

There can be no sustainable development unless we seriously adhere to the commitment to new sustainability that protects our present and guarantees our future. We must keep watch over our continent's natural capital.

Building a common future involves preserving our greatest asset — our immense natural resources.

There can be no development unless we are capable of narrowing the gap between those who have access to information technologies and those who are unable even to dream of having them.

In our times, information technologies must be at the centre of our countries' agenda. The objective is for the information and communications revolution to become truly continental in scope. This is the only way to reduce the digital gap between countries, companies and families.

On the foundation of democracy, freedom and solidarity, it is imperative to build bridges that will carry us to a shared future; bridges between the successful vanguard and the forgotten rearguard, between tradition and modernity, between the old and the new economy; bridges to allow those who have been excluded from development to join in a process to which they are entitled; fast-lane bridges to arrive more quickly and comfortably, to enable everyone to cross, including those who have been bypassed up to now.

To that end, strong growth in economic citizenship is a necessity. We must democratize markets and ensure that the tools for access to the new economy are available to everyone. This is the only way to unleash the energy of the millions who have been excluded from development.

Rational markets are not sufficient to achieve this. We require an elementary sense of justice and a large dose of politics and active politicians.

Societies do not transform themselves with apathetic politicians. After all, today in Latin America, rather than being the art of the possible, politics should be the art of making the necessary possible, doing it together and doing it as quickly as possible.

Today, our future binds us as much as our past. The imbalances must be recognized and attacked right now.

Technical assistance and scientific cooperation are not sufficient in themselves to surmount these differences.

To build a more competitive, more equitable and more just continent, we need criteria for convergence and measurement of results, institutions to provide support, financing systems that promote the construction of infrastructure for harmonious and sustained growth. We also need social solidarity funds to promote the most bypassed communities on our continent.