

DECLARATION OF THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE IV LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN SEMINAR ON ENERGY EFFICIENCY TO THE MINISTERS OF ENERGY AND OF ENVIRONMENT

The National officers and delegates in charge of Energy Efficiency Programs of the Ministries or Secretariats and the representatives of the Climate Change Offices of the Ministries of Environment of Latin American and Caribbean countries, along with other delegates and representatives of the public and private sectors of the region, gathered in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, in the framework of the IV Latin American and Caribbean Seminar on Energy Efficiency of the Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE), in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the National Energy Commission of the Dominican Republic, on August 3 – 4, 2011.

WHEREAS:

- I. Climate Change is one of the main challenges humanity faces this century, because it is the main cause of the progressive warming of the Earth, according to the reports of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.
- II. During the last Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 16) which took place in Cancun, Mexico (2010), it was made clear the imperious need to limit the increase in global temperature up to 2 degrees Celsius, for which it is imperative to reduce CO₂ emissions by 25% to 40%, in order to prevent emissions to surpass 32,000 million tons by 2020.
- III. Energy efficiency programs implemented in all sectors of consumption generate proven economic benefits for individuals and countries, making more resources available for projects of social benefit and productive and economic development.
- IV. In the framework of the low emission development strategies, cost-effective efforts in the energy efficiency domain are an excellent opportunity for countries of the region to contribute to global climate change mitigation efforts.
- V. Few actions may reduce carbon emissions as easily and with as many substantial economic benefits as energy efficiency programs, thus it is necessary to:
 - Implement energy efficiency programs taking actions beyond the promotion of a change of habits, and including the use of efficient technologies.
 - Consider the convenience of starting this transition to the complete phase out of inefficient lighting, being this one of the most effective, fastest and financially convenient way to tackle climate change and prove the advantages of energy efficiency.
 - Acknowledge the benefits of changing all general use incandescent lamps for efficient technologies, being some of these benefits:
 1. An important reduction in electricity consumption, generating an important economic saving for consumers and governments of the whole region.
 2. A decrease in energy demand in peak hours, contributing to energy security and avoiding important and costly investments in new energy generation

sources in our countries.

3. A contribution to the mitigation of CO₂ emissions in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- VI. A large number of countries of the region have already developed successful initiatives to phase out general use incandescent lamps, and this constitutes an important strength to begin a definite transition to efficient lighting.
- VII. An important number of countries in the region have already implemented national systems to gradually phase out general use inefficient lighting technologies from the market, especially incandescent lamps, as a key measure to guarantee the advantages of the transition in a definite way.
- VIII. The UNEP/GEF en.lighten initiative, with the collaboration of experts from different countries, taking into account the best international practices, has designed several recommendations in order to move forward towards the transition with a firm and definite grip in order to achieve economic, energy and CO₂ emissions savings.
- IX. UNEP, in collaboration with OLADE, is engaged to work in order to achieve a sustainable transition to efficient lighting, and providing the required technical assistance and counseling to interested countries in the region to achieve this objective.
- X. OLADE's Program of Energy Efficiency for Latin America and the Caribbean (PALCEE) has been successfully promoting the creation and strengthening of Energy Efficiency in Latin American and Caribbean countries.

THEREFORE WE SUGGEST THAT MINISTERS:

1. Promote the proper education, institutionalization and legislation allowing a full transition to more efficient lighting in Latin America and the Caribbean as an important energy efficiency element and as a support to low emission development strategies.
2. Promote the necessary consensus for countries of the region to adhere to the voluntary association proposed by UNEP/en.lighten to materialize a continuous evolution towards the most efficient lighting technology all the time, through an integrated approach, and phase out the use of the most inefficient lamps – starting with the incandescent ones- as soon as possible and by end 2015.
3. Call for this important topic to be put in the Agenda of the OLADE Ministers Meeting in October 2011 and of the UNEP Ministers of Environment Meeting in January 2012, due to the decisive role these Ministers play in the national decision-making process to move forward towards efficient lighting.
4. Support the expansion of the Energy Efficiency Program for Latin America and the Caribbean (PALCEE) to other countries of the region.
5. Circulate and foster the participation of energy and environment stakeholders in the Latin American and Caribbean Energy Efficiency Network.