DECLARATION OF CARTAGENA

We, Heads of Delegation of the Regulatory Entities members of the Association of Regulatory Entities of Drinking Water and Sanitation of the Americas (ADERASA), who participated in the XII Ibero-American Regulatory Forum held in the city of Cartagena de Indias, Republic of Colombia, from October 16 to 18, 2019, with the participation of government representatives, sectorial associations, academics, multilateral banks, non-governmental organizations, international cooperation organizations, providers of public drinking water and sanitation services:

i. Aware of the importance of promoting effectiveness and efficiency in the processes of regulation and / or control of drinking water and sanitation services;

ii. Recognizing the need to promote the integral management of water resources and the construction of more efficient and sustainable regulatory frameworks;

iii. Focused on the fulfillment of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6: Ensure the availability of water and its sustainable management and sanitation for all;

iv. Highlighting that achieving universal access to safe and affordable drinking water for all has a transversal impact on the other objectives of the 2030 agenda;

v. Considering the Declaration of Salta, issued by the ADERASA Assembly in Argentina in 2016, on the need to adapt activities aimed at protecting the water resource to the specific situation and objectives of the countries of the region;

vi. Taking into account the conclusions of the exchange of knowledge and experiences of the participants of the XII Ibero-American Regulatory Forum;

Declare the following:

As Regulatory Entities we reaffirm our commitment to contribute to the scope of the Sustainable Development Goals, taking action to achieve the goals associated with SDG 6 and therefore, we commit ourselves to:

a. Encourage the incorporation of digitalization and technological developments in the sector of drinking water and sanitation, to improve the quality of service provision, through intelligent management of water resources by the provider companies, and having take into account the particularities of the different regions of Latin America and the Caribbean;

b. Promote the regionalization, agglomeration and use of economies of scale in the provision of drinking water and sanitation services, in those cases where these options represent the structure of provision that improves the performance of companies and their technical efficiency and financial;

c. Develop strategies to reduce the barriers faced by companies providing public services when accessing loans in financial markets or instruments in the capital market, for the development, modernization and technification of services;
d. Recognize the increased risk of shortages in watersheds, associated with the consequences of climate change and accelerated population growth, and promote investments associated with risk management and the development of the green infrastructure, as a complement to grey infrastructure, that respond to criteria of cost efficiency, and that protect the supply of water resources over time;

e. Replace the traditional vision of the linear economy with the approach of circular water economy from a perspective of urban resilience, so that the integral management of urban water discharged into water bodies is passed, so as to avoid the maximum waste and prefer reuse of treated water for different purposes;

f. Contribute to the redesign of more efficient subsidy schemes for drinking water and sanitation services, using new knowledge and technologies that consider the economic and social assessment of the service and the payment capacity of the users, so that it does not threaten the sustainability of the service in a population that is growing rapidly and so that its affordability is guaranteed, all in the framework of the recognition of the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation.

g. Adopt alternative solutions that allow universal access to water and sanitation supplies in the peri-urban and rural areas of Latin America and the Caribbean where the most vulnerable populations live, considering technical solutions and financing mechanisms that respond to the particularities of these populations and preserve the conditions of coverage, quality and continuity, in particular of community providers, and even when the services are provided in differential conditions.

Given in the city of Cartagena de Indias, Republic of Colombia, on October 18, 2019.

Signed by

Oscar Pintos, President ADERASA, President AFERAS, Argentina
Fernando Alfredo Franco, Vice President ADERASA. President ABAR, Brasil
Álvaro Barrantes Chaves, 2° Director, ADERASA, Water Regulatory Authority ARESEP, Costa Rica
Diego Felipe Polonía Chacón, 3° Director ADERASA, Executive Director, CRA Colombia
Roberto Lezcano, Executive Secretary ADERASA, Member of Administrative Council, ERSSAN, Paraguay
Evel Marcelo Alvarez Alba, Representative APPS, Bolivia
Luís Edgar Ricardo Moreno, Executive Director, ARCA, Ecuador
Juan Carlos Fuentes Chirinos, Representative of ERSAPS, Honduras
Christino Sánchez Espinola, Member of Administrative Council, ERSSAN, Paraguay
Ivan Lucich Larrauri, President, Council of Directors, SUNASS, Perú
Orlando Borges, President, ERSAR, Portugal,
Ana Montero Wagner, Representative of INAPA, República Dominicana
Cesar Falcón, President URSEA, Uruguay