

## **THIRD ACADEMIC SUMMIT LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN AND THE EUROPEAN UNION**

### **COMMITMENT OF CÓRDOBA**

#### **Declaration of the academic community of Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union for the construction of the Common Space for Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation**

The rectors, deans, directors, professors, researchers and students belonging to the academic community of Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union, invited by the Permanent Academic Forum (FAP ALC-UE) and the National University of Córdoba, meeting in the Third Academic Summit Latin America and the Caribbean – European Union on April 12 and 13, 2018,

#### **CONSIDERING:**

1. The need to launch the construction of the Common Space of Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, in order to allow the academic integration of the corresponding national systems, strengthening their development, cooperation and common projects.
2. The richness which represents, for the societies of Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union, having a shared perspective of the academic world in the production of knowledge and the training of the new generations, in accordance with the realities and challenges posed by the digital environment, the scientific and technological advances, the Fourth Industrial Revolution and the social, economic and environmental sustainability of development, particularly the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 2030) agreed upon by the International Community.
3. The substantial process of analysis and reflection on the contribution of the biregional academic community to the Strategic Association of Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union, which we have carried out since 2012 with more than 2,500 participants, through meetings, seminars, conferences, workshops, and the proposals of the Academic Summits of Santiago de Chile in 2013 and of Brussels in 2015, presented to the Heads of State and Government of both regions, as well as the contributions and specific proposals made by the participants during this Third ALC-UE Academic Summit.

All this constitutes a documentary collection accumulated during this process, which serves as a basis especially for the objectives indicated in Chapters 1 and 9 of the CELAC-EU 2015 Action Plan.

4. The convergence of visions of the authorities of the academic world, the ministers of education and authorities of the public sector and international and regional organizations present in this Third Academic Summit, in terms of jointly opening a new phase starting from this meeting, for the process of elaboration of the academic and regulatory bases of a concrete proposal for the construction of the Common Academic Space, taking into consideration and deepening the initiatives and pilot experiences whose implementation and generalization we have discussed during this event.

And feeling deeply influenced by the spirit and the meaning with which the 1918 University Reform of Córdoba impregnated the academic world of Latin America and Europe a hundred years ago, whose foundations are still valid, and which now allow us, in 2018, to project from this city and this University the common future over inclusive foundations, freedom of thought and integration of our societies:

**WE DECLARE:**

Our firm commitment to work for the construction of the Common Area of Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation of Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union.

**WE APPEAL:**

To the entire university and scientific community, to the Ministries of Education, of Science and Technology, of Foreign Affairs, and to the integration organizations of both regions, to join this common project and to advance as soon as possible in structuring a common process that leads to the creation of the Common Space of Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation.

**WE PRESENT:**

This Declaration to the Group promoting the Forum of Ministers of Education and Higher Education of the LAC- UE regions.

**AND WE PROPOSE:**

To the Heads of State and Government of the Community of Latin-American and Caribbean States and the European Union to take a decision at their next Summit in order to prepare an **AGREEMENT OF ACADEMIC INTEGRATION OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN, AND THE EUROPEAN UNION, FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMMON SPACE OF HIGHER EDUCATION, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION**, as the official regulatory framework for this initiative.

Consequently, the academic community of both regions reaffirms its commitment to put in all its efforts and to contribute the common experiences obtained from the cooperation programmes, the academic, scientific and technological networks and existing projects.

Córdoba, Argentina, 13<sup>th</sup> of April 2018.

Signed: