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## WORK PLAN FOR THE RIAC 2016-2018

### Prepared by Mexico, 2016 RIAC Chair Pro Tempore

“Structural Reforms and Entrepreneurship to Drive Competitiveness in the Americas”

#### Introduction

The Ministers, High-Level Authorities and Competitiveness Councils of the Americas agree to plan RIAC efforts for 2015-2018 focusing the activities on the following **goals**:

1. Propose the development of RIAC’s regional collaboration agenda taking into account the framework and timeline leading to the next VIII Summit of the Americas, to be held in 2018 in Peru;
2. Propose that the Americas Competitiveness Forum and RIAC Meeting be held every 18 months/two years with the goal of achieving important results in the exchange of experiences and regional collaboration. A change from annual to biannual ACF and RIAC Meeting of High Level Authorities of Competitiveness of the Americas would follow the general recommendation to program OAS Ministerial Meetings on development every two years and to become better aligned with the Summit of the Americas process;
3. Present for consideration the celebration of the X Americas Competitiveness Forum in May 2017 in Mexico;
4. Strengthen RIAC regional cooperation activities that have yielded favorable results for RIAC’s members and partners;
5. Foster regional dialogue on public policies and the exchange of experiences on key structural reform issues for driving competitiveness in the Americas and creating synergies with Inter-American Ministerial Meetings and regional programs in Education and job training; Energy; Transparency and Competence; Investment, Trade and Integration, among others;
6. Deepen the exchange of knowledge and the accelerate the creation of strategic partnerships on Entrepreneurship and Innovation in the Americas and convene High-Level Authorities on Competitiveness and Entrepreneurship to meet jointly in the framework of the X Americas Competitiveness Forum in Mexico;
7. RIAC’s 10 Competitiveness Principles approved in the Consensus of Santo Domingo in 2011 as part of the competitiveness agenda for the Americas 2020 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes a group of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), will serve as reference and guidelines for RIAC collaboration activities;

8. Strengthen RIAC efforts on issues of gender equity and equality through the Working Group on Gender and Competitiveness (GTG) proposed by the RIAC Steering Committee Committee and Guatemala as the 2015 RIAC Chair.

### **Areas of Operation**

The Ministers, High-Level Authorities and Competitiveness Councils of the Americas agree to coordinate joint activities with the OAS Technical Secretariat in the following areas of work based on existing RIAC work spaces:

1. Follow-up the policy dialogue between Competitiveness Authorities and Councils of the Americas.
  - Organize a meeting and videoconferences of the RIAC Steering Committee in 2016 and before the X ACF in 2017;
  - Organize the Annual Meeting of the Inter-American Competitiveness Network (RIAC) of Ministers, High-Level Authorities and Competitiveness Councils of the Americas in May 2017 in the framework of the X Americas Competitiveness Forum (X ACF);
  - Represent the RIAC in other international and inter-American forums on issues related to Competitiveness.
  - Provide technical support and contribute to strengthening the competitiveness agenda of the Americas.
  - Channel inputs from the RIAC to high-level meetings, ministerial meetings, and the Summit of the Americas.
  - Conduct any other activities that can increase the value of the network.
2. Organize the X Americas Competitiveness Forum in Mexico, in May 2017. The Chair Pro Tempore will guide the follow-up work based on the results and commitments undertaken during the IX ACF in Guatemala with the support of all RIAC members, support institutions, Vice Chair, and OAS Technical Secretariat.
3. Provide support for Meetings of the Working Group of Experts on Subnational Competitiveness (GTECS).
  - a. Special edition of GTECS in June 2016 coordinated by Orkestra-Institute of Competitiveness of the University of Deusto, Basque Country with the support of the Permanent Observer Mission of Spain to the OAS;
  - b. GTECS-Exchange on Competitiveness in Bogota, Colombia, October-November 2016, coordinated by the Chamber of Commerce of Bogota;
  - c. 2017 and 2018 based on requests-invitations received in 2016.

4. Continue with the consolidation of the Americas Competitiveness Exchange on Innovation and Entrepreneurship (ACE) and contribute to the exchanges in RIAC member countries with the goal of facilitating the cooperation and development of initiatives, public-private partnerships, opportunities for investment, trade, development and technology transfer and commercialization. The following Exchanges to be confirmed:
  - a. V ACE, United States, April 2016 ;
  - b. 2017 and 2018 based on requests-invitations received in 2016.

#### **Guidelines for the X Americas Competitiveness Forum**

The Ministers, High-Level Authorities and Competitiveness Councils of the Americas agree to coordinate joint activities with the OAS Technical Secretariat using the following work guidelines in preparation for the X Americas Competitiveness Forum (ACF):

1. Promote activities and exchange of experiences among RIAC members related to the main theme of the X ACF 2017: **“Structural Reforms and Entrepreneurship to Drive Competitiveness in the Americas”** in which high-level authorities, the private sector, academia and civil society will participate.
2. Conduct high-level regional forums on issues of public policy involving key structural reforms for driving competitiveness in the Americas and creating synergies with multi-sector Ministerial Meetings in i) Education and skills training; ii) Energy; iii) Transparency and competition; iv) Investment, Trade and Integration; v) Innovation and entrepreneurship, among others;
3. Continue with efforts to incorporate partner institutions from the private sector, academia and civil society, including their participation in dialogues and activities of the RIAC and the Forum, as well as activities on corporate social responsibility.
4. Prepare the 2017 Signs of Competitiveness in the Americas Report, including a summary of main conclusions and recommendations from high-level regional forums on issues of public policy involving key structural reforms for driving competitiveness in the Americas and the results of exchanges among RIAC members on these topics with the objective of serving as inputs for the X Americas Competitiveness Forum.
5. To hold the X Americas Competitiveness Forum in May 2017 in Mexico, including the Annual Meeting of the Inter-American Competitiveness Network (RIAC) of Ministers, High-Level Authorities and Competitiveness Councils of the Americas in coordination with the V Inter-American Dialogue of High-Level Authorities Responsible for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).



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