



Organization of
American States

Record of the Central America meeting preparatory to the II ECPA Ministerial Meeting

Guatemala City, November 5, 2014

The fourth and final meeting to complete regional preparations ahead of the upcoming ministerial meeting of ECPA in 2015, opened with representatives of Guatemala, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, and Mexico in attendance.

During the meeting, reference was made to efforts being pursued by the Central American governments towards greater access to energy as well as sustainability of that sector. The emphasis was, however, on the importance of using the ministerial meeting to define a Central American strategy or a regional agenda to promote specific national priorities. Also highlighted was the interest of several Central American countries in promoting greater integration.

The issue of energy efficiency was specifically discussed as a core area that could be promoted at the regional level. This requires defining a dynamic for countries to work together. The value of the ECPA as a mechanism for promoting technical cooperation and dialogue among the region's nations was acknowledged.

It was proposed that the ECPA ministerial meeting scheduled for the first quarter of 2015 should be used to address some issues that will also be discussed at the Seventh Summit of the Americas, which Panama will host in April 2015. Although the goals of the Summit of the Americas are yet to be defined, the promotion of renewable energies is an issue likely to come up at the meeting of heads of state and government.

Specifically proposed were the following activities and issues, which the representatives in attendance had identified as priorities:

1. Map of initiatives

It is important for duplication of effort to be avoided and advantage taken of existing multilateral and regional mechanisms. There are situations in which cooperation agencies and international organizations are pursuing initiatives that address the same issues. It was proposed that the Facilitation Mechanism should identify what issues were covered by each of these cooperation efforts, so that the most valuable efforts could be identified. The Facilitation Mechanism was also asked to provide an up-to-date list, by country and pillar, of active initiatives,

to give national governments a better sense of the contributions of the Partnership, and for it in turn to engage with civil society and the private sector.

2. Energy efficiency

- **Labeling**

A Central American labeling standard is under study. Work is also being done on a Central American energy efficiency strategy that is worth considering in a possible mapping of initiatives underway in the region, in order to find synergies.

- **Transport Sector**

Regarding energy efficiency, most efforts in this field are electricity-oriented, with the efficient use of fuels for transportation being disregarded. A proposal was made to deepen energy efficiency in the transport sector—an endeavor that involves developing standards, reviewing Central American technical regulations on fuels, etc. Although such regulations do exist, they are obsolete. Several countries have exceeded the maximum sulfur emission levels, lead levels are not being measured, etc. The proposal is to examine the possibility of updating the Central American technical regulations on fuels and to define the technical specifications of the types of fuels that are introduced into the region, in order to promote the use of more efficient and less polluting fossil fuels.

The importance of developing schemes to encourage the use of public transport was also discussed. On this issue, it was noted that urban infrastructure needed to be adapted to be more public transport-friendly. Reference was also made of the security problem that leads many social groups to prefer using private vehicles. Importation of used vehicles needs to be regulated in order to prevent the entry of vehicles with engines that are inefficient from a fuel consumption standpoint and produce a lot of greenhouse gas emission. This issue could be pursued with the Central American Integration System to establish emissions targets, fuel consumption, etc.

- **Air conditioning and buildings**

Several countries of the region offer outstanding experiences and best practices in developing policies on the use of air conditioning systems in buildings, as well as on the use of electricity in government buildings. These models could serve as a point of departure for a ministerial debate on the subject.

3. Natural gas

There ought to be Central American technical regulations in place to regulate natural gas. It is necessary to craft legislation on the natural gas value chain. This is one of the world's most

regulated activities, with many successful examples on which the region could draw. These rules should cover production, liquefaction, transportation or transfer, and gasification.

4. Public participation

Mention was made of efforts some countries were making to promote citizen participation in defining government programs aimed at benefiting people, from an integration perspective. For initiatives of this nature, it is important to include not only environmental organizations but also those that combine national efforts with those of intermediary and grassroots organizations.

5. Prioritizing the pillars of the ECPA

It would be important to establish an order of priority of the pillars. As good as efforts by the countries may be, it is necessary to define what the priorities are. For example, there are similarities in terms of the importance that renewable energy and energy efficiency should be given. All Central American countries prioritize the promotion of renewable energies. Consistent with this goal, the objectives of the SIEPAC process include contributing to the connectivity of countries and reducing dependence on fossil fuels by promoting the use of renewable sources. In terms of climate change, it is necessary to define the scope of the pillar of adaptation and sustainable land and forestry use. The Central American region is very sensitive to the effects of climate change, and it is therefore important to establish a regional position on this pillar. Regarding this item, the problem of greenhouse gas emissions in the transport sector came up again.

Agenda

Objective: To continue and complete the preparatory process started in May 2014 in Mexico at the International Renewable Energy Forum, in order to establish the necessary political and technical conditions for an Action Plan for the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA) to be adopted.

Specific objectives:

1. To re-launch the tasks under the core areas of the ECPA, through a new structure with flagship projects.
2. To define a new leadership dynamic for all countries to be able to have an impact on the issues of interest to them.
3. To adopt a new dynamic for strengthening the ECPA by promoting continuity in holding ministerial meetings.
4. To review the mission and vision of the ECPA.

Dynamics of the preparatory process: Taking into account the background of the First Meeting of Ministers held in Washington, D.C., in April 2010, subregional preparatory meetings are being organized for Central, North, and South America, and the Caribbean. The current meeting is for Central America. Each subregional edition evaluates progress on ECPA initiatives and projects and forges common positions on issues of interest in order to craft an Action Plan.

Wednesday, November 5, 2014	
8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Arrival and registration of participants
9:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.	<p>Welcoming remarks and goals of the meeting</p> <p>Juan Cruz Monticelli Principal Specialist Department of Sustainable Development Organization of American States</p> <p>Introduction and Scope of the meeting</p> <p>Erika Streu Director for Latin America Directorate General for International Affairs Secretariat of Energy of Mexico</p> <p>Official opening of the meeting</p> <p>Luis Chang Head of the Energy Planning Unit Ministry of Energy and Mines (MEM), Guatemala</p>
9:15 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	<p>General context of ECPA, review of the pillars, and considerations to be taken into account for the second preparatory meeting</p> <p>Juan Cruz Monticelli Principal Specialist, Department of Sustainable Development Organization of American States</p>
9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	<p>Recommendations made at the first preparatory meeting</p> <p>Erika Streu Director for Latin America Directorate General for International Affairs Secretariat of Energy of Mexico</p>
10:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.	<p>Objectives of the second preparatory meeting</p> <p>Luis Chang Head of the Energy Planning Unit Ministry of Energy and Mines (MEM), Guatemala</p>
10:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.	<p>Open discussion among the National Focal Points of ECPA on recommendations for a future ministerial meeting of ECPA</p> <p>Moderator: Luis Chang Head of the Energy Planning Unit Ministry of Energy and Mines (MEM)</p>
12:15 p.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Recess
12:30 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.	<p>Summary of recommendations made by the governments for a future ministerial meeting of ECPA and next steps</p> <p>Juan Cruz Monticelli Principal Specialist, Department of Sustainable Development Organization of American States</p>

Participants

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