

EXECUTIVE REPORT
VIII INTERAMERICAN MEETING OF MINISTERS OF EDUCATION.
PANAMA, February 4TH AND 5TH 2015.

The VIII Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Education of the Organization of American States, whose main theme was "[Building an Inter-American Educational Agenda: Education with Equity for Prosperity](#)", represented a milestone in the history of Inter-American policy dialogue and regional integration for education topics.

With the presence of representatives from 27 Ministries of Education, Member States of the OAS adopted a Resolution that commits to building an Inter-American Educational Agenda, which will guide the Inter-American cooperation in three areas: Quality, Equity and Inclusion, Teacher Training and Professional Development, and Comprehensive Care for Early Childhood.

The Agenda will be constructed by [Working Groups](#) composed by Ministers of Education of Member States. This will create a framework to select sub-themes and strategies of action, and advance them incorporating a cross-sectorial collaboration perspective.

Equity, Quality and Inclusion in Education:

President: Costa Rica

First Vice President: Chile

Second Vice President: Mexico

Strengthening Teacher Professional Development:

President: Bolivia

First Vice President: Barbados

Comprehensive Early Childhood Care

President: Dominican Republic.

First Vice President: El Salvador

Second Vice President: Nicaragua

For the construction of the Inter-American Educational Agenda, the Ministers of Education will have the support of a Virtual Platform for Educational Cooperation in the Americas, which was launched by the Minister of Education of Panama, Marcela Paredes de Vázquez, as her first initiative as Chair of the Inter-American Committee on Education.

The main functions of this platform will be to collect, organize, disseminate, highlight, and create awareness about policy practices, and educational programs and initiatives that are a priority for Member States. Among its most important objectives, is facilitating the dissemination of educational solutions developed by different countries used to meet their major educational challenges, and improve communication and flow of information between Member States in this field.

In line with the cross-sectorial collaboration perspective, for the first time in this policy dialogue, employment-sector participation was included, through the presence of the Minister of Labor Development of Panama and the Deputy Minister of Labor and Social Security of Mexico. Likewise, this launched initiatives to achieve regular meetings between Ministers of Education and Ministers of Labor.

In addition, the Ministerial Meeting resulted in the composition of an [Executive Committee](#) for the Inter-American Committee on Education, which was almost entirely completed, leaving only vacancies for Principal and Alternate Delegates in the Southern Cone.

Authorities:

President: Panamá

First Vicepresident: Costa Rica

Second Vice President: Colombia

Executive Committee

North American Region:

Mexico (Principal Delegate); United States (Alternate Delegate)

Caribbean Region:

Suriname (Principal Delegate); Haiti (Alternate Delegate)

Central American Region:

Guatemala (Principal Delegate); Dominican Republic (Alternate Delegate)

Andean Region:

Ecuador (Principal Delegate); Bolivia (Alternate Delegate)

Southern Cone Region: Pending definitions

During the meeting, and with much gratitude and enthusiasm from all delegations, The Bahamas was nominated as the next host for the Ninth Meeting of Ministers of Education.

The present Member States also adopted the Resolution ["Vote of Thanks to the People and Government of the Republic of Panama,"](#) which reflects the special congratulations and deep gratitude to Panama for a successful meeting led by the Minister Marcela Paredes de Vázquez.

Finally, it is worth mentioning that during this meeting, the Government of Panama announced the I Forum of University Presidents of the Americas, to be held on April 9th and 10th in Panama City, in conjunction with the VII Summit of the Americas, performed in the country.