



## **Resolution Supporting the Expansion of the America's Competitiveness Exchange on Innovation and Entrepreneurship**

**WHEREAS**, the United States Department of Commerce, through its Economic Development Administration (EDA), fosters regional economic development efforts through innovation and regional collaboration; and

**WHEREAS**, the Americas Competitiveness Exchange (ACE) on Innovation and Entrepreneurship was created in 2014 as a partnership between the U.S. Department of Commerce, through the International Trade Administration and EDA, the U.S. Department of State, and the Organization of American States; and

**WHEREAS**, ACE develops long-term global partnerships by bringing together high-level decision makers and leaders from the Western Hemisphere; and

**WHEREAS**, ACE has proven to be successful in reducing transaction costs for global exchange of information, products, and ideas; eliminating barriers to commerce and trade; reducing business transaction risk; accelerating business, trade, and commerce transactions; and creating economic opportunity and development between, among, and within participating economies; and

**WHEREAS**, ACE encourages collaboration in sharing Research, Development, and Commercialization of Technology models and building mutually beneficial partnerships between research centers, universities, and private sector associations; and

**WHEREAS**, ACE assists in the development of community-based regional economic development resources and tools provided by accelerators, incubators, technology parks, and other entities through the exchange of models, information, and facilitating mentorships; and

**WHEREAS**, ACE exemplifies the importance of solving complex challenges through public and private partnerships to advance a coordinated regional economic development strategy and brand to promote and leverage localized assets; and

**WHEREAS**, ACE stimulates job creation through innovation and entrepreneurship through startups and business expansion, as well as support emerging industries with strategies to develop and retain talent, develop infrastructures, and make other key investments; and

**WHEREAS**, communities are encouraged to co-organize ACE programs, seminars, and other capacity building initiatives for public officials, private sector, and university leaders and

entrepreneurs, to identify priorities for local development; and

**WHEREAS**, the EDA's design and implementation of Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS) and investment sites is a valuable experience for countries in the Americas as best practice models and connection points to stimulate economic growth within participating economies.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the National Association of Development Organizations urges the Administration to continue working with communities across the country to host and participate in ACE to create the conditions for economic growth and opportunity; working with businesses, universities, communities, and workers to promote job creation, economic growth, sustainable development; and improved standards of living in the United States and within the Western Hemisphere.

Adopted this 1<sup>st</sup> day of June, 2019.



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Scott R. Koons, President