

## **BUENOS AIRES DECLARATION 2011**

Organized by the UNESCO International Institute for Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNESCO-IESALC), the IV Meeting of University Networks and Councils of Chancellors saw the participation of representatives from throughout the region.

Based on the commitments made at CRES 2008, and in particular reaffirming that Higher Education is a public and social good, a human right and a State responsibility, there were discussions about topics that contribute to the strengthening of the Latin America and the Caribbean Area for Higher Education (ENLACES), especially acknowledging the challenges posed by the realities of our countries, and in particular the processes of accreditation, official recognition of degrees and mobility.

It is the responsibility of Higher Education systems to work toward building a society focused on people and oriented to the fulfillment of their capabilities; they should also equip their graduates with the tools to handle successfully the selective and asymmetric character of globalization.

Quality, relevance, inclusion – encompassing diverse aspects such as social, economic, gender, and different abilities—interculturalism, and social commitment must be requisite elements when defining actions.

It is imperative that we move forward with evaluation and quality accreditation processes --essential elements for growth--, which must be performed according to our own mutually agreed upon parameters. These must be integral and permanent processes and must compare objectives to results.

The uneven degree of development among the countries in the region must be overcome through the solidary cooperation of those who are more advanced, as evidenced by some successful experiences. The networks of accreditation agencies can play a pivotal role and therefore must set forth transparent mechanisms that ensure the quality of their work.

The integration of Higher Education within the region requires the existence of a system whereby degrees and diplomas can be officially recognized and validated, based on the certification of the quality of the program of study, while also respecting the autonomy of universities as well as the laws of each country. In order to facilitate the circulation of graduates, academic as well as professional recognition must be taken into account.

Some subregions have made successful strides on this matter as several bilateral agreements have been ratified, which may serve as useful examples.

Mobility is an essential condition for integration and development; moreover, it promotes greater knowledge of the various peoples in the region. This mobility must encompass the student, academic and scientific communities.

There are operative, administrative and financial challenges that need to be overcome in order to make mobility a reality. These challenges should be addressed within the framework of strategic, flexible and reciprocal programs that take into account different types of knowledge. Furthermore, they should include incentives that guarantee the return of professionals to their home countries thereby putting an end to the brain drain and assuring the fundamental objective of mobility: the mutual enrichment of countries.

MESALC, the online information system aimed at promoting the articulation of national information systems on Higher Education in the region, is currently in the advanced stages of development. The in-depth knowledge it provides on the various institutions of Higher Education will facilitate a free comparison of variables and indicators while aiding in the development of lines of cooperation.

The Networks and Councils of Chancellors, ratifying their commitment to the continuous improvement of quality and the search for pertinence and equity in Higher Education, deem it appropriate to request suitable assistance from other institutional actors and from organized civil society.

### **Agreements and Proposals**

1. - The construction of ENLACES as a space of mobility and integration of Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean should provide for the ability to interact with all the different socio-political systems that exist in Latin America and the Caribbean, especially those that have devised mechanisms of academic mobility and scientific cooperation. It also requires a set of strategic agreements, a common programmatic framework, and institutional, administrative and financial instruments.
2. - In order for these three dimensions to materialize, it is necessary, first of all, that there is **coordination among the Ministries of Higher Education and a strategic alliance between the Networks and Councils of Chancellors** regarding a regional articulation protocol for academic mobility.
3. - The participation of **Regional, Subregional and National Parliaments** is of vital importance, as they must **incorporate into their agendas** the design of legislative mechanisms that support the circulation of people and officially recognize courses of study within the formal programs of the region's institutions.

4. - The importance of regional integration and education in general --and therein the importance of Higher Education-- is always stressed in public discourse such that there is a need for **greater investment on the part of governments** in the region for mobility programs. Along with this, there should be a **mobility program for students and teachers –academic and scientific--** designed from within this space and coordinated by IESALC, and which should be based on successful experiences. Thus, the asymmetries that appear within each system will be avoided as equity is fostered, thereby shrinking social gaps and reducing exclusion.

5. - The next step will be to devise a **program to strengthen postgraduate and doctoral programs, with an emphasis on joint postgraduate programs** for the next two-year period.

6. - With the goal of highlighting the value placed on cultural diversity and the promotion of interculturality with equity, **programs to strengthen the participation of indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples in Higher Education** will be developed. There will also be an effort to **promote the idea of a Higher Education that is more relevant to the cultural diversity of Latin American societies.**

7. - All of the proposals will take into account **minorities, vulnerable sectors and people of different abilities**, thereby rendering all educational spaces as non-exclusionary environments that allow for physical, communicational and academic access.

8. - The analysis and debates related to the processes of accreditation, internationalization and mobility must include the **democratic participation of the entire spectrum of social strata** that are part of multilateral agencies, governments, associations of Rectors, academics and student and worker organizations.

9. - The region will need to have an institutional entity for political consensus, which is why we encourage the creation of a **consensus panel** that brings together the Conferences of Rectors of Latin American and the Caribbean. The Community of Nations of Latin America and the Caribbean is a factor to be called upon to reinforce this intentionality.

10. - Considering the degree of development of IESALC, affiliation to the **“MESALC” seal** will be promoted as a means to express the commitment that HEI have with public trust and transparency of information. Adherence to this mechanism would mean providing IESALC with the institutional information it may require.



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Before concluding, we would like to acknowledge and thank UNESCO IESALC for convening and organizing this meeting. We would also like to express our gratitude to the Secretariat of University Policies of the Ministry of Education of Argentina and to the National Interuniversity Council for its support and warm welcome.

Buenos Aires, Argentina, May 6, 2011



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MEETING OF  
**UNIVERSITY NetWorks**  
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OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN BUENOS AIRES, MAY 05-06, 2011

## **REGIONAL INTERUNIVERSITY NETWORKS**

### **Intercontinental Networks**

| <b>Organization</b>  | <b>Representative(s)</b>  |
|--|---|
| <b>OUI</b><br>Organización Universitaria Interamericana  | Patricia Gudiño<br>Secretaria General Ejecutiva                   |
| <b>VIRTUAL EDUCA</b><br>Programa adscrito a la Cumbre<br>Iberoamericana de Jefes de Estado y<br>Gobierno | Elena García<br>Directora de Programas de<br>Innovación Educativa |

### **Intraregional Networks**

| <b>Organization</b>   | <b>Representative(s)</b>                            |
|---|---|
| <b>AUALCPI</b><br>Asociación de Universidades de América<br>Latina y del Caribe para la Integración | Germán Anzola Montero<br>Presidente                 |
| <b>ODUCAL</b><br>Organización de Universidades Católicas de<br>América Latina                       | Antonio Daher Hechem<br>Secretario General          |
| <b>RED UREL</b><br>Red de Universidades Regionales<br>Latinoamericanas                              | Eduardo Castro Ríos<br>Secretario General           |
| <b>RIACES</b><br>Red Iberoamericana para la Acreditación de<br>la Calidad de la Educación Superior  | Guillermo Vargas Salazar<br>Presidente              |
| <b>UDUAL</b><br>Unión de Universidades de América Latina y<br>el Caribe                             | José Jorge Peralta Álvarez<br>Coordinador Académico |

### **Subregional Networks**

| <b>Organization</b>  | <b>Representative(s)</b>  |
|--|---|
| <b>ACTI</b><br>Association of Caribbean Tertiary Institutions  | Roosevelt Williams<br>President   |
| <b>AUGM</b><br>Asociación de Universidades Grupo<br>Montevideo   | Darío Maiorana<br>Presidente<br>Álvaro Maglia Canzani<br>Secretario Ejecutivo |
| <b>AUPRICA</b><br>Asociación de Universidades Privadas de<br>Centroamérica                             | Xiomara Judith Ramos de<br>Arrocha<br>Presidenta                              |
| <b>CRISCOS</b><br>Consejo de Rectores por la Integración de la<br>Subregión Centro-Oeste de Sudamérica | Enrique Mateo Arnau<br>Presidente   |
| <b>UNAMAZ</b><br>Asociación de Universidades Amazónicas  | Julio Armando Ríos Ramírez<br>Secretario Técnico                              |



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|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <b>UNICA</b><br>Asociación de Universidades e Institutos de Investigación del Caribe | Annette Insanally<br>Secretaria General | <a href="mailto:unica@uwimona.edu.jm">unica@uwimona.edu.jm</a> |
|--|---|--|

## NATIONAL INTERUNIVERSITY NETWORKS

### Councils and National Associations of Chancellors

| Country    | Organization  | Representative(s)  |
|------------|---|--|
| Argentina  | <b>CIN</b><br>Consejo Interuniversitario Nacional   | <b>Rubén Hallú</b><br>Vice-Presidente  |
|            |   | <b>Guillermo R. Tamarit</b><br><b>Comisión de Asuntos Internacionales</b>    |
|            |   | Norma Beatriz Costoya<br>Secretaria Ejecutiva                                |
|            | <b>CRUP</b><br>Consejo de Rectores de Universidades Privadas  | Héctor César Sauret<br>Presidente  |
|            |   | Francisco J. Piñón<br>Miembro  |
|            |   | Jose Fliguer<br>Asesor   |
| Bolivia    | <b>CEUB</b><br>Comité Ejecutivo de la Universidad Boliviana   | Eduardo Cortez Valdivieso<br>Secretario Ejecutivo Nacional                   |
|            | <b>ANUP</b><br>Asociación Nacional de Universidades Privadas  | Pedro Sáenz Muñoz<br>Representante   |
| Brasil     | <b>CRUB</b><br>Conselho de Reitores das Universidades Brasileiras                                     | <b>Ricardo Motta Miranda</b><br>Representante                                |
|            | <b>ANDIFES</b><br>Associação Nacional dos Dirigentes das Instituições Federais de Ensino Superior     | <b>João Carlos Brahm Cousin</b><br><b>Vice-Presidente</b>                    |
| Chile      | <b>CRUCH</b><br>Consejo de Rectores de las Universidades Chilenas                                     | <b>María Teresa Marshall Infante</b><br>Directora Ejecutiva                  |
| Colombia   | <b>ASCUN</b><br>Asociación Colombiana de Universidades  | Carlos Hernando Forero Robayo<br>Secretario General                          |
| Costa Rica | <b>CONARE</b><br>Consejo Nacional de Rectores   | Eugenio Trejos Benavides<br>Presidente                                       |
| Ecuador    | <b>SENESCYT</b><br><i>Secretaría Nacional de Educación Superior, Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación</i> | Marcelo Paredes Molina<br>Asesor Subsecretaría General de Educación Superior |
|            |   | Diego Vega<br>Coordinador Relaciones Internacionales SENPLADES               |



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|                      |  |   |                                    |
|----------------------|--|---|------------------------------------|
| El Salvador          | <b>UES</b><br>Universidad de El Salvador                         | Rufino A. Quezada Sánchez<br>Rector                           |                                    |
| Honduras             | <b>UNAH</b><br>Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Honduras         | <b>Julieta Castellanos Ruiz</b><br>Rectora                    |                                    |
| Nicaragua            | <b>CNU</b><br>Consejo Nacional de Universidades                  | Gustavo Castro Jo.<br>Vicepresidente                          |                                    |
| Panamá               | <b>CRP</b><br>Consejo de Rectores de Panamá                      | Héctor Requena Núñez<br>Presidente                            |                                    |
| Paraguay             | <b>AUPP</b><br>Asociación de Universidades Públicas del Paraguay | Yilda Eloisa Agüero de Talavera<br>Representante              |                                    |
|                      |  | <b>APUP</b><br>Asociación Paraguaya de Universidades Privadas | Roberto Elías Canese<br>Presidente |
|                      |  | María Liz García de Arnold<br>Vice-Presidenta                 |                                    |
| República Dominicana | <b>ADRU</b><br>Asociación Dominicana de Rectores Universitarios  | José Ángel González Hernández<br>Director Ejecutivo           |                                    |
| Venezuela            | <b>ARBOL</b><br>Asociación de Rectores Bolivarianos              | William Vanegas Espinoza<br>Presidente                        |                                    |

## THEMATIC NETWORKS

### Academic Community Associations

| Organization   | Representative(s)                               |
|--|---|
| <b>CONTUA</b><br>Confederación de los Trabajadores y Trabajadoras de las Universidades de las Américas                               | Fabian Colart<br>Secretaría de Coordinación     |
|  | Gabriel Aguirre<br>Representante                |
| <b>OCLAE</b><br>Organización Continental Latinoamericana y Caribeña de Estudiantes   | Yordany Charval de la Rosa<br>Presidente        |
|  | Mateus Fiorentini<br>Secretario Ejecutivo       |
|  | Gabriel Bermúdez<br>Coordinador Región Cono Sur |
|  | Federico Miranda<br>Presidente FUA              |
| <b>ReLARIES</b><br>Red Latinoamericana de Redes de Responsables de Relaciones Internacionales de Instituciones de Educación Superior | Julio César Theiler Erni<br>Coordinador         |



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### Research Institutions, Organizations and Observatories linked with Higher Education

| Organization  | Representative(s)  |
|---|--|
| <b>AUIP</b><br>Asociación Universitaria Iberoamericana de Postgrado                         | Víctor Euler Cruz Cardona<br>Director General  |
|   | Francisco J. Martos Perales<br>Director General Adjunto                              |
|   | Oscar Vicente Valdés<br>Director Regional en Argentina                               |
| <b>CINDA</b><br>Centro Interuniversitario de Desarrollo                                     | Luis Eduardo González Fiegehen<br>Director Programa Política y Gestión Universitaria |
| <b>CLACSO</b><br>Consejo Latinoamericano en Ciencias Sociales                               | Fernanda Saforcada<br>Coordinadora   |
| <b>ECoESaD</b><br>Espacio Común de Educación Superior A Distancia (México)                  | Fabiola López y López<br>Representante   |
|   | Maria Cristina Laura Gómez Aguirre<br>Miembro  |
|   | Albert S. Nijboer<br>Coordinador Proyectos Internacionales BUAP                      |
| <b>OBSMAC</b><br>Observatorio Regional sobre Movilidades Académicas y Científicas           | Sylvie Andrée Didou Aupetit<br>Coordinadora  |
| Observatorio Regional de Diversidad Cultural e Interculturalidad en Educación Superior      | Daniel Mato<br>Coordinador   |
| Observatorio Regional del Pensamiento Universitario Latinoamericano                         | Carmen García Guadilla<br>Coordinadora   |
| <b>ORSU</b><br>Observatorio de Responsabilidad Social Universitaria (Colombia)              | Humberto Grimaldo Durán<br><b>Coordinador</b>  |
|   | Francisco José Gómez Ortiz<br><b>Miembro</b>   |
| <b>RECLA</b><br>Red de Educación Continua de Latinoamérica y Europa                         | Ana Velazco Lozada<br>Presidenta   |
| Red Interuniversitaria Latinoamericana y del Caribe sobre Discapacidad y Derechos Humanos   | Sandra Lea Katz<br>Coordinadora  |
| <b>RICYT</b><br>Red de Indicadores de Ciencia y Tecnología, Iberoamericana e Interamericana | Carlos Pérez Rasetti<br>Representante  |





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## **INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES AND ORGANISMS**

### **International organizations of Higher Education support and cooperation**

| <b>Organization</b>   | <b>Representative</b>                               |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>FUNDACIÓN FORD</b> | María del Carmen Feijoo<br>Coordinadora de Programa |

## **SPECIAL GUESTS**

| <b>Organization</b>   | <b>Representative</b>  |
|---|--|
| <b>IIFE-UNESCO Buenos Aires</b><br>Instituto Internacional de Planeamiento de la Educación                    | Laura Fumagalli<br>Coordinadora de Programa  |
| <b>SPU</b><br>Secretaría de Políticas Universitarias del Ministerio de Educación de la República de Argentina | Alberto Dibbern<br>Secretario de Políticas Universitarias y<br>Presidente del Consejo de Administración de UNESCO-IESALC |
|   | Carlos De Feo<br>Secretario General <b>CONADU</b><br>(Federación Nacional de Docentes Universitarios)                    |
|   | Yamile Socolovsky<br>Coordinadora General<br>Instituto de Estudios y Capacitación del CONADU                             |

## **OTHER PARTICIPANTS**

| <b>Organization</b>   | <b>Representative</b>  |
|---|--|
| <b>IEP</b><br>Instituto de Estudios Peruanos                        | Ricardo Cuenca<br>Director de investigaciones                                    |
| <b>UAA</b><br>Universidad Autónoma de Asunción                      | Kitty Gaona Franco<br>Rectora  |
| <b>UNAM</b><br>Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México              | Imanol Ordorika Sacristán<br>Director General de Evaluación Institucional        |
| <b>UNILA</b><br>Universidade Federal da Integração Latino-Americana | Hélgio Trindade<br>Reitor  |
|   | Eliane Rocha<br>Secretária de Relações Internacionais                            |
| <b>UP</b><br>Universidad de Panamá                                  | Vielka de Escobar<br>Directora de Cooperación Internacional y Asistencia Técnica |



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## OBSERVER INSTITUTIONS

| Organization   | Representative  |
|--|---|
| <b>ESPE</b><br>Escuela Politécnica del Ejército<br>del Ecuador                                 | Betzabé Maldonado<br>Unidad de Desarrollo Institucional   |
| <b>CONEAU</b><br>Consejo Nacional de Evaluación y<br>Acreditación Universitaria                | Alfredo Poenitz<br>Miembro Director<br>Marina Farinetti<br>Área de Desarrollo y Relaciones<br>Internacionales |
| <b>Magister</b><br>Instituto de Enseñanza Superior -<br>Argentina                              | Ana María Benegas<br>Rectora  |
| Proyecto <b>VERTEBRALCUE</b>   | Giorgio Alberti<br>Director General   |
| <b>Red ZICOSUR Universitario</b><br>Zona de Integración del Centro<br>Oeste de América del Sur | Gustavo Tripaldi<br>Coordinador de Cooperación<br>Internacional   |
| <b>UM</b><br>Universidad de Morón - Argentina  | Jorge Emilio Salvel<br>Vicedecano Facultad de Ciencias<br>Económicas y Empresariales                          |
| <b>UNE</b><br>Universidad Nacional del Este  | Gerónimo Manuel Laviosa González<br>Vice- Rector  |
| <b>UPP</b><br>Universidad del Pacífico Privada-<br>Paraguay                                    | Rubén Darío Romero Astete<br>Vicerrector General<br>María Elena Piscoya de Romero<br>Vicerrectora Académica   |
| <b>UAI</b><br>Universidad Abierta<br>Interamericana  | Ariana de Vincenzi<br>Secretaria Académica.   |
| <b>UCO</b><br>Universidad de Concepción  | Luis Quiñones Escobar<br>Rector   |
| <b>UTIC</b><br>Universidad Tecnológica<br>Intercontinental                                     | Hugo Ferreira González<br>Rector  |