



**COUNCIL OF
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NOTE

From : Secretariat
To : Delegations
Subject : EU- Brazil Strategic Partnership - Joint Action Plan

Delegations will find annexed the EU - Brazil Joint Action Plan adopted at the Second EU - Brazil Summit in Rio de Janeiro, on 22 December 2008.

EU - BRAZIL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP
JOINT ACTION PLAN

Brazil and the European Union agree to construct a comprehensive strategic partnership by:

- Promoting peace and comprehensive security through an effective multilateral system;
- Enhancing the Economic, Social and Environmental Partnership to promote sustainable development;
- Promoting regional cooperation;
- Promoting science, technology and innovation;
- Promoting people-to-people exchanges.

The relations between the EU and Brazil will be enhanced on the basis of annual dialogues at the highest level and regular Summits and Ministerial meetings. Such meetings will notably address global challenges and crises that threaten the stability and sustainable development of societies and economies around the world. Senior Official meetings and the European Community-Brazil Joint Committee meetings will contribute to the preparation of the Summit and Ministerial meetings as well as to the monitoring of progress on the ongoing dialogues and the implementation of the Joint Action Plan. This Joint Action Plan has a life span of three years and is due to be revised ahead of the EU-Brazil Summit in 2011. Progress will be reported to the Summits.

I. PROMOTING PEACE AND COMPREHENSIVE SECURITY THROUGH AN EFFECTIVE MULTILATERAL SYSTEM

1. Promoting human rights and democracy, and upholding international justice

Brazil and the EU are firmly committed to promoting and protecting all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development and to strive for the full protection and promotion in all our countries of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights for all. Moreover, both are strongly committed to the principles of democracy and respect for the rule of law. Both Parties reaffirm that the most serious crimes of concern to the international community should not go unpunished and that their prosecution should be ensured by measures at either the domestic or international level, in full compliance with the principles of due process. In this connection both Parties reaffirm the importance of the International Criminal Court in deterring crimes against humanity, war crimes and genocides fighting impunity and achieving lasting peace and reconciliation. Based on these shared values, Brazil and the EU will further intensify their relationship to strengthen their effective implementation and work together to promote them at the international level. To this end, Brazil and the EU will:

- Establish regular human rights consultations, both on multilateral and bilateral issues at appropriate levels in Geneva, New York, Brussels and Brasilia, as well as in the context of the High Level Political Dialogue between Brazil and the EU. This would allow for a dialogue aiming at a greater mutual understanding and a definition of common stances. In particular, human rights consultations will: (1) assess the main challenges concerning the respect for human rights, democratic principles and the rule of law, (2) advance human rights and democracy policy priorities and (3) identify and whenever possible coordinate policy positions on relevant issues in international fora;
- Encourage an EU-Brazil civil society forum on human rights protection and respect for democratic principles, with the objective of promoting better understanding of mutual concerns at the level of non-state actors;
- Identify and promote specific cooperation projects aimed at achieving tangible results in this sphere, with a view to promote human rights, including those of the individuals belonging to the most vulnerable groups;
- Cooperate on human rights issues in developing countries through triangular cooperation, for instance by using existing instruments such as the EC Agreement with the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP);

- Work together to achieve universality and preserve the integrity of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court;
- Cooperate towards reinforcing the credibility and effectiveness of the International Criminal Court.

2. Strengthening the multilateral system

As global actors in a multipolar world, the EU and Brazil concur that the best way to deal with global issues is through a strengthened multilateral system placing the United Nations at its centre. They reiterate their commitment to a comprehensive reform and revitalization of the UN in order to reinforce its democratic nature, representativeness, transparency, accountability and efficiency. To that end, Brazil and the EU recognize the need to pursue the reform of the main UN bodies, among them the General Assembly, ECOSOC and the Security Council with a view to enhancing the representativeness, transparency and effectiveness of the system.

The Parties reiterate the political importance and strategic significance they confer to the multilateral system and understand that the UN must be equipped with the means necessary to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and to deal effectively with challenges such as promotion of human rights, gender equality, children's rights, social inclusion, climate change and sustainable development, fight against poverty and hunger, energy security, migration, world trade, disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, fight against terrorism. To this end, Brazil and the EU agree to:

- Maintain the High Level Political Dialogue on all issues of mutual interest, regional and international, and make full use of opportunities for contacts between Brazilian Ministers and their EU counterparts on issues of mutual relevance;
- Continue to collaborate in international fora and to consult on themes of the agendas of multilateral meetings so as to promote reciprocal support and eventually develop joint initiatives. To this end, Permanent Representatives in New York and Geneva will hold regular consultations on issues prior to the UN General Assembly, its specialized agencies and bodies' meetings;

- Work together on negotiations and implementation of the outcome of major international conferences and Summits as appropriate, including in human rights, security, trade, environment, sustainable development, and social and labour policies;
- Continue the coordination on the reform of the United Nations.

3. Disarmament, non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and security dialogue

Brazil and the EU agree to work together to address the issues of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, in particular regarding nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery, trafficking of small arms, light weapons and ammunition. They agree on the importance of complying with obligations under existing international disarmament and non-proliferation treaties.

To this end, they will:

- Support and promote the full implementation of their existing commitments assumed under the international non-proliferation and disarmament treaties and agreements and other relevant international obligations, bearing in mind the three main objectives of the Non-Proliferation Treaty: non-proliferation, disarmament and the right to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes;
- Take steps to sign, ratify, or accede to, as appropriate, and fully implement all other relevant international instruments;
- Cooperate in promoting the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and in seeking the immediate launching of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on a fissile material cut-off treaty;
- Cooperate on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction as well as their means of delivery including through implementing UNSC Resolution 1540 (2004), ensuring full compliance with existing national and international obligations and promoting the accession to and implementation of relevant international instruments;
- Further develop cooperation in the prevention of and fight against the illicit trafficking of WMD-related materials;

- Cooperate on developing effective national systems of export control, controlling export and transit of WMD-related materials, including effective end-use control on dual use of technologies;
- Improve the overall coordination in the disarmament and non-proliferation area and examine risks and threats related to WMD and assess the scope of cooperation by addressing them, continuing and enhancing the thematic dialogue through regular consultations at the Brazil-EU Troika meetings;
- Co-operate in combating destabilizing accumulation and illicit trade of small arms and light weapons (SALW) and their ammunition.

4. Conflict prevention and crisis management

The EU and Brazil will endeavour to strengthen the multilateral conflict prevention and crisis management capabilities at the UN, in regional organizations and the bilateral level, by means of:

- Integrating the different aspects of crisis management and conflict prevention;
- Common assessment of ongoing and emerging crises as a basis for formulating common approaches within international institutions;
- Coordinating efforts in United Nations peacekeeping and stabilization operations.

5. Peacebuilding and post-conflict assistance

The EU and Brazil share the view that the international community should engage in a dialogue on peacebuilding activities in countries that are on the verge of or emerging from conflict or crisis situations. Both parties agree that the participation of women in these activities should be improved.

Regarding peacebuilding and post-conflict assistance in the future, the Parties resolve to:

- Join efforts for the establishment of the foundations for peace, by means of the strengthening of the political institutions and the promotion of socio-economic development of countries;

- Avail themselves of opportunities for coordinating positions and for cooperation in the context of the UN Peacebuilding Commission (PBC);
- Enhance donor coordination processes in the field to ensure ownership of the national authorities;
- Strengthen cooperation on gender perspectives of peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction, and on children, through enhanced implementation of UNSC Resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security, and UNSC Resolution 1612 (2006) on children in armed conflict;
- Cooperate in the context of peacebuilding and post-conflict assistance in interested lusophone developing countries through triangular cooperation, for instance by using existing instruments, such as the EC Agreement with the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP);
- Coordinate to improve national and international capabilities to tackle conflict and its multiple root causes, including through improving institutional coherence at the UN in the field of peacebuilding;
- Exchange lessons learned in the area of post-conflict reconstruction, particularly regarding Haiti;
- Establish a local dialogue in Haiti on the feasibility of engaging in tripartite cooperation and seek to use lessons learned in that context in other areas, such as Guinea-Bissau.

6. Fight against terrorism

The EU and Brazil will cooperate in the prevention and suppression of acts of terrorism, in accordance with international human rights, humanitarian and refugee law, relevant international conventions and instruments, the relevant UN resolutions and their respective legislation and regulations and, in accordance with the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, contained in UN General Assembly Resolution 60/288 of 8 September 2006.

They shall in particular:

- Support international efforts to ensure full respect for international law, in particular human rights law, refugee law, and international humanitarian law in the fight against terrorism;
- Implement the UN global counter-terrorism strategy adopted by the UNGA in September 2006 and ensure full implementation of and universal respect for all relevant UN Security Council Resolutions, in particular 1267 (1999) and 1373 (2001), and all subsequent Resolutions modifying these, UN conventions on terrorism and related protocols;
- Pursue efforts to arrive at a UN Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism;
- Work together to fully implement the nine Financial Action Task Force recommendations on the prevention of and fight against terrorism financing;
- Cooperate on issues of terrorism prevention and use of the Internet for terrorist purposes, in due consideration of the respective internal legislation;
- Explore ways to pursue a dialogue on this matter as appropriate.

7. Preventing and fighting organised crime and corruption

The EU and Brazil agree to cooperate, including in international fora, in fostering the implementation of international standards to combat organized crime and corruption by promoting cooperation in criminal matters and in particular the full implementation of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and supplementary Protocols on the fight against organized crime and the UN Convention against Corruption.

To that end, they agree to:

- Discuss in the framework of UN institutions and bodies (Commission for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), UNGA to ensure that international policies are in line with the principles approved in that framework, including sharing views on draft resolutions for the annual Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) session;
- Cooperate in preventing the use of their financial systems for laundering proceeds arising from criminal activities in general and implementing Financial Action Task Force (FATF/GAFI) recommendations;
- Explore the possibilities of sharing experiences and best practices among Financial Intelligence Units (FIU) of Brazil and EU member countries;
- Express their willingness to offer to interested Latin American countries cooperation in fighting against serious organised crime activities, including with the support of Brazil and EU cooperation programmes;
- Consider involving, in their cooperation activities, inter-agency bilateral exchange of information and best practices on law enforcement;
- Express their interest in bilateral judicial and police cooperation.

8. Prevention and control of illicit drugs and related crime

Based on the principle of shared responsibility and balanced approach between drug supply and demand reduction, and while taking into account the realities of both Parties, cooperation between the EU and Brazil in tackling illicit drug problems should be centred on the exchange of experiences and good practices and the identification of areas in which capacity building and training activities could be mutually extended. The exchange of operational information to enable each Party to request and deliver juridical information, as well as other forms of collaboration, should be explored.

In this framework, they agree to:

- Co-operate in the framework of UN and intergovernmental bodies to ensure that initiatives suggested for adoption in those fora are in line with the principles enshrined in all the three international drug conventions. This cooperation may include sharing views on draft resolutions to be presented to the annual Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) sessions;
- Exchange information, including with a view to exploring possibilities of triangular cooperation with third countries for capacity building;
- Explore the possibilities for cooperation on exchanging information on the world drug situation, with a view to develop joint strategies to combat drugs and related crime;
- Promote joint efforts to develop cooperation at the bilateral level to fight against drugs trafficking and serious organised crime activities and contribute to the setting up of drugs monitoring capabilities;
- Support the Mechanism for Coordination and Cooperation on Drug Matters between the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean as a key forum for dialogue between both regions in the area of drugs.

II. ENHANCING THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERSHIP TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

1. Fostering the Economic Partnership

1.1. World Trade Organization/Doha Development Agenda

Brazil and the EU reaffirm their strong commitment to the successful conclusion of the World Trade Organization's Doha Development Round. They also confirm their willingness to reach an ambitious, comprehensive and balanced agreement that fulfills the development objectives of the Round and significantly fosters trade flows in agriculture, industrial goods and services among and between developed and developing countries, as well as promotes effective trade rules. In the light of those objectives, Brazil and the EU will endeavour to:

- Keep up their contacts in the different domains of the WTO negotiation, so as to find solutions that promote the successful conclusion of the Round.

1.2. Development of trade, investment and business relations

Brazil and the EU concur that the promotion of trade liberalization and the facilitation of trade and of investment flows will foster the economic growth and prosperity of their societies. To that end, Brazil and the EU agree to:

- Facilitate the exchange of information that allows both sides to take advantage of reciprocal opportunities for public and private investments;
- Reinforce the dialogue on investment and trade in the framework of the Joint Committee and increase the frequency of these meetings with, upon agreement between Brazil and the European Commission, intermediate follow-up meetings;
- Establish a consultation mechanism on Sanitary and Phytosanitary issues (SPS) in view of deepening cooperation and increasing mutual understanding of the respective SPS conditions that may affect trade;
- Conduct pilot sectoral industrial and regulatory dialogues, complementing the relevant EU-Mercosur discussions, starting with the following sectors: textiles and clothing; forest-based products; steel; non-ferrous metals and minerals;

- Encourage the regular organization of Brazil-EU Business Summits involving also small and medium enterprises (SMEs) with a view to reinforcing business to government dialogue.

1.3. Intellectual Property Rights

Concerning intellectual property, both sides are committed to working out a mutually agreed and balanced approach to enforcement of intellectual property rights, which can provide the basis for the promotion of innovation and the establishment of an objective dialogue on the common challenge of fighting piracy and counterfeiting in their territories.

1.4. Economic and financial affairs

Brazil and the EU decide to:

- Coordinate efforts with a view to contributing to the reform of the world's financial architecture so as to prevent financial crises in the future;
- Launch a regular high-level dialogue and enhance co-ordination on macro-economic and financial issues. The first meeting of this dialogue could take place in 2009;
- Promote greater co-operation between the European Investment Bank (EIB) and counterparts in Brazil, notably Banco Nacional de Desenvolvimento Econômico e Social (BNDES), in areas of mutual interest, including climate change, energy and infrastructure. In this respect, the new external lending mandate of the EIB offers increased opportunities.

1.5. Air and Maritime Transport

In the air transport sector, both Parties underline the importance of further strengthening cooperation between Brazil and the EU in aviation matters. Both sides confirm their mutual interest in a horizontal agreement in the field of air transport between Brazil and the EU, as well as a Brazil-EU agreement on aviation safety, with a view to signing both at a suitable occasion agreed by both sides.

Furthermore, Brazil and the EU intend to:

- Stimulate the exchange of information regarding air transport policies;
- Explore the potential for cooperation in other areas of air transport policies, such as the SESAR project for the modernization of air traffic management.

In the maritime transport sector, Brazil and the EU intend to:

- Further develop all aspects of the Maritime Transport Policy Dialogue;
- Exchange views and information on a permanent basis with a view to improving the operations for Brazilian and EU shipping companies and facilitating maritime transport to and from Brazil and the EU;
- Examine and develop cooperation possibilities in important areas including ports, inland waterway transport, infrastructure, dredging, maritime safety, and security, particularly with a view to facilitate trade;
- Discuss approaches in relevant international organizations.

1.6. Information society

Brazil and the EU are committed to the building of the people-centred, non-discriminatory and development-oriented Information Society envisaged by the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) outcomes, as well as with the establishment of multilateral, transparent and democratic multi-stakeholder mechanisms for the governance of the global Internet. The EU and Brazil share the understanding that Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) are essential to foster innovation, competitiveness and economic growth, to create jobs and to increase the efficiency of the public sector. Moreover, ICT have a fundamental role in promoting digital inclusion and improving social cohesion, increasing the quality of life and reducing poverty. In this context, Brazil and the EU agree to:

- Work in close co-ordination in all relevant international fora in order to facilitate the full implementation of all WSIS outcomes;
- Expand the bilateral dialogue and cooperation on ICT matters, encompassing policy, regulatory and research issues. This collaboration will contribute to ensure a stable regulatory framework in this sector, which will set the conditions to take full advantage of ICT in support of public policies and social welfare;
- Develop cooperation in relevant scientific and technological ICT areas of common interest in the context of the implementation of the Brazil-EU Agreement for Scientific and Technological Cooperation, in particular by enhancing collaboration within the 7th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development, and by raising awareness through workshops, seminars and joint activities;
- Promote exchanges on e-infrastructures for networking and access to the electronic services between research libraries and data archives.

2. Achieving Millennium Development Goals and promoting social cohesion and inclusion

2.1. Bilateral dialogue on global development and cooperation with third countries

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are a shared priority in order to reduce economic and social disparities as well as to ensure international peace, economic well-being of all citizens and comprehensive human development. Both Brazil and the EU play an active role in multilateral fora and should continue to cooperate to effectively contribute to the achievement of all Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

The EU and Brazil are convinced that by joining their forces, they can improve progress towards these shared priorities. Therefore, the EU and Brazil attach high importance to the role of triangular cooperation that should be one of the major areas for the Strategic Partnership.

In the context of the Global Action Against Hunger and Poverty, continued discussion on the establishment of innovative financing mechanisms for development is needed. Optimizing available resources is necessary, as well as mobilizing new and additional, adequate and predictable resources, especially for the poorest countries.

The EU as the world's largest grant donor and Brazil as an increasingly engaged actor in the developing world will join efforts in bringing development skills and prosperity to developing countries. To that end, Brazil and the EU will:

- Intensify efforts towards development and cooperation in innovative financing mechanisms, as exemplified by the successful cases of UNITAID and International Finance Facility for Immunisation (IFFIM);
- Exchange views and positions aiming to increase the effectiveness and volume of resources provided by international financing institutions to developing countries;
- Strengthen the dialogue and cooperation on humanitarian affairs, including the exchange of information on humanitarian action and best practices in a wide range of areas in an effort to assuring effective humanitarian assistance with the overall objective of responding to needs and reducing human suffering in humanitarian situations;

- Actively promote better coordination amongst donors and other development partners and seek increased coherence between international development fora. Joint activities will be based on the Accra Agenda for Action of September 2008;
- Develop triangular cooperation to support the achievement of MDGs, including the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, notably through the promotion of full and productive employment and decent work for all, the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women, the achievement of universal primary education, inclusion and social cohesion to the benefit of developing countries which express interest in this type of cooperation;
- Intensify exchanges on South-South cooperation based on the Brazilian model of community participation in the health strategy, on successful slum renewal in metropolitan areas and on access to equitable basic social protection systems. Cooperate in sharing relevant best practices with other countries for fighting diseases, notably HIV/AIDS, by strengthening the action of the International Centre for Technical Cooperation on HIV/AIDS (ICTC – a joint venture of the Brazilian government and UNAIDS);
- Explore opportunities for triangular cooperation with developing countries in sectors such as the health sector, notably with a view to the local generic production of essential medicines;
- Explore opportunities for triangular cooperation with developing countries in the field of agriculture, through promotion of innovation leading to a more efficient production within African countries;
- Intensify exchanges on South-South cooperation in education and lifelong learning, particularly on successful models in use in Brazil for expanding access to education for the most excluded groups of children, youth and adults as well as on holistic approaches to education sector development and capacity building;
- Coordinate positions and actions to allow quick responses to humanitarian crises and in situations of natural catastrophe.

2.2. Social and employment issues

The EU and Brazil are committed to combat child and forced labour, promote social development, full, freely chosen and productive employment for both women and men, decent work with effective respect for fundamental principles, fair wages and rights at work. The EU and Brazil share a common interest in reinforcing their dialogue on labour and social policies to define effective solutions appropriate for each region, in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding signed in April 2008. Brazil and the EU are committed to:

- Promote full, freely chosen and productive employment for both women and men;
- Strengthen the decent work agenda, in particular with regards to fundamental principles, fair wages and rights at work;
- Combat child and forced labour;
- Develop cooperation and exchanges in the field of active labour market policies and instruments, including career guidance and lifelong learning opportunities;
- Cooperate in the field of health and safety in the workplace;
- Strengthen cooperation and dialogue in the field of social security systems, especially by extending them to atypical and precarious workers;
- Support dialogue and exchange of best practices in the field of corporate social responsibility and codes of fair conduct in corporations with a special view to ISO 26000 developments;
- Exchange best practices in the field of the ageing societies and demographic change;
- Exchange best practices in social inclusion, in particular with regards to minorities;
- Define and implement a rolling calendar for the current EU-Brazil dialogue on social policies.

2.3. Reduce regional disparities

The reduction of regional disparities is at the heart of the EU's and Brazil's internal policies. The EU and Brazil propose to intensify the Dialogue on Regional Policy, selecting as priorities:

- Exchange experience on territorial cohesion and multi-level governance and partnership involving regional and local actors, private sector and civil society;
- Exchange experience on strategic planning and organizing territorial development strategies to reduce social and regional disparities;
- Exchange experience on development of administrative capacity, inter-institutional coordination and communication, monitoring and evaluation capacity;
- Develop co-operation schemes between regions, including cross-border cooperation;
- Stimulate technical support for the development and consolidation of regional policies including possible implementation of pilot projects involving key areas of the Brazilian National Regional Development Policy (Política Nacional de Desenvolvimento Regional – PNDR) and the European Commission regional policy.

2.4. Institutional strengthening and state modernization

Brazil and the EU agree to:

- Continue the exchange of experience and cooperation in the area of modernization of public administration, through the development of capacity building activities in the Executive, Legislative and Judicial branches;
- Foster the exchange of information and experts as well as the preparation of comparative studies;
- Establish a dialogue on Public Sector Governance whose themes shall be duly agreed by the Parties;
- Develop activities under a technical cooperation project to support the current and future dialogues.

3. Promoting an environmental partnership for sustainable development

Both Brazil and the EU are key partners for pressing for greater international action to respond to global environmental challenges, in particular climate change; desertification; biodiversity and forests, including their sustainable use. The Action Plan will endeavour to approach sustainable development in an integrated way.

Brazil and the EU will cooperate in the comprehensive process launched in Bali to enable the full, effective and sustained implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) through long-term cooperative action, now, up to and beyond 2012. Brazil and the EU will work together to help reach an ambitious and global agreed outcome by 2009 for strengthening international cooperation on climate change through a global effort under the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol frameworks. To that end, they underline the importance of attaining results in relation to all components of the Bali Action Plan adopted in December 2007 (e.g. shared vision, mitigation, adaptation, technologies, financing), giving serious consideration to ambitious IPCC scenarios, and taking into account the principle of equity. They highlight the need for all developed countries to take the lead by committing to ambitious and comparable legally-binding emission reduction targets and for developing countries to take nationally appropriate mitigation actions in the context of sustainable development, supported and enabled by technology, financing and capacity building, in a measurable, reportable and verifiable manner. Brazil and the EU stress the need for timely action by the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Kyoto Protocol to comply with its work program by the end of 2009. They recognize that substantive progress in this field must be based on the ultimate goal of the Convention and on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

In relation to forest issues, Brazil and the EU agree to promote sustainable forest management at all levels and exchange experience on best practices and measures to prevent and combat illicit trafficking in forest products, including timber, wildlife and other forest biological resources. They reaffirm their support to the work of the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF) and the full implementation of its decisions as well as other relevant international instruments to which they are parties. They support the protection and use of traditional forest-related knowledge and practices in sustainable forest management under mutually agreed terms and with the prior informed consent of the holders of such knowledge, and promote the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from their utilization, in accordance with national legislation and relevant international agreements.

In relation to biodiversity, Brazil and the EU reaffirm the need to enhance their mutual efforts in implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in order to achieve its three objectives and the global target to significantly reduce the current rate of biodiversity loss by 2010. They will take into account the principles set out in the Rio Declaration and other internationally agreed instruments. Brazil and the EU reaffirm their commitment to finalize the negotiation of and to adopt the international regime on access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing (ABS) as agreed at the Ninth Conference of the Parties of CBD so that it can be submitted for consideration and adoption by the Tenth Conference of the Parties in October 2010.

Brazil and the EU agree that the meetings of the Dialogue on the Environment Dimension of Sustainable Development and Climate Change take place at the level of senior officials, whenever possible at ministerial level. Simultaneously, discussions on technical level will take place.

In addition, Brazil and the EU decide to:

- Deepen, as appropriate, political dialogue on the strengthening of international environmental governance;
- Strengthen cooperation in the field of water resources through training, promotion of best practices in the areas of supply and basic sanitation, reinforcement of institutions from local, regional and national authorities with a view to better planning;
- Advance the implementation of the CBD, in particular in cooperating to implement National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans aimed at significantly reducing biodiversity loss by 2010;
- Strengthen the CBD, including through the timely conclusion of negotiations for the regime on access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing (ABS); the enhanced implementation of the CBD programmes of work on sustainable use, protected areas, forest, and marine biodiversity and the strengthening of the operations of the Convention including through improved scientific evidence building within the CBD's Subsidiary Body;
- Strengthen cooperation on the Cartagena Protocol on biosafety with a view to advancing its implementation;
- Strengthen international cooperation on the conservation and sustainable management of all types of forests and enhance the action under the UNFF, as well as the other relevant international instruments to which they are parties;

- Strengthen their cooperation and support ongoing efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and forests degradation, in accordance with decision 2/CP.13 of the Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC;
- Exchange experiences on the sustainable management of forests and forest law enforcement;
- Work towards an ambitious and global agreed outcome by 2009 to combat climate change through a global effort within the framework of the UNFCCC;
- Foster joint research in the area of climate science, with particular emphasis on the identification of vulnerabilities and adaptation;
- Further explore the potential of research and technology co-operation and options for technology transfer as an incentive to further action;
- Strengthen the implementation of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal;
- Strengthen the implementation of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent, as well as of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), and support international efforts to address mercury pollution;
- Carry out training and capacity building activities in developing countries on the design and implementation of projects in the context of the Clean Development Mechanism of the Kyoto Protocol;
- Carry out training and capacity building activities with a view to the conservation and sustainable management of forests and marine ecosystems.

4. Strengthening cooperation on energy issues

Both Brazil and the EU recognize the need to work towards achieving sustainable and reliable energy supplies.

They view the promotion of renewable energy and the efforts aimed at improving both energy efficiency and access to energy as an important contribution to fulfilling sustainable development needs as well as achieving greater energy security.

Such policies should also facilitate the development of more efficient far-reaching, socially inclusive and lower carbon energy technologies alternative to fossil fuels with a positive impact in terms of reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, with a particular emphasis on safety and sustainability.

The political commitment by the EU and Brazil leaders to increase the sustainable production and use of renewable energies including sustainable biofuels offers economic opportunities to both sides.

Within the framework of the Brazil-EC regular Energy Policy Dialogue, the two sides intend to strengthen cooperation on issues such as:

- Major international energy developments;
- Policies to improve energy security, including diversification of supply and of supply routes;
- Regulatory issues for competitive energy markets, including investment opportunities;
- Energy efficiency and demand management, including joint initiatives and joint work to promote access to energy and energy efficiency at the international level;
- Low carbon technologies including *inter alia* gas and clean coal, as well as research on nuclear energy and cooperation on nuclear safety, paying particular attention to safe and sustainable technologies;

- Development and deployment of renewable energy technologies, including second-generation biofuels;
- Promotion of the consolidation of national, regional and international markets for biofuels;
- International technical standards for biofuels;
- Sustainability for biofuels and the promotion of scientific studies and technological innovation aimed at guaranteeing long term sustainability of bioenergy production without adversely affecting the production of food crops and biodiversity;
- Safety and security of vulnerable energy infrastructures;
- Other cooperation fields as mutually agreed upon.

III. PROMOTING REGIONAL COOPERATION

1. Advancing EU-LAC cooperation

The stability and prosperity of Latin America and the Caribbean and Europe are paramount to Brazil and the EU. Brazil and the EU agree to work together in the context of their Strategic Partnership to the strengthening of political, economic and cultural biregional relations. Brazil and the EU will combine their efforts to:

- Support inter-regional initiatives that enhance the regional integration, notably the EU-LAC process;
- Uphold a regular exchange of views on the situation in both regions;
- Promote the implementation of commitments generated by the EU-LAC Summits;
- Reinforce exchanges about key policies to promote social inclusion, and reduce poverty and inequality;
- Continue to consult and coordinate in matters of mutual interest in the context of the Rio Group-EU Ministerial Dialogue.

2. Advancing the Mercosur-European Union agenda

The EU-Brazil Strategic Partnership has a strong potential to impact positively on the EU and on Brazil, and on relations between the EU and Mercosur as a whole. Brazil and the EU attribute great importance to strengthening the relations between both regions and are engaged in resuming and concluding the negotiating process of a balanced and comprehensive biregional Association Agreement. This Agreement will allow further deepening of the economic relations as well as the trade and investment flows between both regions – an issue of major importance for both sides and of relevance to the strengthening of the regional integration processes. To this intent, Brazil and the EU agree to:

- Continue to work towards the conclusion of a balanced and comprehensive EU-Mercosur agreement;
- Support the political dialogue as well as other initiatives to strengthen development and economic cooperation between the two regions. Brazil and the EU agree that it is important to strengthen the regulatory and industrial dialogue between both regions in order to improve the business environment and help overcome unnecessary obstacles to trade;
- Explore together how to maximise co-operation and exchange of experiences in regional integration questions;
- Foster collaboration between the Parliament of Mercosur and the European Parliament.

IV. PROMOTING SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

The EU and Brazil share the conviction that a strong science and knowledge-based society is a major prerequisite for sustainable and equitable socio-economic development. The Agreement for Scientific and Technological Cooperation, in force since 2006 between the EU and the Federal Republic of Brazil, provides the main framework for action. In the context of the Agreement, the Parties reaffirm the value they attach to the work of the Steering Committee on Cooperation in Science and Technology (SCC).

Joint work between Brazilian and European institutions and companies should be promoted and supported with the aim of reaching progress in research and technological development, especially to foster innovative technologies oriented to the production of goods and services.

The priority areas for cooperation should be: social sciences and humanities, e - infrastructure, energy, cross-sectional studies, training and development of human resources, researcher exchanges, environment and climate change, nanotechnology and materials, health, safety, information and communication technologies, transport, food, agriculture, fisheries and biotechnology.

In that context, Brazil and the EU agree to foster cooperation on science, technology and innovation under the guidelines of the Agreement, by:

- Pursuing negotiations for launching public calls for the joint selection and funding of research and development projects in areas of common interest;
- Encouraging partnerships, joint activities, the creation of networks, exchange and mobility of researchers between Brazilian and European institutions and teams;
- Exchanging experience and relevant information that support and strengthen the priority sectors in both Parties and that contribute to sustainable development, economic growth and social inclusion;
- Promoting strategies for increasing participation by Brazilian researchers, universities, institutions and industries in the 7th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (RTD) and other relevant EU programmes;
- Exploring modalities for participation of European researchers, universities, institutions and industries in relevant Brazilian research programmes;
- Enhancing the effectiveness of the dialogue in science and technology by improving mechanisms of co-ordination and diffusion of information;
- Fostering cooperation to provide long term stability and sustainability for Latin American regional research networking (Clara Network);

- Developing cooperation in the field of outer space and satellite navigation and, in particular, to intensify the dialogue and the exchange of information, regarding the European Satellite Navigation Programmes (Galileo and EGNOS) and comparable initiatives in Brazil, and to examine the possibility of negotiating a future international agreement;
- Strengthening cooperation between the EC and Brazil in the area of Earth Observation, in particular through participation in the GEO (Group on Earth Observation) Initiative;
- Exploring opportunities for cooperation on research for peaceful use of nuclear energy, particularly by examining the possibility to launch negotiations on a co-operation agreement in the field of research on fusion energy between Brazil and the EAEC (EURATOM), which would among others, facilitate supporting the interest of access by Brazil to the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) project.

V. PROMOTING PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE CONTACTS AND CULTURAL EXCHANGES

1. Migration, Visa and Consular issues

Migration, people-to-people contacts and consular issues are increasingly important in the context of globalization, given the large-scale movement of people from region to region. It is therefore important to continue to address the whole range of migration issues such as regular migration, irregular migration and links between migration and development, within the framework of their bilateral relations and the international fora where both the EU and Brazil participate, taking into account the human rights and dignity of all migrants. Brazil and Europe recognize the positive role of migration as a factor of human and economic exchange in countries of both origin and destination.

In this context, given the existence of large migrant communities both in Brazil and in the EU, the Parties agree to strengthen the dialogue on migration issues within the existing EU-Brazil fora and propose to work more specifically on:

- Fostering links between migration and development and promoting the contribution of diasporas to the growth and development of both countries of origin and destination;

- Working in the field of remittances in order to facilitate their transfer and find suitable mechanisms for the reduction of their transfer costs;
- Promoting policies for a better organization of regular migration flows and effectively addressing all the dimensions of the issue of irregular migration and all aspects of return in full respect of human rights;
- Increasing the operational cooperation in order to combat the smuggling of persons, the trafficking in human beings and the exploitation of migrants;
- Ensuring visa free travel swiftly, fully respecting the completion of the respective parliamentary and other internal procedures, on a basis of reciprocity, by negotiating and finalizing in the near future a short stay visa waiver agreement(s) between the EC and Brazil, on the basis of the proposals exchanged. According to Protocol 4 annexed to the Amsterdam Treaty, the UK and Ireland shall not be bound by such a visa waiver agreement;
- Continuing to cooperate on consular issues, especially those related to consular access, assistance and protection. In particular, special attention will be given to ensuring that consulates are informed in case of arrest, detention or transfer of their nationals. Detainees in police stations, airports and border crossings should also be given access to consular assistance.

2. Education and youth

Brazil and the EU intend to strengthen exchanges and cooperation in the areas of formal and non formal education deemed of common interest. Both parties agree to build on existing programmes and instruments to, *inter alia*:

- Develop and strengthen a sectoral policy dialogue on education, youth and sport which will cover issues of common interest;
- Promote cooperation and exchanges in higher education and the mobility of students, teachers and researchers through the implementation of programmes such as Erasmus Mundus, in line with the spirit of the LAC-EU Common Higher Education Area (ALCUE);
- Intensify the exchange of information and experience for the improvement of academic evaluation systems;

- Exchange good practices and information for identifying successful methods for teaching and learning science, in order to increase participation in science education;
- Promote the exchange of best practices in the fields of vocational, technical and professional training;
- Promote the exchange of experiences in the educational integration of minorities and people with special needs, among other vulnerable groups;
- Promote collaboration between high level institutions (universities, research institutes, diplomatic academies, think tanks, etc) in the areas of specialised European and Brazilian studies and International Relations;
- Encourage the organisation of higher education fairs, seminars and conferences in Brazil and in the EU to contribute to improving recognition, transparency and mutual awareness of the respective education systems;
- Explore possibilities to promote multilingualism in the educational and university systems of each Party and favour the teaching of the other Party's languages.

3. Culture

Both Brazil and the EU are committed to the preservation and promotion of cultural diversity, to the enhancement of intercultural dialogue and to the fostering of cultural and creative industries. The Parties will endeavour to jointly address these questions at the institutional level, at the level of public and private sectors, as well as at the level of civil society organizations.

Cultural cooperation may include, *inter alia*:

- The development of a regular dialogue on cultural policies, including creative and cultural industries;
- Joint work to promote cooperation in international instances, to facilitate the efficient implementation of the 2005 UNESCO Convention;
- The promotion of social inclusion and sustainable development by improving access to culture, including through the use of information, communication and new digital technologies;

- Appropriate measures to promote cultural exchanges and possible joint initiatives so as to increase awareness of Brazilian culture in Europe and European culture in Brazil;
- Promote cooperation in the field of culture, including actions in favour of policy development and cultural activities at local level;
- Cooperation and exchange in the field of cultural heritage, envisaging the preservation of cultural goods and expressions, including cooperation within the museum sector;
- Facilitation of mobility of art and artists from the EU and Brazil;
- Exploration of forms of cooperation in developing public policies in the audiovisual field.

4. Civil society

The EU and Brazil are aware of the importance of consolidating the democratic instruments for consulting civil society, in particular the institutions representing civil society organizations in the economic and social sphere, while making optimum use of existing organizations. Cooperation should be encouraged between the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) and the Brazilian Council for Economic and Social Development (CDES).

On that basis, Brazil and the EU will seek to:

- Deepen cooperation between the EESC and the CDES on the basis of the existing Memorandum of Understanding between them;
- Request the EESC and the CDES to set up an EU-Brazil civil society Round Table that will be part of the institutional architecture of the EU-Brazil relationship. This joint body is conceived as a permanent forum of dialogue at civil society level on all the issues that are discussed within the EU-Brazil Partnership. Its recommendations will be addressed to the EU-Brazil Heads of State Summits;
- Promote cooperation, exchanges of experience and good practices between business associations, trade unions, farmers, and other civil society organizations from both parties.

5. Promotion of interparliamentary exchange and interaction

Brazil and the EU will:

- Work towards the establishment of a regular structured dialogue between the Members of the Brazilian National Congress and of the European Parliament;
- Promote direct contacts at the level of the relevant parliamentary Committees on all subjects of common interest.

6. Mutual visibility

Brazil and the EU decide to:

- Encourage reciprocal press coverage and journalistic exchange;
- Organize conferences and short courses for journalists on a reciprocal basis;
- Ensure proper visibility and communication, notably through the Internet or any other adequate means, as agreed by both parties, to the objectives and actions developed under the Strategic Partnership, as well as to other areas of the cooperation between Brazil and the EU.

The present Joint Action Plan was adopted in Rio de Janeiro on the 22nd of December 2008, on the occasion of the II Brazil – European Union Summit.
