

## **Joint declaration on the occasion of the Latin America-Caribbean Conference in Berlin on 28 May 2019**

We, the participating countries of Latin America and the Caribbean as well as Germany, desire to strengthen our relations – and deepen cooperation in selected areas. We are in an excellent position to do so, as our relations rest on a firm foundation. Our countries have strong cultural ties. We share many common values, and democracy and the rule of law underpin the political systems in both Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean.

We have similar interests in key policy areas that will shape our future. We wish to intensify our joint efforts to maintain and develop the multilateral, rules-based international order, firmly committed to the promotion of democracy and human rights. Moreover, we will further enhance our economic cooperation, our collaboration in the spheres of science, research and higher education, migration, creative industries, and our efforts to address the digital revolution, combat climate change and deforestation, cognizant of the Paris Agreement, promote equality, the participation and the protection of women, promote the rule of law and human rights, as well as ensure broad access to quality education and culture. We welcome and support the expansion of parliamentary exchange between Germany and the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

With the Latin America-Caribbean Conference in Berlin on 28 May 2019 and the founding of the UNIDAS women's network, at the initiative of Germany, a way ahead has been mapped out for the further deepening and expanding of our relations. The results of our meeting will provide impetus for our joint measures and future events. We will tailor these activities to the individual interests and priorities of each country. Germany will seek to have these aspects taken into account at the level of the EU and will cooperate closely with its European partners in the context of this Latin America-Caribbean Initiative.

Together, we have selected a number of joint initiatives we intend to promote

1. **Deepen cooperation in the sphere of foreign and security policy:** We will intensify our cooperation in numerous policy areas – particularly in the context of the United Nations and with a view to strengthening multilateral, regional, and bilateral relations, and as we pursue climate diplomacy and address the digital transformation, Industrie 4.0, conflict prevention and stabilisation. In addition to intensified cooperation within existing fora and formats, recurring joint conferences will be held at Foreign Minister level.
2. **Promote democracy and the rule of law:** The prevalence of democracy and rule of law cannot be taken for granted anywhere in the world in light of enduring challenges. Thus, we should strengthen our cooperation and dialogue by establishing permanent discussions of ideas and of our national experiences regarding the functioning of democratic checks and balances.
3. **Promote equality, participation and the protection of women:** We will anchor and promote gender equality, participation and the protection of women as elements of foreign and security policy in the relevant regional and multilateral contexts. We highlight the establishment of the women's network UNIDAS; it is committed to societies of equal opportunity and will further strengthen our ties at civil society level. The aim of the network is to strengthen women's participation and leadership in the media, society, culture, business and science, among others. The network will also present an annual award to organisations and individuals for special commitment to women's rights and democracy.

4. **Combat climate change together:** Climate change urgently calls for international action and joint initiatives, cognizant of the Paris Agreement, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as well as the effects of greenhouse gases, and to adapt to the changes that are increasingly being felt by people around the world. In this sphere, we will seek to forge strategic alliances and global partnerships with a view to promoting suitable joint action. A special focus will be supporting climate adaptation in countries most vulnerable to its effects, including in the Caribbean and the Central American region.
5. **Fight violence:** A strong rule of law and functioning judicial institutions are important components of a democratic constitution. A society must have legal certainty if it is to have peace. Where challenges to law and order exist, we will work together to strengthen the rule of law, prevent violence and fight transnational organised crime and corruption; we will employ various instruments for this purpose, including dialogue programmes, sharing experiences, and consulting and further training formats as well as technical assistance.
6. **Harness economic potential:** We stress the importance of sustained, inclusive and sustainable growth and development. To this end, we will continue to intensify our economic cooperation. We are guided by the principle that a free market and a fair, inclusive, transparent, and rules-based multilateral trading system spreads prosperity and strengthens our relations. To further this goal, we envision a high-level economic forum of the participating countries that brings together government authorities and business leaders to improve the structural and political conditions for increasing and diversifying investment and expanding trade relations in both directions.
7. **Strengthen science partnerships and cultural exchange:** For many years now, our countries have enjoyed close ties in the spheres of science and research. We also have a long and successful history of academic exchange. We will further expand on these cooperative approaches through theme-based alliances and more closely interconnect our scientific, research and higher education institutions, so that we can together tackle the important issues of tomorrow. Moreover, we will make better use of the potential of our cultural and creative industries to provide social impetus, serve as a platform for dialogue, exchange and cooperation and promote mutual understanding. Finally, we will strengthen the area of language training and conduct an exchange related to the dual system of vocational training.
8. **Shape the digital transformation:** Together, we intend to use the manifold opportunities, and minimise the risks, of the digital revolution that arise with regard to our societies. In close cooperation, we will seek to exchange experiences and develop joint projects, also by employing regulatory instruments. We will act on a global scale and mutually support each other with a view to ensuring the free and universal access to as well as the freedom of the internet, protecting our networks against outside attacks and setting standards that reflect our common values in the digital sphere, and continual preparation of our labor force to deal with the future of work. Under the heading of the conference “Future Affairs”, we will meet with experts to jointly examine the digital revolution’s political and societal impact around the world. We will

also introduce our ideas into the international dialogue at the Internet Governance Forum later this year.

We intend to continue the dialogue that we have begun today in Berlin, and we endeavour to meet every two years, alternating between Latin America and the Caribbean and Germany.

Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Germany, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay.

Berlin, 28 May 2019