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**REPORT ON RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GREEN FUTURE WORKING GROUP
OF THE NINTH SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS¹**

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1. The recommendations contained in this document were formulated by the members of the thematic working groups of the following subregions: i) Canada, the Caribbean, and the United States, ii) Mesoamerica and iii) South America

Green Future Working Group of the Ninth Summit of the Americas

We, the Heads of State and of Government of the Americas, recognize the urgent need to conserve and restore ecosystems, and we commit to:

- A. Advancing the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use, national deforestation and conservation commitments, and regional efforts to eliminate deforestation and ecosystem conversion. We will strengthen our efforts toward making:

A broad and meaningful commitment, as a result of the effects of climate change, to contribute to the exercise of taking ambitious actions, urging the actors involved, interest groups, and government entities throughout the Americas to conduct follow-up, monitoring, and verification of the agreements in terms of the participation commitments to sustainable development to ensure they are fulfilled within the framework of the inclusion of traditional ecological knowledge, the protection of indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants, and campesinos, as well as of their cultural resources, and of future generations, gender equality, and children of all conditions and social status. For which, the GFWG proposes the following:

1. Coordinate the participation and joint work of all sectors, interest groups, and government entity stakeholders in the creation and implementation of State control strategies related to the socioeconomic and environmental system of the mining sector, evaluating gold extraction processes at scale to encourage elimination of mercury use in view of its polluting effects, insofar as artisanal mining to extract gold as an ancestral natural resource impacts the healthy coexistence of communities in their territories.
2. Promote and urge opinion leaders and members of the OAS, the UN, and other organizations, to issue a declaration, in support of the "regions and nations vulnerable to climate change," as due to unsustainable agricultural practices and the improper practice of deforestation, these areas are prone to potential natural disasters that impact communities, leading to increased poverty, food insecurity, and population growth due to displacement from rural areas to urban areas, creating chaos in the processes to bring together the customs and traditions of our communities, leading to malnutrition and lack of access to dignified living conditions, so as to establish ecological restoration processes for the polluted areas, as regards migratory species and shared habitats, in the spirit of the Minamata Convention.
3. Urge developed-country governments and developing-country governments to "ratify," "accept," "approve," and "adhere" to treaties, since non-ratification of them limits the investment of international cooperators, contributing to the negative impact on sustainable and environmentally-sustainable development of the entire region in areas vulnerable to climate change.
4. Establishment of a GFWG subgroup is recommended, of which the functions for the defense of the environment will be defined from an academic, technical, scientific, socio-cultural, and economic perspective that is inter-agency in nature, the purpose of which will be to coordinate fortnightly review of international environmental treaties

between interested parties, in view of the scope of the commitments made in the Paris Agreement and in the Glasgow Pact.

- a. Coordinate the participation of private international donors and governments in order to generate innovative and alternative strategies for financing climate action and adaptation action plans, given that the goals for mobilizing resources promoted by developed countries were not met as a result of the negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Objective 13.
 - b. Verify the execution times of the guidelines to be followed as agreed upon in the treaties, and inform and publicize to opinion leaders the exercise and progress made by governments on prevention, protection, conservation, and regeneration of ecosystems.
 - c. Raise awareness surrounding the ancestral recognition of territories belonging to indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants, and other disadvantaged communities, as well as women and girls, whether or not they are more vulnerable, by promoting resilience in the territories with incentives that guarantee access to food, health, and housing. Additionally, establish spaces for raising awareness through environmental education, with initiatives, objectives, and demographic data defined to provide the skills and abilities needed to adapt the regional labor force to the new environmental eco-economy, in view of the 2030 objectives.
 - d. The GFWG subgroup proposes interceding and defending compliance with the agreements vis-à-vis indigenous cultural growth and exaltation in all regions, urging stakeholders to include, within the framework of economic and cultural development strategies, social investment for the creation of a regional repository of cultural resources for protection and conservation, including their knowledge and stories, promoting, compiling and researching everything about traditional environmental practices on land, water, and forests. The First Peoples of the Community of Santa Rosa Trinidad, San Andrés and Providencia, Galapagos, among others, shall be taken as models, along with the communities settled on the coasts.
- B. Pursuant to the guidelines set forth in Agenda 2030, a call is issued for stakeholders—especially those among indigenous communities, campesinos, persons of African descent, women and girls, and other disadvantaged communities—to, by the end of 2022, formalize their broad and active participation in the framework of the commitments made by their governments, the OAS, the UN, and other organizations for which the guidelines and agreements described above are also implemented. The following is therefore proposed:
1. Strengthen support for social actors and civil society organizations vis-à-vis public-policy entities to ensure that the financial resources delivered by developed countries to developing countries reach the intended destination as set forth in the agreements reached between the stakeholders on the 2030 agenda, and the commitments of the Bonn Challenge, so as to manage implementation of an eco-sustainability plan to reach net zero deforestation by 2030, forming, as applicable, the nationally determined contribution (NDC) for each country, the aim of which is net zero admissions, conserving or protecting 30% of all land and water by 2030 (30x30).

2. Establish a viable and transparent timeline for preparing the corresponding financial plan and inclusive investment, and guarantee accountability to citizens with respect to execution of the plan.
3. Ratify and take up once again the Lima Commitment in terms of gender equity, gender equality, and feminine empowerment (women and girls) by imbuing them with political, social, and cultural power from an ethnic environmental approach, considered vital to ensuring steady progress for the working dynamics of civil society organizations and the GFWGs. This means that the working groups need support to effect policy change and impact changes in attitude with regard to access to social, health, and education services—with a diversity and ethnic approach—for women and girls, something that is today still denied to them.
4. It is therefore proposed to invite the Secretariat of the Summit of the Americas to administer actions on gender equity, gender equality, and empowerment of women and girls described in the call to action on this issue issued between 1994 and 2018 in order to call for implementation, in the Plenary Declaration of Lima Peru, on gender equity and empowerment, initiating a process to deploy working groups to further effect change in policies and culture toward the end of 2022.
5. Within the framework of the implementation of public policies for sustainable development, the following is proposed:
 - a. Mobilize resources for developing the non-timber products industry and other alternative lifestyle measures for the forests.
 - b. Formalize environmental education in academic institutions for local communities with a gender and ethnic approach with the aim of creating opportunities in the sector for developing economic resilience surrounding the family in their communities.
 - c. Guarantee recognition and re-signification of the work of women and girls vis-à-vis their performance and active participation in their different activities, as well as the performance of leadership within government, with free exercise of decision-making regarding administration and organizational processes for developing public policies surrounding technological innovation and a new vision for the environmental economy for sustainable development.
6. Promote the participation of regional youth organizations for managing development plans and public policies for implementing innovative net zero emission solutions. Toward this, promote awareness-raising among different stakeholder groups and actors to encourage them to take part in processes for monitoring the loss of forests and land classification with the objective of highlighting areas of significant biological and ecological interest.
7. Support monitoring of the guidelines of the National Zero Net Deforestation Plan for 2030 in order to establish tree cover percentages, the impacts of fragmentation, habitat degradation, and the loss of species and high-value forests, with the aim of measuring the impact of the targets, aims, and corrective measures for 2030.

8. Implement sustainable development plans within public policies, including by articulating actions on the management of renewable energy and energy efficiency. We therefore recommend the following to the heads of government of the Americas:
 - a. Support the commitment that the total area of Intact Forest Landscapes (IFLs) within a country will remain constant and with existing levels of intact biodiversity.
 - b. Meet commitments to halve deforestation by 2023 and reach zero deforestation by 2030.
 - c. Discuss a regional ban on the harvest of native hardwood trees in high-value forests by 2030.
 9. We urge governments to ensure that the commitments of the agreements, the Net Zero Challenge, and Plan 2030 in terms of biodiversity broaden the context of the guidelines of their agreements by establishing Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) to be prioritized for conservation, taking the following steps:
 - a. Establish a Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) Regional Coordination Group for the region, made up of government, landowners and managers, members of civil society, scientists, and other environmental organizations to provide resources to identify, map, and monitor KBA regional areas by December 2022.
 - b. Identify KBAs in order to protect species and habitats, as well as connectivity corridors, as a first step towards conservation, by June 2023.
 - c. Implement monitoring and conservation practices in select KBAs by 2024.
 - d. Include high carbon non-forest ecosystems like grasslands, wetlands, and blue carbon ecosystems in the KBA designation.
 - e. Encourage governments to "ratify" the Bonn Challenge, Convention on Nature Protection and Wildlife Preservation in the Western Hemisphere by the end of 2023, contributing to the sustainable development of the region.
 10. Urge the heads of government to develop financial plans and sustainable and sustainable-environmental investment, so that they facilitate incentives for reforestation, the contribution of which is direct and non-transferable and the objective of which is the restoration of lands on ethnic and campesino territory damaged by illegal farming practices.
 - a. Promote the creation of a national administrative decree that prosecutes companies with environmental and business management systems that do not contribute to mitigating the effects of environmental impact by the end of 2022.
 - b. Ensure that banks and other financial institutions implement affordable incentives for businesses (especially SMEs) that support reforestation, reclamation, and remediation by 2024.
- C. By COP27, update—as appropriate—the 2030 Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to incorporate national deforestation commitments, pursuant to the standards established in the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals. It is recommended to include a commitment to designate land ownership and management by

indigenous and other forest-dwelling and disadvantaged communities as a conservation strategy and a key factor in conservation.

- D. In the interest of eliminating deforestation from agricultural production and consumption, including through policies and collaboration with producers, retailers, consumers, and commodity trading companies, it is essential that the governments of the Americas, led by their Ministers of Agriculture, Environment and Economy, present action plans with net deforestation zero agriculture plans, but with high productivity, incentivized by strengthening land protectors. This has a positive impact on forest conservation and proper care of forested areas by combining ancestral traditions, technology, and innovation as a means of building strength. These action plans will be presented at a meeting organized by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) in early 2023. Therefore, governments are issued the following recommendations:
1. Establish public policies that reduce deforestation rates, promoting multicultural ethno-educational and environmental training, employing the inclusive and participatory work methodologies of Afro-descendant, indigenous, Roma, and campesino communities, as well as engaging consumers, producers, women, children in general, and older adults.
 2. Provide training in food systems mapping for Caribbean agricultural professionals through the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).
 3. Provide regional support for transitions to shade house farming, hydroponics, and vertical farming in SIDS.
 4. OAS States must join the Food and Land Use Coalition by the end of 2023 and ensure that:
 - a. Capital flows no longer directly or indirectly support deforestation.
 - b. Trade agreements in the region include terms to prevent deforestation.
 - c. Due diligence requirements for financial institutions are included. Corporations are required to demonstrate transparency and traceability throughout their value chains.
 - d. The funds reach food producers, especially small farmers, who will implement the transition to more sustainable production methods.
 - e. The rights and livelihoods of farmers, indigenous peoples, and local communities are respected and included in the new green economy.
- E. Report on annual progress as of the second half of 2022 towards eliminating deforestation and propose concrete measures to implement sustainable solutions and technologies that reduce deforestation and biodiversity loss in accordance with the Principles for Locally Led Adaptation.
- a. With the support of IICA, actors, and interest groups, create a regional report format, through consultation with local actors.
 - b. Establish a regional group of experts to provide technical support for developing and implementing sustainable solutions based on nature.

- F. Guarantee security measures for environmental defenders in accordance with the principles and guidelines of the **Escazú Agreement** by working with stakeholders to develop a national plan in early 2023, aimed at:
- a. Responding to information provided by environmental defenders on threats or incidents of violence and release that information to the public.
 - b. Enacting and enforcing laws that fully protect environment defenders and the resources they defend. We therefore commit to guaranteeing due process of law for environmental crimes and the protection of environment defenders; and
 - c. Require that environmental impact assessments are conducted, where required by law, and compliance with legal provisions during and after operations, addressing the vulnerabilities and particularities faced by land defenders, with an inclusive and intersectional approach that provides protection by taking into account the technology and connectivity deficiencies in the territories.
 - d. Establish the Green Futures Working Group as a network for CSOs, opinion leaders, and social actors to promote and make visible the development of mechanisms for legal consultation, complaints, and social justice based on protecting CSOs and environmental leaders, for which it is proposed that the NETWORK make this political commitment at the highest level.
 - e. It is proposed that the OAS Regional Society of Conservation Professionals be re-established and linked to the existing OAS Environmental Law Advisory Group, incorporating the exercise of civil society organizations (CSOs) and formalizing a connection related to the defense and legitimization of environment defenders' voices.
 - f. Identify the regulatory and legislative processes for the environmental management carried out by the environmental investigation agencies in order to promote the creation of a Regional and local Environmental Ombudsperson's Office (EOO). This office must provide humanized attention to environmental groups, social actors, and CSOs in order to protect their lives.
 - g. Together with heads of State and the private sector, coordinate implementation of monitoring pollutants that can have a lasting impact, such as oil spills, establishing a risk management plan for human health.
 - h. Strengthen the work of CSOs such that the monitoring of pursuit of environmental investigations is transparent and supported by control entities, which, with the creation of the network of cooperators and environmental management promoting the donation of resources and the self-management of them; in order to lead and support the investigation of processes from a legal and technical framework, the work of which must be made visible and disseminated by means of communication that make it possible to amplify the voice of CSOs and enable them to broaden their range of action by coordinating on cross-border environmental situations.
- G. In order to decrease the amount of carbon emitted from land use and increase carbon storage, we propose the following:
- a. Support the role of sectors that generate large CO₂ emissions—such as the energy, mining, agricultural, steel, cement, and transportation sectors, among others—in reducing greenhouse gas emissions by improving practices that increase productivity and efficiency, and integrate inclusive climate-smart production approaches that reduce carbon and methane emissions and improve resilience to the effects of climate

change, providing technical support to producers and campesinos to transform land or farm use by promoting sustainable and economically-sustainable development in rural areas, ethnic territories, and campesino territories.

- b. Provide training opportunities at the national level for agriculture for local farmers through IICA to ensure they can be integrated into the process of transitioning to a green economy.
 - c. Following the guidelines of the objectives for sustainable development, we propose creating a data network for digitalization, restoration, and visibility of local farms to capture emission levels more effectively, in order to promote the correct use of grasslands, hydrographic basins, and wetlands, so as to guarantee greenhouse gas emissions and agricultural development within the framework of previously established objectives.
- H. We will join the Agricultural Innovation for Climate Mission and support increased aggregate public investment in agricultural innovation for climate-smart agriculture and food systems over the next five years, leading to new initiatives. We therefore urge governments to consolidate these initiatives through State policies, in order to guarantee compliance with them.

Strengthen networks of local and regional food systems so that countries can contribute to rural development, urging the establishment of public policy to ensure that within the food production chain, farmers and campesinos earn a respectable percentage of the profits, which encourages and contributes to increasing land restoration and producing crops that are healthy for the environment, for wellbeing, and for human health, such that local food security is prioritized.

- I. We will conserve and restore high-carbon ecosystems, including old-growth forests, wetlands, peatlands, and primary forests, in consultation with stakeholders, including indigenous peoples, peasant farmers, Afro-descendants, and other disadvantaged communities, urging reduction of pressure for land conversion through sustainable or alternative economic activities.
- J. We will maximize the potential contribution of nature-based solutions in strategies to achieve the ambitious goals of reaching net zero emissions and in the implementation of NDCs, following the 1.5 degrees Celsius pathway. This policy will focus especially on industries that generate large emissions, promoting vulnerability studies on climate change and environmental health in all the countries of the region and the Hemisphere.

To harness the power of the ocean and other bodies of water to mitigate climate change:

- K. We will establish a watchdog working group to conduct monitoring actions on plastic pollution in the oceans, coordinating efforts and facilitating exchanges between governments, civil society, academic and scientific institutions, government institutions, economic development agencies, business associations, regional youth representatives in the Working Group on Ocean Plastic Pollution, and other stakeholders to support global action to combat plastic dumping in different types of water bodies, including through a possible new global instrument, promoting incentives that promote a culture of environmental health, technical-construction housing innovation in urban and rural areas,

and around the reuse of solid and plastic waste as a source of renewable energy and a circular economy based on energy efficiency.

- L. We recommend working jointly and interdisciplinarily in environmental research processes through the implementation of environmental research centers in the regions to develop capacities in waste management and promote circular economy approaches throughout the plastic lifecycle, promoting the implementation of innovative projects that take into account land, river, and marine sources of plastic pollution throughout the region, including abandoned, lost, or discarded fishing equipment. Of great importance is the contribution of voluntary policy work to the common goal of combating the discharge of plastic pollution in the different types of water bodies, and supporting the strong participation of stakeholders, especially indigenous, Afro-descendant, and campesino communities, as well as other disadvantaged communities.

Therefore, we urge governments to commit to developing technological solutions based on the value chain of an energy system that is grounded in renewable energies, using carbon sequestration technology and methane emissions management, to comply with the reduction of CO₂ emissions, making a transition from fossil fuels part of the solution by developing an energy system hand in hand with sustainable economic development, while also encouraging manufacturers to incorporate design changes into products containing plastic components.

- a. Support technological energy efficiency processes by facilitating solid waste collection systems and plastics recycling, repair, or reuse, such as longer warranty periods.
 - b. Support the development and funding of a regional recycling facility for SIDS by December 2023.
 - c. Actively support a ban on single-use plastic by December 2025.
- M. Direct coordination efforts aimed at reducing and mitigating oil spills and wastewater discharges and restoring coastal ecosystems affected by these forms of pollution; develop mechanisms of international law to prosecute the governments of the countries that fail to comply with international environmental and maritime regulations and the standards established in the MARPOL agreement. Coordination will include the development and implementation of transparent processes for evaluating the damage caused by these forms of pollution and establishing adequate mechanisms for repairing the damage suffered by the people and communities affected by these pollutants.
- N. We recommend implementing sources of renewable energy, through clean energy, to reduce levels of environmental pollution and develop energy efficiency for the entire planet. This is in view of its importance for the development and wellbeing of the territories and communities where it is produced, benefiting the different social actors and vulnerable communities that inhabit the territories. We also recommend adopting public-private plans to promote the development of technological solutions capable of taking advantage of the energy potential of the oceans and other bodies of water in a sustainable way. We urge support of the NDC alliance known as the Climate and Health Network of Latin America and the Caribbean, organized by the Global Climate and Health Alliance (GCHA). Blue Carbon Ecosystems (BCE) are fragile and important for curbing climate

change, as they act as nurseries for fish and marine life. The following are therefore needed:

- a. Blue carbon ecosystem mapping and monitoring systems by 2024.
 - b. Designate best-practice measures for incorporating remediation into environmental management plans. Promoting regular evaluations of polluting industries, including review of discharges of contaminated waste to waterways, to aid in prevention and avoid acidification, deoxygenation, and ocean warming.
 - c. Support the establishment and operation of marine protected areas within the Americas.
- O. Implement decarbonization processes in the maritime transport sector, including by establishing green corridors that use cleaner fuels and collaboration in the decarbonization of all sea and river ports of the three subregions of the Americas (North America, the Caribbean, Canada, Mesoamerica and Latin America) and the Hemisphere. Because the health of our oceans determines the measures to accelerate action in terms of adapting to climate change, the following is therefore recommended:
- a. Support the establishment and operation of marine protected areas within the Americas and conducting monitoring to establish a baseline for water quality and marine life.
 - b. Encourage monitoring of sedimentation, noise, and ultrasonic pollution that can have a devastating effect on fish and marine mammals.
 - c. Prevent the discharge of contaminated waste, such as carcinogens, radioactive isotopes, or bio-accumulating toxins.
 - d. Commit to minimizing the impacts of ocean use on the wellbeing of fishers in the region.
- P. We will conserve "blue carbon" ecosystems such as mangroves, salt marshes, seagrass beds, and river grass beds, ratifying the guidelines of the Paris Agreement and the Ramsar Convention, promoting the restoration, preservation, and sustainable management of coastal ecosystems, eliminating all kinds of harmful practices to mitigate climate change.
- Q. We will engage in the dialogue on oceans and climate created by COP26 to promote ocean-based climate solutions and identify opportunities to incorporate those solutions into climate action. For this reason, we will adopt plans aimed at reducing the environmental impact of productive activities that are essential for the economic systems of the countries of the Hemisphere, mainly those associated with the growing demand for critical minerals to make the low-carbon energy transition visible, incorporating public institutions (Ministries of Industry, ST&I, among others) as well as private institutions for a coordinated effort that incorporates technology and innovation.

To accelerate action on adaptation to climate change, we recommend the following:

- R. Publish and implement national adaptation plans and strategies in conjunction with civil society, academic and scientific institutions, economic development agencies, business associations, local communities, and other social actors, to communicate adaptation priorities that generate resilience in all sectors and at all scales.

Support the establishment of bodies that recognize and take into account civil society leadership at the national and regional levels for monitoring and oversight of the commitments made by States. Taken into account the valuable participation of children and adolescents throughout the Americas, inclusively and while promoting advocacy and change towards sustainable development, as well as guiding interest groups and government entities so that the national action plans include deadlines and concrete actions, expanding the context of training for environmental experts and social actors.

- S. Incorporate climate risks into sector-specific plans, policies, operations, and budgets to build resilience across sectors, along with strategic public policies that mobilize the health sector, minimizing the climate impact on human health in ethnic communities, campesino communities, rural and urban areas, and for stakeholders, as well as for migrants between subregions and the Hemisphere.

We therefore recommend that the heads of government of the OAS, regional scientists, the private sector, and CSOs finalize a regional plan for the oil and gas sector by the end of 2023, and an international eco-sustainable development plan with a zero-burn policy before June 20, 2022. Incorporate the guidelines of the Paris Agreement as far as reducing existing GHG emissions by 28% by 2030, securing the signatures of oil and gas companies operating in the region of the Global Methane Commitment by December 2022, since studies show that reducing methane is the most effective way to slow global warming.

- T. Establish resilient monitoring and evaluation systems for adaptation measures, ensuring the measures are accessible to all communities, including indigenous, campesino, Afro-descendant, and rural communities, taking into account the impact on women and children.

- a. Provide technical support for establishing regional best practice monitoring and evaluation guidelines and systems by 2025.
- b. Provide support for establishing a baseline for marine animals for the establishment of marine protected areas by 2025.

- U. Improve access to climate information, through decision support tools and early warning systems to improve understanding of and response to climate impacts across sectors and scales. Strengthen legislative measures by implementing long-term economic diversification plans based on technological development and innovation as an alternative to productive activities with significant environmental impact, incorporating environmental sustainability criteria, formalized in intersectoral spaces with the support, participation, and contribution of civil society organizations, producers, and conservation groups. We therefore recommend the following:

- a. Support the mobilization of resources for resilience-building activities.
- b. Create a regional disaster data system that registers, monitors, and forecasts future environmental events.
- c. Promote the financing of climate insurance for housing and other key sectors.

- V. Strengthen education and training in environmental matters, coordinating an intersectoral intervention, with the involvement of the general public, of public and private academic institutions responsible for formulating policies, and of adaptation professionals, as well

as people who work in industries related to the issue for the current generation and for the next, with a gender, ethnic, sociocultural, and human rights approach, understanding communication campaigns and strategies for environmental and health education as an implementation strategy, through public policies for sustainable development. We therefore propose the following:

- a. Update educational curriculum to reflect global, regional, and national climate priorities and actions.
 - b. Specialized training and scholarships for youth from disadvantaged communities and SIDS on climate change and sustainable development.
 - c. Support for the creation of globally-recognized climate-specific training programs in regional tertiary learning institutions.
 - d. Foster partnerships across the region for learning exchanges and scholarships for students and young professionals.
- W. Engage and commit the governments of the Americas and the Hemisphere to meeting the goals and deadlines set forth in this document, assigning local leaders and decision-makers according to their national roles to oversight, monitoring, and follow-up of the agreements; we therefore urge developed countries to fulfill their financing commitments to developing countries to fight climate change, support the ecological transition, and reduce emissions, established starting with the Copenhagen Climate Conference of 2009, contributing to safeguarding and ensuring a healthy, sustainable, inclusive, equitable, and resilient continent.