



“European- Latin American and Caribbean Experiences and Financial Cooperation”

MADRID DECLARATION

The Latin American Association of Development Financing Institutions (ALIDE), the international organization representing the development banks of Latin America and the Caribbean, and its member financial institutions, based on the deliberations of the 49th Regular Meeting of the General Assembly in regard to the key topic addressed at the meeting held in Madrid, Spain on May 20 to 22, 2019, declares the following:

1. We are pleased to maintain strategic relations between Latin American and Caribbean development financing institutions and the rest of the world, particularly Europe. We also reaffirm our commitment to continue working toward the accomplishment of common objectives in reinforcing trade, investment and cooperative relations that will allow our countries to achieve sustained and sustainable economic development.
2. We reaffirm our adherence to and decision to work toward the fulfillment of the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by supporting our citizens, enterprises and governments, developing innovative financial and non-financial programs and products in keeping with the needs of the demand and, in that way, facilitating access to the financing required by the economic actors.
3. We draw attention to the actions that enhance solidarity and international cooperation in a context like that of the present, in which more open and free-flowing economic, cultural and social relations among the various countries are called into question. In the area in which it is our responsibility to act, we will accordingly promote international cooperation between the peers in our region and those of other regions of the world; give emphasis to the advances made in the cooperation between Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean, and continue to work jointly with European and Asian financial institutions as we have been doing in recent years.
4. We are rethinking our vision in support of the sectors that produce goods and services and promote special support programs for the sectors or activities most dynamically involved in international trade, such as, for example, the so-called modern services sectors, whose growth far outpaces that of trade in traditional goods and services.

5. We will pay close attention to the emergence of new markets or of markets whose rapid growth calls for goods and services produced by Latin America and the Caribbean, but in which these have only a very reduced participation or others in which they have no direct involvement whatsoever, as in the case of some Arab countries.
6. As development finance policy instruments, we commit to work, within the framework of our strategic bi-regional relationship, on a comprehensive and systemic vision of support for the economic agents and our states in the fulfillment of national environmental goals and commitments.
7. We will continue to execute leadership in the financing of environmental projects in Latin America and the Caribbean with the support of international organizations and similar entities in developed countries. The financing, transfer of knowledge and good practices, as well as technical and financial cooperation on the part of Europe and other regions will continue to play a vital role in this process.
8. We will monitor small and medium-sized enterprises to ensure that they are able to accede to greater opportunities for internationalizing their activities and will boost trade with the European Union and Latin American inter-regional trade, which accounts for a share of barely 20%, and will consider that that figure constitutes a challenge and an opportunity for the region. We accordingly assume the commitment to seek the means, develop appropriate support institutions and strengthen business relations and cooperation with bilateral and multilateral financial organizations to facilitate fund-raising for investment in infrastructure projects crucial to the region.
9. We will implement programs to contribute to the social and financial inclusion and integration of women, native communities or peoples, young entrepreneurs and the elderly with no access to the financial system, which, to a greater or lesser degree, constitute an important segment of the population requiring financial services in line with their particular needs.
10. We will commit to move ahead in digitalizing the services in our organizations and to provide assistance to enterprises in accomplishing this task, particularly micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, given that this produces efficiency and transparency, reduces costs, improves communication, simplifies decision-making and could in time help to reduce informality, and, in general, enhances productivity and competitiveness.

11. We draw attention to the role of development banks in contributing to more efficient economic resource allocation in their role of intermediaries between those supplying and those demanding funds and also by channeling savings into investments. We also emphasize ALIDE's function as a timely forum for sharing good practices, strengthening relations with development finance institutions worldwide and transferring knowledge, in such a way that their efforts have a greater impact on Latin American and Caribbean progress.
12. We stress that Latin America and the Caribbean constitute a trade and financial policy priority for the member countries of the European Union and European enterprises that have demonstrated stability and a vocation for continued operation and have served as an important element in creating jobs and wealth and improving the region's competitiveness through the transfer of knowledge and technology.
13. We express our gratitude to and value the willingness of His Majesty Felipe VI, King of Spain, to grant a special audience to the representatives of our Latin American Association's Executive Committee in the course of the activities of this General Assembly, whose purpose is to reinforce cooperation and business ties among the Ibero-American finance institutions involved in promoting our countries' economic and social development.
14. In concluding, we express our special appreciation to the Official Credit Institute (Instituto de Crédito Oficial (ICO)) and to the ALIDE member development finance institutions that sponsored this Assembly: the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the European Investment Bank (EIB), CAF-Development Bank of Latin America and the Spanish Development Finance Institution (Compañía Española de Financiación del Desarrollo (Cofides)); to the collaborating members, the French Development Agency (AFD) and the KfW Development Bank (Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau); and to the allies, Aplicaciones de Inteligencia Artificial (AIS), S&P Global Intelligence; Thompson Reuters and Iberia; and to the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (Aecid), and to the Spanish government officials and citizens for their warm hospitality and collaboration during the celebration of this 49th Regular Meeting of the ALIDE General Assembly.

Madrid, Spain, May 22, 2019