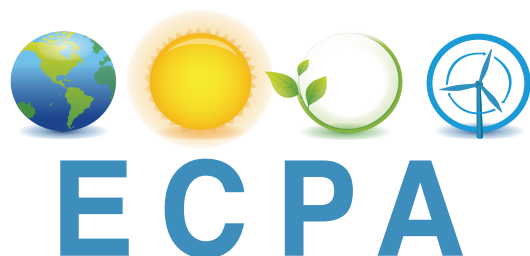


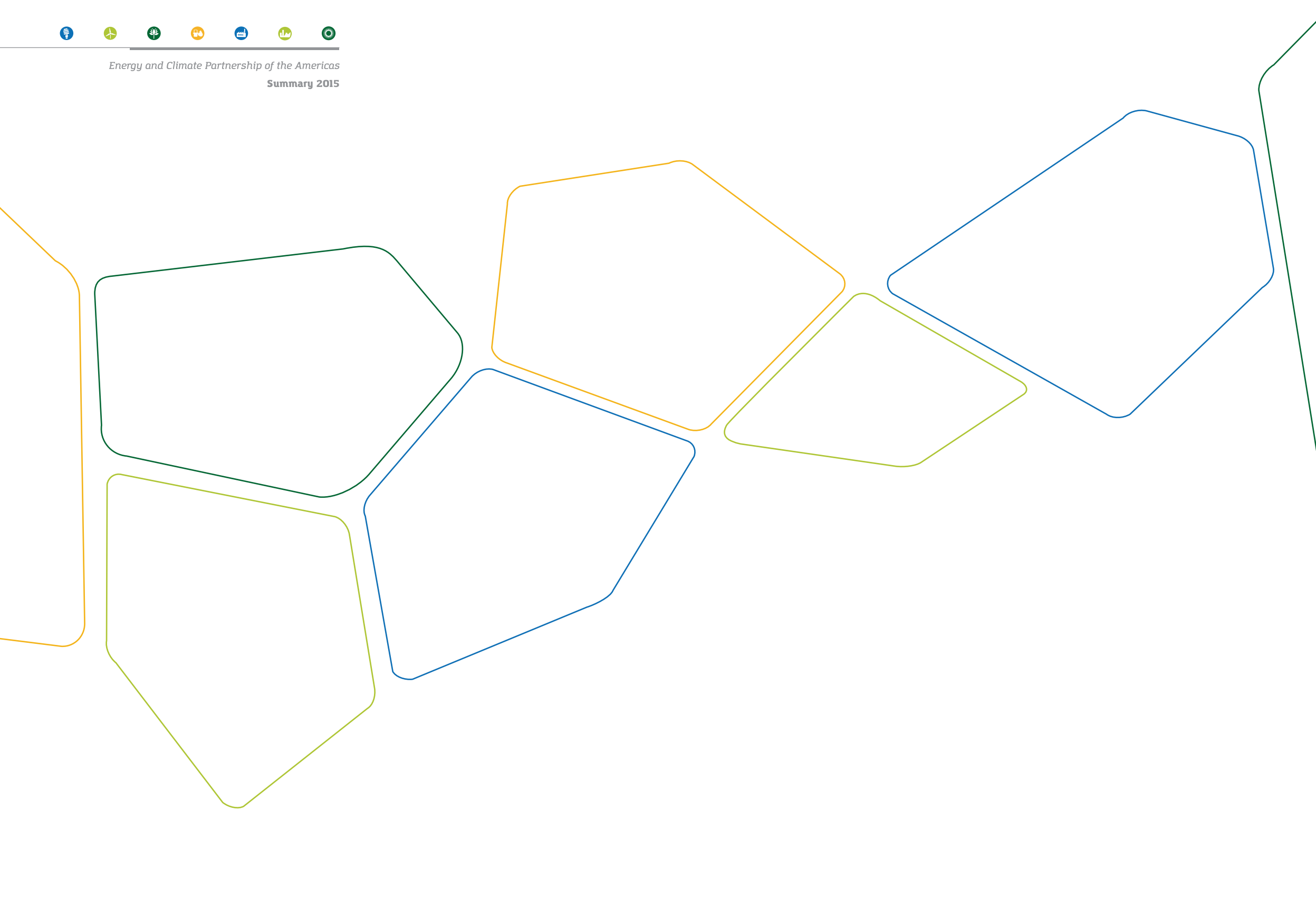


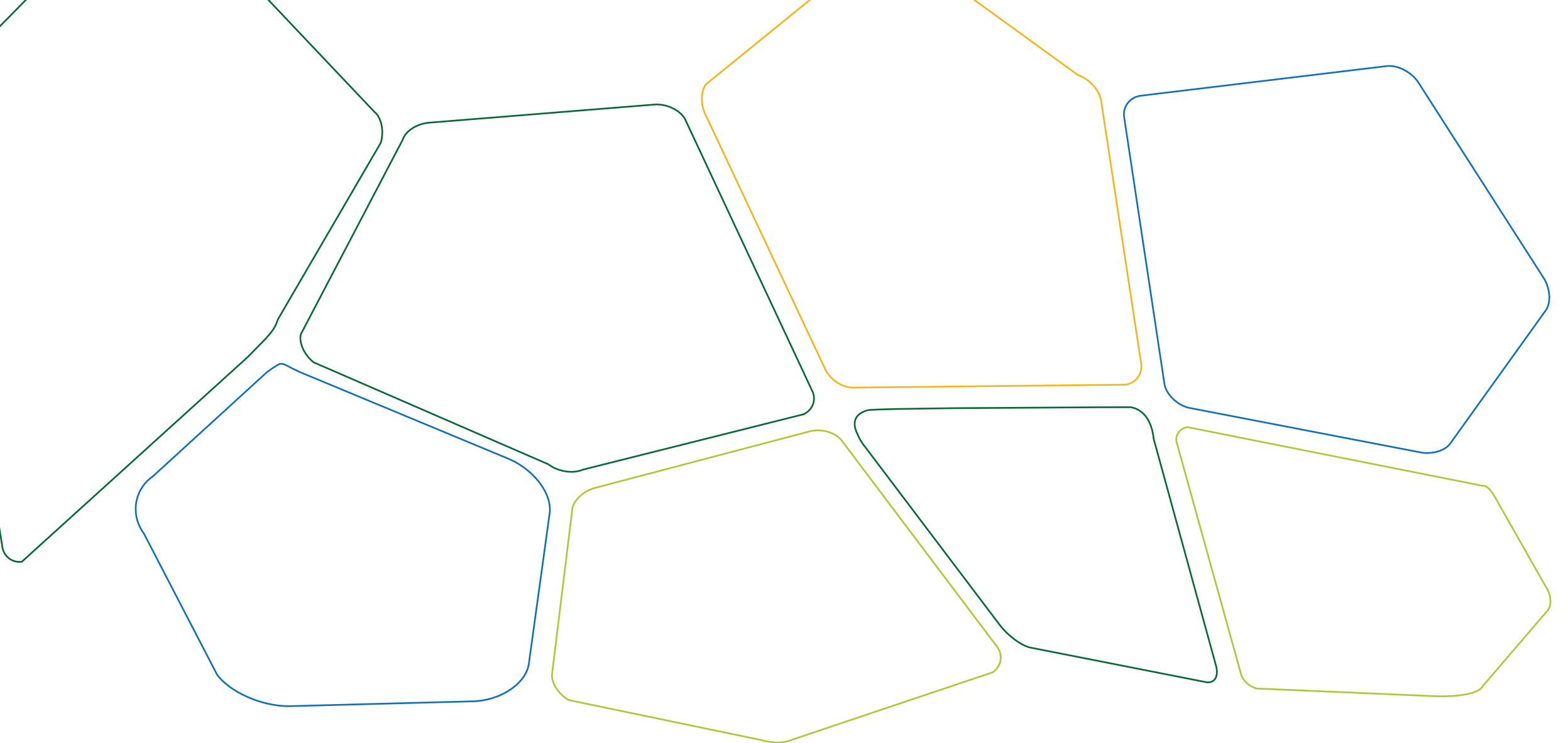
# Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas

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Summary 2015  
Promoting low carbon  
development





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## Organization of American States

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# Preface

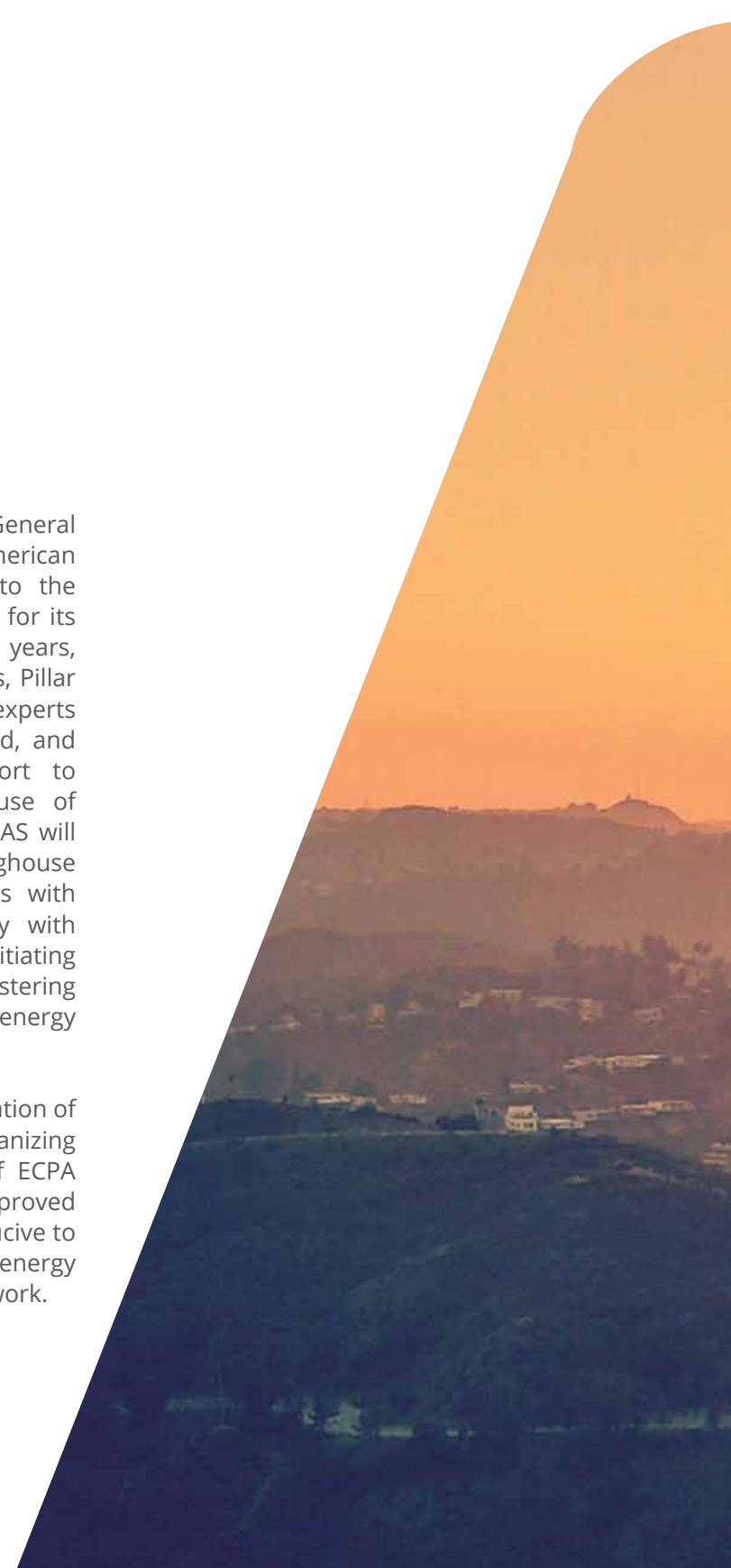
This document presents an overview of the main achievements of the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA) since it was founded in 2009. This hemispheric mechanism is helping governments in the region to promote energy security and address the impact of climate change through a number of initiatives tailored to each country's needs. Through ECPA, the nations of the Americas are learning from each other, sharing technology, fostering investment, and maximizing comparative advantages in order to build more sustainable and resilient communities.

As a flexible multilateral mechanism, ECPA encourages dialogue and hemispheric diplomacy on energy and climate matters. Governments, civil society, the academic community, and the private sector contribute technical and financial resources for the implementation of initiatives relating to energy efficiency, renewable energy, cleaner and more efficient use of fossil fuels, energy infrastructure and energy poverty, sustainable forests and land use, and adaptation.

This summary covers the work that came about thanks to the commitment of governments and partners in several

countries and sectors. The General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (OAS) is deeply thankful to the United States Department of State for its unwavering support all these past years, and to ECPA's National Focal Points, Pillar Coordinators, and international experts who have helped organize, expand, and strengthen this hemispheric effort to facilitate the development and use of cleaner, sustainable energy. The OAS will continue to head the ECPA Clearinghouse in order to establish partnerships with strategic actors and work closely with its partners with a view to propitiating more dynamic dialogue and fostering collaboration and awareness of energy and climate issues in the Americas.

The generous hospitality and dedication of the Government of Mexico in organizing the Second Ministerial Meeting of ECPA will lay the foundations for an improved environment for cooperation conducive to national and regional investment in energy and climate within the ECPA framework.







# Introduction

Economic growth in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean is driving the demand for energy, which is expected to increase by 20% by the end of the decade. With respect to electricity generation, although the region's matrix is one of least polluting in the world, the non-renewable resources portion of the energy mix is steadily increasing. That shift poses considerable challenges from a climate change perspective. Indeed, unless current trends in the energy generation market change, greenhouse gas emissions will increase by 60% by 2050. The need to guarantee safe and stable access to energy in order to fuel the region's social and economic growth coincides with environmental challenges and climate change, both of which require a scenario in which greenhouse gas emissions are reduced.

So what governments need to do is pursue strategies for the development and sustainable use of energy that favor diversification of the energy mix, with a view to guaranteeing stable and universal access to less polluting sources of energy. ECPA promotes development with low carbon emissions in the Americas through.

“

*- Political dialogue  
at the hemispheric  
level regarding  
energy and  
climate*

*- Exchanges of  
knowledge and  
best practices  
and the transfer  
of the technology  
needed for energy  
sustainability*





*-The convening  
of key actors  
from different  
sectors in order to  
establish strategic  
partnerships for  
addressing the  
challenges posed  
by climate change*

*-Technical  
assistance on  
energy and  
climate matters*

”



# 10 About ECPA

At the April 2009 Summit of the Americas in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, leaders of the Western Hemisphere underscored that energy and climate change are among the most important issues confronting our future and they reaffirmed their commitment to work together to wards a clean energy future. Responding to those shared challenges, the President of the United States, Barack Obama, invited all governments in the Western Hemisphere to join ECPA. He said that “our Hemisphere has bountiful natural resources that could make renewable energy plentiful and sustainable, while creating jobs for our people.” An Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas, he added, “will help us learn from one another, share technologies, leverage investment, and maximize our comparative advantage.”

Initially, President Obama suggested that ECPA focus on energy efficiency, renewable energy, cleaner and more efficient use of fossil fuels, energy poverty and energy infrastructure. The scope of ECPA's remit was expanded in April 2010, when the former U.S. Secretary of Energy, Steven Chu, invited the Ministers of Energy of the Western Hemisphere to the First Ministerial Meeting on Energy and Climate of the ECPA. That Ministerial

Meeting underscored the progress made by the Partnership, announced new association arrangements, and facilitated the development of new initiatives among governments, institutions, industry, and civil society. At the Ministerial the former U.S. Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, proposed that the scope of the ECPA be expanded to include sustainable forestry and land use, as well as adaptation to climate change.

“ECPA is a flexible mechanism through which governments in the Western Hemisphere may voluntarily lead multi-country or bilateral initiatives to promote clean energy, advance energy security, fight energy poverty and reduce greenhouse gas emissions for a sustainable Americas.”

-Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas Partnership Mapping Study



# The ECPA Clearinghouse

The General Secretariat of the OAS, through its Department of Sustainable Development (DSD), has been running the ECPA Clearinghouse since 2009. In June of the same year, officials responsible for adopting policies in several countries of the region met during the Symposium on Energy and Climate in Lima, Peru to discuss areas of cooperation on key areas related to energy and climate change. The symposium advanced the dialogue begun two months earlier in Port of Spain and helped pinpoint concrete steps toward cooperation. It addressed the need to establish a facilitation mechanism ("Clearinghouse") to foster dialogue and coordinate and disseminate activities. Governments welcomed this Clearinghouse headed by the OAS through its Department of Sustainable Development.

The Clearinghouse acts as coordinator of the ECPA and is seen as a mechanism to foster partnerships aimed at dialogue, cooperation, and awareness-building on all matters to do with energy and climate. The Clearinghouse is responsible for communications and for publicizing the activities of the ECPA partners. Like the ECPA itself, the Clearinghouse is a simple and flexible - not a rigidly constructed - mechanism to advance the establishment

of partnerships and open dialogue on energy and climate.

The ECPA Clearinghouse ran the First Ministerial Meeting of the ECPA in 2010 and has since organized numerous symposiums, round tables, workshops, and discussion forums. Since its establishment it has paved the way for strategic partnerships and fostered dialogue, cooperation and awareness-building on energy and climate issues, while at the same time lending support to ECPA's various initiatives designed to publicize and disseminate its activities.

*The Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas is "an important and useful tool for promoting change to renewable forms of energy and energy efficiency in the region" and an initiative that "has helped foster partnership for greater dialogue, cooperation and knowledge among governments, multilateral organizations, nongovernmental organizations, the private sector and academia."*

*José Miguel Insulza / Former Secretary General, OAS*



# ECPA Clearinghouse coordinating unit

## *First Efforts*

### **Fifth Summit of the Americas**

#### **Trinidad and Tobago, 2009**

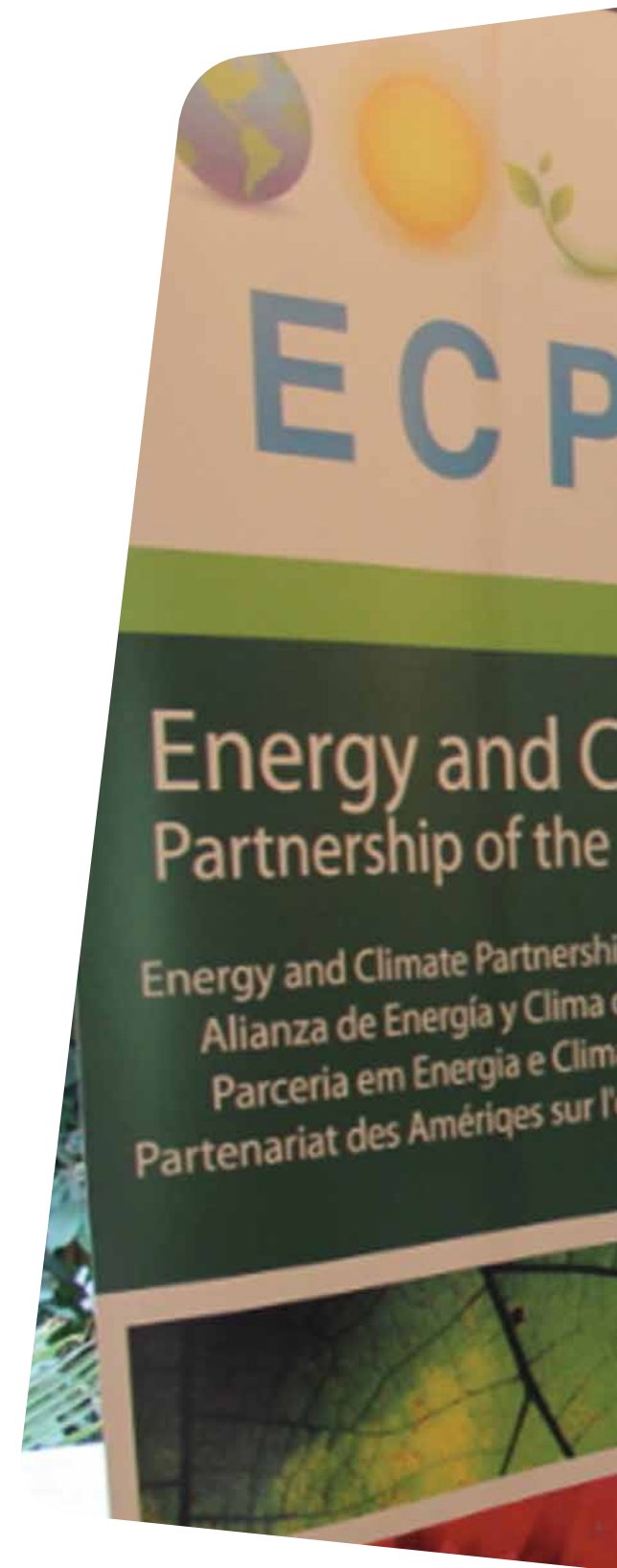
Creation of the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA)

### **Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas Symposium, Lima, Peru, 2009**

The OAS is designated to serve as the ECPA Clearinghouse

## *ECPA Clearinghouse*

Responsible for centralizing the efforts to promote and disseminate, build alliances, facilitate a more inclusive dialogue, contribute to capacity building and raise awareness among citizens of the Americas on the importance of low carbon growth and increased energy security.





## *Fields of action:*

***Ministerial Meetings***

***Technical Assistance***

***Political Dialogue***

***Multi-Sector Partnerships***

***Advocacy and Communications***

# 2009

**April**

***Summit of the Americas***

***Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago***

-President Obama invites Western Hemisphere Nations to Join ECPA

**June**

***Symposium on Energy and Climate in the Americas***

***Lima, Peru***

- OAS designated as ECPA Clearinghouse.  
- The United States announced a Low Carbon Communities Program to assist countries in developing energy efficiency and renewable energy programs and reduce the carbon footprint of their urban communities.

- Peru announced the development of a Regional Energy Efficiency Center.  
- Mexico announced the development of the Regional Wind Center.

# 2010

**April**

***First ECPA Ministerial***

***OAS and IDB headquarters in Washington, DC***

- U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton proposed ECPA's focus be expanded to also include initiatives regarding sustainable forests and land use, as well as climate change adaptation.

# 2011

**April**

***Regional Critical Energy Issues Dialogue & ECPA Meeting***

***Panama City, Panama***

- Mexico reaffirmed its interest in leading ECPA's energy efficiency pillar

# 2012

**April**

***Sixth Summit of the Americas***

***Cartagena, Colombia***

-Colombia and the United States joined other leaders of the Western Hemisphere in committing to achieve universal access to electricity over the next decade through enhanced electrical interconnection.

**September**

***67th United Nations General Assembly to advance Connecting the Americas 2022 (Connect 2022)***

***New York City, New York***

-Secretary Clinton and Colombian Foreign Minister Holguin meet to advance Connecting the Americas 2022.

-Representatives of international financial institutions, including the Inter-American Development Bank, the World Bank, and the Organization of American States participated in the meeting



# 2013

**June**

***Connect 2022 Ministerial  
IDB Headquarters, Washington DC***

- Representatives of the governments of the member countries of the Central American Electricity Interconnection System (SIEPAC) signed on to the Action Plan for the Consolidation of the Regional Electricity Market.
- In the lead up to the 2015 Summit of the Americas, the United States and the Inter-American Development Bank plan to follow through on a commitment in the Action Plan to hold an annual investors' forum.

# 2014

**May**

***First Preparatory ECPA Ministerial Meeting on the fringes of the  
International Renewable Energy Forum  
Mayan Riviera, Quintana Roo, Mexico***

- Governments took stock of the advances made by the Partnership under its seven pillars since the last ECPA ministerial.
- The governments recognized the value of ECPA as a mechanism for exchanges and dialogue on energy and climate among the countries in the Americas.

**October**

***ECPA Second Preparatory Meeting  
Miami, Florida, United States***

- Governments raised critical energy and climate change issues relevant to the region. Energy security, matrix diversification, stability in energy costs, and financing were some of the key discussion topics.

**October**

***ECPA Third Preparatory meeting  
Montevideo, Uruguay***

- Participants established a working group comprised of governments, civil society and academia focused on the promotion of a sustainable energy sector.

**November**

***Connect 2022 Investment Summit/ Fourth ECPA Preparatory  
Ministerial Meeting  
Guatemala City, Guatemala***

- Governments discussed the advantages of defining a sub-regional agenda, noting that a broad strategy could be stronger than a strictly national approach, and noted the importance of including civil society and the private sector in this process.

# 2015

**May**

***Energy and Climate Partnership of the  
Americas (ECPA) Second Ministerial  
Merida, Yucatan - Mexico***



# 7 Pillars for a sustainable Americas

The initial purpose and structure of the ECPA were established at the Symposium on Energy and Climate in the Americas, held in Lima, Peru, in June 2009, co-sponsored by the Governments of the United States and Peru and the Institute of the Americas.

The participants acknowledged the enormous potential for expediting the use of clean energy in the Americas. They spotted opportunities for participation

under the ECPA umbrella and they stressed that initiatives had to come up with tangible results and promote best practices with respect to policies and the ability to design, evaluate, and implement clean and environmentally sustainable energy policies and projects.

The initiatives address the following areas:



## Energy efficiency

Promote best policy practices through assistance in developing building codes and other standards in the industrial and residential sectors, as well as training for energy audits.



## Renewable energy

Accelerate clean energy deployment via project support, policy dialogues, scientific collaboration, and the clean energy technology network.



## Cleaner and More Efficient Use of Fossil Fuels

Promote clean energy technologies to reduce both conventional pollution and the carbon footprint of fossil fuels, as well as best practices on land use management.





### *Energy infrastructure*

Foster modernized, integrated, and more resilient energy infrastructure, particularly electrical grids and gas pipelines.



### *Energy poverty*

Target urban and rural energy poverty with strategies to promote sustainable urban development and improve access to modern clean energy services and appropriate technologies in rural areas that can improve public health and reduce fuel wood use, thereby benefiting forest management.



### *Sustainable Forests and Land Use*

Reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and enhance carbon sequestration in the land use sector, including through the conservation and sustainable management of forests.



### *Adaptation*

Assist vulnerable countries and communities with strategies to understand and reduce their vulnerabilities to the impacts of climate change.

# Major activities



**North America**  
*16 Initiatives*

ECPA has fostered the exchange of knowledge in energy and climate change through its ECPA Fellows Program. Preselected experts from the United States from the academic, non-profit, and private sectors serve as consultants and speakers at conferences in countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. During these technical visits ECPA Fellows share best practices and expertise in clean energy, sustainable urban development, climate change adaptation and reducing emissions from deforestation. This initiative is currently in the second state of implementation, in which it facilitates the transfer of knowledge between the United States and Latin America in the quest for solutions and the technologies that go with them. This project has helped establish a network of technical experts from a variety of disciplines in energy and climate change in the Americas to enhance interaction and cooperation and pinpoint problems and solutions.

During the first phase of project implementation, these experts coordinated more than 60 visits to 19 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.





## Central America *19 Initiatives*

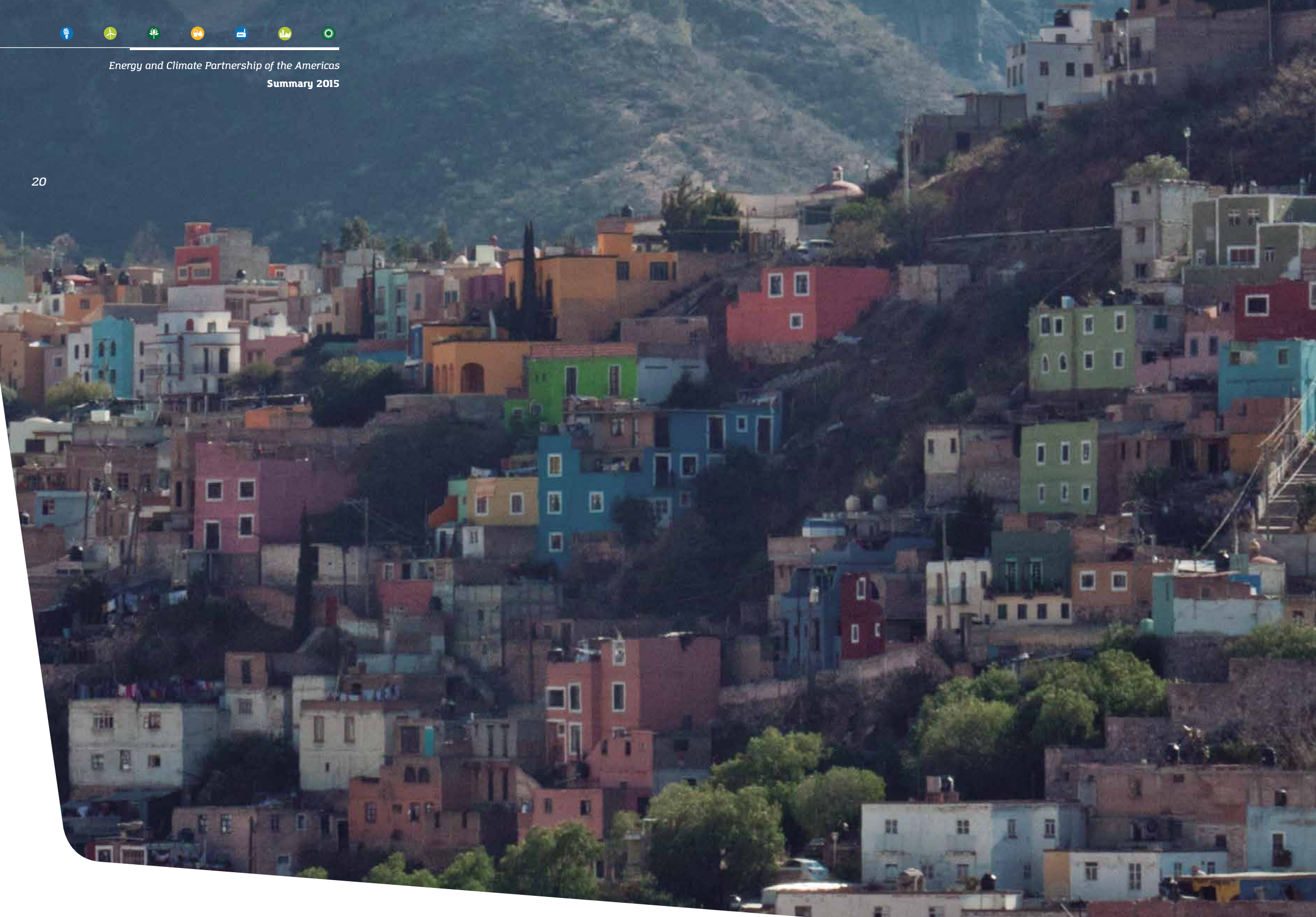
Establishment of a plant for the integrated production of biogas in Honduras, aimed at electricity savings and supporting clean energy use in coffee processing. COCAFELOL, the coffee-growing cooperative benefiting from this ECPA initiative increased its output of biogas from the organic residues derived from its production process. Moreover, the installation of this system helped COCAFELOL to optimize its residual water treatment processes, thereby improving water quality. Project outcomes indicate that, thanks to the generation of electricity from biogas, it is possible to achieve a 51.99 t CO<sub>2</sub>e reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by capturing methane and through energy substitution.

In less than six months, students at the Solar Professionals' Academy of the Americas (SPAA) managed to generate more than 500Kw using small solar systems in over 80 individual projects.

This figure rose to 2,000Kw in over 100 projects by end of 2014 in Central America and Mexico. This ECPA initiative is building the capacity of small entrepreneurs to implement technologies that had previously only been deployed on a much larger scale. The impact of this initiative extends beyond limiting greenhouse gas emissions or promoting renewable energy technologies. The knowledge derived from this project has helped improve the quality of life and livelihoods of numerous families.











## South America *30 Initiatives*

Cycle Production in the Americas program by the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism of Colombia. This project focuses on achieving sustainable and low emission manufacturing practices in small and medium sized enterprises in the chemical products sectors by providing training and technical support for closing the productive cycle of their products, in order for it to be possible to cost-effectively recover, re-use and re-make a new product of equal or higher quality using the materials that go to make them, after satisfying their use.

## The Caribbean *22 Initiatives*

The “Sustainable Communities of Central America and the Caribbean” initiative managed to recycle almost 22 tons of organic residues and more than 3,300 liters of oil used in the Caribbean state of Grenada. The recycled residues were used to manufacture a protein product that lowers the cost of poultry feed, thereby increasing local farmers’ incomes. In the Dominican Republic, training was provided to 102 technicians specializing in the management of small-scale hydroelectric plants with a view to strengthening community initiatives of that kind and fostering the adoption of these kinds of electricity generation techniques.

# National focal points

National Focal Points are the principal link between the Clearinghouse and the ECPA members. Through government officials deployed as points of contact, information is exchanged and pertinent requests are conveyed to ECPA. This model has achieved a steady flow of communication between the coordinating unit of ECPA and the countries of the Americas.

<i>Countries</i>	<i>Institutions</i>
Argentina	Secretaría de Energía
Bolivia	Ministerio de Hidrocarburos y Energía
Brazil	Ministro de Estado de Minas e Energia
Chile	Ministerio de Energía
Colombia	Unidad de Planeación Minero Energética de Colombia
Paraguay	Viceministerio de Minas y Energía
Peru	Ministerio de Energía y Minas-MINEM
Uruguay	Ministerio de Industria, Energía y Minería-MIEM
Costa Rica	Ministerio del Ambiente, Energía y Mares-MINAE
El Salvador	Superintendencia General de Electricidad y Telecomunicaciones-SIGET
Guatemala	Ministerio de Ambiente y Recursos Naturales-MARN
Honduras	Dirección General de Energía de la Secretaria de Energía, Recursos Naturales, Ambiente y Minas-MiAmbiente
Nicaragua	Ministerio de Energía y Minas
Panama	Secretaría Nacional de Energía
Canada	Natural Resources Canada
Mexico	Secretaria de Energía Mexico-SENER
United States	Department of Energy
Antigua and Barbuda	Ministry of Foreign Affairs

<i>Countries</i>	<i>Institutions</i>
Barbados	Energy Division, Ministry of Energy, Immigration, Telecommunications and Invest Barbados
Belize	Ministry of Energy, Science and Technology and Public Utilities
Dominica	Ministry of Public Works, Energy and Ports
Dominican Republic	Ministerio de Energía y Minas
Grenada	Ministry of Finance, Planning, Economy, Energy and Cooperatives
Guyana	Guyana Energy Agency
Haiti	Office of the Minister Delegate to Prime Minister in Charge of Energy Security
Jamaica	Ministry of Science, Technology, Energy and Mining
Saint Kitts and Nevis	Ministry of Public Utilities, Energy, Housing Ministry of Communications, Public Works, Public Utilities, Post, Physical Planning and Environment
Saint Lucia	Ministry of Physical Development & the Environment Ministry of Sustainable Development, Energy, Science & Technology
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Ministry of National Security
Suriname	Ministry of Natural Resources
The Bahamas	Ministry of the Environment and Housing
Trinidad and Tobago	Ministry of Energy and Energy Affairs



# ECPA Partners

ECPA partners are those institutions with which a strategic partnership has been formed for joint promotion of shared clean energy and climate change targets. They include non-profits, academic centers and think tanks, government entities, and civil society organizations. The purpose of such partnerships is to pool efforts to cut costs, complement missions, and maximize the impact of the work done in the region.

- 1. Avina*
- 2. Inter-American Development Bank*
- 3. Green Growth Knowledge Platform*
- 4. University of Texas at Austin*
- 5. Clean Energy Solutions Center*
- 6. Worldwatch Institute*
- 7. Centro de Información de Energías Renovables-CINER*
- 8. Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP)*
- 9. Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)*
- 10. Alianza en Energía y Ambiente con Centroamérica (AEA)*



# Preparations for the Second Ministerial Meeting of ECPA



Following the First Ministerial Meeting of ECPA in 2010 and with a view to holding a second meeting with high-level authorities, preparatory meetings were held in each subregion to evaluate the progress made with initiatives and to lay the foundations for a Plan of Action for the Partnership establishing the next steps that the region should take with regard to energy and climate change. The preparatory process undertaken in 2014, coordinated by the DSD, revealed marked interest in achieving greater sustainability and diversification in the energy sector. In that spirit, the Second Ministerial Meeting will provide an opportunity for governments to engage in a dialogue focusing on enhancing cooperation on energy and climate change.

The first preparatory meeting for the ministerial took place in Mexico on May 19 and 20. On that occasion, the national authorities in Latin American countries gathered for the International Renewable Energy Conference. The participants at that preparatory meeting reviewed ECPA's mission and vision and discussed the possibility of redefining priority areas and galvanizing the process in a way that would allow a greater say for all countries on issues that interest them.

The second preparatory meeting was held in Miami, Florida, on October 6, prior to the Caribbean Renewable Energy Forum. For the countries in the region, the high cost of electricity and their dependence on imported fossil fuels are matters of great concern.

The preparatory process then continued in Montevideo, Uruguay, on October 28. The representatives of South American countries reviewed progress made with each of the Partnership's core pillars. They also agreed that it was important that the ECPA Plan of Action reflect each country's short-, medium- and long-term sustainable energy needs, so as to ensure that actions undertaken matched national contexts and priorities.

The fourth and last preparatory meeting was held on November 5, in Guatemala. There participants discussed possible advantages of establishing a subregional agenda and they stressed that addressing these challenges collectively could be a more robust strategy and one that was consistent with the region's trend toward integration. Participants also emphasized the importance of involving civil society and the private sector in this process.



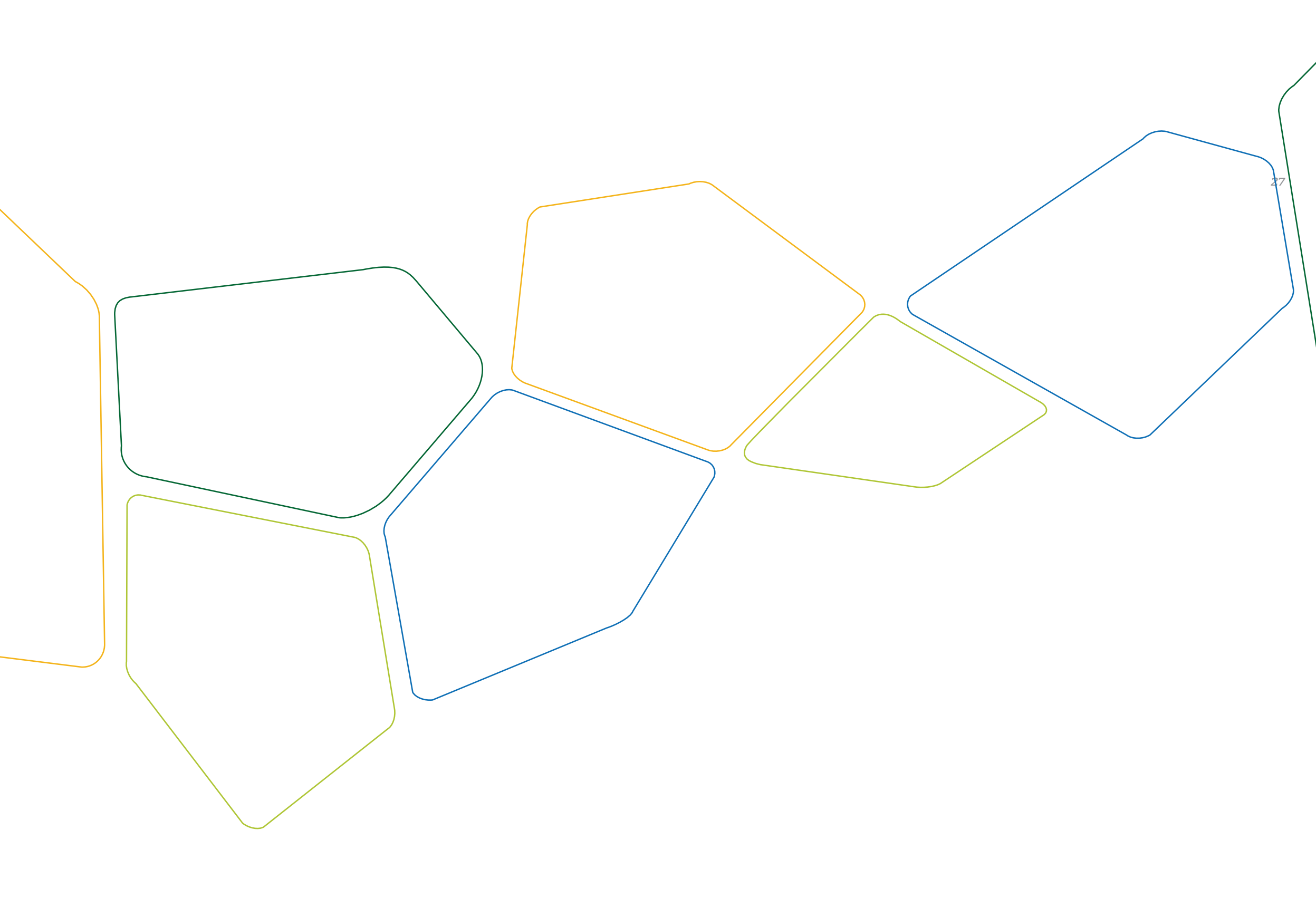


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English translation: Jonathan Cavanagh.  
Portuguese: Mirna Soares.  
French: H  l  ne Beaulieu







ECPA Clearinghouse  
**Organizations of American States**  
1889 F Street N.W. Washington, D.C  
[www.ecpamericas.org](http://www.ecpamericas.org)