

BBVA adheres to the “Port of Spain Declaration” in order to promote Social Responsibility

Through its different banks in Latin America, BBVA has adhered to the *Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain* which was signed in Trinidad and Tobago by the heads of state of the countries in the region on 19 April. The agreement aims at guaranteeing the future of American citizens through the promotion of three fundamental aspects: human prosperity, secure energy and environmental sustainability.



With its adherence to the *Port of Spain Declaration*, BBVA once again ratified its commitment to social and environmental matters and positions itself as one of the financial groups working in a decisive manner on issues related to social responsibility and with those who definitively mark the difference with their competitors.

Within the framework of the 5th Summit of the Americas, the heads of state assembled the private sector to strengthen alliances intended to achieve the goals of the

Port of Spain Declaration. BBVA responded to this call through its Business Forum Network, an association that promotes corporate social responsibility in America.

Like no other financial group has done in the region, seven BBVA banks adhered to the declaration with the firm intention to contribute to these objectives: Mexico's BBVA Bancomer; Argentina's BBVA Banco Francés; BBVA Chile; BBVA Colombia; Peru's BBVA Banco Continental; BBVA Uruguay, and BBVA Paraguay, all of which have carried out important actions in support of human prosperity, energy security and environmental sustainability.

BBVA banks in the region have been developing activities and programmes which help reduce poverty and raise educational levels. The most important one is the *Integración* Scholarships Programme - *Niños Adelante*, which in 2008 benefited over 47,000 children and young people from the underprivileged sectors of society. Similarly, BBVA develops programmes to help spread bank usage in the region by making it easier to access financial services for all levels of the population and providing support for micro-enterprises and small and medium-sized businesses to develop their projects.

Commitment

BBVA is likewise committed to the issue of energy efficiency and environmental sustainability. It recently signed an agreement on collaboration and technical assistance with the Inter-American Investment Corporation, a multilateral financial body affiliated with the Inter-American Development Bank, in order to provide aid to companies in South America, for the promotion of energy efficiency, under the *GreenPyme* programme, among other questions.

The “Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energies” programme is clearly aimed at fostering in SMEs care of the environment, the use of renewable energies and the efficient handling of energy resources, with the aid of technical assistance on these matters and training activities through seminars and empowerment workshops, targeted at customers and non-customers of the BBVA Group's companies in South America.

In addition, BBVA launched its Global Eco-efficiency Plan (*PGE*) 2008 - 2012, with the clear objective to minimise environmental impact through the reduction of CO₂ emissions, the reduction of the use of paper, water and energy, among others.

With these and other initiatives, BBVA assumes its commitment to promote the development of the societies in which it operates.