

From 16 to 18 April 2018, we, the local and regional governments and National Associations of Municipalities of Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru gathered in the city of Riberalta, Department of Beni, Bolivia, for the “Peer Learning Event between Cities: Policies and Plans for Small and Medium-Sized Cities in the Amazon Region”.

This event, led by FLACMA and co-organised by the Vice-Ministry of Autonomies of Bolivia, AMB, OIT, UCLG, and hosted by the Autonomous Municipal Government of Riberalta, emphasised the importance of South-South and Triangular Cooperation between cities to consolidate coordination between small and intermediate cities in the Amazon region.

The Riberalta Declaration

We, the local representatives of the Amazon region, are gathered for the first time with the wish to express our challenges and opportunities, recognise ourselves as being: co-responsible for the protection of the Amazon, a region of global importance and essential for the sustainability of the planet; key actors in the management of our territories, sharing the idea that the Amazon is a region of natural and cultural wealth; and drivers of public policies which respond to the need for sustainable alternatives to the exploitation of resources yielded by the region.

With this context, we declare that:

1. The Amazon region is an area of great natural and human richness which should be protected and held up as a model for peaceful relations between different people, based on a respect for diversity.
2. Subnational governments should work in an integrated way and share a vision for our Amazon region, which would allow for territorial articulation and governance to face our common challenges.



For this reason, we request national and regional authorities, as well as international organisations, to:

1. Create a multi-governance structure which is conducive to cooperation between all levels of government, in order for all members to play an active role in constructing our shared future.
2. Develop models of financial management commensurate with the geographical, territorial and social conditions of the region, in order to deal with its real needs.
3. Revise the legislative framework at national level and adapt it to the reality of challenges and needs in the region.
4. Recognise the key role of municipalities of the Amazon region in working towards sustainable territorial management, with a particular focus on strategic planning, territorial regulation, diversification of the economy, decent and green work, etc.

We commit ourselves to:

1. Supporting the localisation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Global Agenda; in particular, SDG 5 (gender equality), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities), SDG 13 (climate action) and SDG 15 (life on the land).
2. Aligning coordination efforts which respond to the needs of cities of the Amazon region with FLACMA, to guarantee an integrated approach.
3. Creating a permanent space for the evaluation of planning, coordination and monitoring of all actors involved in the sustainable territorial development of the Amazon region.
4. Work to create a database of good practice and promote the capacity development of local leaders from the region, with particular attention to women and young people, in order to increase their representation.
5. Assume the challenge of changing the focus of economic development to one which allows the articulation of territorial conservation and sustainable



management of natural resources, through eco-tourism, ethno-tourism, green employment, creation of added value, etc.

6. Encourage the active participation of citizens, as principal actors in the protection and promotion of the Amazon region.
7. Create a network and work together, under the leadership of FLACMA, on the revision and approval of documentation we will start generating, based on the main ideas that arose in the panel discussions.

Riberalta, April 18, 2018.

