

PLANEX 2020

National Foreign Policy Plan 2006-2020

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Presentation

With the signing of the Peace Agreements with Peru in 1998, Ecuador overcame one of the biggest obstacles in the formulation and execution of its foreign policy since its birth as an independent Republic. For many years, the territorial dispute with Peru had conditioned and distorted the international conduct of Ecuador.

Having smoothed away this factor, the country had to engage in a deep reflection regarding the design and implementation of a foreign policy in line with the new reality and adjusted to its needs, its identity, and its potentials.

Aware of this unavoidable responsibility, the National Government was and is convinced that public policies must be democratic and reflect the interests and aspirations of the broadest sectors of the Ecuadorian population. For this reason, public policies must be developed with transparency, through procedures that allow a frank and meaningful exchange of views.

In consequence, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that I am honored to head since October 2005 has considered that, in the field of foreign policy, our policy must have a stability that goes beyond the duration of Governments. This will ensure that our sustained foreign actions project Ecuador in the international community, and that our relations with other countries, regions, multilateral bodies and international stakeholders result in concrete benefits for the Ecuadorean people.

For this reason, in November 2005 I publicly initiated a debate on the formulation of a National Foreign Policy Plan for the next 15 years.

The procedure for the preparation of the Plan was based on the desire and the need to establish a long-standing consensus among the main political, social and economic stakeholders of Ecuador on key aspects of our international relations. Seminars, workshops and round tables were held during a period of seven months on the great issues of foreign policy. Representatives of political parties, local authorities, civil society organizations, members of the media and the academic sector participated in this debate.

The outcome of this democratic and transparent process is this document, PLANEX 2020, which summarizes and synthesizes the consensus reached after all the meetings.

Now, I invite once again all the sectors of the Ecuadorean society to participate actively in the execution of the foreign policy that they themselves contributed to develop. Their contribution is essential to ensure that our foreign action becomes a tool at the service of the central objectives of our internal agenda, which are the consolidation of democracy, the respect for and promotion of human rights, sustainable development, and the construction of a fairer and more equitable society.

The key word in this process has been “listening”. Listening to these new and different social stakeholders, to all those who make this fragmented but necessary society that is the Ecuadorean State; listening to specialists and academicians; listening to those who have been traditionally deprived of a voice to state their ideas and aspirations. Listening, in sum, to those people represented by State -through its foreign policy- in this interdependent, complex and unfair world, because the only referent of all these policies is the people, to which the State as a whole must respond.

Ambassador Francisco Carrion Mena
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Introduction

I received from the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Francisco Carrion Mena the gratifying task of coordinating the preparation of a long-term foreign policy plan that collects the basic consensus of the Ecuadorean society. The goal of this plan was to protect as much as possible the foreign actions of the State from the ups and downs of party policy, and to develop a coherent and lasting State policy, one of whose effects would be consolidating the credibility of Ecuador at international level.

Experts state that planning is nothing but identifying objectives and arranging them according to their priority, in order to establish a framework of actions to guide, within a specified term, a concrete area of human activity. For Ecuador, the changing international reality caused by the end of the Cold War and the accelerated expansion of the society of knowledge, on the one hand, and on the other hand the settlement of our territorial dispute with Peru –which had marked our foreign agenda since the beginning of our Republican life–, led us to the need of rethinking our foreign policy in an orderly fashion, with clear purposes and taking into account the aspirations of all stakeholders. This need became evident when the previous Administration took actions regarding Colombia that raised doubts about the validity of the unwritten consensus of non-intervention in the internal affairs of other States, which had traditionally guided our foreign policy.

The goal of the National Foreign Policy Plan 2006-2020 –that we will call PLANEX 2020– is to respond to these challenges: it seeks, on the one hand, to give certainty and continuity to our foreign actions; and on the other hand, to base planning on basic consensus reached by the Ecuadorean society regarding the direction of our foreign policy.

Initially we stated that the only way to ensure that PLANEX 2020 fulfilled its goal of directing the international relations of Ecuador was if it faith-

fully reflected the aspirations of a sovereign people. Thus, if any future Government disregards its contents, the people might demand compliance with the consensus reached in the Plan. For this reason, the procedure used to prepare this document was deeply democratic and participatory. Twelve seminars and workshops were held between November 2005 and July 2006 with the participation of roughly 300 representatives of political parties, productive sectors, academic centers, civil society organizations, and media representatives from all over the country. This ambitious program and the publications we present today would have been impossible without the decisive support of the Andean Development Corporation (CAF), and we express our gratitude to its representative in Ecuador, Luis Palau.

In a first stage, with workshops in Quito, Guayaquil, Cuenca and Manta, we consulted participants on what they thought the objectives of our foreign policy and its priority issues should be. At the end of each meeting, the working document was adjusted to include the suggestions received, and the rewritten document was submitted at the following workshop. During this stage, foreign lecturers were not invited because we thought that Ecuadorean citizens should be the ones to define the objectives and priority issues of their foreign policy.

We then thought that it would be appropriate to share some of the lessons learned from this experience. First, by holding meetings in several regions of the country, we were able to see that sensitivities regarding foreign policy issues vary as the local or regional reality stamps a special interest on certain issues. For instance, in Guayaquil, we received proposals to strengthen the economic projection of the country, while in Manta, the interest in reinforcing our linkages with the Pacific Basin was notable. In the southern region, we saw a marked concern for the preservation of the environment and strengthening tourism promotion. Also in Azuay and Manabí, emigration is a priority issue.

Second, against popular beliefs, the workshops revealed that Ecuadorean citizens want consensus. In an adequate framework of mutual respect, we will be able to reach them. In spite of the clear lack of contact and personal understanding among representatives of different sectors, it was encouraging to witness how almost all share the conviction that the country cannot go on with the instability that has affected it in recent years, and that it is necessary to achieve a positive insertion of the country in the international community, something

that can only be achieved by joining efforts.

Once the aspirations of the society on the objectives and main issues of the foreign policy were defined, in February we started a series of seminars on specific issues: relations with the United States, with neighboring countries, culture, emigration, economic relations, security, etc. Over 200 lecturers and commentators took part in these meetings, offering proposals that were enriched with the interventions and concerns of more than 2000 persons of the public.

Several key consensus emerged from these debates –rejection of the presence of foreign troops in Ecuadorean territory, opposition to any attempt at regionalizing a military solution to the Colombian conflict, granting top priority to the protection of emigrants, as well as the ideas and proposals collected as strategic guidelines for PLANEX on each specific issue.

The opinions and views provided by renowned foreign personalities were highly clarifying and helped us understand better the context in which our international actions unfold. These personalities include a Nobel Prize winner in economics, Joseph Stiglitz, the Secretary General of the OAS, Juan Miguel Insulza, and the Vice-president of the Inter- American Dialogue, Michael Sifter. The experiences of Brazil and Chile, as recounted by Ambassador Rubens Ricupero, former Secretary General of UNCTAD, and by the former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Chile, Ignacio Walker, were also highly illustrative. They analyzed the conditions needed to reach consensus in order to give continuity to foreign policy.

Once the consultations made in the seminars were concluded, the coordination team of PLANEX prepared a first draft of the document, which was reformulated at the end of July during a workshop with the authorities of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and representatives of several academic institutes.

This text was distributed in August to the participants of workshops and seminars, as well as to all the members of the Foreign Service, who were asked to provide comments. Approximately 50 organizations and personalities sent suggestions and alternative wordings, which were systematized and included –whenever they responded to the consensus reached– in the final text, which is being submitted to the consideration of the citizens.

PLANEX 2020 begins with an outline of the international scenario where, predictably, the external actions of Ecuador will take place. Afterwards, the document lists the principles that sustain this policy, according to constitu-

tional and legal provisions and international treaties in effect. Next, the document identifies 10 central objectives of foreign policy, and 8 crosscutting themes of the international action of the State, namely: sovereignty, protection of emigrants, human rights, economic relations, security, culture, cooperation for development, and multilateral bodies.

Afterwards, the Plan identifies the countries and priority areas for Ecuador: Colombia and Peru as neighboring countries; Latin America; the United States; the European Union, Spain; the Pacific Basin; and Russia and the Community of Independent States.

As it is logical, strategic guidelines that will steer our foreign policy in each case were established for each of the crosscutting themes and priority countries.

The set of proposals listed in PLANEX 2020 for the institutional development of the Foreign Service aim at improving its professionalization; consolidating systematic consultations with different economic and social stakeholders for the democratic production of foreign policies; strengthening coordination mechanisms with the National Congress and other state bodies; and setting up accountability mechanisms.

The final text proposes initiatives aimed at developing a communications policy to adequately project the country in the international scenario.

As already stated, the proposals contained in PLANEX –which is the broad and flexible outcome of the consensus reached among the social stakeholders of the country– will be valid until the year 2020. However, PLANEX recognizes the right of future Governments to develop their own foreign policy in the framework of this broad national agreement. For this reason, it has been decided that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs should implement a planning system to prepare plans for 4-year periods, where strategic guidelines become goals according to the ideological tendency and the priorities specified by the President of the Republic who, according to the Constitution, is responsible for the conduction of the country's foreign policy. Thus, for the preparation of the 2007-2010 plan we have already held 10 internal workshops at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with the aim of presenting the draft for consideration of the winner of the forthcoming presidential elections.

These medium-term plans will give rise to annual operating plans, which will identify the actions needed to reach each of the goals established, and the funds required for their execution.

In order to rely on multidisciplinary elements of reference in the preparation of medium-term plans, and to ensure that public opinion is aware of the views of the most varied sectors of opinion on international issues, the Minister of Foreign Affairs has decided that –in addition to PLANEX 2020–, five additional volumes should be published with the presentations made in the different workshops and seminars on relevant issues of our international agenda, and they are made available to the public together with this text.

I trust that, in the development and execution of PLANEX 2020, in addition to sustaining the continuity of foreign policy and giving it a participatory and democratic character, these publications will contribute to generate a culture of tolerance, sorely needed by Ecuadorean citizens, to achieve lasting consensus that will allow us to overcome the instability that prevents us from consolidating a social State of Law, sustainable development and the construction of a fairer and more equitable society.

Ambassador Javier Ponce Leiva

Coordinator, PLANEX 2020

Quito, October 2006

PLANEX 2020

Foreword

This long-term Plan (2006-2020) is the basis for the establishment of a permanent planning system at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Its various chapters outline the foreseeable international scenario during the period of execution; the principles that sustain the foreign policy of Ecuador; the objectives proposed for the duration of the plan; crosscutting themes and priority countries in our foreign policy, as well as the strategic guidelines for each; and the proposals that will guide the institutional development of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the next years.

For each objective outlined, PLANEX 2020 has planned the production of strategic plans for each of the crosscutting themes and priority countries identified. These plans will have a temporary horizon of four years (the duration of a Government) and will be developed on the basis of the content of this Plan, adjusting its specific goals to the philosophy and the priorities established by each President of the Republic.

The Annual Operating Plans, which will be approved by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, will identify programs, projects and actions that will be carried out by the various departments of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as by its diplomatic missions and consular posts, in order to achieve the goals established in the quadrennial plan. The plans will also identify the funds required.

Definitions

- *Principles*: ethical-legal foundations that sustain the foreign policy of Ecuador and guide its international actions, pursuant to the Political Constitution of the Republic, the Ecuadorian legislation, and International Law.
- *Objectives*: the purposes sought through the execution of the Plan.

- *Strategic guidelines:* selection of the best logical combination of stakeholders, factors and actions to reach a specific objective in a given context.
- *Crosscutting themes:* issues considered a priority that influence the activities executed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, its diplomatic missions and consular posts.
- *Geographic areas and priority countries:* Ecuador tries to maintain relations of friendship and cooperation with all countries around the world; however, considering the limited resources available and the historic and economic ties that exist, certain priority countries or groups of countries have been selected.

I. International scenario



The process of planning the Ecuadorean foreign policy for the next 15 years requires that we imagine the characteristics of the international scenario in which Ecuador will have to evolve, and where it will have to meet the objectives identified in this Plan in each of the themes analyzed and the strategic guidelines established.

Making prospect exercises is risky if we start from the fact that social sciences are not exact and that the conditions of the international system can vary considerably in a very short time. Many recent phenomena could not be foreseen even by the keenest of observers.

A significant example of this is the end of the Cold War and the collapse of the Soviet Union, which took by surprise even the better-informed analysts, and which had a huge impact on the history of the second half of the 20th century.

We are amazed by how most forecasts made 15 years ago -that is, in the early 90's- on how the world would be today were so off the mark. It was said then that unprecedented possibilities for international cooperation would materialize, as shown by the effective action of the UN in the Gulf War; it was thought that the dividend of peace offered by the end of the Cold War and the arms race would foster the development of all the regions of the planet; it was assumed that the technological revolution would allow solving the most press-

ing problems of poverty, education, health and the deterioration of the environment; that States would lose their importance as stakeholders in the international system for the benefit of supranational entities that would bring together different regional blocks, or groupings of citizens or economic interests of transnational companies, that would increasingly act on the margins of the policies issued by their States of origin.

The most extreme of such predictions even foresaw the “end of History”, an illusion that implied, among other things, the cease of the traditional conflicts between States in a world where the globalization of liberal democracy and market economy left no room for traditional wars, which would be replaced by new conflicts caused by nationalisms, religious movements and transnational crime, phenomena that could only be faced by growing multilateral cooperation.

An analysis of the current international context reveals how few of these predictions have come to pass. The State continues playing a key role in the international system; globalization has been countered by strong nationalistic feelings in several regions; inequity has worsened both domestically and internationally; regional and sub-regional integration schemes in different latitudes, like the European Union, CAN, and MERCOSUR face growing difficulties and, to a greater or lesser extent, their development has ground to a halt.

The predicted development of multilateral cooperation has also failed to materialize; on the contrary, several large powers have moved away from the most important developments of International Law, both in the environmental field (Kyoto Protocol, Agreement on Biological Diversity, etc.), and in international criminal law to prosecute certain crimes against humanity (the International Criminal Court). In addition, the principle of multilateralism has been undermined by the unilateral decisions taken by the superpowers.

The world lives a moment of transition between the organization of the international system that appeared after World War II –no longer adapted to current realities–, and an emerging new order that must respond to the need of enhancing international cooperation in the face of new challenges that cannot be faced by the States in an isolated way (environmental degradation, transnational crime, etc.). In addition, this new order will have to provide the means and adapt the procedures of the UN and other international regional and sub-regional bodies to guarantee peacekeeping, international security and the promotion of development.

It is foreseeable that during the period covered by this Plan, the United States of America will continue being the hegemonic power in the military and technological areas; the European Union will continue being a pole of economic and political development, while the technological and military influence of China, Japan, Russia, Brazil and India will increase as their economic and political presence in the international scenario grows.

According to all indicators –share in trade and in global GDP, growth, human development, etc-, the importance of Latin America in the international context and in the eyes of some of these powers has fallen.

Its progress towards reaching the Millennium Goals is limited. Training of human capital in the region, the basis for sustainable development in the society of knowledge, is still insufficient. In the case of Ecuador, the political instability of the last decade has kept it below the regional average in several of these aspects. These realities demand a substantial effort from the country, in order to achieve adequate strategic insertion, revert negative trends, and look to the future with optimism.

This Plan was produced with these purposes in mind, considering that foreign policy is an instrument that contributes to internal development.

The aspiration for the integration of Latin America is deeply rooted in the peoples of the region –including Ecuador -, and it is foreseeable that in future years the initiatives to advance in actions and programs that multiply economic, cultural, social, political, environmental protection and infrastructure development linkages among Latin American countries will be maintained and reinforced. The strengthening of South American ties will allow us to capitalize on the great potential of the region, which has a larger and more populated territory than the United States, and with abundant energy resources, common infrastructures and surplus food production. To be successful, regional integration must adopt supranational mechanisms it has been unable to create until now.

Foreign trade has historically influenced the development of Ecuador. Improved facilities for the flow of goods and capitals will keep the economic ties of the country with the rest of the world at the core of its foreign policy. The current growing diversification of export destinations, if supported by adequate state policies, could allow these destinations to be more equitably distributed among the USA, Latin America, Europe, and Asia during the period of implementation of this Plan.

Throughout its history, Ecuador has sought alliances in different fields with States with similar interests in order to increase its international negotiating ability. The foreign policy of the country will maintain its multilateral vocation, as well as the efforts to strengthen the United Nations system and the regulation -by International Law- of the relations between States.

In spite of its multilateral vocation, Ecuador's foreign policy should bear in mind the serious difficulties faced by multilateralism. In the political arena, this is evidenced in the limited operating capacity of the UN collective security system to put an end to the conflict in the Middle East, and in the economic field, by the stagnation of the WTO Doha Round, as well as by the subordination of environmental arrangements to trade agreements.

Faced with this reality, without neglecting support to multilateralism, we must strengthen the design and execution of bilateral policies to consolidate the relations of friendship and cooperation with the major partners of Ecuador: Latin America and, particularly, neighboring countries -for reasons of geographic and historical determination and the will of their inhabitants. With the United States of America, for its hemispheric influence and the need to ensure that it contributes to the sustainable development and the consolidation of the democratic system. With the European Union, for the shared vision of international issues, democracy and human rights, and with Spain in particular, for the historical and cultural ties that bind both countries, reinforced by the presence of more than half a million Ecuadorean citizens in its territory. Finally, with Asian countries, especially China and Japan, for the still untapped opportunities of exchange offered by the Pacific Basin.

Globalization has enabled swift exchanges of information and knowledge. However, opportunities have been greater for industrialized countries, as well as for the wealthiest and -therefore- better-educated sectors of all regions. Ecuador will have to support initiatives at international level, and develop internal policies aimed at improving access to the benefits of globalization for its population, as well as at minimizing the adverse consequences of an economic model that has fostered the concentration of wealth, the return to the primary sector of the economies of developing countries in some cases, and the over-exploitation of their natural resources.

Beyond the legal and moral obligation of the State to protect its citizens living abroad, the projection offered to the country by the more than two mil-

lion Ecuadorean citizens who live in foreign countries should be adequately capitalized, because they have a great potential to promote the cultural values and economic opportunities of the country. In addition, Ecuador should take advantage of the technological knowledge and skills acquired by our fellow citizens in destination societies. Likewise, we must foster the cultural and economic ties of migrants and their descendants with the country, through specific actions and programs developed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and its diplomatic and consular missions.

In order to fulfill its foreign policy objectives, the internal policy of the country must be consolidated; it must be stable and predictable. The internal juridical system must be respectable and respected. The institutions must be improved and rendered operational. The economic policy must be reliable. The fight against corruption in all areas must be a general principle, without exceptions, and therefore, all public actions must be transparent and reliable. Furthermore, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs must maintain permanent coordination of its internal actions with other ministries and agencies of the National Government, in order to assist the country in achieving these essential and indispensable assurances.

The political and juridical instability that has characterized Ecuador in recent years is not conducive for its strategic insertion in the changing international scenario. The actions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, based on the reality of the country, should contribute to the consolidation of democratic institutions, sustainable development and to the construction of a fairer, environmentally balanced society where the social State of law is in full force and effect. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs should adjust both its institutional reality and its administrative practices in order to achieve concerted actions with other State institutions and the various sectors of society, for the benefit of the foreign policy objectives listed in this Plan, which reflect a broad consensus of all citizens.

II. Principles of foreign policy



The foreign policy of Ecuador is based on the principles of International Law. Some of them are gathered in Article 4 of the Constitution of the Republic, which:

- 1.- Proclaims peace and cooperation as the basis for international coexistence and the juridical equality of States;
- 2.- Condemns the use or threat of force as a means of settling conflicts, and repudiates the spoils of war as a source of rights;
- 3.- Declares that International Law is the guiding norm for relations between States and advocates the settlement of international disputes by legal and peaceful methods;
- 4.- Fosters the equitable development of the international community, as well as the stability and strengthening of its bodies;
- 5.- Defends integration, and more particularly Andean, South American and Latin American integration; and,
- 6.- Rejects all forms of colonialism, neocolonialism, discrimination or segregation, and recognizes the right of all peoples to self-determination and to be free from oppressive systems.

The diplomatic practice of Ecuador has unfolded based on the aforementioned principles, as well as on the ones listed below, set forth in international treaties signed by Ecuador and which therefore constitute mandatory rules that prevail above the laws and other inferior regulations (Art. 163 of the Constitution):

- Observance of the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of other States;
- Respect for international treaties;
- Respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, regardless of birth, age, gender, race, color, social origin, language, religion, political affinity, economic position, sexual inclination, state of health, disability or any other difference; respect for the notion of indivisibility and universality of political, civil, economic, social, cultural and collective rights, as well as for third-generation rights: peace, development, and the right to a healthy environment.
- Recognition of the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice, the International Criminal Court, the Inter-American Human Rights Court and other international dispute settlement bodies, in the conditions agreed in the conventions that established them and which have been signed by Ecuador.
- International cooperation for development, as a duty for States to achieve a more equitable distribution of wealth.
- The sovereign right of the States to preserve their natural resources and to seek sustainable development.

Other constitutional provisions that guide our foreign policy include:

Art. 5.- Ecuador may establish partnerships with one or more States for the promotion and defense of national and community interests.

Art. 16.- The highest duty of the State is to respect and ensure respect for the human rights guaranteed by this Constitution.

*Art. 130.- The National Congress will have the following duties and powers: (...)
7. To approve or reject international treaties, as appropriate.*

Art. 163.- The rules contained in international treaties and agreements, upon promulgation in the Official Registry, shall be part of the juridical system of the Republic and shall prevail over other inferior laws and regulations.

In application of these principles, the Executive must conduct its foreign policy through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, pursuant to the regulations listed below. Paragraph 12 of Art. 171 of the Constitution provides that:

The President of the Republic is in charge of defining the foreign policy, conducting international relations, and signing and ratifying international treaties and agreements, upon approval of National Congress, when required by the Constitution.

These provisions are completed with the first two articles of the Organic Foreign Service Law, reproduced below:

Art. 1.- The Foreign Service is in charge of conducting the international affairs of the Republic, pursuant to the Political Constitution of the State, internal legislation, and International Law. The Foreign Service, under the immediate supervision of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, executes international policy, ensures the respect for the personality, sovereignty, independence, dignity and territorial integrity of the Republic, and assures the defense of its rights and the protection of its interests.

Art. 2.- Pursuant to the provisions of the Political Constitution, the Head of State, as supreme representative of the country and of its sovereign rights abroad, is in charge of conducting international affairs and the Foreign Service. The Minister of Foreign Affairs, in his capacity as immediate assistant to the Head of State, is in charge of collaborating directly with the President in the formulation and execution of international policy. The Minister is also the head of the Foreign Service.

III. Foreign policy objectives



This Plan and the actions developed to execute it will faithfully follow the Political Constitution of the Republic and the national legal system.

The consultation mechanisms adopted for the development of this Plan have identified the following priority objectives for the foreign policy of Ecuador:

- 1) Defending the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the State.
- 2) Respecting and strengthening the validity of International Law as basis for the peaceful coexistence of the States.
- 3) Protecting the rights of Ecuadorian citizens living abroad and their families, and seeking the improvement of their living conditions and the preservation of their ties with Ecuador.

- 4) Promoting the strategic insertion of Ecuador in the international community, so that external actions contribute to consolidate the social State of Law, strengthen democratic institutions and the respect for human rights, and promote sustainable development.
- 5) Supporting an equitable, fair and democratic world economic order that guarantees peace, development and the preservation of the environment.
- 6) Producing and executing foreign policy as an instrument for the sustainable development of Ecuador, which promotes the equitable distribution of wealth, respects cultural diversity, preserves the environment, and prioritizes the eradication of poverty.
- 7) Fostering international cooperation for development, according to the national priorities and the Millennium Development Goals proposed by the UN.
- 8) Promoting Ecuadorian cultures in their diverse manifestations.
- 9) Supporting the efforts of the international community to fight organized transnational crime and corruption.
- 10) Ensuring that foreign policy reflects the aspirations of the Ecuadorean society, to which the persons responsible and the executors of such policy are accountable.

IV. Strategic Guidelines



A CROSSCUTTING THEMES

4.1 Sovereignty and territorial integrity of the State

One of the key goals of the foreign policy of Ecuador is the preservation of sovereign rights on its continental and island territory and on its sea and air spaces. This includes defending territorial integrity and natural resources, implementing policies and actions to reinforce border areas, improving the life of the population, and sustainable development. To this end, it executes cooperation and integration activities, especially with South American countries. In addition, in full exercise of its sovereignty, the State may delegate to any supranational body the exercise of certain sovereign powers, in order to increase its negotiating capabilities and become a stronger international actor.

For the preservation of its sovereign rights, Ecuador promotes international peace and security, the juridical equality of all States and the peaceful settlement of disputes. It is signatory of several bilateral and multilateral agreements on issues regarding land and maritime borders, as well as multilateral

agreements on, among other things, maritime, air, space, Antarctic, and Amazon issues.

Strategic guidelines in the areas of State sovereignty and integrity are:

- 4.1.1** Preserving the sovereign rights of the State on its territory, its sea and air space and on its natural resources.
- 4.1.2** Protecting territorial integrity.
- 4.1.3** Respecting and ensuring the respect for the boundaries finally established in international agreements signed with neighboring countries.
- 4.1.4** Executing tasks of reparation, reposition and densification of boundary marks with neighboring countries.
- 4.1.5** Building neighborly relations and mutual confidence with neighboring countries through the timely and effective use of mechanisms established.
- 4.1.6** Strengthening relations with neighboring countries, through bilateral cooperation in areas of mutual interest, especially the joint development of border regions, including the respect for cultures and the improvement of the living conditions of trans-border indigenous populations.
- 4.1.7** Finding timely solutions to eventual border incidents, through dialogue and mechanisms created to that effect.
- 4.1.8** Implementing, in coordination with other State agencies, with their own funds and with international cooperation, bilateral economic and social development programs for border regions.

Maritime Affairs

- 4.1.9** Coordinating and executing actions for the defense of maritime sovereignty, maritime space, maritime borders and the resources contained in such space with competent state authorities.
- 4.1.10** Promoting the rational and sustainable use of maritime resources for the benefit of the Ecuadorean population, ensuring their long-term environmental preservation.
- 4.1.11** Participating actively in world, regional and sub-regional maritime forums on issues of interest for Ecuador.

Antarctica

4.1.12 Coordinating the presence of Ecuador in Antarctica, through active participation in bodies of the Antarctic Treaty System and the execution of scientific research programs in Antarctica.

Air and outer space issues

4.1.13 Protecting the air sovereignty of Ecuador.

4.1.14 Fostering air service agreements with countries in the region and elsewhere, to facilitate trade and tourism.

4.1.15 Participating in world, regional and sub-regional aeronautics agencies in issues of interest to the country.

4.1.16 Coordinating and executing actions regarding the use of space applications for the development of the country.

4.1.17 Developing intense activities in world and regional forums that regulate the peaceful use of outer space (the General UN Assembly, COPUOS, and the Space Conferences of the Americas).

4.1.18 Enhancing reflection and analysis of geostationary satellite orbits, in order to adjust the position of the country to changes implemented by specialized bodies of the international community regarding this issue, and leading an Equatorial policy with the purpose of enhancing the principle of access to the orbit and its related frequencies, in line with Article 44 of the Constitution of the International Telecommunication Union.

4.2 Protection of migrants

Emigration of Ecuadorean nationals was accelerated by the economic crisis of 1999. The same number of people that left the country in the last five decades have emigrated in the last five years. Current estimates show that approximately two and a half million Ecuadorians, or 15% of the economically active population (EAP) live abroad. Ecuadorean migrants are men and women from all regions of the country and all social sectors, and they include a large number of technicians, professionals and people with higher education degrees. In certain destinations, emigration is eminently female, or whole families, including children, boys, girls and adolescents.

The migration phenomenon is universal and inherent to globalization. The free circulation of labor is a fundamental part of the liberalization of services and complements the free circulation of goods and capitals. Restrictive migration policies ignore the dynamic of the world economy and the labor market. Currently, the barriers raised by some governments have failed to prevent migration flows and, in many cases, have benefited those who exploit migrants and exacerbate their condition of vulnerability.

In its international relations, Ecuador defends the principle of free circulation of persons, as well as the need to recognize all their fundamental rights as human beings, regardless of their condition as migrants.

The protection of Ecuadorian migrants, as well as of immigrants and refugees arriving in Ecuador, is at the top of the foreign policy priorities of the country. Accordingly, the following strategic guidelines are set forth:

- 4.2.1** Fostering the development and application of International Law to the protection of the human rights of migrants, without discrimination. These rights are inherent to all human beings and the respect thereof is not subordinated to their migratory status.
- 4.2.2** Encouraging the development of international institutions in charge of giving priority attention to the situation of migrant workers and their families, in line with their especially vulnerable situation. Ecuador will strengthen the use of means provided by International Law to ensure the respect for such rights, including the use of international courts. Likewise, it will strive to have the greatest possible number of States adhere to existing international treaties and it will work in the establishment of new commitments on this issue. Ecuador will strive to have the migration phenomenon included in the agenda of international bodies and bilateral agendas with the most important receiving countries.
- 4.2.3** All the powers of the State are under the obligation of ensuring the improvement of the living conditions of Ecuadoreans wherever they reside. Accordingly, the Plan proposes to:
 - a)** Begin updating national legislation governing migration and alien issues to include a regulatory and institutional framework to protect family members left behind in Ecuador, especially boys, girls and adolescents. The adequate application and compliance with interna-

tional commitments acquired regarding migration issues will also be sought. Mechanisms to facilitate the dignified return of Ecuadorean migrants will also be fostered.

- b)** Make diplomatic and parliamentary negotiations to ensure the respect for the rights of Ecuadorean nationals in transit countries and generally, to protect the human rights of Ecuadorean migrants, regardless of their migratory status. Efforts will be made to improve their living conditions, fostering initiatives that favor regularization and the respect for the principle of family regrouping. To this end, the Vienna Convention of Consular Relations must be respected.
- c)** Reach agreements with destination and transit countries, to facilitate processing and settling disputes regarding Ecuadorean nationals, especially those related with family issues.
- d)** Evaluate cooperation and promote the negotiation of bilateral or multilateral agreements that favor an efficient management of migration and the adoption of practices to lower response time in migration proceedings. The production of action plans to comprehensively address the migration phenomenon is imperative and urgent.
- e)** Contribute to the definition and maintenance of a migration policy that favors the development of the country.

4.2.4 Conducting information campaigns about the reality of the countries of destination, as well as about the risks of illegal migration.

4.2.5 Coordinating a public policy of support to migrants and their families.

4.2.6 Developing programs of promotion of Ecuadorean cultures in destination countries, with state entities, local authorities and civil society organizations, and supporting the cultural manifestations of Ecuadorean citizens abroad.

4.2.7 Promoting the adoption of different programs and incentives for the productive investment of remittances in the country and the generation of greater benefits for migrants, their families and their areas of origin, encouraging the creation of jobs and the transfer of technology. In all cases, the private nature of the funds transferred must be kept in mind. Remittances should not be considered as alternative sources for international cooperation.

- 4.2.8** Strengthening ties with communities of Ecuadorean citizens residing abroad. Supporting activities for the promotion of Ecuador through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, diplomatic missions and consular offices.
- 4.2.9** Strengthening the capacity of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ecuadorian consulates to ensure effective attention and protection of Ecuadoreans living abroad. Seeking the improvement of services and partial reinvestment of revenues collected by consulates.
- 4.2.10** Encouraging and supporting the effective prosecution of international crimes related with migration, such as the illicit trafficking of migrants and smuggling of persons, especially women and children, seeking greater cooperation and international commitment to fight these crimes.
- 4.2.11** Applying visa reciprocity, as appropriate to national interests.
- 4.2.12** Developing programs with governments and international institutions to facilitate social and work insertion of migrant workers in the Ecuadorean society, strictly respecting their rights.

4.3 Promotion and protection of human rights

Ecuador supports the indivisibility, interdependence, universality and integrality of human rights in various international forums. This means, among other things, that it grants equal importance to civil, political, economic, social, cultural and collective rights (the rights of the indigenous and afro-Ecuadorean populations; the right to a natural, healthy and protected environment; to peace; self-determination; and development).

Ecuador promotes and defends human rights at international level with the purpose of ensuring the respect for all human beings in their condition as such. The defense of these rights –as established by International Law and, more specifically, by the 1980 Andean Charter of Riobamba– obeys the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of other States. However, this does not undermine Ecuador’s decision to maintain ties of cooperation and friendship with all countries.

A mandate imposed by the Ecuadorian Constitution is that, *“the highest duty of the State is to respect and ensure the respect for human rights”* (Art. 16). This mandate guides the international relations of the country.

It also guarantees to all its inhabitants, without discrimination, the free

and effective exercise and enjoyment of all the human rights enshrined in the Constitution and in international instruments, that is, the entire framework of protection, promotion and defense of the human rights within the country and before international courts of Justice.

Strategic guidelines in this issue are:

- 4.3.1** Fostering the harmonization of national legislation with international human and humanitarian rights instruments signed by Ecuador. To this end, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will coordinate actions with National Congress.
- 4.3.2** Upholding international agreements on this issue and submitting reports to competent universal and regional bodies, as a tool to evaluate advances in each field, and proposing actions to national entities concerning the organisms created by international human rights instruments. To this end, the Permanent Inter-institutional Committee and the National Human Rights Plan Commission, which count upon organized social participation, under the coordination of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, will be consolidated.
- 4.3.3** Strictly and timely fulfilling our international commitments, both in the Inter American and the international arena. Sentences will be enforced and consultative opinions and recommendations issued by tribunals, commissions and thematic mechanisms will be applied.
- 4.3.4** Promoting internal recognition and universal protection of the ethnic and cultural diversity and the human rights related thereto, in compliance with the constitutional provisions regarding collective rights and ILO Agreement 169.
- 4.3.5** Issuing timely rulings in cases of violation of human rights and international humanitarian rights in other countries, promoting the effective use of conventional mechanisms of protection of such rights. As appropriate, complaints may be filed with international mechanisms, or diplomatic or good office actions may be undertaken.
- 4.3.6** Fostering the development of arrangements and plans of action on human rights issues in regional and sub-regional integration agreements signed by Ecuador.
- 4.3.7** Strengthening the implementation of the National Human Rights Plan

coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with the cooperation of relevant government bodies and civil society.

- 4.3.8** Attracting international cooperation to strengthen institutions that guarantee the validity of the Social State of Law and the protection of fundamental rights: National Congress, the Judiciary Branch, the Public Prosecutor's Office, the Ombudsman's Office, the National Police and regulatory institutions. Training programs targeting State officials will be promoted.
- 4.3.9** Insisting on the invitation made in 2002 to all United Nations agencies to officially visit the country and verify in person the human rights situation. Their recommendations will be adopted and executed.
- 4.3.10** Consolidating international commitments to guarantee compliance with the principles of universal justice, especially through the International Criminal Court, on the basis that crimes against humanity do not prescribe pursuant to the Statute of Rome and other international instruments, as well as Art. 23 of the Constitution of the Republic.
- 4.3.11** Strengthening the principles of the Geneva Convention on Refugees; contributing to the debate on legal instruments that govern the statute of refugees in the country, and, in coordination with UNHCR and the Government of Colombia, fostering lasting humanitarian responses to the Colombian population seeking refuge in Ecuador.

4.4 International Economic Relations

Foreign policy is a tool to achieve the sustainable development of the country. To this end, it will provide special attention to international economic relations in order to foster the opening of markets to Ecuadorean products, attracting investments to economic sectors of national interest, improving access to information, science and technology, as well as preserving biodiversity and the environment.

Sustainable and equitable development will depend on the internal development agenda implemented by the country, because the economy relies largely on the domestic market, which acts as a platform for the external projection of Ecuador. Domestic savings are the basis for economic expansion. Foreign

investment can complement, but not replace, domestic efforts. Exports are a dynamizing element of the economy. In order to ensure that growth benefits the whole of society, productive chains that increasingly include the various sectors of the economic activity must be developed. The country must make a special effort to broaden the basket of exportable products, based on economic expansion generated by domestic savings, investment and financing, without excluding any source that may benefit sustainable development.

In order to reduce the vulnerability of the Ecuadorean economy, foreign policy will foster the diversification of its external markets. On the other hand, with the goal of strengthening its international negotiating capacity, Ecuador will join other States with similar interests in various international forums, particularly South American and Latin American countries, with which it hopes to achieve integration in the political, economic, social and cultural fields.

The world needs new institutions in the financial field, which currently lacks rules and regulations agreed by the States, and where the foreign debt constitutes a barrier to the development of the least favored countries. Based on several declarations made by the United Nations and a series of international agreements, it can be argued that foreign debt is an obstacle for the validity of human rights, especially the right to development and the free determination of the peoples. Ecuador needs an active international policy to achieve better conditions in the treatment of its public external debt.

Strategic guidelines on this issue are:

- 4.4.1** Consolidating economic ties with our main trade partners (Andean Community, other Latin American countries, the United States and the European Union). To this end, Ecuador will seek greater access to markets for its products; the elimination of subsidies and other measures that hinder competitiveness; the elimination of tariff and para-tariff measures (*anti-dumping*, animal health, etc.) that prevent the growth and stabilization of the volume of trade.
- 4.4.2** Diversifying the destination and composition of Ecuadorean exports, as well as the sources of foreign direct investment, giving priority interest to countries in the Pacific Basin (especially China, Japan, and India); without neglecting potential opportunities offered by Arab and African countries, such as South Africa.

- 4.4.3** Seeking new markets for Ecuadorean products based on industrialization and technological development, which capitalize on primary products and develop export capacities, supporting innovation and the contribution of new knowledge. Priority attention will be given to exports that generate technological innovations with dynamizing effects on several sectors of the economic activity.
- 4.4.4** Promoting foreign direct investment in areas lacking domestic capitals, provided it contributes to sustainable productive processes, mindful of the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities. Investments with a high content of technological transfer and job generation will be particularly encouraged.
- 4.4.5** Strengthening the juridical system in areas of competence of the Foreign Ministry, through the promulgation and application of national regulations and bilateral agreements of interest for the country, in order to have adequate rules to prevent disputes regarding investment of foreign capitals. Juridical security must favor both the investor and the country.
- 4.4.6** Making bilateral and multilateral negotiations aimed at lowering the high cost of the country's external debt service. Fostering programs and actions aimed at reducing debt service for all developing countries.
- 4.4.7** Tourism and energy policy will have preferential attention in the execution of foreign policy. Regarding tourism promotion, coordination with the Ministry of Tourism and other public and private entities of the country will be reinforced. These actions must be executed after making an inventory of renewable and non-renewable resources that require active environmental preservation policies.
- 4.4.8** Obeying international environmental rules and standards in the development of productive and infrastructure projects, to prevent serious and irreversible damages to nature.
- 4.4.9** Adopting actions required to preserve the ecosystems of the Galapagos Islands and their maritime space, fulfilling the country's responsibility as possessor of this natural heritage of humankind.
- 4.4.10** Fostering the adoption of international agreements that consolidate the principles of precaution and shared responsibility in environmental affairs and protection of natural resources, particularly non-renewable

ones, in order to achieve a greater commitment from polluting countries and preserving the environment.

- 4.4.11** Fostering the expansion and comprehensive use of mechanisms to obtain international resources granted as compensation for actions taken by developing countries towards the preservation of their biodiversity and their environment. Ecuador will work effectively in the carbon dioxide market and on the commitments emerging from the Kyoto Protocol.
- 4.4.12** Supporting international initiatives aimed at ensuring more democratic and equitable management and control of global information and communication networks and knowledge resources.
- 4.4.13** Optimizing the transfer of technologies with direct social impact, such as those applicable to education, public health, sanitation, nutrition, environment and energy.
- 4.4.14** Seeking international cooperation agreements that contribute to the autonomous development of science and technology. Preference will be given to research in the fields of biology, of key significance for the sustainable development of the planet.
- 4.4.15** Fostering the diversification of energy sources and enhancing cooperation and complementarity in this field with other Latin American and developing countries.
- 4.4.16** Privileging the negotiation of economic issues in relevant multilateral bodies, in order to increase Ecuador's negotiation power with more developed economies. Bilateral agreements negotiated on this issue must respect international commitments assumed by Ecuador in these multilateral bodies.
- 4.4.17** Striving to join groups of countries with similar interests in various international forums,, in order to improve its negotiating capacity. Promoting the application of existing mechanisms of consensus in economic issues at regional (CAN, CASA, SELA, ALADI, etc.), and universal (G-77, G-20) levels.

4.5 Security

The ultimate goals of the comprehensive and multidimensional security policies developed by the State are ensuring the wellbeing and development of

all human beings. Accordingly, they must be executed with an unwavering respect for their rights and fundamental freedoms.

The Ecuadorean society opposes the presence of foreign military forces on its territory. There is broad consensus among all political and social sectors of the country regarding this issue. The State has the obligation to face with its own means all internal and external threats, without international cooperation undermining its sovereignty in any way.

Security has two aspects: State security and citizen security. Ensuring the State's external security is the key role of the Government, executed by the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defense. The defense policy is an instrument of foreign policy, and the Armed Forces are exclusively in charge of executing defense policies of military nature, in order to deal with external threats and, exceptionally, in the cases specified by the Political Constitution following the instructions of the President of the Republic, to contend with states of emergency in situations of serious internal commotion or natural disasters.

The following strategic guidelines in the field of security are identified:

- 4.5.1** The guiding themes of policies designed to preserve citizen and State security will be the promotion and defense of human rights and the consolidation of democratic institutions and the Social State of law.
- 4.5.2** The presence of members of foreign armed forces on Ecuadorean territory will not be authorized. This will not prevent the fulfillment of military cooperation agreements and the participation, when appropriate for national interests, in temporary joint military exercises and operations agreed in multilateral bodies.
- 4.5.3** Lending its contribution to Peacekeeping Operations executed by the UN. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will provide the President of the Republic with elements to decide in which operations the country should participate.
- 4.5.4** As one of the country's foreign security priorities is to contend with the effects of the Colombian social, political and armed conflict, Ecuador:
 - a)** Respects and demands respect for the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of other States, a principle that is the cornerstone of its relations with Colombia. Therefore, the Ecuadorean Armed Forces will not participate in joint, coordinated or combined

operations with the Colombian armed forces.

- b)** Will maintain an effective presence and control in the border zone to prevent its territory from becoming a setting for war activities by foreign forces.
- c)** Will continue executing a concerted policy for the comprehensive development of border regions, with the goal of improving the living conditions of their inhabitants and lowering risks, violence, and illicit activities.
- d)** Demands respect for the precautionary approach provided in the Convention on Biological Diversity against measures that may affect human health and the environment.

4.5.5 Fostering greater and more comprehensive security in the border and a South American security cooperation regime, with the purpose of containing external pressures foreign to national and regional interests.

4.5.6 Fostering mutual confidence building with neighboring countries, as a mechanism to strengthen good neighborly relations and consolidate peace with those States.

4.5.7 Ensuring strict compliance with international commitments: reporting military expenditures as provided in bilateral and multilateral forums, like the UN; control and/or prohibition of the manufacturing, possession and use of conventional weapons, including anti-personnel mines; control, non-proliferation and/or destruction of non-conventional weapons; preservation of peace zones and weapons of mass destruction free zones.

The country will support all disarmament activities conducted by multilateral and regional forums, as well as compliance with International Law regarding this issue.

4.5.8 Maintaining an invariable position in the sense that weapons of mass destruction (nuclear, chemical and biological) are a threat against humanity. Fostering actions at regional and universal scale in view of strengthening the non-proliferation regime on the one hand, and on the other hand, advocating the elimination of weapons of mass destruction.

4.5.9 The Minister of Foreign Affairs, by delegation of the President of the Republic, is the representative of the Ecuadorean State regarding its relations with other States, including issues of external security.

- 4.5.10** International cooperation, even of military and police nature, is part of foreign policy. Such cooperation must be requested through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Minister of Foreign Affairs is in charge of signing all international cooperation arrangements, even those regarding external security.
- 4.5.11** Verifying compliance with Ecuadorean regulations on matters of admission, circulation and residence in national territory of police and intelligence officers and law enforcement agents of other States.
- 4.5.12** Ensuring compliance with treaties and agreements among States on issues of defense and security. Supervising their application.
- 4.5.13** Combating organized transnational crime. Special attention will be given to racism and discrimination, and, among others, to financial crimes, graft, slavery, illicit trafficking of emigrants and smuggling of persons, the production and commercialization of drugs, and asset laundering.
- 4.5.14** Defending its own agenda of security interests in sub-regional, regional and world security forums, based on the following postulates:
- a)** Condemning all forms of international terrorism, including State terrorism. Terrorism will be fought with police and judiciary actions of essentially multilateral nature, strictly abiding by International Law and the rules in effect regarding human rights. Ecuador will foster the development of International Law on the matter, including the adoption of an international agreement against terrorism in the framework of the UN.
 - b)** Fighting the global problem of drugs – essentially an issue of public health with social, economic and security ramifications, demands the shared responsibility of countries of destination with high drug consumption, and of countries where drug production and transit or asset laundering are rampant. Ecuador will foster multilateral cooperation actions through comprehensive policies to address the health, economic, legal and judiciary dimensions of this problem. Corruption generated by the production and commercialization of drugs, like the corruption generated by other crimes, threatens State institutions. Accordingly, the fight against corruption deserves top priority from regulatory, judiciary and law enforcement agencies.

International cooperation to fight these crimes will be channeled by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs through INECI.

- c) Ecuador opposes criminalizing emigration or considering migrants as a threat against security. It defends the principle of free circulation of persons. In consequence, it will foster relevant international agreements to address the economic causes and the social effects of migration.

4.6 Culture

The Constitution of the Republic stipulates that Ecuador is a democratic, pluricultural and multiethnic country. Accordingly, its public policies are developed with the goal of defending diversity. Once again, foreign policy is a reflection of the reality of the country, of the recognition of its multiple identities and the respect for the cultural interactions that take place within it.

The dissemination of our cultural values requires projecting this rich diversity into the international community, as well as fostering the development of International Law to protect it. These actions will be developed especially in international forums in countries with a considerable presence of Ecuadorean residents.

Strategic guidelines in this issue are:

- 4.6.1** Promoting pluricultural values and the ethnical diversity of Ecuador abroad. The pertinence of establishing Ecuadorian cultural promotion centers in several countries will be analyzed.
- 4.6.2** Giving special attention to the dissemination of Ecuadorean culture in countries of destination of migrants, to reinforce their ties and those of their descendants with Ecuador, and to facilitate their integration in the receiving society, by promoting greater understanding of Ecuadorean cultural values.
- 4.6.3** Promoting and supporting cultural and artistic activities developed by Ecuadorean citizens abroad.
- 4.6.4** Contributing to the production and execution of a national cultural policy that includes strategies to project the image of the country at international level, and to guide dissemination activities executed by the

Foreign Ministry and its diplomatic and consular missions.

- 4.6.5** Promoting bilateral and multilateral cooperation aimed at backing intercultural processes in Ecuador and in countries that welcome Ecuadorean citizens.
- 4.6.6** Optimizing international agreements in effect on cultural issues, as well as activating Joint Commissions in order to draw up joint cooperation plans with friendly countries.
- 4.6.7** Fostering institutional strengthening, so that the dissemination of the image of Ecuador is supported by new information and communication technologies, and an efficient management of cultural issues by diplomatic missions is established.
- 4.6.8** Multiplying academic and communicational channels to disseminate the multicultural wealth of the country.
- 4.6.9** Timely producing, in coordination with the Ministry of Labor, periodical reports under Agreement 169 and related instruments. Supporting proposals for the protection of the rights of indigenous populations in different international bodies.
- 4.6.10** Supervising compliance with international agreements regarding the preservation of tangible and intangible cultural goods. Special attention will be given to the execution and development of international regulations aimed at protecting ancestral knowledge and the intellectual property of indigenous and afro-Ecuadorean populations.
- 4.6.11** Reinforcing the prosecution of criminal activities regarding the illegal international trafficking of tangible and intangible cultural goods. To this end, the country will collaborate with UNESCO and other competent bodies.
- 4.6.12** Obtaining international cooperation for the protection of cultural heritage in actions that include the production of an inventory and the periodical updating thereof.
- 4.6.13** Disseminating and preserving ancestral knowledge and practices, especially in the field of medicine, to protect the intellectual property of indigenous and afro-Ecuadorean populations in relevant international forums over knowledge that enables groundbreaking scientific developments.
- 4.6.14** Fostering Ibero-American institutional memory networks to strengthen historical libraries and archives in the region and develop regional net-

works with an ethnic and gender perspective. Broadening cooperation on this issue with other countries.

- 4.6.15** Coordinating programs with the National Council of Culture, the Ministries of Tourism and Environment, the BCE, CCE, CODENPE, CONAMU, CODAE and local governments to promote the national culture of Ecuador in foreign countries. These programs must have the participation of artists and cultural creators.
- 4.6.16** Adopting affirmative actions, through administrative and juridical regulations, to incorporate representatives of indigenous and afro-Ecuadorean populations, as well as representatives of different regions of the country, to the Foreign Service.
- 4.6.17** Preparing and executing a program for the celebration of the bicentennial of the First Declaration of Independence of Ecuador (2009) at international level, and preparing the program of festivities for the commemoration of the bicentennial of our Independence (2022).

4.7 International Cooperation for Development

In the context of the new international scenario, cooperation emerges as an option of the international community to assume development as a global responsibility. In the framework of the United Nations, donors have committed to increase assistance levels to 0.7% of their GDP. Although this decision will be executed in the medium term, there is still a lot to do and very few countries have made significant efforts to meet this commitment, as the expectations created by the Consensus of Monterrey have yet to materialize.

Serious situations in other regions, natural disasters and other factors have meant that cooperation has targeted specific issues that require priority attention. However, thanks to diplomatic negotiations, figures reveal that Ecuador has been the recipient of slightly increased international cooperation for development during 2005, both at multilateral and bilateral level, in spite of Ecuador's rating as a middle-income country, which limits its eligibility to access certain resources, and does not reflect the reality of poverty or the levels of social exclusion.

In general, it is foreseeable that existing trends in industrialized countries concerning financing of cooperation for development will continue during the

period of execution of this Plan, so that the funds destined to cooperation for development will drop and cooperation will focus on humanitarian crises, especially in the group of least developed countries, of which Ecuador is no longer part.

In Ecuador, the following features of international cooperation may be mentioned:

- a) The percentage of non-refundable cooperation has not grown at a par with refundable cooperation.
- b) Loans contracted with multilateral agencies have increased, while the percentage of loans contracted with friendly Governments has diminished.
- c) The public sector received an inflow of non-refundable cooperation –in sectors such as health, environment and improvement of productivity–, which mostly target civil society.
- d) In the past, the destination of cooperation was determined by the orientations of donors. This has changed, thanks to greater participation of the country itself in the redirectioning of cooperation towards its development priorities.
- e) Increasingly, civil society organizations of industrialized countries receive cooperation funds from their Governments for administrative purposes, while previously these funds were destined directly to institutions in beneficiary countries.
- f) The cost of administering cooperation funds by NGO's of some donor countries can absorb more than 50% of these funds.
- g) INECI encounters difficulties to fully meet its goal of channeling international cooperation, among other things, for reasons of political and administrative instability, changing procedures regarding international cooperation, political interference, reticence of certain donors and public and private entities to follow established processes.

Strategic guidelines in this issue are:

- 4.7.1** Preparing and executing a National Plan for International Cooperation that outlines the national agenda regarding this issue, establishes priorities, and identifies sources and types of preferred cooperation in each area, taking into account the Millennium Development Goals.

- 4.7.2** Creating systems to permanently evaluate the impact of international cooperation that responds to national interests, and facilitating the execution of periodical readjustments of cooperation received.
- 4.7.3** Fostering decentralized cooperation through local governments in order to strengthen their institutional capacity.
- 4.7.4** Adopting sustainable production programs, especially those that encourage technological transfer, create jobs and meet the needs of historically excluded, vulnerable social groups.
- 4.7.5** Taking into account international shared responsibility on environmental and sustainable development issues.
- 4.7.6** Setting up institutional accountability mechanisms in entities that receive funds from international cooperation.
- 4.7.7** Designing and executing a plan for institutional strengthening and training in INECI, in its capacity as administrator of the Ecuadorean international cooperation system, in order to address the needs of state agencies, local authorities, productive sectors and civil society organizations. This plan will promote transparency in the reception of international cooperation, including military and police cooperation, because cooperation is part of the foreign policy of the State.
- 4.7.8** Collaborating with competent authorities in the production of a National Plan for Disasters that identifies the vulnerabilities and needs of the country, and establishes priorities, actions and types of international cooperation required.
- 4.7.9** Coordinating a common position with middle-income countries of the region to mobilize greater resources from financial and technical cooperation towards their development.
- 4.7.10** Actively encouraging triangular cooperation and South-South cooperation.

B

GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS AND PRIORITY COUNTRIES

4.8 Colombia

Ecuador and Colombia have deep historical ties, and in the last 50 years, they have consolidated mechanisms of cooperation in the political, economic, social, and cultural areas.

Both States have a shared vision regarding the exploitation of marine resources for the benefit of riparian States; accordingly, they work together in the South Pacific Commission. Their common interest in the sustainable development of the Amazon region has led them to collaborate in the Amazon Cooperation Treaty. Likewise, their commitment with South American integration is expressed through the constructive support provided by the South American Community of Nations (CASA) and the Initiative for the Integration of the South American Regional Infrastructure (IIRSA).

The development of a sub-regional integration mechanism for the Andean Community has allowed the economic ties between both countries to multiply, with trade flows nearing 2.0 billion dollars in 2005. In turn, Colombian investments in Ecuador reached 7.7 billion dollars in 2003, and border and energy integration programs have experienced notable growth in recent years.

The strengthening of economic ties should be accompanied, in the next years, by the reinforcement of cultural and social ties, in order to consolidate the friendly relations between both populations.

The rich positive agenda existing between both countries has been clouded in recent years by the internal conflict of Colombia, whose effects constitute one of the major security threats faced by Ecuador.

It is unlikely that the conflict will be settled in the short term, so it is pertinent to think on a horizon of extended negative consequences for Ecuador, including incursions of armed people in the border area with Colombia; dissemination of violence and criminal acts related to arms and drugs trafficking; persistence of a significant flow of Colombian immigrants and refugees towards

Ecuador, without sufficient international economic support; militarization of the border area; and adverse effects on the Ecuadorean population, its fauna and flora, due to aspersions made by Colombia to eradicate illicit drug crops.

Ecuador supports Colombia in the complex and violent situation in which its people live. Evidence of this is that Ecuador has generously welcomed close to 500,000 Colombian immigrants and refugees, but it will not become involved in the internal affairs of Colombia and less still in bilateral or regional military operations.

Strategic guidelines in this issue are:

- 4.8.1** Supporting initiatives for the peaceful settlement of the Colombian conflict and opposing all attempts at regionalizing an alleged military solution.
- 4.8.2** Unwavering respect for the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of the States, the cornerstone of our relation with Colombia.
- 4.8.3** Ecuador will not participate in joint or combined operations coordinated with the Colombian armed forces.
- 4.8.4** Consolidation of ties of friendship and cooperation between both countries through enhanced cultural, social and economic integration.
- 4.8.5** Working together towards strengthening the Andean Community, as a forum that contributes to consolidate democratic systems and foster equitable and sustainable development in both countries. To this end, Ecuador will resort to joint negotiating capabilities with other countries and groups of countries.
- 4.8.6** Full and permanent exercise of sovereignty in the border area, as well as effective protection of the border population and the environment.
- 4.8.7** Privileging trade programs through increased Ecuadorean exports and economic, energy and cultural integration, as well as tourism.
- 4.8.8** Optimizing access to international cooperation funds, in order to execute bi-national integration projects and institutional strengthening in the border area.
- 4.8.9** Coordinating issues related to migration, border integration, control of criminal groups, illicit trafficking of goods and persons and other issues of common interest with Colombia and its neighboring countries. Developing strategies agreed at South American level to control the

adverse effects of the Colombian conflict on bordering countries.

- 4.8.10** Supporting the activities of regional and universal bodies like CAN, the Rio Group, the South American Community of Nations, ALADI, OAS, UN, etc., to foster a peaceful settlement of the Colombian conflict.
- 4.8.11** Upholding the commitment of caring for the Colombian refugee population in Ecuador, broadening cooperation programs with UNHCR and other cooperation for development and humanitarian cooperation services provided by other international agencies, as well as by friendly countries and civil society organizations.
- 4.8.12** Programming frequent exchanges of journalists, business people and scholars to enhance mutual knowledge, overcome mistrust and give timely and supportive treatment to conflictive situations.
- 4.8.13** Developing programs aimed at strengthening family ties in trans-border communities.
- 4.8.14** Promoting the holding of bi-national business and cultural meetings, in different cities of both countries.
- 4.8.15** Promoting technical cooperation among trade promotion bodies, like CORPEI and PROEXPO.

4.9 Peru

Relations with Peru have undergone qualitative and quantitative changes since the Peace Agreements were signed in 1998. Prior widespread mutual distrust has given way to broad and multidimensional cooperation.

At regional and sub-regional level, both countries collaborate closely in the South Pacific Commission, the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, ALADI, SELA, the South American Community of Nations (CASA), IIRSA, and they act together in international issues, using political mechanisms, such as CAN and the Rio Group.

The membership of both countries in the Andean Community and the execution of bilateral programs in recent years have resulted in numerous and varied projects -more than 500 executed in the border zone-, in a notable increase of trade flows, and in the opening of new markets, which have reported interesting figures (1.2 billion dollars in 2005, against 260 million in 1999). This qualitative leap would not have been possible without the peace agree-

ments, although additional efforts are sorely needed to consolidate the process and complete the projects agreed with the support of the international community. Greater growth is to be expected, given the complementary nature of both economies.

Although cultural exchanges have improved mutual understanding, there is much left to do to ensure that cooperation between both societies reaches the level appropriate to two sister nations with a common future. In this sense, alliances and exchanges among a broad range of civil society organizations and productive sectors must be reinforced.

Strategic guidelines in Ecuador's relation with Peru are:

4.9.1 Full implementation of the 1998 Peace Agreements, which put an end to all boundary disputes between both countries. Actions must be taken in two key areas:

- Strict compliance with the spirit and the letter of the Trade and Navigation Treaty and the Reversal Notes on Navigation, which allow gratuitous and permanent navigation on the Marañón/Amazon River.
- Strengthening the Bi-national Plan, with the economic support of both Governments and with foreign resources obtained by INECI, for the execution of programs included in the broad agreement signed by both States regarding social and productive infrastructure, environmental aspects, and private investment.

In the execution of these works, systematic and broad dialogues should be held with local authorities, civil society organizations and productive sectors, so that their interests are adequately taken into account.

4.9.2 New understandings to strengthen the relations of friendship and cooperation between both countries, through the enhancement of cultural, social and economic integration, with emphasis on energy integration, and greater tourism, commercial and cultural exchanges. Fostering the generation of bi-national social services in the border integration area.

4.9.3 Enhancing cooperation within the Andean Community, so that the integration process may contribute to improve living conditions, by prioritizing programs to create jobs, strengthen social policies and help diminish inequality, poverty and health problems among the population.

- 4.9.4** Fostering trade and investment promotion programs that benefit from the complementariness existing between both economies, while rationalizing the joint management and exploitation of mineral deposits, reforestation and conservation of border areas.
- 4.9.5** Enhancing, facilitating and broadening energy integration programs.
- 4.9.6** Prompting the Governments of Ecuador and Peru to agree to allocate annual budget funds to cover the counterpart of bi-national projects and the development of their border areas.
- 4.9.7** Promoting academic and diplomatic exchange processes to foster mutual understanding and identifying projects of mutual interest, as well as ethnic, gender and generational participation.
- 4.9.8** Fostering participation in fairs and other export promotion meetings, boosting relations between CORPEI and PROMPERU.

4.10 South America, Latin America

The economic, social and cultural integration of Latin America, and the agreement of political positions at regional level on issues of international policy are a priority for the foreign policy of Ecuador. Therefore, all processes and mechanisms established with this goal at sub-regional and regional level will be encouraged.

Strategic guidelines on this issue are:

- 4.10.1** Strengthening regional integration schemes of which the country is member, and fostering greater coordination of the economic and social policies of member countries, economic complementation and regional solidarity.
- 4.10.2** Strengthening the Andean Community (CAN), the South American Community (CASA) and the Group of Rio, as mechanisms of political consensus on key international issues, in order to increase the negotiating capacity of individual members.
- 4.10.3** Enhancing the economic and social integration of CAN, improving the coordination of macroeconomic policies in view of the eventual establishment of a single currency, as well as the integral use of the sub-regional market as a platform to achieve greater competitiveness at international level.
- 4.10.4** Participating actively in the mechanisms of analysis and decision of the

Andean Community, CASA and ALADI.

- 4.10.5** Fostering the convergence of CAN and MERCOSUR towards the creation of a South American political, economic, social and cultural space, buttressed by the South American Community, and executing physical infrastructure projects that are part of the initiative known as IIRSA, respecting the interests of the more vulnerable populations and preventing negative environmental impacts.
- 4.10.6** Promoting policies that facilitate direct air communications between South American countries and the free circulation of their citizens.
- 4.10.7** Endorsing the Amazon Cooperation Treaty to support the sustainable and autonomous development of the region.
- 4.10.8** Strengthening ties among integration schemes of which ALADI country members are signatory, and strengthening their linkages with CARICOM.
- 4.10.9** Dynamizing energy cooperation and integration in the region, through OLADE or through other multilateral and bilateral mechanisms.
- 4.10.10** According special attention to our relations with Brazil –which plays an outstanding leadership role in South America– in view of broadening and deepening political, economic and cultural exchanges.
- 4.10.11** Enhancing political, economic and cultural ties with Central American countries, with which Ecuador already has a traditional relation of friendship and cooperation.
- 4.10.12** Establishing diplomatic missions and consular offices in the Caribbean region as part of a broad policy of enhanced cooperation with countries in this sub-region and their integration system.

4.11 United States of America

Consolidating its relations of friendship and cooperation with the United States is a priority for Ecuador, due to the influence of the US in the political, commercial, energy, tourist and cultural sectors of national life, as well as to the number of fellow Ecuadoreans who live in the US, and the importance of increasing exports of Ecuadorean products to the US market.

It is foreseeable that future priorities of the United States towards the

Andean region will continue to be marked by its security interests and that they will continue to focus on the Colombian conflict, in the framework of its antiterrorist policy and its concern with drug trafficking. However, future energy interests may affect US policy in the region, with consequences for Ecuador in its capacity as an oil exporting country.

US policy trends in Latin America allow foreseeing that the White House will probably continue to foster a bilateral agenda with countries in the region, although the renewal of negotiations of the FTAA could alter this scenario.

Given the asymmetry between both countries, it is a challenge for Ecuadorean diplomacy to adequately explain our own agenda to the US Government and society, focused on consolidating democratic institutions and achieving the sustainable and equitable development of the country.

Ecuador has several common objectives with the United States: defending democracy, fighting corruption, promoting human rights, fighting terrorism and drug trafficking, promoting development, etc. However, there are also divergences that must be addressed with frankness and mutual respect.

Strategic guidelines in the relations between Ecuador and United States are:

- 4.11.1** Full respect for the principles of sovereign equality of the States and non-interference in internal affairs.
- 4.11.2** Keeping the following priorities in the Ecuadorean agenda with the United States: defending the human rights of Ecuadorean migrants; better access of Ecuadorean products to the US market; establishing mechanisms to facilitate technology transfer and investment and tourism promotion; and cooperating in the fight against transnational crime, especially corruption-related crimes.
- 4.11.3** Defining and executing programs and actions to improve respect for the human rights of Ecuadorean citizens living in the United States and improving their living conditions, including their regularization, through diplomatic actions, negotiations with civil society and appeals filed with US courts and international human rights protection forums.
- 4.11.4** Strengthening ties with various agencies in the US Executive and

Legislative powers and political and business organizations, as well as with US academic sectors, in order to promote greater understanding of Ecuador and its national interests, so that US Government policies towards the Andean region do not undermine but rather contribute to achieve the objectives of consolidating democracy and fostering the sustainable and equitable development of Ecuador.

- 4.11.5** Establishing agreements to improve conditions of access of Ecuadorean products to the US market. These agreements must be compatible with the international regimes negotiated in multilateral bodies of which both States are members (WTO, WIPO, international environmental agreements like the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, the Basel Agreement on Toxic Waste, etc.); and must foster mutual trade, avoiding uncertainties, the discretionary and unilateral use of tariff and para-tariff measures –for example, animal health and *anti-dumping* measures– or any political condition foreign to trade -evaluation of anti-drug policies, migration control, immunity before international courts, etc.
- 4.11.6** Ecuador will join its Andean partners to negotiate with the US In trade forums.
- 4.11.7** Maintaining a transparent relation among US investors and the Government of Ecuador, so that any dispute between them and their Ecuadorean partners, national companies, or the State itself is settled by competent jurisdictional bodies, without political interference and fully respecting the principles that guarantee legal security, in order to prevent the conflict between private interests affecting the relation that must exist between both States.
- 4.11.8** Establishing information exchange mechanisms to allow the prosecution of companies found responsible of fostering corruption.
- 4.11.9** Promoting ways to attract international cooperation from US public and private entities for development projects, according to the priorities of Ecuador and focused especially on technology transfer and the strengthening of the capacities of local institutions in several areas.
- 4.11.10** Promoting the holding of fairs and congresses of both countries in cooperation with CORPEI, in order to better understand product and other requirements.

- 4.11.11** Signing political, administrative and legal agreements required to speed up the extradition of criminals from one country residing in the territory of the other country, so as to have accused criminals appear before the courts of the demanding State.
- 4.11.12** Fostering regular encounters between social, business and academic sectors of both countries to analyze international relations and activate proposals for development at government level in both countries.
- 4.11.13** Channeling US cooperation towards Ecuador in a transparent way, including military and police cooperation, through the National International Cooperation Institute (INECI).
- 4.11.14** Developing a diplomacy that promotes foreign direct investment in productive sectors that lack domestic savings but have special meaning for their positive social impact, such as tourism and agro-industrial production, placing emphasis on technology transfer and job generation.

4.12 European Union

Ecuador shares values and historic traditions with the member States of the European Union, including the need to strengthen democracy and the State of Law, to foster the development of International Law –especially in environmental and criminal areas– and to promote multilateralism as the best tool to develop international relations.

The strategic guidelines of Ecuador’s relations with the European Union are:

- 4.12.1** Full respect for the principles of sovereign equality of the States and non-interference in their internal affairs.
- 4.12.2** Defense of Ecuadorean migrants living in European Union countries; diplomatic negotiations to improve their living conditions; and regularization of migration, with strict respect for their human rights.
- 4.12.3** Enhancing economic and political linkages with the European Union, both bilaterally and through negotiations between the EU and the Andean Community and with the South American Community of Nations; enhancing trade and investment agreements.

- 4.12.4** Establishing agreements to improve access conditions of Ecuadorean products to the European market. These agreements must be compatible with the international regimes negotiated in multilateral organisms (WTO, WIPO, etc.); and must foster reciprocal trade, avoiding uncertainties and the discretionary and unilateral use of tariff and para-tariff measures (for example, animal health and *anti-dumping* measures) or political conditions foreign to trade.
- 4.12.5** Enhanced exploitation of possibilities for cooperation for development provided by the European Union, especially through projects aimed at consolidating democratic institutions and the Rule of Law, environmental protection, social development and increasing the productive capacity of lower income segments of the population. Fostering the national agenda for relations of cooperation with this block, identifying priority areas and avoiding conditions foreign to the needs of the beneficiaries of cooperation and the merits of the projects.
- 4.12.6** Maintaining transparent relations with EU investor companies, Ecuadorean companies and the Government to settle disputes arising between them and their Ecuadorean partners, national companies or the State itself using competent jurisdictional bodies, without political interference, with full respect for the principles that guarantee legal security, in order to ensure that conflicts of private interests do not affect cordial relations between the States.
- 4.12.7** Establishing information exchange mechanisms to allow monitoring and prosecution of companies found responsible of fostering corruption.
- 4.12.8** Signing political, administrative and legal agreements required to speed up the extradition of criminals, so as to have accused criminals appear before the courts of justice of the State demanding the extradition.
- 4.12.9** Establishing mechanisms to facilitate technology transfer, promotion of investments and tourism, as well as cooperation in the fight against transnational crime.

4.13 Spain

The traditional historic and cultural ties with Spain have been enhanced by more than 500,000 Ecuadoreans who have migrated to that country in recent

years, a figure that, through family reunification, could well double in the short term. This means that, during the period of execution of this Plan, the bilateral agenda between both countries will go beyond the agenda existing between Latin America and Europe.

The current State of the relations between Ecuador and Spain does not reflect the depth or wealth of their historic and cultural ties. Trade has had modest progress. Although Spanish cooperation for the development of the country has increased in recent years, it is still less than the cooperation received from other countries, and its contribution to human resource training is still very small. The mutual dissemination of the cultures of both countries is still very limited.

Financial cooperation has not been fully exploited, and it is important that the debt swap program established in 2005 does not meet the same difficulties.

Both the Spanish State and most of its autonomous communities have expressed their will to increase their ties with Ecuador and have declared our country as priority for cooperation. This will is shared by the Ecuadorean population, as seen in the process of preparation of PLANEX 2020.

The legitimate right of Spain of establishing a migratory policy should not become a barrier against economic, political and cultural exchanges between both countries. In the recent past, the procedures followed in the application of migratory policy have occasionally prevented these exchanges.

Ecuadorean nationals living in Spain will occupy a central position in the policy of Ecuador towards Spain during the term of execution of this Plan, because of new possibilities of greater mutual understanding and increased exchanges in all areas.

Strategic guidelines in the Ecuador-Spain relation are:

- 4.13.1** Fostering joint actions that encourage social and labor integration of Ecuadorean immigrants in the Spanish society, improving their living conditions, family reunification and the preservation of ties with Ecuador.
- 4.13.2** Executing joint development programs that foster job generation in the communities of origin of immigrants, as well as technology transfer and support to the sustainable development of Ecuador.

- 4.13.3** Improving and broadening the program of selection of Ecuadorean workers traveling to Spain.
- 4.13.4** Adopting procedures and measures to prevent Spanish migration policy from becoming a barrier against cultural and commercial exchange among the citizens of both countries.
- 4.13.5** Strengthening the bilateral debt swap program in social and productive projects.
- 4.13.6** Preparing programs to foster the participation of Spanish firms –especially small and medium firms– in investment projects in Ecuador.
- 4.13.7** Developing projects and actions with the goal of increasing the exchange of products of both countries.
- 4.13.8** Establishing information exchange mechanisms to allow the monitoring and prosecution of companies found responsible of fostering corruption.
- 4.13.9** Encouraging reciprocal tourism through actions such as participation in fairs and programming visits of tour operators and journalists, among others.
- 4.13.10** Fostering cooperation programs in the area of alternative energies, especially wind and solar energy, technologies that are significantly developed in Spain.
- 4.13.11** Preparing and executing cultural and academic exchange programs to increase mutual understanding, especially in higher education areas, through scholarship programs for Ecuadorean citizens, or through the frequent exchange of teachers and students.
- 4.13.12** Promoting the participation of Ecuadorian products and firms in fairs in Spain and other European countries.
- 4.13.13** Developing reciprocal programs and visits of representatives of the public and private sectors of both countries to understand the possibilities of economic, technical and cultural cooperation offered by the European Union to Latin America.
- 4.13.14** Improving levels of cooperation for development both in numbers and in destination, targeting it to the institutional strengthening of Ecuadorean entities.
- 4.13.15** Strengthening the Ecuadorean diplomatic mission in Spain as a center for the economic promotion of Ecuador in Europe, to disseminate

investment, exports and tourism possibilities in Ecuador.

4.13.16 Materializing Spain's commitment to strengthen European contribution for the development of the region and especially of Ecuador.

4.14 The Pacific Basin

For its geographical location and the growing diversification of its foreign trade, the Asian and Pacific markets are of interest for Ecuador, which is already member of the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC) and the Pacific Basin Economic Council (PBEC) and aspires to be admitted soon in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum (APEC). The participation of Ecuador in the South Pacific Permanent Commission (CPPS) and CIIFEN, which have their headquarters in the city of Guayaquil, is also important.

The diplomatic presence of Ecuador in the region has been strengthened in recent years through the opening of embassies in Australia, Malaysia, Indonesia and India, in addition to those already existing in Korea, China and Japan. Several Ecuadorean Presidents and Foreign Ministers have traveled to these countries, and they have identified a potential to increase reciprocal trade and investments in several sectors of the Ecuadorean economy.

The port of Manta's option to become a port of transfer for Asia and Latin America could give a considerable boost to the relations of Ecuador with the Pacific Basin. Executive Decree 2889 of May 14, 1987, as amended, and Ministerial Agreement 410 of December 30, 1997, established the Ecuadorean Pacific Basin Committee and fostered the establishment of National Committees as associated bodies, giving the State legal and administrative instruments necessary to execute activities in this geographic area. Updating this legal basis –a task in which the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is actively engaged–will give agility to the Ecuadorean agenda.

Specific programs to enhance relations in all areas with countries of the region will be developed during the period of execution of this Plan; especially with China, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, India, Indonesia, New Zealand and Australia.

4.15 Russia and the Community of Independent States

The international influence of Russia and the Community of Independent States (CIS) and the consolidation of their economic growth have led Ecuador to develop an interest in strengthening ties with these countries. Diplomatic relations have unfolded normally for more than 30 years. Numerous Ecuadorean professionals have trained in higher learning institutes in Russia and in other CIS States and trade has been favorable for some Ecuadorean products, like flowers. Russia has great potential to develop in other areas, as well as possibilities to invest in sectors of interest for the scientific and technologic development of the country.

Ecuador currently lacks diplomatic missions in the States member of the CIS; however, it will implement a policy of rapprochement with these countries in order to capitalize on the opportunities of economic exchange and international cooperation they offer.

Ecuador's diplomatic mission in Russia will strengthen its economic promotion activities, supporting marketing and the search for opportunities throughout this region, which is developing at a very fast pace and which offers opportunities for the expansion of trade of Ecuadorean products, as well as for the attraction of investments and tourism.

C

INTERNATIONAL BODIES

Ecuadorean diplomacy has been especially active in multilateral and regional forums. As a small country, Ecuador is interested in having international regulations and regimes negotiated in these forums, as this allows it to create alliances with States of similar interests, thus increasing its negotiating power in different issues of its international agenda.

Strategic guidelines in this issue are:

- 4.16.1** Strengthening the role played by universal and regional bodies in the development of International Law, the preservation of international peace and security, the promotion and protection of human rights and the achievement of sustainable development.
- 4.16.2** Reinforcing the collective security system of the UN, through reforms to the procedures and the composition of the Security Council, in order to ensure that its actions uphold International Law and that its makeup results from an equitable geographic representation, both among permanent and non-permanent members. The veto is antidemocratic, and it should be eliminated or at least restricted.
- 4.16.3** Actively participating in processes aimed at restructuring and reforming the General Assembly of the UN and its specialized bodies, in order to increase their effectiveness.
- 4.16.4** Actively participating in forums that bring together countries with interests similar to those of Ecuador, in the prospect of having joint positions in international negotiations of larger scope (Non-Aligned Movement, G-77, G-20, GRULAC, etc.).
- 4.16.5** Using all the mechanisms existing in universal and regional human rights forums to achieve full validity of such rights in all countries, promoting the development of guarantees and ensuring the adequate functioning of procedures established for their protection. This includes enforcing sentences, consultative opinions and recommendations of reporters.

- 4.16.6** Fostering the progressive construction of a hemispheric cooperative security system that takes into account the interests of all the countries in the continent, and ensuring the unwavering respect for the principles of sovereign equality of the States and non-intervention.
- 4.16.7** Supporting regional and sub-regional integration bodies in order to strengthen Andean, South American, and Latin American integration.

V. Institutional development



The execution of the foreign policy designed in this Plan requires an adequate institutional base that, on the one hand, allows the professional and transparent management of this policy, and on the other hand, is systematically fed by the opinions and contributions of the broadest sectors of the Ecuadorean society.

A special effort will have to be made to strengthen the acting capacity of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the external economic promotion of the country, consolidating existing markets and opening new ones. To this end, it will train diplomats in economic aspects and enhance the ties of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with productive sectors.

The smooth and permanent relation with academic centers and civil society organizations will give the Foreign Service greater capacity to analyze the impact that changing trends in the international scenario have on Ecuador.

Planex proposes enhancing foreign policy institutions, based on the following strategic guidelines:

- 5.1 Adjusting the Foreign Ministry to the challenges of the changing international scenario marked by globalization. Its organic structure will be reviewed periodically to adapt it to the new needs and strengthen its professional capacity, especially in economic, human rights, environment, culture, and security issues.

- 5.2 Creating institutional mechanisms that allow the permanent linkage of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with political parties, civil society, productive sectors and academic centers, to ensure the follow-up of changes in the international system that affect the interests and expectations of Ecuador; and fostering joint actions of these entities with the State for the benefit of national objectives.
- 5.3 Maintaining a smooth relation with the National Congress, which the Foreign Ministry will keep appropriately informed of the most relevant events regarding the country's foreign relations.
- 5.4 The Foreign Service will develop its activities with transparency and will give accounts of its acts to the Ecuadorean society, according to the mechanisms provided by the law.
- 5.5 Standing negotiating teams in economic issues will be set up under the coordination of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. A procedure of systematic consultation on production issues with the productive sectors and with state entities will be put in place.
- 5.6 Standing consultation mechanisms with national experts in different areas will be set up to generate positions and reports presented by the country in international forums.
- 5.7 A working team will be created with representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Legislative Power and the Prosecutor's Office to review all agreements regarding investment guarantees signed by Ecuador, evaluate their consequences and, if appropriate, to propose amendments. This group could suggest measures to strengthen the legal security of the country.
- 5.8 A standing working group with representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Prosecutor's Office will be created to ensure the follow-up of judiciary or arbitration procedures between foreign companies and the Ecuadorean State.
- 5.9 A high-level inter-institutional working group will be created to study and adopt the Hague Conventions on International Private Law, in view of increasing the juridical security of the country.
- 5.10 Supporting the installation of a permanent system in charge of planning foreign policy that will produce a long term Plan, PLANEX 2020; medium-term plans (4 years); and annual operating plans, ensuring that the

allocation of funds at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and abroad responds to the strategic objectives specified in PLANEX and to the goals established in the medium-term plans.

- 5.11** Reducing the political quota in the Foreign Service, limiting it to the category of ambassadors.
- 5.12** Rationalizing the number of diplomatic missions and consular posts and their staff.
- 5.13** Permanently training Foreign Service staff so that it can execute the foreign policy of the country in a professional way. The Diplomatic Academy is responsible for this task. Special emphasis will be given to training on issues related to exportable offer, economic updating, and international marketing techniques. The training process will be reinforced with internships and practices in private companies.
- 5.14** Strengthening economic promotion activities of diplomatic missions in all countries with which Ecuador has significant trade relations, to directly promote Ecuadorean products, and become key elements in the search for new markets and opportunities for investment in tourism development.
- 5.15** Updating the Organic Law of the Foreign Service and its regulations, so that it to respond adequately to current needs.
- 5.16** Strengthening the national institutional decentralization process, to address directly the needs of different provinces and regions of the country on issues regarding passports and legalizations, cooperation for development, technical selection of migrant job seekers, visas, asylum seekers, etc.
- 5.17** Giving continuity to the consultation process, and incorporating the proposals and aspirations of the provinces and regions to the foreign policy of the country.
- 5.18** Accrediting Foreign Ministry representations in national institutions where they are needed, in order to coordinate the management of the foreign policy of the country.
- 5.19** Developing regulations to govern the institutional life of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the career of its officials, in order to rationalize the use of material and human resources and to give security and stability to officials and their families.

5.20 Adequately planning the purchase of facilities for use by diplomatic missions and consular offices.

VI. Communication policy



The tasks of disseminating foreign policy among the public opinion and promoting the national image are the responsibility of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Communication subsystem. Relations with the media and national and international public opinion are crucial.

The Foreign Ministry expects that its relations with the media will allow institutional messages to reach the public opinion; however, this could be a counterproductive policy if biased, erroneous information is circulated or, in the worst-case scenario, in case of "institutional silence".

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is responsible for putting the foreign policy of Ecuador at the reach of its citizens. Diplomatic work must be disseminated using a clear and simple language, in order to reach the broadest sectors of the population.

A very important aspect of ministerial planning is the issue of communication as a tool to assist in the promotion of foreign policy by means of effective internal, national and international information. This includes initiatives such as e-government, the immersion of Ecuador in the information society and the enforcement of the Transparency Law.

Furthermore, the Foreign Ministry should analyze valuable communicational plans such as those implemented by the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Italy, France, Spain, Panama and Brazil, which have improved their performanc-

es thanks to functional and strategic restructuring.

The communicational planning of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs should be a long-term, multidimensional, horizontal project with high creativity values, commitment and expertise to support the achievement of the great foreign policy objectives of Ecuador.

Strategic guidelines in this issue are:

- 6.1** Planning long-term communication strategies that include the production of studies, articles and other texts by Foreign Ministry officials, promoting their publication in influential local and international mass communications media.
- 6.2** Incorporating new information technologies in order to buttress the foreign policy's communication strategy, to ensure that communications products reach a greater number of citizens and in formats of greater impact.
- 6.3** Enhancing the image of Ecuador abroad. In this sense, coordination of long-term communication policies between the public and private sectors is one of several priority foreign policy activities.
- 6.4** Turning the communication policy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs into a true tool for national development. Transparency should also allow foreign policy to be more democratic, participatory and susceptible to be evaluated by accountability mechanisms.
- 6.5** Fostering the incorporation of issues related to the Foreign Ministry in media coverage agendas.
- 6.6** Integrating modern and efficient systems to monitor national and international communication means, improving the flow of internal information in the Foreign Ministry, including its diplomatic missions and consular offices.
- 6.7** Strengthening the work of the Foreign Ministry as a fundamental institution for the shaping of public opinion. Broadening communications, so that foreign policy actions are disseminated among the greatest number of Ecuadorean citizens and are efficiently projected in the international field.
- 6.8** Maintaining regular contact with Ecuadorean diplomatic missions and consular offices to support their communications work; verifying that

they receive information material correctly; requesting information or information coverage; and finding out their needs on this issue and meeting them.

- 6.9** Negotiating the provision of information and promotional material about Ecuador with public and private entities of the country, which will be sent to our embassies and consulates.
- 6.10** Supporting the efforts of diplomatic missions and consular offices to promote visits of journalists, scholars, business people, artists, tour operators, facilitating their admission and stay in the country, to ensure that their activities contribute to disseminate the country's attractions abroad.
- 6.11** Increasing the positive dissemination of Ecuador and its foreign policy in international media.
- 6.12** Coordinating actions with the communications departments or areas of other public and private institutions to work together in the promotion of the country.



PlanEx

