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Pro Tempore Presidency SICA-Costa Rica

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Within the framework of its Pro Tempore Presidency of the Central American Integration System (SICA), Costa Rica has established among its main issues the economic, green, sustainable and resilient recovery of the region, post-covid-19 era.

As part of its efforts within this framework, the country launched its post-pandemic recovery strategy, which emphasizes the new role of bilateral relations, multilateralism, South-South and Triangular Cooperation, as well as the value of new instruments of international cooperation for development in rebuilding societies after the health crisis, considering promising sectors such as: digital infrastructure, scientific and technological developments in health, public investment in decarbonization, energy and water efficiency, bioeconomy, cybersecurity, Green, Blue and Orange Agenda, among others.

Costa Rica believes that SICA should promote greater economic integration and trade facilitation, so that the countries jointly can be more efficient in their management within the framework of the post-pandemic economic recovery of the region.

Under this vision, the Costa Rican PPT-SICA also promotes working with financial organizations for the facilitation of loans and non-reimbursable cooperation, for a recovery in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goals, and commitments on climate change under the Paris Agreement. The identification of priority areas of work, such as renewable energy and clean transport, will enhance this recovery.

It is essential to strengthen and develop innovative financial instruments under favorable conditions, which concretely help countries to develop mitigation and adaptation programs, clean technology mechanisms, and comprehensive risk management in the face of climate change in general, without imposing a burden on internal finances.

It is in this spirit that the PPT-SICA of Costa Rica in Germany organizes the virtual event "Economic, green, sustainable and resilient recovery of the region, post-covid-19 era: talking about innovative forms of international solidarity".

CONCEPTUAL NOTE

Virtual event "Economic, green, sustainable and resilient recovery of the region, post-covid-19 era: talking about innovative forms of international solidarity"

The Central American Integration System (SICA) has as fundamental objective the realization of the integration of Central America, to constitute it as a Region of Peace, Freedom, Democracy and Development. This is what Article 3 of the Tegucigalpa Protocol sets out.

The common region of which we are part has faced significant challenges in achieving this fundamental objective, but its efforts to work together to achieve this are constant and permanent. These efforts within





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the integration framework are partially supported by development partners. Cooperation, both externally and within SICA, is a central tool in advancing the path of peace, freedom, democracy and development in Central America.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the great challenges that societies already faced, but it has hit our countries harder, leading to an economic crisis, unemployment, increased poverty and inequality throughout the Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region. The Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Alicia Bárcena, has pointed out that LAC is the developing region that has been hit the hardest by the pandemic, but it is a highly compromised region with an ambitious response.

In the framework of the great challenges posed by the pandemic and the need for a speedy economic recovery for our countries, it is necessary to emphasize the conditions that this recovery should have. This must be green, sustainable and resilient, but also inclusive and of technological and economic transformations, as stated in the study "Building a new future: a transformative recovery with equality and sustainability" by CEPAL.

The path for the necessary transformations in the post-covid-19 recovery involves finding the best forms of cooperation. International solidarity in the current era must transcend the traditional methods of cooperation and seek new paths for joint work between countries, technical collaboration and the generation of strategic alliances. In this context, there are several initiatives already put forward, including by member countries of SICA. For example, Costa Rica, current PPT-SICA, presented two relevant initiatives in 2020: Fund to Alleviate COVID-19 Economics - FACE - and, within the framework of the World Health Organization (WHO), promoted C-TAP (COVID-19 Technology Access Pool), now co-sponsored by more than 40 governments. These two initiatives hold in essence the need to work on innovative mechanisms that encourage international solidarity, while recognizing shared responsibilities for all States.

What is the Central American route for post-COVID-19 green, sustainable and resilient economic recovery? What resources are already there? What are the main challenges? What innovative mechanisms can be proposed within the framework of international solidarity? What are the areas and sectors that should be involved in the national and regional efforts?

Within the framework of a successful relationship with a strategic partner in the region such as Germany, it will be possible to try to answer these questions. Experts and representatives of countries and SICA bodies will discuss their vision and initiatives to explore more innovative forms of international solidarity in the post-COVID-19 era of recovery.

