

Thirteenth Meeting
October 18, 2004
Montevideo - Uruguay

ALADI/CM/Resolution 60 (XIII)
October 18, 2004

RESOLUTION 60 (XIII)

THE ROLE OF THE ALADI AND ITS RUNNING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND CONSOLIDATION OF THE REGIONAL INTEGRATION PROCESS

THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS,

HAVING SEEN the 1980 Montevideo Treaty, Resolutions 55 and 56 (XII), the Report of the Committee of Representatives entitled "*Bases de un programa para la conformación progresiva de un Espacio de Libre Comercio en la ALADI en la perspectiva de alcanzar el objetivo previsto en el Tratado*" (Basis of a Programme for the Progressive Constitution of a Free-Trade Area within the ALADI with the prospect of achieving the aim of the Treaty), and the Political Declaration of the Council,

HAVING CONSIDERED That the important political, economical, commercial and social changes that took place in the international scene since the signature of the 1980 Montevideo Treaty create challenges that calls for a decisive political commitment of the Latin-American countries in order to deepen and consolidate the regional integration process as a priority instrument, which allows to achieve an harmonic and balanced development of the region in the institutional, economic and social areas,

That the regional situation, its asymmetries, the unequal exchange with other regions and the inequitable condition of the international economic relations, added to the obstacles to the access to information, knowledge and technology, demands for a more leading and proactive role of the ALADI in order to give an appropriate and efficient solution to the demands and expectations of our countries,

That within this purpose, the goal of gradually and progressively establishing a Latin-American Common Market, stated in the 1980 Montevideo Treaty, is still valid,

That in the current stage of this process the ALADI, as the main institutional framework and regional integration forum, has to develop and consolidate its Free-Trade Area according to the "*Bases de un programa para la conformación progresiva de un espacio de libre comercio en la ALADI en la perspectiva de alcanzar el objetivo previsto en el Tratado de Montevideo 1980*" (Basis

of a Programme for the Progressive Constitution of a Free-Trade Area within the ALADI with the prospect of achieving the aim of the 1980 Montevideo Treaty), approved by this Council, and

That in order to achieve that, it is necessary to establish priorities, to adapt the structure of the General Secretariat and supplement the actions of the Association with the other regional organizations,

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED:

FIRST – The ALADI shall promote and carry out the necessary actions in the political, technical and administrative spheres in order to deepen and consolidate the regional integration, based on the Grounds of the ELC and the related decisions taken by the member countries within the heart of the bodies established in the Treaty.

SECOND – Based on the guidelines and instructions laid down in Resolutions 55 and 56 (XII), the Committee shall continue working on the agenda of the Association – especially regarding the consolidation of ALADI's role as a deliberation and consultation forum – making the necessary readjustment of the budget and the technical and administrative adjustment of the Secretariat in order to provide an increasingly efficient support to the member countries.

THIRD – The Committee shall promote the identification of methods to allow – through a gradual combination and harmonization – the adoption of necessary common rules and disciplines for the development and deepening of the Free-Trade Area of which will make up the trade in services, copyright, protection of traditional knowledge, investments, double taxation, public procurement and competition policies.

FOURTH – The Committee shall continue taking the necessary actions in order to turn the ALADI into a deliberation and consultation forum of the member countries as subjects related to regional integration and trade negotiations concern.

FIFTH – The Committee shall boost the cooperation, coordination, information exchange and joint actions among the member countries in matters such as:

- a) Physical integration - transport, energy, telecommunications – including logistics and customs facilitation.
- b) The development and better use of the information and communication technologies, e-commerce and the competitive insertion of our countries in the information society.
- c) Identification and promotion of efficient regional mechanisms to finance intra and extra-regional trade and the equitable access to international credit according to the economic and financial conditions of the member countries.
- d) The progressive overcoming of problems arising from the existing asymmetries within the ALADI for the full integration of the Relatively Less Economic Developed Countries in the FTA.
- e) A higher participation and commitment of the corporate, labour and other sectors of the society in the integration process. Particularly, the fosterage of the joint

reactivation and coordination of ALADI's Business Advice Council and the Labour Advice Council.

- f) The strengthening of productive integration, especially for the development of ways of business complementation and integrated productive chains, emphasizing the small and medium businesses.
- g) Handling in the ALADI the cultural, educational, scientific and technological subject matters, identifying those aspects that are not covered by other regional organizations.
- h) The creation of mechanisms in order to create in the Association an academic pillar in charge of the cooperation with institutions and study, training and research centres on integration matters.

SIXTH – Through its competent bodies, the ALADI shall have close coordination with the different regional cooperation and integration organizations, especially with the Andean Community and the MERCOSUR. It shall strengthen its connections with the Rio Group in the matters related to the TM80 as well.

SEVENTH – The General Secretariat shall continue concentrating its activities in the following areas and functions, taking into account the priority given to the subjects related to the FTA:

- Technical and Legal Advice to the member countries regarding:
 - a) Trade negotiations
 - b) Agreements signature, registration and certification
 - c) Agreements management
 - d) Dispute settlement
- Statistics and Trade Information
- Studies and Training
- Support System to the Relatively Less Economic Developed Countries
- Cooperation Management
- Spreading of the advantages and achievements of the integration process
- Stimulation of the participation of the corporate, labour and academic sectors

EIGHTH – The ALADI shall adapt its organizational structure to the priorities and functions to be fulfilled in this new stage. Therefore, some adjustments shall be done in order to achieve a higher efficiency, expenditure rationalization and financial sustainability of the Association. The adjustments shall cover, among others, the following aspects:

- a) A way to definitively reach a solution to the indebtedness of the member countries with the ALADI and a financing system to grant its proper running.
- b) Reformulation of the organic and functional structure of the General Secretariat, including the review of the positions and functions taking into account the stipulations of Resolution 255 of the Committee of Representatives.