PLAN OF ACTION OF MEXICO CITY 2018-2020: “SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT FOR PORT COMPETITIVENESS”

(Approved during the Fourth Plenary Session)

WE, THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MEMBER STATES THAT FORM THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON PORTS (CIP),

CONSIDERING:

That the CIP is the only permanent inter-American governmental forum that brings together the National Port Authorities of all Member States of the Organization of American States (OAS) and whose main objective is to promote the development of competitive, safe, sustainable and inclusive ports in the Americas with the active participation of the private sector;

That the CIP, through the Resolution of Mexico City, approved an action plan for the biennium 2018-2020; and

RECOGNIZING:

The work of the OAS in mobilizing resources for the formulation, promotion, and implementation of technical cooperation policies, programs, and projects in the area of integral development; in encouraging mechanisms and forums for exchanges of experiences and information among Member States in its area of competence; and in organizing activities to strengthen human and institutional capacities to enhance integral development throughout the Hemisphere;

The benefits to member states of strategic partnerships with development institutions, international financial agencies, and the private sector, such as increased technical training opportunities and exchanges of best practices;

The role of the OAS and the inter-American system in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to achieve integral development; and

The progress in implementing the Action Plan of Montevideo 2016-2018: “Private-Sector Partnerships for Port Development”, and the need to continue and build on the work of the last three years.

AGREE TO ADOPT THE PLAN OF ACTION OF MEXICO CITY:
I. BACKGROUND

We ratify the six priority areas of the Inter-American Committee on Ports (CIP) for hemispheric cooperation: (i) Logistics, Innovation and Competitiveness; (ii) Sustainable Port Management and Environmental Protection; (iii) Port Protection and Security; (iv) Public Policy, Legislation and Regulation; (v) Tourism, Inland Ports and Waterways, Ship Services and Navigation Safety; and (vi) Corporate Social Responsibility and Women in Ports.

We thank the Chairs of the Technical Advisory Groups (TAG), Member States, associate members and strategic partners for their valuable cooperation and support.

II. OBJECTIVES

This Plan of Action is intended as a complement to the activities of the Member States and the CIP Secretariat based on synergies produced by South/South, triangular, and hemispheric cooperation, and as a guide for implementing the activities of the Plan of Action with measurable goals. The following objectives are specific, measurable, attainable, pertinent, and of a fixed term.

The main objectives of the Plan of Action are the following:

A. General Objective

To advance toward the development of competitive, safe, sustainable ports as a means to ensure socially inclusive development in the Americas with the active participation of the private sector.

B. Specific Objectives

1. To strengthen the inter-American port policy dialogue with the participation of the private sector.
2. To consolidate and expand the CIP program on capacity building and technical assistance offered by members, Member States and strategic partners.
3. To promote and coordinate greater hemispheric cooperation for port development through horizontal, triangular, and hemispheric cooperation mechanisms as well as strategic partnership with development institutions, international financial agencies, and the private sector.
4. Disseminate and promote the Ports of the Americas, by encouraging public-private partnerships.

III. THE CIP SECRETARIAT ROLE IN IMPLEMENTING THE PLAN OF ACTION

In addition to coordinating and assisting the officers of the CIP in carrying out the mandates set forth in this Plan of Action, the CIP Secretariat, in coordination with the CIP Executive Board (CECIP), is instructed to:
1. It will support the Technical Advisory Groups (TAGs) Chairs the efficient and effective execution of their activities in accordance with the Resolution of Mexico City and this Plan of Action.

2. In order to enrich the Inter-American Port Dialogue, it will promote public-private partnerships through the incorporation of new associate members, including the establishment of internal and external strategic alliances with other forums and international organizations and other related organizations.

3. Co-organize and provide institutional and technical secretariat support to National Port Authorities, Strategic Partners or Associate Members for the organization of hemispheric, regional and / or national conferences / seminars, as well as courses related to the priorities and objectives of the TAGs, including the promotion of the CIP and the Ports of the Americas.

4. Consolidate and, as far as possible, expand the training opportunities offered through the S/CIP to strengthen institutional technical capacities and the exchange of best practices, including new alliances and agreements for this purpose.

5. Provide technical assistance and suggest studies, surveys and projects in accordance with OAS procedures and, as far as possible, seek additional funding.

6. Continue with the dissemination strategy, including the monthly publication of a newsletter, the preparation and publication of an information booklet on the CIP, the publication of the CIP Magazine, updating of the CIP portal and the use of the CIP logo in all printed and/or digital media.

7. Continue its activities to approach the private sector in search of new associate members and resources to strengthen operations.

8. Coordinate and prepare face-to-face or virtual meetings of the TAGs and the CECIP.

The CIP Secretariat will report to the CECIP every six months on the implementation of the Plan of Action and present a comprehensive report at the Twelfth Regular Meeting of the CIP 2020.

For this, Member States should provide the CIP Secretariat with the necessary human and technical resources to facilitate the modernization of CIP operations.

IV. TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUPS

The main function of TAGs Chair will be to fulfill the objectives of the Plan of Action of Mexico City in their technical specialty areas, for which they will formulate and implement their work plans with regional approach initiatives.

The TAGs Chair will report to the CIP on the establishment of such working groups as they deem necessary to carry out their functions and will determine their specific activities, responsibilities, and respective fund allocations.

Each TAG, within the priority thematic area of its competence:

1. Prepare, as requested, proposals and recommendations on policies and strategies, which will be presented to the CIP through the CECIP

2. Promote the integration of new associate members and the participation of Member States in the CIP activities.
3. Prepare reports on its activities and present them to the CECIP Chair and Vice Chairs.

4. Support the efforts of the CIP Secretariat to identify opportunities to expand training offered to Member States.

Specifically, each TAG shall:

5. In support of the activities to strengthen technical capacities and in continuity with the Plan of Action of Montevideo, update the surveys and databases in their focus areas.

6. Organize at least once in the next two years, with the support of the CIP Secretariat, a Conference or Hemispheric Seminar on topics within its competence.

7. Identify and compile materials (e.g. articles, best practices, techniques, processes or services) relevant to CTC issues for digital and/or printed dissemination.

V. METHODOLOGY

For the implementation of the Plan of Action each TAG shall establish who will be responsible at the CIP and their respective responsibilities. The Chair shall appoint a focal point or coordinator to ensure that the objectives of each TAG are met. Within 90 days after the adoption of this Plan of Action, each TAG, with support from the CIP Secretariat, shall prepare its work plan, setting out all the activities mentioned in the previous section along with clear implementation deadlines and funding sources.

To ensure fulfillment of the activities contained in this Plan of Action, TAG Chairs will be required to assume leadership of their respective activities.

The Vice Chairs will be required to play a more active role in implementing the activities under the Plan of Action. In the absence of the Chair, or if the Chair delegates its responsibilities, the Vice Chair will assume leadership of the TAG, taking into account the responsibilities established by CIP Rules of Procedure in meeting the objectives set.

TAGs shall report to the CECIP on their activities every six months and develop systems for monitoring activities and evaluating their outcomes.

TAGs shall coordinate their work bearing in mind the complementary and interdependent nature of their activities. Constant communication and exchange of knowledge, experiences, and results will yield reciprocal benefits for which they should rely on the S/CIP.

VI. RESOURCES

The Plan of Action will be financed with contributions by member states and associate members to the CIP, as well as resources from the OAS Regular Fund, in accordance with Articles 70, 76, 77, 80, and 82 of the CIP Rules of Procedure, taking into account the interests of the members and the objectives of the CIP. To that end, member states, particularly those with payments pending, are urged to be punctual in paying their annual contributions to the CIP. Member states are urged to make
voluntary contributions in addition to their annual contributions. Furthermore, member states will provide technical contributions to TAGs and promote the necessary synergies among members.

With the support of the CIP Secretariat, the CECIP Chair and TAG Chairs will invite pertinent regional and international organizations, as well as potential donors and partners, particularly from the private sector, to participate, make voluntary contributions and provide financial and nonfinancial support to activities arising from the implementation of this Plan of Action.

VII. ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

The six priority areas of the CIP present significant challenges for the region’s national port authorities. Given the fundamental role of the private sector to meet these challenges, the CIP has Associate Members, which are other international organizations and civil society institutions. The CIP is a unique forum where national port authorities and the private sector can discuss issues of mutual interest, structure cooperation and capacity building or organize events together. Associate Members can dialogue and seek other forms of cooperation for port development with other public institutions, private companies, international organizations, thus form part of a reliable and relevant community of practice in the Hemisphere.

The CIP Associate Members, in accordance with Article 76 of the CIP Rules of Procedure and resolution CIP/CECIP/RES. 1/15, “Agreements of the Sixteenth Meeting of the Executive Board of the Inter-American Committee on Ports for 2016,” CIP associate members shall make an annual contribution, the purpose of which is to help fund the activities of the CIP Secretariat and the TAGs. When a member state recruits an associate member, 80 percent of the contribution will go to the special fund of the TAG in which the associate member participates, and 20 percent to the “Special Port Program” Specific Fund. When the Secretariat recruits an associate member, 80 percent of the contribution will be for the Special Port Program” Specific Fund and 20 percent for the corresponding TAG. In that connection, it is important to highlight the tiered fee structure for associate members (Bronze, Silver, and Gold) based on the size of each company.

According to Resolution of the XVIII CECIP Meeting in Barbados (CECIP/doc.5/17), the annual contribution of each associate member is as follows:

a) US$3,000 for micro and small enterprises, and non-profit institutions
b) US$6,000 for medium-sized enterprises
c) US$10,000 for large corporations

Benefits offered to TAG associate members include approach to national port authorities, access to CIP forums and to international network of contacts, the exchange of best practices and, secondly, the offer of technical training.

The CIP instructs the CECIP Chair and Vice Chairs, the TAG Chairs, and the CIP Secretariat to invite and encourage the participation of relevant regional and international organizations and other donors, particularly the private sector, to participate as associate members and strategic partners in accordance with the rules and regulations in force.