



ENERGY AND CLIMATE PARTNERSHIP OF THE AMERICAS

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

I. INTRODUCTION

Energy and climate are critical issues for the countries of the Americas. From an energy point of view, the Region's high dependence on fossil fuels and its need to strengthen energy security and access are major challenges.

From a climate change perspective, Greenhouse Gas (GhG) emissions from fossil fuel development and use, as well as other human activities, are rapidly changing the world's weather patterns. In this context, it is important to implement energy and climate strategies that benefit current and future generations. Such strategies should also address fundamental development issues, including poverty, education, inequality, and environmental sustainability.

- Background

At the Summit of the Americas held in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, in April 2009, the leaders of the Western Hemisphere noted that energy and climate change are among the most important issues that their countries will have to deal with, and they reaffirmed their commitment to work together for a sustainable future. Responding to these shared challenges, the Government of the United States invited all Governments in the Western Hemisphere, along with civil society and the private sector, to join the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA).

In April 2010, the Government of the United States invited the countries of the hemisphere to the First Ministerial Meeting on Energy and Climate in Washington, D.C. That Meeting highlighted progress on ongoing initiatives, announced new partnerships, and facilitated the

development of new initiatives among Governments, institutions, private industry, and civil society.

In May 2015, the Government of Mexico convened the Second ECPA Ministerial Meeting in Mérida, Yucatán. On that occasion, the Governments reaffirmed their commitment to a sustainable future, identified priority areas of action, and established the ECPA Steering Committee to advance the Partnership's endeavors.

In June 2016, the Inter-American Committee on Sustainable Development (CIDS), approved the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development (PIDS). The section 3.5 of the PIDS "Sustainable Energy Management, prioritizing the promotion of clean, renewable, environmentally sustainable energy and energy efficiency" establish the goals and strategic actions that Member States will implement towards the attainment of the SDG 7: "Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all" and the specific targets grouped under this SDG; as well as the targets interrelated with other SDGs of the 2030 Agenda, and its cross-cutting elements.

II. CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

- Mission

To promote regional energy cooperation through different strategies and actions for achieving a cleaner, safer, efficient, modern and equitable energy deployment.

- Vision

Shared leadership in the implementation of energy initiatives and the exchange of experiences within the countries of the Americas in support of sustainable development objectives.

- Principles

ECPA is a hemispheric cooperation mechanism based on the following Principles:

Flexibility and inclusiveness: ECPA deploys its actions in a flexible and inclusive manner. Countries' participation in the Partnership is voluntary, and the commitments among their Members are non-binding.

Complementarity: ECPA respects and complements existing energy initiatives in the Region, and is intended, as a contribution to global initiatives on clean energy and climate change.

Differentiated approach: ECPA takes into account the peculiarities and specific Diagnostic Assessments of the Americas' four (4) sub-Regions (North America, Central America, the Caribbean, and South America). On that basis, specific strategies, activities, and goals may be adopted for each sub-Region and the countries comprising them.

- Objectives

The purpose of the Partnership is to share information, knowledge, and best practices, in a bid to make the best use of the Region's bountiful natural resources, and to foster regional cooperation, maximize comparative advantages, and promote energy-related investment.

III. CONTENT

- Pillars

At the 2009 Symposium on Energy and Climate in the Americas, the Region's Government and private-sector leaders discussed possible areas of cooperation on critical aspects of the energy sector. Five (5) Pillars were initially identified: *energy efficiency, renewable energy, cleaner and more efficient use of fossil fuels, energy infrastructure, and energy poverty*. At the ECPA Ministerial held in Washington, DC, in April 2010, two (2) additional Pillars were included: *adaptation, and sustainable forests and land use*.

At the Steering Committee Meeting held in Panama City in May 2016, an update to the Pillars was proposed. The new Structure is as follows:

1. Energy efficiency: Promote the development of Energy Efficiency Policies in the Region through a cooperation and exchange framework that includes implementing best practices in specific sectors, promoting awareness and education on environmental/clean energy issues, and consolidating programmatic and regulatory schemes through human resource training, program and project management, and operation.

2. Renewable energy: Steps to accelerate clean and renewable energy deployment via project support where feasible, policy dialogues, and scientific collaboration.

3. Cleaner and more efficient use of fossil fuels: Promote best practices for managing hydrocarbons and the use of energy technologies, to reduce both pollution and the carbon footprint of conventional energy sources.

4. Energy infrastructure: Foster modernized, integrated, and more resilient energy infrastructure through disaster risk management, among other strategies.

5. Energy poverty: Target energy poverty with strategies to promote sustainable development and improve access to modern clean energy services and appropriate technologies that can safeguard public health, and reduce environmental impact.

6. Regional energy integration: Promote regional energy coordination, cooperation, or harmonization (where feasible) and interconnection between and among countries in the Americas, in order to foster complementarity for the sustainable development of the Region.

7. Energy research and innovation: Encourage technological development of innovative systems that make renewable energy widely affordable and available, while fostering applied research based on country-specific needs.

- Implementation: Action Plan

During the Merida Ministerial, participating Governments stressed the need for a detailed Work Plan with tangible deliverables in the medium term.

In response to this mandate, a 4-year action plan was drawn up (Phase 1: 2015-2017 and Phase 2: 2018-2019) to organize hemispheric cooperation. Both phases of the Action Plan seek to organize the Partnership's efforts within a given timeframe by establishing activities for each of its pillars and related areas, designating leaders, and identifying participating countries, implementation periods and expected outcomes. These actions will be guided by means of sub-regional diagnostic assessments and priorities in relation to energy. The Action Plan defined by the Steering Committee will be focused on obtaining concrete results in a set of pillars.

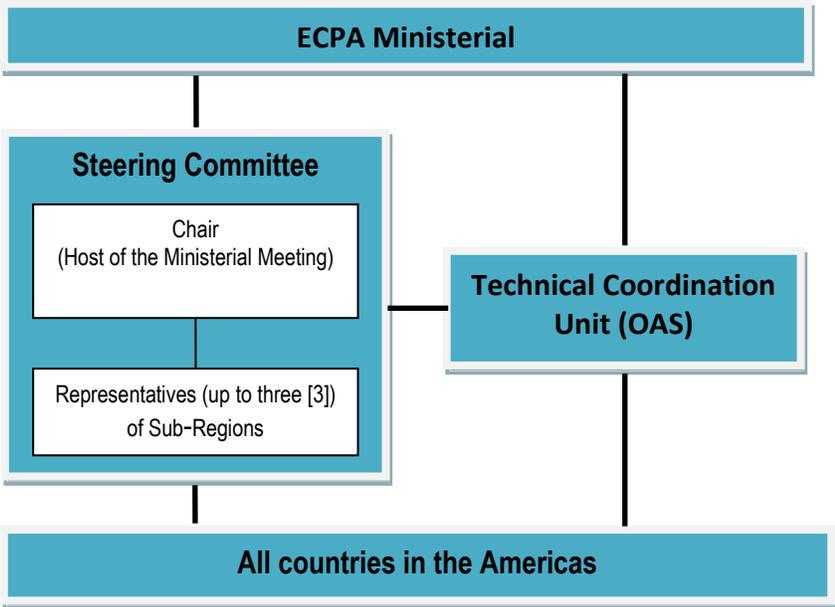
IV. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The initial Guidelines and structure of ECPA were proposed by nineteen (19) countries at the Symposium on Energy and Climate in the Americas, held in Lima, Peru, in June 2009. On that occasion, the participating Governments recognized the importance of having a

Clearinghouse (Technical Coordination Unit)¹ managed by the Department of Sustainable Development of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States. This support mechanism promotes, coordinates, and monitors actions undertaken by ECPA with respect to the Partnership’s Pillars and related areas. In particular, it encourages dialogue, experience-sharing, training, and other efforts relating to the Partnership’s work.

For the purposes of its operability, at the Second ECPA Ministerial Meeting held in Merida, Mexico, in May 2015, the Region’s authorities for energy, decided to establish the ECPA Steering Committee (SC-ECPA) to guide its activities. The Governments participating in this Body take the lead, propose and monitor measures envisaged in the Action Plan, identify resources —outside of those committed voluntarily by individual countries— for implementing initiatives and, in general, make decisions required to ensure that the Partnership functions effectively.

The Steering Committee receives administrative and technical support from the Technical Coordination Unit.



ECPA’s Steering Committee is comprised of a chair and up to a maximum of three representatives for each of the Americas’ four sub-regions: North America, Central America, Caribbean, and South America. Accordingly, the 2015-2017 structure of the

¹ Since 2016, the Clearinghouse has been known as “Technical Coordination Unit”. The new name provides a better understanding of this Body’s function.

Steering Committee is comprised of a Chair, from the country organizing the next ministerial (Chile), and the following regional representatives:

Sub-Region	Country
North America	United States
	Mexico
	<i>TBC</i>
Central America	Dominican Republic
	<i>TBC</i>
	<i>TBC</i>
The Caribbean	Jamaica
	Trinidad and Tobago
	<i>TBC</i>
South America	Chile
	<i>TBC</i>
	<i>TBC</i>

The structure of the Steering Committee will be officially approved or modified by the Ministers of Energy of the Americas at the ECPA Ministerial Meeting.

V. PARTICIPATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

General participation in ECPA is open to all the countries in the Americas, and does not entail payment of Membership fees or other mandatory contributions, although countries are encouraged to committing their own resources toward their participation and their leadership of ECPA initiatives.

Regardless of the level of engagement, all countries are encouraged to become involved on a technical level, to share their experience in particular areas of interest and/or expertise.

Any participating country may take the lead in activities and pillars and set up coordination arrangements within their particular sub-Regions, or across sub-Regions, helping to identify Diagnostic Assessments that provide accurate account of the situation in their area and to implement measures that could apply to their sub-Region or across sub-Regions.

At the behest of the Steering Committee, the Technical Coordination Unit will reach out to countries interested in joining the Steering Committee. All invitations and expressions of interest to become a member should be signed by or addressed to the Chair and must be

channeled through the Technical Coordination Unit, reviewed by the Steering Committee in full, and approved by consensus.

Members of the Steering Committee are expected to take the lead on at least one (1) specific Pillar and related areas selected on a voluntary basis. Leading a Pillar or related area may include identifying priorities, as well as technical and financial cooperation, coordinating with key partners, and hosting events such as Workshops, Policy Dialogues, Discussion Fora, and Webinars, among others.

Additionally, members of the Steering Committee are expected to host at least one ECPA event in their country for each action plan in conjunction with the ECPA Technical Coordinating Unit.

VI. COORDINATION AND SUSTAINABILITY

At the 2015 ECPA Ministerial, authorities pointed out that, in order to avoid duplication of efforts, ECPA needs to partner with other regional, and possibly even extra-regional energy cooperation Organizations, Agencies and initiatives. The implementation of the ECPA activities would benefit from coordination arrangements in order to harness synergies to implement the Action Plan.

Implementing the activities requires voluntary contributions from countries and assistance in marshaling the resources with which to pursue lines of action in a steady and continuous manner. Steps will therefore need to be taken in order to identify and engage strategic partners that would ensure the financial sustainability of the initiative, such as Multilateral and Regional Development Banks, international cooperation Agencies, the business sector, and others. In that regard, a specific strategy should be contemplated within the ECPA Action Plan.

These Guiding Principles do not create any legally binding obligations between or among participating Governments.

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