

## **PACIFIC ALLIANCE**

Ambassadors,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is with great pleasure that I address you today, in order to celebrate the participation of Greece as an observer to the Pacific Alliance organization.

Greece has always been close to the Latin American countries. As we both have been through similar historical and political turns, our peoples understand and appreciate each other. However, despite the fact that our political relations have always been at a good level, our economic relations still lag behind. We have to find the necessary solutions to bring our countries closer together, economically and commercially.

Here, in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, we have developed a strategic plan, aiming to boost extroversion. Diversification of our trade routes and tackling challenges that new foreign markets offer, are key elements to this plan.

We are ready to also offer this opportunity to you. As you know, Greece is located at the crossroads between Europe, Asia and Africa. Therefore, we invite the countries of the Pacific Alliance to take the opportunity to easily access markets that may have been remote in the past, through Greece.

The conditions to achieve a better communication and cooperation are here, we just have to take advantage of them. Organizations and unions such as the Pacific Alliance can, and do, create an ideal framework to that effect.

In this context, we highly value our Observer status in the Pacific Alliance, a vibrant group of countries, covering more than 38% of the Latin American GDP.

In a limited timeframe, the Pacific Alliance has accomplished a lot, having convened six presidential summits, each one of them providing specific statements and detailed timelines to advance agreed-upon goals.

Furthermore, as the Pacific Alliance will evolve into a free trade area with a common Stock Exchange, it will seek greater cooperation and partnerships among its member-countries. Bearing in mind that among the main goals of the group is forging closer relations with the Asian-Pacific region, one can easily understand why Greece can be an observer of great strategic value.

With these words, let me finish by expressing my congratulations for the recent signing of the Paracas Declaration, which signals the commitment of the founding States to deepen their cooperation in the fields of human capital training, innovation and technology. You can rest assured of our firm support and our commitment to achieve all our common goals.

Thank you very much for your attention.