The RCEs of the Americas network of Regional Centres of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development (RCEs), having met in Western Jalisco, hereby state our commitment to implementing strategic actions that build a continental learning space on ESD to contribute to our global and regional learning spaces, as we move beyond the Decade on ESD and into the new era of the Global Action Programme on ESD.

As a transformative tool for change, the RCEs of the Americas commit to the following strategies within the ESD priorities of the Global Action Programme:

- **Advancing Policy**
  - Increasing the visibility of RCEs within the UNU-IAS, municipal, state, and federal governments, and UN agencies in our regions.
  - Developing strategies to work with senior policy ministers beyond education, such as ministries of the environment, health, etc. and at all levels of government.
  - Shaping ESD policies that allow for flexibility and shared accountability.
  - Linking research to policy needs and advising, with vetting and publishing support from the Eco-Journal

- **Integrating sustainable practices into education and training, using a whole-systems approach.**
  - Moving beyond projects and focusing only on what is taught in classrooms to emphasizing institutional ESD practices in hiring, purchasing, investing, building, and training students and staff.
  - Developing evaluation tools, such as models of assessment for formal, informal, and nonformal education including the Sustainability Literacy Test.

- **Increasing capacity**
  - Identifying funding strategies and sources within our communities, including non-financial resources and collaborative partnerships.
  - Developing training programs, including establishing exchange programs between RCEs for faculty, students, and community leaders.
  - Setting up mentoring relationships for new RCEs from within and outside the country, providing support during the application process, as well as after recognition and through maturity.

- **Empowering and mobilizing youth**
  - Supporting successful programs such as the Virtual Youth Conference
o Developing relationships between youth via social media and one-to-one engagement (such as “pen pal programs”) and participation in youth conferences in our regions

- Encouraging local communities to develop community-based ESD programs
  - Working with indigenous people, recognizing traditional knowledge, best practices, and cultural diversity, and identifying their importance and challenges.
  - Facilitating community and citizen engagement and service projects.

In an effort to continually improve our contributions and collective impact, the RCEs of the Americas will reflect upon our progress and provide constructive critique to revise efforts and develop policies and practices which improve our ability to implement our ESD objectives required for a sustainable future and for positive social transformation. We commit to ensuring our strategic engagement does not:

- lead to fragmentation and separation from our communities and disciplines thereby impeding our ability for strategic collaboration and multi-stakeholder networking
- overlook work with specific sectors (for example, artists and faith organizations), specific areas of education (for example, corporate education and training), and specific types of policy (for example, non-governmental and business policies)
- fail to build on the earlier successful work on ESD completed during the Decade on ESD

Collectively, we are committed to advancing ESD, mindful of the broader global sustainable development agenda including the Sustainable Development Goals. As the world looks to 2015 and beyond, our RCEs recognize our scale of expertise and the need to respond to our global systems in crisis. It is our moral responsibility to contribute to both the cultural and institutional changes necessary to address the sustainability challenges of our regions and our world.