accordance with the characteristics and customs of each country.

To this end, we hereby instruct our Economic and Social Cabinets to identify and support measures for translating our commitment into a reality.

We urge the private sectors of Central America to participate actively in the work to attain food and nutritional security for the inhabitants of Central America by enforcing norms that guarantee quality, accurate weights and measures, and standards to ensure the biological, toxicological and nutritional safety of foodstuffs.

The Family and Sustainable Development

We pledge to articulate economic policies with social and cultural policies in an integrated approach whose public policies and programs target the family.

We charge the Forum of Social Cabinets to conduct, with support from the Technical Secretariat of the Regional Commission on Social Affairs (ST-CARS) and in consultation with national coordinators, a qualitative evaluation of the progress made in complying with the commitments of the Social Summit Meeting of Tegucigalpa (December 1991), and to report on the results in no more than one hundred and twenty days. The report should include recommendations for

meeting the goals set in the national action plans and adapting them to the Alliance for Sustainable Development.

We reiterate our firm commitment to the agreements signed during the World Summit on Children, and to the establishment of the mechanisms needed for adjusting the national legislation of the signatory countries of the Convention on the Rights of Children, within the framework of sustainable human development.

Integrating Women into Development

We will continue to promote full equality between men and women and to increase women's contributions to social progress and development. We will also promote policies to eliminate obstacles to equality and, in this way, foster the full participation of women in improving society and in the decision-making process.

Monitoring Mechanisms

We pledge to closely monitor compliance with these social commitments and hereby instruct the Regional Commission on Social Affairs to submit to our consideration, within a period of six months, a mechanism for strengthening social information systems at both the national and regional levels.

CULTURAL COMMITMENTS

We pledge to make culture the noblest expression of our national and regional identity, within the framework of the Central American Integration System, reflecting the ethnic

and cultural plurality of our peoples, and with a current view of the changes taking place throughout the world.

Strategy

We hereby instruct the Regional Commission on Social Affairs to order the Central American Office for Educational and Cultural Coordination, in collaboration with the Central American Commission on Environment and Development, to prepare a strategy for monitoring compliance with the cultural commitments stemming from the Alliance for Sustainable Development, in consultation with the National Sustainable Development Councils.

Cultural Heritage

We hereby instruct the ministers of culture, or the pertinent authorities in the countries, to submit within a period of six months, draft agreements on the following topics to the respective ministries of foreign affairs:

- Central American Agreement on the Protection of its Cultural Heritage
- Central American Agreement for Exhibitions of Archaeological, Historical and Artistic Objects
- Central American Agreement for the Restitution and Return of Illegally Removed Cultural Assets

We hereby instruct the Regional Commission on Social Affairs to order the Central American Office for Educational and Cultural Coordination to prepare a plan to promote the development of legal and administrative processes for more efficiently applying, updating and modernizing the laws governing the protection and preservation of the region's cultural heritage.

EVALUATION OF THE LEGAL STRUCTURE FOR INTEGRATION

We charge the SG-SICA with drafting a report, in coordination with the specialized technical secretariats of the Alliance for Sustainable Development, on Central American treaties, agreements, protocols and instruments, providing information on the status of signature, ratification and deposit of each, as well as the period they are in force and their current status in the signatory states that belong to the Alliance.

This report is to be submitted to the Council of Ministers of External Relations, which will present its recommendations to the Central American Council for Sustainable Development during the sixteenth meeting of Central American presidents.

We pledge to establish and execute a program to promote and disseminate, on an ongoing basis, the results and achievements of the Alliance in complying with its commitments. This will be done using the mechanisms of the Alliance for Sustainable Development, and with the participation of the ministries and secretariats of information and the support of pertinent regional institutions.

ECONOMIC COMMITMENTS

We pledge to base our efforts in the area of economics on the terms of the Alliance for Sustainable Development, in order to achieve higher levels of economic and social well-being for the peoples of Central America, a better position in the international economy and greater autonomy in determining our own futures.

- **We instruct the specialized regional agencies to formulate proposals for action on the twelve economic objectives of the Alliance for Sustainable Development in Central America.**
- **We instruct the Forum of Economic Cabinets of Central America to conduct, with the support of SIECA and the regional specialized agencies, a qualitative evaluation of the progress of the Central American Economic Agenda, and to harmonize it with the substantive content of the Alliance for Sustainable Development in Central America, taking into account its objectives and commitments.**

Priority Areas

In order to raise economic growth rates, reduce poverty and ensure social and political sustainability for the peace and development processes in the region, we have established the following priorities:

- **To promote the harmonization and coordination of macroeconomic and sectoral policies in the countries.**
- **To improve and upgrade the training of human resources in the region, with a view to incorporating**

large segments of the population into competitive production processes.

- To gain a better position for Central America in the world economy, using the established mechanisms.
- To promote sustainable production processes that stimulate production without harming the environment.
- To promote a program of industrial reconversion within the framework of the Alliance for Sustainable Development.
- To encourage support for programs and projects to develop ecologically sound and sustainable tourism.
- To reconstruct, rehabilitate and modernize regional infrastructure, especially transportation, energy and telecommunications, consistent with the terms of the Alliance for Sustainable Development.

Foreign Debt

In view of the enormous burden the foreign debt represents to our economies, and the limited funds available for supporting sustainable development in our countries, we pledge to help one another in the debt negotiations we have undertaken and to act together when appropriate to achieve common goals in this area.

Border Area Development

We consider that projects to foster sustainable development in border areas in Central America help the inhabitants overcome isolation and poverty and promote natural resource conservation and foster harmony among our peoples. Therefore, we support efforts being made to this end.

Science and Technology

We instruct the Central American Commission on Science and Technology to report to the next meeting of presidents on the progress made to execute the regional science and technology program, based on the respective national studies.

COMMITMENTS RELATED TO THE ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Legislation

To entrust the Executive Secretariat of the Central American Commission on Environment and Development with preparing a progress report, in consultation with the pertinent national authorities, on compliance with regional and international agreements on the environment and natural resources that have been signed by the Central American governments, and with presenting said report at the next regular summit meeting.

Natural Resources and Biodiversity

To instruct the corresponding national authorities to establish the following, within 18 months time:

- a. the Central American Biological Corridor, to strengthen the national system of protected areas; and
- b. biodiversity centers and botanical gardens in each country, for promoting research on the use and conservation of biodiversity.

In collaboration with the pertinent national authorities, to draw up a list of endangered flora and fauna in Central America with a view to prohibiting the capture, transport or sale of same. This list is to be ready in three months' time.

Land-use Planning

To instruct the corresponding authorities to undertake actions to establish land-use plans, allowing two months for these authorities to hold a regional meeting for establishing common methodologies and procedures for meeting this commitment.

Environmental Impact Assessments

Pursuant to our pledge during the Guacimo Summit concerning environmental impact assessments, to instruct the Executive Secretariat of the CACED to prepare, within six months' time and in conjunction with the National Sustainable Development Councils, a proposal on: principles, minimum requirements, methodologies, regulation of advisory

services, mechanisms for consulting civil society and other necessary aspects of this process.

Forestry Resources

To adopt forestry management plans as a tool for making integrated use of forestry resources under sustainable forestry management systems.

To instruct the corresponding authorities to prepare, within six months' time and in conjunction with interested sectors of civil society, proposed technical norms for the certification of wood products from sustainably managed forests.

To formulate and implement a plan to prevent and fight forest fires.

To foster the participation of municipal and local authorities in the administration of forestry resources.

Water

To give priority to formulating policies and legislation on the management and conservation of water resources, which include, among other things, legal and institutional frameworks, mechanisms for coordinating the efforts of the different authorities responsible for managing and administering water for human consumption, irrigation and the generation of energy, instructing national authorities to implement this commitment.

To instruct the corresponding authorities to update studies on the watersheds of Central America, with a view to

preparing specific projects for their use and sustainable management.

Air

To present, no later than July 31, 1995, a plan of action for gradually eliminating lead from the gasoline used in Central America.

To issue, in no more than one year, regulations for controlling air pollution caused by moving sources, and to establish systems for monitoring air quality, with the participation of the public and private sectors. To this end, we instruct the corresponding institutions to conduct educational campaigns and programs to improve public awareness of the problem in order to ensure greater support of the populace in meeting this commitment.

Soils

To instruct the pertinent authorities to standardize soil classification in the countries of the region and to identify areas with fragile soils, with a view to developing, within no more than two years, action strategies for the protection and recovery of the most severely damaged areas.

Energy

To instruct national authorities to design, within no more than six months' time and in conjunction with those responsible for the regulation, production, distribution and marketing of energy, a policy and Central American master plan for energy (petroleum, electricity, renewable resource

subsectors). The policy and master plan must attach priority to the use of renewable sources of energy, greater participation by the private sector and local governments in energy generation, and energy efficiency programs.

Pollution Control

To set a period of two years, as of today, for all of our countries to enact specific regulations for the monitoring and control of the following types of pollution:

- a) water
- b) air
- c) soil
- d) noise
- e) visual, and
- f) others

This commitment will be the responsibility of the Central American Commission on Environment and Development and will be implemented gradually through the establishment of decentralized mechanisms for surveillance and monitoring, and by promoting the participation of civil society in these processes.

Science and Technology

To assign pertinent national authorities the responsibility of promoting greater productivity and competitiveness through the use of environmentally sound technologies.

Education

To instruct our ministers of education to prepare and develop, as soon as possible and in conjunction with the authorities responsible for the environment and natural

resources, programs for including environmental education in the curricula of pre-primary through high school instruction, with emphasis on the natural resources of the region.

To establish, through our ministries of education, a mechanism for coordinating the exchange of experiences at the regional level on issues related to the environment and natural resources.

To promote, in each of our countries, environmental education programs within and outside of the educational system, to include training for law enforcement and security personnel and for those responsible for enforcing the law in these areas.

Financial Resources

To instruct the Central American Bank for Economic Integration to implement the regional environmental subprogram, and to guarantee that such financial cooperation is effectively channelled through existing national environmental funds.

To establish the Central American Environmental Fund, which will operate as an independent trust fund.

Information

To instruct the CACED to establish a Central American Environmental Information and Documentation System for strengthening and increasing the effective access of civil society to electronic communication services and other communications media.

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