

Annex 6

**STATEMENT OF INTENT
TO LAUNCH A PAN-AMERICAN CLIMATE INFORMATION SYSTEM
FOR DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHILE**

On the occasion of the State Visit by the President of the United States of America to the Republic of Chile on April 16-17, 1998, the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Chile ("the Participants") issue this Statement of Intent to launch a Pan-American Climate Information System for Disaster Preparedness,

The Participants:

Recognizing the significant impacts of extreme climatic events on the quality of life throughout the Americas as evidenced by the 1997-98 El Nino;

Recognizing a nexus of scientific understanding and technology that for the first time in history allowed accurate predictions of the impacts of El Nino;

Recognizing the accuracy, timeliness, and demonstrated skill of forecasts of the 1997-98 El Nino and its impacts on regional climate provided to the Americas by the International Research Institute for Climate Prediction (IRI-CP);

Recognizing that El Nino forecasts joined with disaster planning provided us with tangible opportunities to better prepare for and reduce the worst of El Nino related damages;

Emphasizing the potential opportunities to further progress to reduce disasters caused by El Nino and increase preparedness by applying climate forecasts;

Noting high level interest in reducing vulnerability to climate fluctuations in agricultural production, civil infrastructure, water and sanitation, public health systems, fisheries and forests;

Have decided to jointly launch a Pan-American Climate Information System for Disaster Preparedness (PACIS), and to invite other regional partners to join, as appropriate, subject to the laws and regulations of the Participants and contingent upon the availability of appropriated funds.

I. It is intended that PACIS will put in place a sustainable system for climate forecasting and its application with the objectives of reducing disasters and improving decision-making with regard to response to climate fluctuations across the critical sectors of health, shelter, forest and water management, agriculture and security.

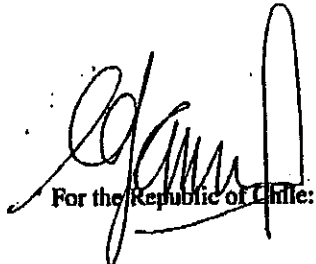
II. Chile and the United States will jointly organize the first meeting of national officials responsible for disaster preparedness throughout the region and climate experts that will provide them with climate forecast information.

III. It is the intent of the United States and Chile that this Statement of Intent will be implemented for the United States by the Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Agency for International Development's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) and for Chile by the National Emergency Office (ONEMI), the Meteorological Directorate of Chile (DMC) and the Hydrographic and Oceanographic Service (SHOA). The United States and Chile intend to request support for PACIS from the International Research Institute for Climate Prediction (IRI-CP), and Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI), and to explore avenues for additional

support from international and regional programs and institutions, such as the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the Inter-American Development Bank.

Signed in Santiago, Chile, in duplicate, on the sixteenth day of April, 1998, in the English and Spanish languages.


For the United States of America:


For the Republic of Chile: