

PART II

POLITICAL DIALOGUE

ARTICLE 12

Objectives

The Parties agree that the objectives of the political dialogue between the Republics of the CA Party and the EU Party are to:

- (a) establish a privileged political partnership based notably on the respect for and the promotion of democracy, peace, human rights, the rule of law, good governance and sustainable development;
- (b) defend common values, principles and objectives through their promotion at the international level in particular at the United Nations;
- (c) strengthen the United Nations Organization as the core of the multilateral system, in order to enable it to tackle global challenges effectively;
- (d) intensify political dialogue in order to enable a broad exchange of views, positions and information leading to joint initiatives at international level;

- (e) cooperate in the field of foreign and security policy, with the objective of coordinating their positions and taking joint initiatives of mutual interest in the relevant international *fora*.

ARTICLE 13

Areas

1. The Parties agree that political dialogue shall cover all aspects of mutual interest either at the regional or international levels.
2. The political dialogue between the Parties shall prepare the way for new initiatives for pursuing common goals and for establishing common ground in areas such as: regional integration; the rule of law; good governance; democracy; human rights; promotion and protection of the rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples and individuals, as recognised by the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; equal opportunities and gender equality; the structure and orientation of international cooperation; migration; poverty reduction and social cohesion; core labour standards; the protection of the environment and the sustainable management of natural resources; regional security and stability, including the fight against citizens' insecurity; corruption; drugs; trans-national organised crime; the trafficking of small arms and light weapons as well as their ammunition; the fight against terrorism; the prevention and peaceful resolution of conflicts.

3. Dialogue under Part II shall also cover the international conventions on human rights, good governance, core labour standards and the environment, in accordance with the Parties' international commitments and raise, in particular, the issue of their effective implementation.

4. The Parties may agree at any time to add any other topic as an area for political dialogue.

ARTICLE 14

Disarmament

1. The Parties agree to cooperate and to contribute to strengthening the multilateral system in the area of conventional weapons disarmament, through full compliance with and national implementation of their existing obligations under international treaties and agreements and other relevant international instruments in the field of conventional weapons disarmament.

2. In particular, the Parties will promote the full implementation and universalisation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on their Destruction, and the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) and its protocols.

3. The Parties furthermore recognise that the illicit manufacture, transfer and circulation of small arms and light weapons, including their ammunition, and their excessive accumulation and uncontrolled spread continue to pose a serious threat to peace and international security. They therefore agree to cooperate in fighting the illicit trade and excessive accumulation of small arms and light weapons, including their ammunition, and also agree to work jointly to regulate the licit trade of conventional arms.

4. The Parties therefore agree to observe and fully implement their obligations to deal with the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, including their ammunition, under existing international agreements and applicable United Nations Security Council resolutions, as well as their commitments within the framework of other international instruments applicable in this area, such as the United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons.

ARTICLE 15

Weapons of Mass Destruction

1. The Parties consider that the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, both to State and non-State actors, represents one of the most serious threats to international stability and security.

2. The Parties therefore agree to cooperate and to contribute to countering the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, through full compliance with and national implementation of their existing obligations under international disarmament and non-proliferation treaties and agreements and other relevant international obligations.
3. The Parties agree that this provision constitutes an essential element of this Agreement.
4. The Parties furthermore agree to cooperate and to contribute to the objective of non-proliferation by:
 - (a) taking steps to sign, ratify or accede to, as appropriate, and fully implement and comply with all other relevant international instruments;
 - (b) establishing an effective system of national export controls controlling the export as well as transit of weapons of mass destruction related goods, including weapons of mass destruction end-use control on dual-use technologies and containing effective sanctions for breaches of export controls.
5. The Parties agree to establish a regular political dialogue that will accompany and consolidate their cooperation in this area.

ARTICLE 16

Fight Against Terrorism

1. The Parties reaffirm the importance of the fight against terrorism and, in accordance with international human rights, humanitarian and refugee law, relevant international conventions and instruments, the relevant United Nations resolutions and their respective legislation and regulations, and the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy contained in the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 60/288 of 8 September 2006, agree to cooperate in the prevention and suppression of acts of terrorism.

2. They shall do so in particular:
 - (a) in the framework of full implementation of international conventions and instruments, including all relevant United Nations General Assembly resolutions and United Nations Security Council resolutions;

 - (b) by exchange of information on terrorist groups and their support networks, in accordance with international and national law;

 - (c) by cooperating on the means and methods used to counter terrorism, including in technical fields and training, and by exchange of experience in terrorism prevention and in the area of protection in the fight against terrorism;

- (d) through exchanges of views on legislative frameworks and best practices, as well as technical and administrative assistance;
- (e) through exchange of information in accordance with their respective legislation;
- (f) by technical assistance and training on methods of investigation, information technology, design of protocols on prevention, alerts and effective response to terrorist threats or acts; and
- (g) through exchanges of views on prevention models related to other illicit activities linked to terrorism, such as money laundering, trafficking of firearms, identity document forgery and human trafficking, among others.

ARTICLE 17

Serious Crimes of International Concern

1. The Parties reaffirm that the most serious crimes of concern to the international community as a whole should not go unpunished and that their prosecution should be ensured by measures at either the domestic or international level, as appropriate, including the International Criminal Court.

2. The Parties consider that the establishment and effective functioning of the International Criminal Court constitutes an important development for international peace and justice and that the Court represents an effective instrument to investigate and prosecute perpetrators of the most serious crimes of concern to the international community as a whole when national courts are not willing or able to do so, given the International Criminal Court's complementarity to national criminal jurisdiction.

3. The Parties agree to cooperate to promote universal adherence to the Rome Statute by:
 - (a) continuing to take steps to implement the Rome Statute and to ratify and implement related instruments (such as the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the International Criminal Court);

 - (b) sharing experience with regional partners in the adoption of legal adjustments required to allow for the ratification and implementation of the Rome Statute; and

 - (c) taking measures to safeguard the integrity of the Rome Statute.

4. It remains the sovereign decision of every State to decide the most appropriate moment to adhere to the Statute of Rome.

ARTICLE 18

Finance for Development

1. The Parties agree to support international efforts to promote policies and regulations to finance development and to strengthen cooperation in order to achieve internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, as well as the commitments of the Monterrey Consensus and other related *fora*.
2. For this purpose, and with the objective to foster more inclusive societies, the Parties recognise the need to develop new and innovative financial mechanisms.

ARTICLE 19

Migration

1. The Parties reaffirm the importance that they attach to a joint management of migration flows between their territories. Recognising that poverty is one of the root causes of migration and with a view to strengthening cooperation between them, they shall establish a comprehensive dialogue on all migration-related issues, including irregular migration, refugee flows, smuggling and trafficking of human beings, as well as the inclusion of migration concerns, including brain drain, in the national strategies for economic and social development of the areas from which migrants originate, also taking into consideration the historic and cultural linkages existing between both regions.

2. The Parties agree to ensure the effective enjoyment, protection and promotion of human rights for all migrants and the principles of fairness and transparency in the equal treatment of migrants, and stress the importance of fighting against racism, discrimination, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance.

ARTICLE 20

Environment

1. The Parties shall promote a dialogue in the areas of environment and sustainable development by exchanging information and encouraging initiatives on local and global environmental issues, recognising the principle of shared but differentiated responsibilities, as set forth in the 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development.

2. This dialogue shall be aimed, *inter alia*, at fighting the threat of climate change, biodiversity conservation, the protection and sustainable management of forests to, *inter alia*, reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, the protection of hydro and marine resources, basins and wetlands, the research and development of alternative fuels and renewable energy technologies and the reform of environmental governance in view of increasing its efficiency.

ARTICLE 21

Citizen Security

The Parties shall dialogue on citizen security, which is fundamental to promote human development, democracy, good governance, and respect human rights and fundamental freedoms. They acknowledge that citizen security transcends national and regional borders, and therefore requires the impulse of a broader dialogue and cooperation on this matter.

ARTICLE 22

Good Governance in the Tax Area

With a view to strengthening and developing economic activities while taking into account the need to develop an appropriate regulatory framework, the Parties recognise and commit to common and internationally agreed principles of good governance in the tax area.

ARTICLE 23

Common Economic-Financial Credit Fund

1. The Parties agree on the importance to reinforce efforts in order to reduce poverty and support the development of Central America, in particular its poorest areas and populations.
2. Therefore, the Parties agree to negotiate the creation of a Common Economic and Financial mechanism including, among others, the intervention of the European Investment Bank (EIB), the Latin American Investment Facility (LAIF) and technical assistance by the regional Central American cooperation programme. This mechanism shall assist in the reduction of poverty, promote development and the integral well-being of Central America, as well as give impulse to the socio-economic growth and the furthering of a balanced relationship between both regions.
3. For this purpose, a bi-regional working group has been established. The mandate of this group shall be to examine the creation of such mechanism as well as the modalities of its functioning.