# Declaration of Kingstown from the VIII Summit of Heads of State and Government of CELAC (2024)

**Date**: 2024-03-01

**Location**: Kingstown, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

## Executive Summary

The VIII Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) convened in Kingstown, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, on March 1, 2024. The summit emphasized the commitment to regional integration, democracy, and human rights, while addressing economic stability, food security, and social cohesion. Leaders condemned unilateral sanctions affecting member states and called for a fair international financial system to support sustainable development. The summit recognized the importance of sustainable agriculture, climate action, and disaster risk management, alongside promoting gender equality and the rights of marginalized communities. CELAC reaffirmed its role in fostering peace and security, particularly in relation to Haiti and the ongoing challenges posed by transnational organized crime. The summit concluded with a commitment to collaborative efforts in addressing regional challenges and enhancing cooperation with extra-regional partners.

## Characteristics

* The VIII Summit of CELAC emphasized the commitment to regional integration, democracy, and human rights, promoting peaceful resolutions to conflicts and respect for international law.
* It highlighted the importance of economic stability, food security, and social cohesion, with a focus on combating poverty and inequality.
* The summit called for enhanced cooperation in health, education, and technology, aiming for sustainable development and addressing climate change challenges.
* It reaffirmed the significance of South-South cooperation and partnerships with extra-regional actors to achieve shared development goals.
* The declaration stressed the need for reparatory justice and the protection of the rights of marginalized communities, including Afro-descendants and Indigenous peoples.

## Actors

| Category | Actor |
| --- | --- |
| Political Actors | Community of Latin American and Caribbean States; United Nations |
| Economic Actors | Inter-American Development Bank; World Bank |

## Main Themes

| Category | Subcategory |
| --- | --- |
| Regional & International Cooperation | Global Digital Cooperation; Digital & Technological Partnerships |
| Data & Governance | Digital Governance; Data Governance |
| Inclusion & Social Development | Digital Inclusion; Social Cohesion |
| Digital Transformation & Strategy | Digital Policy; Digital Economy |
| Technology & Innovation | Artificial Intelligence; AI Ethics |

## Practical Applications

* Commitment to the establishment of a Regional Regulatory Agency to enhance cooperation in health regulation and ensure access to safe and effective medicines and medical devices among CELAC member states.
* Implementation of the CELAC Health Self Sufficiency Plan aimed at strengthening local and regional development, production, and distribution of vaccines and critical supplies.
* Adoption of the CELAC Plan for Food Security and Nutrition and the Eradication of Hunger, which includes the establishment of a working group to consolidate and implement regional strategies for food security.
* Recognition of the importance of family, peasant, and indigenous agriculture in ensuring food security, with a commitment to reactivate the working group on family farming and rural development.
* Establishment of the Latin American and Caribbean Centre for Development of Science, Technology, and Innovation, with headquarters proposed in Caracas, Venezuela.
* Operationalization of the Climate Adaptation and Comprehensive Natural Disasters Response Fund (FACRID) to implement projects for disaster prevention, preparation, and recovery in the region.
* Commitment to the implementation of the Youth Council of Latin America and the Caribbean to address youth issues in public policy design.
* Support for the renewal of the Technical Working Group on Afro-descendants of CELAC to promote and protect the rights of Afro-descendant communities.
* Commitment to the establishment of a consultative coordination mechanism between Extra-regional partners and CELAC to enhance collaboration and follow-up on high-level meetings.
* Recognition of the need for cooperation in the fight against transnational organized crime and illicit drug trafficking, with a commitment to strengthen legislative and judicial cooperation among member states.

## Commitments

* Peru will host the fortieth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in October 2024.
* Call for developed country partners to fulfill their official development assistance (ODA) commitments to achieve the target of 0.7% of ODA/GNI and 0.15 to 0.20 ODA/GNI to least developed countries.
* Commit to the implementation of the Climate Adaptation and Comprehensive Natural Disasters Response Fund (FACRID) to strengthen capacities and exchange knowledge for disaster risk reduction.
* Commit to implement policies and programs aimed at promoting awareness on the importance of a balanced diet, physical activity, and prevention of risk factors, ensuring equitable access to quality health services.
* Commit to implement the Youth Council of Latin America and the Caribbean, selecting representatives from each country and developing its axes.
* Reaffirm the commitment to the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, as well as the International Decade of Indigenous Languages 2022-2032.
* Commit to deepen cooperation mechanisms in the fight against transnational organized crime, corruption, illicit drug-trafficking, and other related crimes.
* Commit to strengthen cooperation and technical assistance in legislative and judicial matters, including the recovery and repatriation of assets.