



Introduction

A relevant number of countries of Latin America and the Caribbean is characterized by high energy intensity and high dependence on the hydrocarbons (be those imported or produced internally).

Nevertheless, the problem that undoubtedly unites all the region's countries is the inefficient use of the available energy, in agreement with the conclusions of the study "Situation and Perspectives of the Energetic Efficiency in Latin America and the Caribbean", document published in October, 2009 and elaborated by CEPAL in the frame of the cooperation with the Government of Germany.

The problem of the inefficiency in the use the energy is evident - among other factors - by the absence of a regional political "dialogue" that promotes the horizontal and international cooperation, aiming at identifying the best practices to overcome this barrier and designing new policies of efficient and sustainable use of the energy in the Region's countries.

Based on this, the objective of the initiative is to contribute to strengthening of the horizontal and international cooperation in energy efficiency in Latin America and the Caribbean, by means the establishment of a political dialogue on the matter (**Energy Efficiency Policy Dialogue, EEPD**) as a high level political and technical platform for regular policy dialogue and cooperation on Energy Efficiency among ECLAC's members countries.

The Biannual energy efficiency dialogues would follow the model of the Energy Efficiency 21 Forum established by U.N ECE, and take advantage of the new GEE21 program. Main expected accomplishments of the initiative would be: i) to guarantee the assistance of a significant number of Ministers or decision-makers from energy sectors of LAC countries to the bi-annual Latin American and Caribbean Energy Efficiency Policy Dialogues (EEPD); and ii) that Governmental Representatives assisting the EEPDs do adopt consensus on specific issues and matters related to the establishment of regional and interregional cooperation mechanisms, aiming at the implementation of sustainable and sustained energy efficiency policies in LAC countries.