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The 2007 Ibero-American Summit



After vigorous debate, the Ibero-American Community concluded its 17th Summit with concrete agreements aimed at furthering social cohesion, the central theme of the encounter.

“Clearly, what stands behind all this is our ability to achieve broad agreement across the political, social and economic spectrum in pursuit of solutions to our people’s problems.”

**President Michelle Bachelet
November 10, 2007**

As host of the 17th Ibero-American Summit, Chile was determined that the gathering would produce concrete results to benefit the region’s peoples – and that is exactly what happened. By the end of their first meeting, the Heads of State and Government had already approved an agreement: a Social Security Convention which will benefit six million immigrants in the region. The pact will allow retirees to combine the contributions paid over their working lives, even if these were registered in different Ibero-American countries.

At the inaugural ceremony – attended by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon – President Michelle Bachelet clearly outlined the issues for the Summit: “It is an opportunity to take up the new challenge for our region, the

DID YOU KNOW?

- ★ This was the second Ibero-American Summit hosted by Chile. In 1996, the country organized the Sixth Summit, with the theme “The political development of Ibero-America.”
- ★ The Third Ibero-American Civic Meeting and the Third Ibero-American Business Forum were also held within the framework of the Summit.
- ★ ECLAC hosted a roundtable entitled “Global alliance for development” – one of the objectives agreed upon at the UN Millennium Summit – in which UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon participated.
- ★ Andorra attended the Summit for the first time, after requesting membership in 2004. The third member country from the Iberian Peninsula, the tiny principality adds its official language of Catalan to the Summit’s Spanish and Portuguese.

According to its own definition, the Ibero-American Community of Nations represents “a broad array of nations sharing roots and the rich heritage of a culture founded upon the joining of diverse peoples, creeds and ancestry.” The nations of the community comprise their own unique cultural space, with shared historical and linguistic values and a common conception of humanity and its future.



postponed challenge of renewing our social contract.” She further pointed to the need to place human beings at the center of public policies and strive for more democratic, integrated and cohesive societies, “in which exclusion, whether economic or ethnic, is nothing but a bad memory from the past.”



The Heads of State and Government took ample advantage of the opportunity. In her closing address, President Michelle Bachelet called the event “a historic Summit,” since the Santiago Declaration signed by the national leaders “has broken ground in substantive areas, resulting in a series of measures which will allow us to advance in a sphere that has lagged behind for many years in our region.” She also stressed that the document includes a concrete Action Plan, “which will allow us to address the issues we have been discussing.” Ibero-American Secretary-General Enrique Iglesias called the gathering “the most fruitful Summit we have had during the past 17 years.”



The fruits of the Summit include initiatives as specific as the creation of a Water Fund to provide potable water supplies, a maternal milk bank to benefit premature and low-birthweight infants, and the “Ibermuseos” Project, which will create public policy guidelines for Ibero-American museums, with the rich cultural diversity they reflect.

The achievements were the outcome of intense – and sometimes heated – debate among the 22 member countries’ Heads of State and Government, who gathered in Santiago from November 8 to 10 to analyze “social cohesion and public policies to create more inclusive societies,” the central theme of the Summit. The Summit also represented the culmination of a year of sectorial ministerial meetings, held in various cities across Chile. The conclusions were set forth in the Santiago Declaration, which includes an unprecedented Action Plan for implementation of its stated objectives.

The first task for member nations will be to place greater emphasis on the issue of social cohesion in the region. The plan also calls for the creation of a formal institutions to support more inclusive policies throughout the region in areas such as education, health and culture. New institutions will also help lay the groundwork for next year’s Summit in El Salvador, which will be dedicated to young people and the need to increase their opportunities for participation and advancement.

Getting down to work

The main venue for the Summit was Espacio Riesco, an enormous convention center in an area of corporate offices in northern Santiago. The center was the site of the Summit’s working sessions as well as the International Press Center with its more than 600 accredited Chilean and

foreign journalists. The official banquet was held at La Moneda Palace, while the official photographs were taken on San Cristóbal Hill – whose dramatic view of the Andes was unfortunately blocked by clouds that day.

On the hill, the 22 assembled national leaders inaugurated the new Ibero-American Park, each of them planting – shovel in hand – a native Chilean tree. President Bachelet planted a Canelo or Winter's Bark, a tree sacred to the Mapuche, the country's largest indigenous group.



Returning to Espacio Riesco, the Heads of State and Government got down to work. For the first time at an Ibero-American Summit, a “retreat” was held, in which the participants discussed the gathering's central theme behind closed doors. As the official television broadcast – without audio – showed, the session was no routine meeting for the sake of protocol. In fact, it stretched two hours over its allotted



time, delaying the start of the official banquet.

The choice of social cohesion for the Summit's theme reflects the growing importance of this issue. While the past four years have been the best out of the last 25 for Latin America in the areas of economic growth and poverty reduction, 200 million of its inhabitants continue to live in precarious circumstances.

The region continues to show enormous disparities in income distribution, along with huge socioeconomic gaps in areas such as education, access to good jobs and health care, as well as inequalities in the distribution of power and prestige, and social, ethnic and gender discrimination.

Appropriately, the leading social indicators for the measurement of social cohesion include income, the distribution of wealth, the unemployment rate, life expectancy at birth and completion rates for primary education. Although the Latin American and Caribbean region has shown overall improvement in these statistics, it continues to exhibit one of the world's highest levels of inequality.

As a result, the concept of social cohesion is gaining force as a key objective and foundation for public policies to address the most significant shared challenges in the sphere of social development. Social cohesion includes both formal institutions (employment, educational systems, codified rights and policies to promote equity, well-being and social protection) and the behaviors and values of members of society (confidence in institutions, social capital, a feeling of belonging and solidarity, acceptance of the norms

FACTS

The member countries of the Ibero-American Summit are: Andorra, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Chile, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Spain, Uruguay and Venezuela.

Several other countries have also shown an interest in participating. These include the Philippines and Equatorial Guinea, thanks to their former status as Spanish possessions; East Timor, as a former Portuguese colony; and Belize, a former British colony whose culture has nevertheless been strongly influenced by its Spanish-speaking neighbors, with nearly half of its people speaking Spanish as a native language.

Ban Ki-moon in Antarctica

After participating in the Summit inauguration, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon traveled to Antarctica in response to an invitation from President Bachelet. Along with a delegation of Chilean scientists, he examined direct evidence of the shrinking of the mighty glaciers and the thinning of the ozone layer. The visit will assist him in preparing for the UN conference to be held in December in Bali, where the foundations will be laid for an emissions agreement to replace the Kyoto Protocol.

Returning to Santiago, Ban Ki-moon commented: “Everything we witnessed was very impressive and beautiful, extraordinarily beautiful – but at the same time disturbing.”



of coexistence, and readiness to engage in civic participation and collective projects).

To achieve this, the State must guarantee to all citizens that their rights are fully protected. This requires policies and programs that provide all members of society not only with the standards considered minimal by the local community, but with greater equality of access to the benefits of development.

Access to a decent job is the most significant source of social inclusion.

Accordingly, at the inauguration of the gathering of Ibero-American Foreign Ministers, Chile's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Alejandro Foxley, stressed: "There will be no democracy and no economic growth without a system that protects the most vulnerable within the globalization process. We believe that in order to construct a social protection system, we need a strong, muscular State, which can serve as a basic provider of the services the people need, a promoter of general well-being."



explained. She also emphasized that "all the Presidents, absolutely all of them, have signed the Santiago Declaration and the Action Plan, and have also committed themselves to their advancement." She also noted, however, that progress can be made on all of these issues only "if we can effectively put in practice the agreements we are signing today." In that case, "we can begin to write a new social contract to construct fairer and more inclusive societies, and, finally, to move toward social cohesion for our countries."

Among other points, the declaration emphasizes the leaders' commitment to ensuring sustainable human development; creating decent, high-quality jobs; increasing social mobility and the redistribution of resources as common public policy objectives; and placing social cohesion and the need to achieve more inclusive societies at the center of the international agenda.

In addition to the Convention on Social Security, the Summit participants were able to set up a Children's Fund (for which Chile will provide a million dollars); a Water Fund (for which Spain will contribute 1.5 billion euros); a technology transfer program related

to water resources; the Ibero-American Pablo Neruda Program for Postgraduate Academic Mobility; the Ibero-American Primary Education and Literacy Plan; and initiatives to rationalize energy use, develop alternative energy sources and involve citizens in a range of environmental issues.

The Heads of State and Government also agreed to:

- ◆ Promote the development and coordination of social policies to fight poverty, guarantee universal access to social services and ensure quality in public and private services.
- ◆ Institute policies specifically directed toward the most vulnerable groups.
- ◆ Implement the Quito Consensus as an Ibero-American Agenda of Equality, and incorporate gender equality into public policies.
- ◆ Design policies, programs and specific instruments to create opportunities for young people to contribute to social cohesion.
- ◆ By 2015, fulfill the Millennium Goals and the commitments of



The Santiago Declaration
The document signed at the end of the Summit contains 24 points aimed at increasing social cohesion "through the gradual development of protective systems" that guarantee effective social rights to the citizens, as President Bachelet

“If we decisively embark on the path we have traced out during these days, if we place social needs at the center of our policies and our international cooperation efforts, we will be able to look our nations in the eyes.”

**President Michelle Bachelet
November 10, 2007**

the Monterrey Consensus in poverty reduction and support for development.

- ◆ Address imbalances and injustice in international economic relations and promote increased international trade.
- ◆ Strengthen multilateralism and the UN’s role in the fight against terrorism and international crime, while rejecting coercive unilateral measures.
- ◆ Strengthen Ibero-American cooperation as an axis of integration within the Ibero-American community that is being constructed.
- ◆ Strengthen support and respect for human rights.
- ◆ Democratize access to cultural goods, services and means of expression, and recapture public spaces for social and cultural life.
- ◆ Eradicate all forms of discrimination, preserve cultural diversity and promote cultural interchange.

- ◆ Promote the modernization of public management and the transparent and efficient administration of public resources.
- ◆ Cooperate in promoting strategies to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change, and coordinate responses to emergencies caused by natural disasters.
- ◆ Reaffirm the Montevideo Commitment on Migration and Development (2006) to fully guarantee the human rights of migrants.
- ◆ Involve a wide range of social actors in conservation programs, the sustainable use of biodiversity and efficient energy use.
- ◆ Promote consumer protection organizations.
- ◆ Adopt policies to advance scientific and technological development.
- ◆ Recognize that genuine dialogue and cooperation across society will be necessary for the countries of the region to effectively confront social problems.

According to Spanish Prime Minister José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero, the Santiago Summit will be remembered as the meeting at which “efforts were mobilized, resources were requisitioned, and the region’s hopes and ambitions were focused on the highest, most noble and most dignified task of putting an end to injustice, poverty and misery.”



DID YOU KNOW?

★ The Ibero-American Conference on Tourism was held aboard the Chilean Navy vessel *Aguiles*, a cargo and passenger ship with an extensive cruising range, which embarked from Puerto Montt for a tour of the southern Chilean waterways.



★ The inaugural session of the Summit of Heads of State and Government was held at the Club Hípico, a horse racing club modeled after the Longchamp hippodrome in France. It was designated a historical monument in 1972 for its contributions to the city.

★ Six First Ladies had their own agenda during the Summit and even posed for an official photograph.



Sectorial ministerial meetings

The Summit was preceded by eleven ministerial sectorial meetings, seven of which were held in other Chilean cities. The participants in these gatherings set out to identify problems, unify criteria and formulate proposals to resolve a series of specific issues.

For example, in the session on Childhood and Adolescence, participants recognized the importance of constructing socially and territorially cohesive societies,

based on social justice and equity, to guarantee the rights of children and adolescents and ensure the integral development of young people and their families.

The meeting on Public Administration and Reform of the State discussed the need to strengthen the quality of public management in order to make it an effective instrument for promoting social cohesion. The participants approved the Ibero-American E-Government Charter as well as the 2007-2008 academic program of the Ibero-American School of Administration and Public Policy.

The region's environmental ministers addressed the issues of water resources, environmental quality, climate change, biodiversity and environmental governability, stressing the grave consequences of environmental degradation, which affects the lives and the rights of people in the region.

The gathering on Social Security focused on how this issue can contribute to increasing social cohesion. Participants approved the text of the Ibero-American Multilateral Convention on Social Security.

The assembled Ministers of Health praised Chile for its coordination efforts in creating an Ibero-American network to allow shared learning and exchanges of experiences with social protection systems in the area of health. The participants also discussed the extension of coverage in services and financing.

The 17th Ibero-American Conference on Education stressed that education is a fundamental tool

for the solution of Ibero-America's most serious problems: poverty and inequality. In this spirit, the participants reiterated their commitment to eradicating illiteracy, universalizing primary education and promoting reading and writing initiatives. They also affirmed the importance of continued progress in implementing the Ibero-American Knowledge Community (Espacio Iberoamericano del Conocimiento, EIC) for academic mobility, and agreed to maintain their support for initiatives to reduce educational debt.

At the 10th Ibero-American Conference on Culture, participants approved the Ibero-American Cultural Map Action Plan and proclaimed 2008 as the "Year of the Museum" in Ibero-America. Consensus was reached on the creation of a working group to study the development of a program to promote cultural and social cohesion policies. A working group was also established to propose public policies that increase and protect diversity in audiovisual markets.

A further meeting brought together the Ministers of the Presidency or their equivalents, who discussed "Systems for evaluating public policies for increased social cohesion."

The 12th Ibero-American Forum of Ministers of Housing and Urban Development established two priorities – the right to a livable city and comprehensive urban development policies – as a strategic contribution to the theme of the 17th Summit.

At the Ibero-American Conference on Tourism, discussions revolved around the issues of social tourism;



exchanges of experiences in access to loans and programs to expand business opportunities for micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises in the tourist industry; and the use of new technologies in personnel training and the marketing of tourist destinations.

On the express request of President Bachelet, an Ibero-American Conference on Gender was also convened. The participants agreed to institutionalize the Conference as an annual event within the framework of the Ibero-American Summits. In addition, they decided to ask the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB) to work with UN organizations and member States to create an Equality Observatory, aimed at strengthening each country's mechanisms to promote gender equity and women's advancement. The participants further pledged to advance the principles of the Quito Consensus, adopted at the 10th Regional Conference on Women in



Latin America and the Caribbean, in the form of an Ibero-American Agenda for Equality.

The other meetings

The Summit also provided the backdrop for the Third Ibero-American Civic Meeting, with its theme of "Participation, equality and social cohesion," and the Third Ibero-American Business Encounter, entitled "Social cohesion and economic growth." The former brought together more than 75 representatives of social, labor and civil society organizations from the 22 countries, under the auspices of FLACSO and the Social Organizations Division of the Ministry General Secretariat of the Government. The Business Encounter involved approximately 200 entrepreneurs, brought together by SEGIB and the Confederation of Production and Trade, Chile's leading business organization.

At the inauguration of the Civic Meeting, President Bachelet asserted that the great challenge for the region's democracies is to be at the service of the people and to fulfill the expectations their citizens place in them. "If our democracies are unable to solve the people's problems, they will lose their force, their credibility and their legitimacy. Our democracies must be at the service of the people. They must be able to inspire affection and enthusiasm with their achievements; they must make a noticeable difference in people's quality of life; they must produce concrete benefits for the people."

To the assembled business professionals, she expressed her wish that the

initiative should become "a tradition; each time the Presidents and Heads of State and Government meet, the community should also meet, civil society should meet, and the host country should collect the discussions, conclusions and proposals arising from forums as important as this one."



The Business Encounter featured debate on issues such as economic and political agreements to promote social cohesion; social dialogue; relationships and agreements among businesses and educational, research and development centers; corporate social responsibility; and the commercial impact of China and India on Latin America. The session marked the first time that relations with the Asia Pacific region were addressed in this forum.

Ibero-American heritage

The roots of the current Ibero-American Summits go back to the years of the Spanish transition and the renewed value placed by Adolfo Suárez' government on the country's relations with Portugal and Latin America. The pursuit of closer ties has also been reflected in the numerous trips made by King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia to the region since 1976, as well as the King's own declarations.

For instance, he stated in 1976, in Cartagena, Colombia: "In the world we live in, marked by problems that

are universal in scale, there is no room for disunity in a community such as ours. We must stand united to fulfill our potential for working together – which is also the most effective way to maintain our individuality, our essence as nations.”

The aim of the Summits is to “promote engagement, cooperation and development among the Ibero-American countries.”

During the same period, cooperation and dialogue mechanisms were instituted to strengthen the Ibero-American community. A leading milestone was the “Encounter in Democracy,” held in Madrid in 1983, which brought together over a hundred high-level representatives of the political, cultural, business and scientific worlds from Latin America and Spain, convoked by the Institute for Ibero-American Cooperation (now the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation, AECI).

On that occasion, Gabriel García Márquez, winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1982, read the “Madrid Declaration,” which called for “a renewed appreciation of relations between the Iberian Peninsula and Latin America, so that we can understand the exact significance of our historical connection, and thus determine our true place in the world.”

For this purpose, Ibero-American cooperation was defined as “a privileged relationship among peoples who aspire to a new way of life, sustained by the basic values of our ethical and social conscience, where human rights are assured, and social justice and democracy are a reality for all.”

Another important antecedent was the Ibero-American Meeting of Democratic Ex-Presidents, held at the Monastery of Guadalupe, Extremadura (Spain). The former national leaders stressed their commitment to strengthening an Ibero-American Community of Nations; promoting education, science and culture; and supporting peace processes in Latin America.

During a visit of the King and Queen of Spain to Mexico in 1990, that country’s president, Carlos Salinas de Gortari, proposed that in addition to the 1992 gathering to commemorate 500 years of the “Encounter between Two Worlds,” a meeting should be institutionalized as an annual event. He offered Mexico as host for the following year. In a matter of hours, diplomats from both countries agreed to announce the first two Summits simultaneously: Guadalajara in 1991 and Madrid in 1992.

To provide a structure for relations among the 21 Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking countries of Latin America and Europe, it was decided to establish a Pro Tempore Secretariat, exercised by the host of the respective Summit. With this, what is now known as the “troika” arose: the host country, the host from the previous year and that of the following year. The countries also resolved to invite prominent Ibero-Americans holding leadership positions in international organizations.

Over the course of the 17 Summits, a set of shared values, principles and commitments has gradually emerged. These include support for democracy and human rights, multilateralism, international law, social justice and sustainable development with equity.

FACTS

Between each Summit, the Pro Tempore Secretariat conducts working meetings with representatives from all of the member countries, to study and prepare the issues and agenda for discussion as well as a first draft of the declaration to be approved by the Heads of State and Government.

In 2005, the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB) was established, as a permanent institutional, technical and administrative support body for the Ibero-American Conference. It is headed by Enrique Iglesias of Uruguay.

Bodies associated with SEGIB include the Association of Ibero-American National Libraries (Abinia); the Fund for the Development of the Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean; the Organization of Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture (OEI); the Ibero-American Organization for Youth (OIJ); the Ibero-American Council on Sports (CID); the Ibero-American Center for Social Security (CISS); and the Union of Ibero-American Capital Cities (UCCI).

Thus, the people of the region can point to an “Ibero-American heritage,” based not only on a common history and culture forged over time, but also on a shared dynamic of dialogue, collaboration and cooperation. At all of the Summits, the participants have reaffirmed values such as prohibition of the use or threat of force, peaceful conflict resolution, non-intervention in internal affairs, rejection of the extraterritorial application of laws, support for the International Criminal Court, adherence to international humanitarian law, support for disarmament and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

From the First to the Seventeenth

- Guadalajara, Mexico, 1991. Central theme: “Construction of a forum for progress in a shared political, economic and cultural process.”
- Madrid, Spain, 1992: “The creation of new working instruments to promote a culture of cooperation.”
- Salvador de Bahía, Brazil, 1993: “Social development.”
- Cartagena, Colombia, 1994: “Trade and integration as factors in Ibero-American development.”
- San Carlos de Bariloche, Argentina, 1995: “Education as a key factor for social and economic development.”
- Santiago and Viña del Mar, Chile, 1996: “The political development of Ibero-America.”
- Isla Margarita, Venezuela, 1997: “The ethical values of democracy.”
- Oporto, Portugal, 1998: “Globalization and regional integration.”
- Havana, Cuba, 1999: “Ibero-America and the international financial system in a globalized economy.”
- Panama City, Panama, 2000: “United for childhood and adolescence, foundation for justice and equity in the new millennium.”
- Lima, Peru, 2001: “United to build the future.”
- Bávaro, Dominican Republic, 2002: “Agricultural development, the environment and sustainable tourism.”
- Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, 2003: “Social inclusion, the motor of development in the Ibero-American Community.”
- San José, Costa Rica, 2004: “Educating for progress.”
- Salamanca, Spain, 2005: “Ibero-America: A community with its own voice.”
- Montevideo, Uruguay, 2006: “Migration and development.”
- Santiago, Chile, 2007: “Social cohesion and public policies to create more inclusive societies.”



With the aim of “bringing the Summit closer to the people,” the Chilean government undertook a unique cultural project, unprecedented at this type of gathering: the “Cultural Embassies.” Over a period of four days, in a total of 40 concerts, more than 150 artists from 13 countries presented the best of their music, dance and other cultural offerings in cities throughout Chile. There was also an enthusiastically received performance at La Moneda Palace.



EDITOR IN CHIEF: Juan Carvajal, Director, Communication Secretariat /
EDITOR: María Paz del Río, Chief, International Analysis and Press Department / **TEXT:** María Paz del Río, Mladen Yopo, Daniel Asenjo, International Analysis and Press Department / **DESIGN:** Aileen Cárcamo /
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