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**DECLARATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

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AG/DEC. 81 (XLVI-O/16)

DECLARATION ON INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING  
FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE AMERICAS

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 15, 2016)

THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND HEADS OF DELEGATION OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS), meeting in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, on the occasion of the forty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly,

REAFFIRMING the nature, purposes, and principles established in the OAS Charter, and the commitments assumed by the member states in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and the Paris Agreement adopted by the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,<sup>1/</sup> and other international commitments related to the three dimensions of sustainable development:<sup>2/</sup> economic, social, and environmental;

RECOGNIZING the multidimensional challenges of sustainable development and that achievement of the 2030 Agenda goals in the region will be driven by institutional strengthening, by effectiveness, efficiency, transparency, ethics, and credibility of public institutions, with inclusive and participatory decisions, and by intergovernmental, inter-agency and inter-sectoral coordination, in an environment that is safe and enabling for civil society, other social stakeholders, and the public;

MINDFUL of the recognition in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of the difficulties encountered by middle-income countries and those in special situations in achieving sustainable development, and of the need to promote the sharing of experiences, better coordination, and support by the United Nations system for development, the international financial institutions, regional organizations, and other interested parties;

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION that to achieve sustainable development and to attain the 2030 Agenda's goals, the member states also need to strengthen the implementation measures therein defined, as well as the necessary funding, innovation, capacity-building, technical assistance, and transfer of technologies, on voluntarily and mutually agreed upon terms and conditions.

BEARING IN MIND the importance of reviewing and updating the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development (PIDS) and following the commitment of the Tela Declaration "Building a Sustainable Development Agenda for the Americas," which adopted the Strategic Framework for the PIDS, in order to revitalize the efforts being made within the OAS General Secretariat to assist the member states' institutional strengthening processes and support implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

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1. The Government of the Republic of Nicaragua cannot endorse the reference to the so-called "Paris Agreements" because irregular procedures were used in their adoption, ...
  2. The international commitments referred to in this preambular paragraph are: United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. ...

AWARE of the importance of encouraging dialogue and synergies among governments, civil society organizations, other social stakeholders and the private sector, and public-private partnerships in the process of institutional strengthening for sustainable development in the Americas, and combating corruption in both the public and private sector to contribute to greater participation and consolidation of democracies in our societies;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the Strategic Vision, the strategic objectives of the Organization, and the prioritization of mandates by member states for institutional strengthening in accordance with the OAS pillars;

ACKNOWLEDGING that Earth and its ecosystems are our home, and convinced that in order to achieve a just balance among the economic, social, and environmental needs of present and future generations, it is necessary to promote harmony with nature and Mother Earth, which is a common expression for the planet earth in a number of countries and regions,<sup>3/</sup>

DECLARE THAT THEY:

1. Promote the strengthening and creation, where appropriate, of transparent, effective, responsible, and inclusive institutions at all levels of government that facilitate the achievement of the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the goals of the Paris Agreement, together with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

2. Adopt a steadfast commitment to implement the 2030 Agenda in the Americas and to attain the Sustainable Development Goals and Targets, which are integrated and indivisible in nature, and reaffirm the commitment to eradicate hunger and poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, to combat inequality, to protect the environment, to foster disaster risk management, and to fight climate change, among others.

3. Encourage the process underway within the Negotiating Committee of the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation, and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean, in order to promote the fulfillment of the commitment acquired in the Declaration on the Application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on the Environment and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, signed on the occasion of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), held in Rio de Janeiro from June 20 to 22, 2012.

4. Encourage models for development and economic growth that are more inclusive, resilient, and sustainable, with corporate social and environmental responsibility practices in line with the Sustainable Development Goals.

5. To promote the right approach in institutional strengthening processes, including respect for human rights and systems of protection and social promotion of a universal, equitable, and

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3. Costa Rica, Chile, and Colombia, in this context and in keeping with language previously agreed upon in other international instruments of the United Nations and the Organization of American States (OAS), ....

non-discriminatory nature, in order to live well in harmony with nature and generate conditions to achieve the full development of individuals and to allow for advancement toward more societies that are peaceful, just, and inclusive for sustainable development that take account of the needs of vulnerable groups.

6. Promote and strengthen the formulation and implementation of public policies, strategies, and actions to foster gender equity and equality and the effective empowerment of women as necessary conditions for the full respect of human rights of all women and girls in all spheres of public and private life; likewise, take actions and combine efforts in the fight against all forms and manifestations of violence against women, including feminicide/femicide, and discrimination toward women and girls.

7. Promote actions aimed at ensuring respect for the rights of indigenous peoples, people of African descent, migrants and their family members, older persons, and other members of marginalized and vulnerable groups.

8. Encourage the process of professionalization in public administration and the development of well-trained civil servants, as well as the establishment of modern merit-based management systems for the entry, retention, and development of human resources.

9. Encourage and strengthen high-quality public administration, with an approach that sees people as agents of change and is geared to consolidating institutionalization, coherence, and continuity in public policies consistent with the goals and targets set in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other international instruments dealing with development.

10. Promote public administration, building the capacity of public institutions as entities with responsibility for implementing, together with regional and local authorities, policies geared to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

11. Promote an inclusive, equitable, and quality education as a vital component of the institutional framework required for the attainment of sustainable development. In this regard, strengthen the policy dialogue in the area of education.

12. Promote political and institutional coherence, effective inter-agency policy coordination, and the facilitation of synergies between national goals, development plans, public policies, actions, and programs with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in its three dimensions: economic, social, and environmental, by adopting multi-sector and multidimensional strategies imbued with a comprehensive vision of the sustainable development policies, which are to be established in accordance with the capacities, realities, and priorities of each country.

13. Strengthen institutional capacity in each of the branches of government, while respecting their independence and encouraging their contribution to the achievement of just, peaceful, and inclusive societies for sustainable development.

14. Promote permanent, inclusive, and intercultural dialogue with society, aimed at achieving greater social cohesion and enhancing interagency and intersectoral coordination between

public and private entities, civil society, academia, and other social actors for the sustainable development of states.

15. Foster credibility and citizens' trust in democratic institutions.

16. Promote transparency and accountability, citizen participation, and control of resource management of state institutions by disseminating public information, and provide for its appropriate organization, systematization, and ongoing availability in order to afford the broadest and easiest access to the public/citizen, subject to constitutional and legal norms, including those on privacy and confidentiality.

17. Promote the development and implementation of transparent legal frameworks that take account of collective interests supportive of sustainable development.

18. Affirm their conviction in a holistic approach to the three dimensions of sustainable development—social, economic, and environmental—through dialogue and other peaceful means of settling disputes and preventing conflicts, from a rights-based perspective, thereby contributing to democratic governance and attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

19. Promote respect for the rule of law at the domestic and international levels, equal access to justice, and implementation, where appropriate, of the Model Inter-American Law on Access to Information and the Inter-American Strategy for the Promotion of Public Participation in Decision-making for Sustainable Development for the benefit of current and future generations.

20. Continue to pursue the fight against all forms of corruption in the public and private sectors, promote open government and implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption and its follow-up mechanism, and strengthen the development, in the member states, of mechanisms needed to prevent, detect, punish, and eradicate corruption and impunity, as an imperative of states to attain a decent, dignified, and full life.

21. Promote institutional strengthening through horizontal, South-South, and triangular cooperation actions to jointly address the challenges of development and of poverty and inequality and, in addition, to strengthen good relations and promote integration among the OAS member countries.

22. Emphasize that international public finance plays an important role in complementing the efforts of countries to mobilize public resources domestically, especially in the poorest and most vulnerable countries with limited domestic resources. An important use of international public finance, including ODA, is to catalyze additional resource mobilization from other sources, public and private. ODA providers reaffirm their respective commitments, including the commitment by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7% of ODA/GNI to developing countries and 0.15% to 0.2% of ODA/GNI to least developed countries.

23. Enhance participation of civil society organizations and other social actors in regional forums such as the OAS, in order to strengthen exchange of experiences and promote coordination with the governments of the region.



24. Promote the potential of the private sector, of public-private partnerships, and of the specialized investment and financing mechanisms for development and integration already in place in the region to create synergies that will make it feasible to achieve the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

25. Promote training, technological and productive innovation, and transfer of technology on voluntarily and mutually agreed upon terms and conditions, and actions of corporate social responsibility by all enterprises, in particular small and medium-sized enterprises and other organizational models, in order to improve their ability to establish trading relations and leading to the development of value chains among the region's businesses, which will serve to improve their complementarity and competitiveness.

26. Support the various reform processes aimed at improving and strengthening the effective functioning of the international financial system and its architecture and foster an inter-American dialogue on addressing the considerable challenges to sustainable development faced by developing countries, including difficulties in accessing official development aid and the fact that some countries are unable to access sufficient affordable financing from other sources to meet their needs, while recognizing that all developing countries, including middle-income countries and countries in special situations, continue to face challenges where sustainable development is concerned. Encourage international financial institutions that play an important role in development financing to examine ways to integrate sustainable development goals, targets, and indicators in decision-making processes regarding development assistance and financing and to promote exchanges with all relevant stakeholders to improve the multidimensional nature of their indicators used to depict a country's level of development.

27. Urge developed countries to fulfill financial commitments on climate change, especially by capitalizing the Green Climate Fund and other alternative sources, in order to attend to the development needs of our region with respect to the adoption of climate-change adaptation and mitigation measures.

28. Consolidate regional solidarity through the implementation of programs within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by means of alternative financing mechanisms.

29. Foster, in addition, equitable and universal access to information and communications technologies (ICTs) and to broadband internet in the countries of the Americas, particularly in nations that require crossing third countries to connect to the international fiber-optic network, promoting the efficient use of available resources in the universal services funds, when applicable.

30. Raise the awareness of and educate the population, in particular children and adolescents, about the challenges facing the Americas region with respect to the commitments of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

31. Recognize the central place of the United Nations system, its agencies, funds, programs, and relevant forums, as a key piece of the international system for supporting member states in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda's goals, and the role of the appropriate components of that system for following up on that implementation, in order to avoid duplication by different organizations. In addition, OAS member states will revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

32. Support the efforts of small island developing states and of landlocked developing countries through actions to mitigate the effects of disasters, climate change, and epidemics, which represent continuous challenges in attaining sustainable development.

33. Promote and support inter-American actions and programs geared toward strengthening institutions and building national capacities, particularly in the developing countries and especially in the least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS), in order to structure the region's efforts toward implementing the Sustainable Development Goals.

34. Support the OAS's Strategic Vision process and the mandate prioritization adopted by the member states, to ensure that the Organization makes an effective contribution to institutional strengthening for sustainable development.

35. Celebrate the adoption of the PIDS, as an institutional policy instrument approved at the fifth regular meeting of the CIDS and to entrust the OAS General Secretariat with its implementation.

36. Instruct the General Secretariat to work on coordinating efforts with the member states and regional and international organizations for the implementation of commitments undertaken with respect to sustainable development and climate change.

37. Instruct the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (OAS) to promote, within the framework of its mandates and in coordination with other international and regional entities and organizations, the mobilization of resources and facilitate technical assistance as requested by the states to advance toward the effective implementation of this Declaration.

38. Express appreciation for the recommendations resulting from the dialogue with the representatives of civil society, workers' representatives, the private sector, and other social actors, as important contributions to the attainment of the commitments contained in this Declaration.

FOOTNOTE

1. because the position of the most vulnerable countries was not taken into account, and because, on the contrary, the negotiation process was compromised by the failure to recognize the historical responsibility toward the countries suffering the effects of climate change and their indemnification, a position that was backed by Nicaragua and other countries in order to ensure that those states that have caused the climate change problem and are the main emitters of greenhouse gases assume the responsibility of mitigating the harm inflicted on the small countries—such as Nicaragua and other nations in Central America and the Caribbean—that suffer the consequences in the form of droughts, rising sea levels, hurricanes, and other catastrophes.

2. ... (Agenda 21 and Declaration of Rio de Janeiro on Environment and Development); 2000 United Nations Millennium Summit and its Millennium Development Goals; the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg in 2002 (Declaration and Plan of Action); World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction (Kobe, Japan, in 2005 (Hyogo Framework for Action, 2005-2015); Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the Mauritius Strategy; United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development; resolution A/RES/66/288 - The Future We Want; Resolution A/RES/67/206, Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (Samoa Pathway); United Nations resolution A/RES/68/222, Development Cooperation with Middle-Income Countries; Resolution A/RES/70/1, Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; Resolution A/CONF.227/L.1, Addis Ababa Action Agenda; Resolution A/RES/69/283, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030; Resolution FCCC/CP/2015/L.9, Framework Convention on Climate Change; Declaration and Plan of Action of the Summit of the Americas held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, in 1996; Inter-American Democratic Charter; Social Charter of the Americas; Declaration of Santa Cruz + 10; Declaration of Santiago on Democracy and Public Trust: A New Commitment to Good Governance for the Americas; Declaration of Panama: Energy for Sustainable Development; Declaration of Asunción: Development with Social Inclusion; Declaration of Santo Domingo for the Sustainable Development of the Americas, Dominican Republic, 2010; Declaration of Cochabamba on “Food Security with Sovereignty in the Americas”; Inter-American Convention against Corruption (IACAC); Declaration of Tela: “Building a Sustainable Development Agenda for the Americas”; resolution AG/RES. 1 (XLVII-E/14), “Guidelines and Objectives of the Strategic Vision of the OAS”; and others, as applicable.

3. do not interpret the term “Mother Earth” as synonymous with, nor generally used to refer to, nature or planet Earth. Moreover, they note that the expression ‘harmony with Mother Earth’ is not universally accepted. The language in the paragraph should not be regarded as a precedent for future negotiations.

AG/DEC. 82 (XLVI-O/16)

DECLARATION ON THE CENTENARY OF THE PASSAGE INTO IMMORTALITY  
OF THE NICARAGUAN AND UNIVERSAL POET RUBÉN DARÍO

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 14, 2016)

THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND HEADS OF DELEGATION OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS), meeting in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, on the occasion of the forty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly,

RECOGNIZING the richness and diversity of the linguistic and cultural expressions of the Americas, which have helped forge the idiosyncrasies and identities of our nations in their task of strengthening our region as a zone of peace, cooperation, and peaceful dispute resolution, in order to ensure the wellbeing and sustainable development of their peoples;

CONSIDERING the contribution made to universal culture by the illustrious Nicaraguan poet Rubén Darío, the Father of Modernism and the visible head of that new movement, who succeeded in synthesizing the literary genius of Latin America and Hispanic America;

HIGHLIGHTING the importance of Rubén Darío in revolutionizing the poetic art of the Spanish language, of verse, rhyme, metric, and esthetics in his humanism-steeped literary output, which is evinced by the work he produced throughout the course of his life,

DECLARE:

1. TO COMMEND the commemoration of the centenary of the passing into immortality of the great Nicaraguan poet and universal Prince of Castilian Letters, Rubén Darío.

2. TO RECOGNIZE the talent, versatility, richness, accomplishments, and exceptional nature of Darío's work and of the contribution he made to the stature of the Spanish language by bringing the culture of Spanish-speaking America to the international stage.

3. TO WELCOME the activities taking place during the current year to celebrate his great legacy to universal culture, which is the heritage of future generations.

AG/DEC. 83 (XLVI-O/16)

DECLARATION ON REPARATIONS FOR THE ENSLAVEMENT OF AFRICANS  
AND THEIR DESCENDANTS AND THE SLAVE TRADE<sup>1/</sup>

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 14, 2016)

THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND HEADS OF DELEGATION OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS) gathered in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, at the forty-sixth regular session of the OAS General Assembly,

ACKNOWLEDGING that slavery and the slave trade, particularly the transatlantic slave trade, were appalling episodes in the history of humanity, not only for their abhorrent barbarism but also their magnitude, organized nature, and, in particular, their negation of the humanity of the victims, and are among the predominant expressions of racism, racial discrimination, and related intolerance, and that Africans and people of African descent were victims of those acts and continue to be victims of their consequences;

BEARING IN MIND that the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man establishes that all men are born free and equal, in dignity and in rights, without distinction as to race, sex, language, creed, or any other factor; the Charter of the Organization of American States establishes as one of the principles of the Organization recognition of the fundamental rights of the individual without distinction as to race, nationality, creed, or sex; the Inter-American Democratic Charter affirms that “[t]he elimination of all forms of discrimination, especially gender, ethnic and race discrimination, as well as diverse forms of intolerance, the promotion and protection of human rights of indigenous peoples and migrants, and respect for ethnic, cultural and religious diversity in the Americas contribute to strengthening democracy and citizen participation”; and the Social Charter of the Americas states: “Member states recognize the contributions of indigenous peoples, afro-descendants, and migrant communities to the historical process of the Hemisphere and will promote recognition of their value”;

RECALLING paragraphs 98 to 106 of the Durban Declaration, and in particular, the importance of the “provision of effective remedies, recourse, redress, and compensatory and other measures at the national, regional and international levels, aimed at countering the continued impact of slavery and the slave trade,”

DECLARE:

1. That they acknowledge that slavery and the slave trade were appalling crimes in the history of humanity; welcome the CARICOM initiative to establish the Caribbean Community Reparations Commission, and applaud the efforts of that Commission to redress historical injustices.

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1. “St. Vincent and the Grenadines supports the original title of this declaration entitled “Reparations for African Slavery and Descendants of Slaves and the Genocide of Native Populations” and objects to the...

FOOTNOTE

1. ... removal of texts which made reference to Native Genocide. In accordance with the Caribbean Community's (CARICOM) Ten Point Plan for Reparatory Justice it is important to emphasize that any reference to Reparations for African Slavery must also incorporate the Genocide of Native Populations or Indigenous People.”

AG/DEC. 84 (XLVI-O/16)

DECLARATION ON ZIKA VIRUS: INTER-AMERICAN COOPERATION  
TO MEET A GLOBAL HEALTH THREAT<sup>1</sup>

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 14, 2016)

THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND HEADS OF DELEGATION OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS), gathered in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, at the forty-sixth regular session of the OAS General Assembly,

RECALLING that in derived initiatives at the Seventh Summit of the Americas, in April 2015, the Heads of State and Government reiterated their commitment to strengthen the ability of national health systems to prevent, detect, and respond to outbreaks of emerging infectious diseases and other public health emergencies, particularly those with the potential for cross-border effects and impacts in realms beyond health, including other social factors; and

RECOGNIZING the potential risk that a pandemic due to *arthropod-borne viruses* such as the Zika virus, would pose to our societies and citizens, with possible severe consequences for human health and the global economy;

RECOGNIZING the recent rise in the spread of Zika virus in Latin America and the Caribbean, accompanied by scientific evidence that the virus can cause congenital malformations such as microcephaly and other neurological syndromes such as Guillain-Barré (GBS);

RECOGNIZING the difficulties public health officials have encountered in the past in facing other epidemics and pandemics;

AWARE that in May 2015, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) as specialized health agency of the Inter-American System and Regional Office for the Americas of the World Health Organization (WHO) issued an alert regarding the first confirmed Zika virus infection in the region and, on February 1, 2016, the WHO declared the cluster of microcephaly cases and other neurological disorders a public health emergency of international concern,

DEEPLY CONCERNED by the vulnerability of different member states and their populations, especially pregnant women and women of reproductive age, to a Zika epidemic, due to the absence of a specific treatment and a vaccine;

CONSIDERING the emergency meeting of the Latin American Ministers of Health, held in Montevideo, Uruguay, in February 2016, which focused attention on this emerging threat and the need to support the political, technical, and financial commitment necessary to prepare, prevent, and

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1. Paraguay supports all measures adopted in combating the zika virus in accordance with its domestic laws. No new conceptual approach shall be interpreted in a manner contrary to the standards in force.

respond to (arthropod-borne viruses) diseases (dengue, chikungunya, Zika and yellow fever) and associated conditions;

CONSIDERING ALSO that local transmission has been reported in many countries and territories and that the Zika virus will likely continue to spread to new areas;

RECALLING that WHO launched, in March 2016, a global “Strategic Response Framework and Joint Operations Plan” to guide the international response to the spread of Zika virus infection and the neonatal malformations and neurological conditions associated with it;

RECALLING ALSO the PAHO-led expert consultation on Zika virus research agenda and its implications for public health in the Americas, convened in Washington D.C., in March 2016;

WELCOMING the efforts by Brazil and the United States through the development of fruitful collaboration between theirs and other member states health institutions and health research institutes on Zika virus response efforts, including vaccine development; and through the exchange of knowledge and researchers between countries; and

COMMENDING the role of PAHO in providing and fostering technical cooperation in the region as well as the coordination of global efforts by WHO in supporting other national governments to address the epidemic in other affected regions;

DECLARE our commitment to work together in combating the Zika virus and its associated conditions, and providing vector control; and to identify priority areas for further action.

DECLARE that, in order to respond to the Zika virus epidemic, we will coordinate with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), in its efforts to provide leadership in coordination of the regional response to the Zika epidemic and its associated conditions and take the following steps:

- a. Considering and strengthening, as appropriate, each country’s capacity and means of communication to implement the International Health Regulations’ core capacities that enable precise and updated epidemiological information, notifying sanitary risks as established in the IHR;
- b. Developing, implementing and strengthening, according to each country’s capacity, Zika response plans that integrate intersectoral actions towards vector control;
- c. Addressing the challenges related to public health infrastructure, including, *inter alia*, the water, sanitation, hygiene, and the waste management infrastructure, through intersectoral actions, essential for controlling *Aedes* and other related vectors,
- d. Addressing the challenges related to health services, including sexual and reproductive health rights and services, regarding the Zika virus and its associated conditions, especially for women of reproductive age and pregnant women and their partners;



- e. Promoting technical and financial cooperation among member states to strengthen national and regional Zika preparedness, prioritizing research and innovation and the strengthening of response capacities;
- f. Supporting health authorities and engaging and mobilizing civil society, academia, private sector, non-governmental partners, women's groups and other actors in the vector control strategies aimed at reducing the *Aedes* mosquito populations;
- g. Promoting the access to information and resources for prevention of Zika virus infection, particularly to pregnant women and women of reproductive age, through the strengthening of reproductive health services;
- h. Developing health care protocols, according to each country's capacity, to address the needs of newborns and children with microcephaly and other neurological conditions related to Zika;

EXPRESS our satisfaction and support for the work conducted by WHO and PAHO to help member states to prepare, prevent, and respond to the Zika epidemic and its associated conditions;

REQUEST PAHO to report to the Permanent Council on the adopted measures to promote this declaration.

REQUEST the Secretary General of the Organization of American States to report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh regular session on the implementation of this declaration.

AG/DEC. 85 (XLVI-O/16)

DECLARATION ON PROMOTION AND STRENGTHENING  
OF THE SOCIAL CHARTER OF THE AMERICAS

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 14, 2016)

THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND HEADS OF DELEGATION OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS), gathered in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, at the forty-sixth regular session of the OAS General Assembly,

CONSIDERING that at its forty-second regular session, held in Cochabamba, Bolivia, from June 3 to 5, 2012, the General Assembly, through resolution AG/RES. 2699 (XLII-O/12), adopted the Social Charter of the Americas;

REAFFIRMING the determination and commitment of member states to urgently combat the serious problems of poverty, social exclusion, and inequity that affect, in varying degrees, the countries of the Hemisphere; to confront their causes and consequences; and to create more favorable conditions for economic and social development with equity to promote more inclusive and just societies;

CONVINCED ALSO of the importance for social development of adopting policies to promote good governance, transparency, citizen participation, accountability, just treatment of citizens before the law, and the fight against corruption;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that the full exercise of economic, social, and cultural rights requires that a series of measures be progressively adopted by member states, as well as regional and international cooperative action;

REAFFIRMING the universality, indivisibility, and interdependence of all human rights and their essential role in social development and the realization of human potential, and recognizing the legitimacy and importance of international human rights law for their promotion and protection;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that the full exercise of economic, social, and cultural rights requires that a series of measures be progressively adopted by member states in conjunction with regional and international cooperation; and

CONSIDERING that at its forty-fifth regular session, held in Washington, D.C., United States of America, from June 15 to 16, 2015, the General Assembly, through resolution AG/RES. 2878 (XLV-O/15), adopted the Plan of Action of the Social Charter of the Americas,

DECLARE:

1. Their commitment to promoting and progressively realizing the full achievement of economic, social, and cultural rights and principles, through policies and programs that they consider

are the most effective and appropriate for their needs, in accordance with their democratic processes and available resources.

2. Member states will strive, domestically and internationally, as appropriate, based on respect for human rights and the rule of law, and within the framework of democratic institutions, to eliminate obstacles to development with a view to achieving full enjoyment of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

3. The need for member states to renew their commitment to implementing the Plan of Action of the Social Charter of the Americas based on their domestic laws, national realities, strategies, plans, and available resources, and to maintain a dialogue to exchange information on progress, experiences and lessons learned, as provided in the Plan of Action and, when appropriate, in coordination with the ministerial dialogue mechanisms of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development.

4. The commitment to redoubling efforts to strengthen partnerships among the member states and appropriate national, regional and international institutions, so that they can contribute to strengthening programs aimed at bringing about societies that afford everyone opportunities to benefit from sustainable development with equity and social inclusion.

5. Every state is responsible for its own development. Hemispheric cooperation contributes to the strengthening of regional integration, political dialogue, and multilateralism, and complements national efforts aimed at building human and institutional capacities to achieve integral development.

AG/DEC. 86 (XLVI-O/16)

DECLARATION ON COMMEMORATING THE SECOND CENTENARY OF THE  
LOS CAYOS EXPEDITION AS AN EXEMPLAR OF COOPERATION  
IN THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE PEOPLES OF THE AMERICAS

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 14, 2016)

THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND HEADS OF DELEGATION OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS) gathered in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, at the forty-sixth regular session of the OAS General Assembly,

CONSIDERING the first meeting between Simón Bolívar and Alexandre Pétion on January 2, 1816, where both demonstrated their feeling and commitment toward freedom and justice in the Americas and which led this illustrious Haitian to lend The Liberator invaluable support aimed at launching the invasion of Venezuela for freedom from under the yoke of colonialism;

BEARING IN MIND that the expedition organized by Simón Bolívar set sail from Los Cayos de San Luis on March 31, 1816, dropping anchor on Venezuelan soil at Margarita Island on May 3, 1816;

UNDERSCORING Pétion's and Bolívar's steadfast commitment to freeing slaves, especially the decree issued by The Liberator during that expedition,

DECLARE:

1. The commemoration of the bicentenary of the Los Cayos expedition as a means of paying tribute to the supportive Haitian people and to all men and women who helped in this struggle.
2. The recognition and historical significance of this expedition as a demonstration of cooperation and brotherhood among the peoples of the Americas, which paved the way for victorious liberation exploits in the Hemisphere.

AG/DEC. 87 (XLVI-O/16)

DECLARATION ON THE RIO 2016 OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES FOR THE  
CELEBRATION OF PEACE AND PROMOTION OF DEVELOPMENT THROUGH SPORT

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 14, 2016)

WE, THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND HEADS OF DELEGATION OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS) having gathered in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, at the forty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly,

RECOGNIZING the firmly established values of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, which emphasize peace and togetherness among communities and nations during the Games, foster a climate of peace, and ensure the safe movement and participation of the athletes and other participants in the games, thus rallying the youth of the world in support of peace;

UNDERSCORING the return of the Olympics and Paralympics to the Americas and the uniqueness of the Rio 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games as the first games to be held in South America in their more than a century-long history, as well as the importance of sport in promoting a healthy life, education, diversity and inclusion, development, peace, and world citizenship, which elements are fundamental goals of the work of the Organization of American States;

MINDFUL that sport has the potential to strengthen peace and development, build strong and resilient societies, and contribute to a climate of tolerance and understanding;

REAFFIRMING that sport is an educational tool that can advance cooperation, solidarity, social inclusion, and health at the local, national, and international levels by fostering equality among all persons;

RECOGNIZING the need to strengthen and coordinate efforts, including partnerships with different interested parties in all spheres, in order to maximize the potential of sport as a means to contribute to the achievement of internationally agreed development goals and national peacebuilding priorities;

RECOGNIZING ALSO that the Olympics and Paralympics, which bring together athletes from more than 200 countries with the common goal of competing, can galvanize leaders, athletes, and the world's youth in favor of peace and allow the nations of the world, even in times of conflict and discord, to meet in friendly athletic competition;

RECOGNIZING FURTHER the joint activities carried out by the International Olympic Committee, the International Paralympic Committee, the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace, and relevant entities of the United Nations and Organization of American States in areas such as advancement of human rights, human development, poverty alleviation, humanitarian assistance, health promotion, HIV/AIDS prevention, child and youth education, gender equality, peacebuilding, and sustainable development;

RECOGNIZING MOREOVER that the Youth Olympic Games are an important event for inspiring young people through an integrated sporting, cultural, and educational experience; noting, in that regard, the successful conclusion of the Second Summer Youth Olympics held in Nanjing, China, from August 16 to 28, 2014, and the Second Winter Youth Olympics held in Lillehammer, Norway, from February 12 to 21, 2016; and welcoming with satisfaction the selection of Buenos Aires as the host city of the next Summer Youth Olympics in 2018;

RECALLING the relevant provisions of the international conventions on entertainment, recreation, sport, and leisure, including Article 30 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which recognizes the right of persons with disabilities to take part on an equal basis with others in cultural life and in recreational, leisure and sporting activities; and

STRESSING the importance of ensuring the inclusion of persons with disabilities in all spheres of development, including access to sports, and advocating the principle of “sport for all,”

DECLARE that the Rio 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games are a space of harmony and friendship for the countries taking part and include a program that encourages equality, inclusion, and peace;

DECLARE that the Rio 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games will have peace as their leitmotif and include a program that promotes the aspirations of this Declaration, not only in the host country, but also in the more than 200 countries and territories taking part

APPLAUD the holding of the Toronto 2015 Pan American and Parapan American Games which proceeded in an environment of peace among the sports men and women of the different countries that took part;

COMMEND the selection of Tokyo, Japan, as the host city of the next Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2020, and PyeongChang, Republic of Korea, as the host city of the next Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2018;

URGE the use of sports as a means for promoting the development of children and youth and reinforcing their education; preventing illness and promoting health, including drug abuse prevention; empowering women and girls; strengthening the inclusion of persons with disabilities as well as drawing attention to their potential and stimulating their participation in development; and facilitating social inclusion, conflict prevention, and peacebuilding;

REQUEST the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States, with the support of its member countries, to adopt the necessary measures to promote this Declaration.

AG/DEC. 88 (XLVI-O/16)

DECLARATION CLIMATE CHANGE, FOOD SECURITY AND MIGRATION IN THE  
AMERICAS

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 14, 2016)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

CONSIDERING,

That the Paris Agreement adopted at the Twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change recognizes the need for an effective and progressive response to the urgent threat of climate change on the basis of the best available scientific knowledge;

That United Nations General Assembly resolution A/RES70/1, *Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, recognizes the positive contribution of migrants for inclusive growth and sustainable development and seeks among its goals to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture; and to take urgent actions to combat climate change and its impacts;

That, at the Seventh Summit of the Americas, the Heads of State and Government also acknowledged the challenges and serious consequences of climate change in our countries, particularly the poorest and most vulnerable segments;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

That United Nations specialized agencies warn that climate change could exacerbate the impact of the El Niño and La Niña phenomena in 2016, affecting countries in the Americas to a high or moderate degree; and that agriculture, food and nutritional security, would be hardest hit;

The evidence gathered by specialized agencies such as the International Organization for Migration (IOM), among others, on the effects of natural disasters, environmental degradation, and climate change on migration, food and nutritional security,

MINDFUL:

That migration is a multidimensional reality involving the various countries of the region and that food and nutritional security has been generally absent from the current debate on migration;

REITERATING:

The commitments made at the Summit of the Americas on Sustainable Development, held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, in 1996 and its Plan of Action, and in the Declaration of Santa Cruz + 10, in the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development (2006-2009, extended until 2015);

and in the Declaration of Santo Domingo for Sustainable Development of the Americas, adopted in the Dominican Republic in 2010; and

That at its 34<sup>th</sup> session, held in Mexico City, Mexico, from February 29 to March 3, 2016, the Regional Conference for Latin America and Caribbean of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations pointed the impact of climate change, including the adverse impacts on the cyclical phenomenon associated with El Niño, on the agriculture and food panorama, particularly in the Central America Dry Corridor, Haiti, and other island states, as well as the need to address the challenge with an approach that combines short, medium and long-term responses.

HEREBY DECLARES:

1. The importance of generating awareness about the impact that climate change and El Niño and La Niña phenomena among others, could have on the Americas region, particularly the impact on food and nutritional security the possible effects on displacement or increased migration flows, and the need for early action and response to prevent humanitarian crises from these causes.

2. The importance of the various organs and agencies of the OAS and the inter-American system, regional consultative processes, and multilateral and specialized organizations involved with those issues, doing a thorough and coordinated analysis of possible links between the impacts of climate change, food security, and their effects on the increase in migration flows.

3. The commitment of the states, to identifying and mobilizing technical and financial resources in order to build cooperation and adaptive capacity, reduce vulnerability and enhance resilience, particularly in the countries most affected and in the most vulnerable communities, so as to reduce the adverse effects of climate change, and of the El Niño and La Niña and other phenomena.

4. Its interest in promoting the exchange of experiences among member states with respect to social protection programs, mechanisms, public policies on migration and consular cooperation issues, climate change, disaster risk reduction, or other measures being pursued to adapt, mitigate and counteract the adverse effects of climate change and its possible impact on food security and migration.

5. That it is appropriate, in the framework of the Inter-American Program for the Promotion and Protection of the Human Rights of Migrants, Including Migrant Workers and Their Families, to request the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in coordination with the General Secretariat of the OAS, other international organizations and civil society and other social stakeholders, to provide upon request, assistance to states so that they can fulfill the objectives of this Declaration.



AG/DEC. 89 (XLVI-O/16)

DECLARATION EXTENSION OF THE DECADE OF THE AMERICAS FOR THE RIGHTS  
AND DIGNITY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AND CONSOLIDATION OF THE  
PROGRAM OF ACTION FOR THE DECADE OF THE AMERICAS FOR THE  
RIGHTS AND DIGNITY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (2016-2026)

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 14, 2016)

RECALLING resolutions AG/RES. 1249 (XXIII-O/93), on the Situation of Persons with Disabilities in the American Hemisphere; AG/RES. 1356 (XXV-O/95), on the Situation of Persons with Disabilities in the American Hemisphere; and AG/RES. 1369 (XXVI-O/96), the Panama Commitment to Persons with Disabilities in the American Hemisphere;

BEARING IN MIND that Article 1.2 of the Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities provides that the term “discrimination against persons with disabilities” means “any distinction, exclusion, or restriction based on a disability (...) which has the effect or objective of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment, or exercise by a person with a disability of his or her human rights and fundamental freedoms” and also rules that “a distinction or preference adopted by a state party to promote the social integration or personal development of persons with disabilities does not constitute discrimination”;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

The Declaration on the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities (2006-2016), adopted in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, under the slogan “Equality, Dignity, and Participation,” AG/DEC. 50 (XXXVI-O/06), the objectives of which are “the recognition and full exercise of the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities and their right to participate fully in economic, social, cultural, and political life and in the development of their societies, without discrimination and on an equal basis with others”;

The Program of Action for the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities (2006-2016), adopted in Panama City by resolution AG/RES. 2339 (XXXVII-O/07), which commits the states parties to adopting administrative, legislative, and judicial measures and public policies to bring about the full inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities in all aspects of society; to carry out social, political, cultural, and development programs that afford such persons opportunities; to promote effective measures to prevent new disabilities; and to provide persons with disabilities with access to rehabilitation services and programs, on an equal basis with others; and

The Second National Report on Compliance with the Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (CIADDIS) and with the Program of Action for the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities (PAD), presented by the states parties to the Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (CEDDIS);

RECALLING the fact that approximately 90 million people live with disabilities in the American Hemisphere, many of whom are subsisting below the poverty line in our countries, excluded from their communities by physical, political, cultural, social, communicational, economic, attitudinal, and other barriers;

NOTING WITH SATISFACTION the different plans and programs prepared by the states parties over the past decade for the implementation of the Program of Action for the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities (2006-2016), and the states' various joint actions to promote the effective exercise of the rights of persons with disabilities and their integration into the countries' economic, social, cultural, civil, and political activities, to promote their active participation in social development, consistent with international commitments, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; and

CONSIDERING the need to consolidate medium- and long-term plans, programs, and actions to ensure the participation and full and effective inclusion of persons with disabilities, the member states acknowledge the expediency of extending the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities (2006-2016) for a period of ten years in order to attain the expected results;

DECLARE:

1. The extension for a period of ten years, up until 2026, of the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities (2016- 2026), in order to consolidate the Program of Action for the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities (2006-2016).

2. The prioritization of the commitments established in the Program of Action for the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities (2006-2016), placing priority on: (a) universal accessibility, as the catalyst for the enjoyment of the rights that protect people with disabilities; (b) the creation of statistical records on disabilities, as essential mechanisms for generating and assessing inclusive public policies; (c) the community-based approach to development, as a model to promote the full participation of persons with disabilities within their communities; and (d) social protection, as part of efforts to ensure respect for rights and the management of the quality of life.

AG/DEC. 90 (XLVI-0/16)

DECLARATION ON THE QUESTION OF THE MALVINAS ISLANDS

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session held on June 15, 2016)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

CONSIDERING its repeated statements that the question of the Malvinas Islands is a matter of enduring hemispheric concern;

RECALLING its resolution AG/RES. 928 (XVIII-O/88), adopted by consensus on November 19, 1988, in which it requested the Governments of the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to resume negotiations in order to find, as soon as possible, a peaceful solution to the sovereignty dispute;

BEARING IN MIND that in its resolution AG/RES. 1049 (XX-O/90) it expressed satisfaction over the resumption of diplomatic relations between the two countries;

RECOGNIZING that the accreditation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, under resolution CP/RES. 665 (1041/95), as a permanent observer of the OAS reflects principles and values shared by that country and OAS member states, which facilitate greater mutual understanding;

NOTING with satisfaction that the Governments of the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland maintain important political, cultural, and trade ties, share common values, and are also engaged in close cooperation both bilaterally and in international fora;

BEARING IN MIND that, despite those ties and shared values, it has not yet been possible to resume the negotiations between the two countries with a view to solving the sovereignty dispute over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia, and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas in the framework of resolutions 2065 (XX), 3160 (XXVIII), 31/49, 37/9, 38/12, 39/6, 40/21, 41/40, 42/19 and 43/25 of the United Nations General Assembly, the decisions adopted by the same body on the same question in the Special Committee on Decolonization, and the reiterated resolutions and declarations adopted at the OAS General Assembly; and

HAVING HEARD the presentation by the head of the delegation of the Argentine Republic,

WELCOMES the reaffirmation of the will of the Argentine Government to continue exploring all possible avenues towards a peaceful settlement of the dispute and its constructive approach towards the inhabitants of the Malvinas Islands.

REAFFIRMS the need for the Governments of the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to resume, as soon as possible, negotiations on the sovereignty dispute, in order to find a peaceful solution to this protracted controversy.

DECIDES to continue to examine the Question of the Malvinas Islands at its subsequent sessions until a definitive settlement has been reached thereon.

AG/DEC. 91 (XLVI-O/16)

DECLARATION IN SUPPORT OF BELIZE AND GUATEMALA

(Adopted at the second plenary session held on June 14, 2016)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that in the Charter of the Organization of American States member states reaffirm the principle that “controversies of an international character arising between two or more American States shall be settled by peaceful procedures”;

RECOGNIZING the efforts of the Organization to preserve peace and security in the Hemisphere;

CONSIDERING that territorial disputes and disputes of any other nature should not affect the advancement and expansion between the parties of economic and social development; trade, environmental protection, security, and law enforcement;

RECALLING the Permanent Council resolution CP/RES. 780 (1257/00) “Support for the Process of Negotiations between the Governments of Belize and Guatemala” in which both countries agreed that all issues related to the differendum will be addressed by both parties solely within the framework of this process while it is under way, to the exclusion of any other political, diplomatic, or juridical forum;

RECALLING ALSO resolution AG/RES. 1756 (XXX-O/00) “Fund for Peace: Peaceful Settlement of Territorial Disputes”; the Agreement on a Framework for Negotiations and Confidence Building Measures between Belize and Guatemala of 7 September 2005, as well as the Road Map for the Strengthening of the Bilateral Relations in 2014 and Plan of Action for 2014, signed on 24 January 2014, by the Governments of Belize and Guatemala as part of their commitment to maintain and deepen friendly bilateral relations, while the territorial, insular and maritime dispute remains unresolved; and in accordance with their acceptance to put an end to any and all differences regarding their respective land and insular territories and their maritime areas, as outlined in the Special Agreement between Belize and Guatemala of 8 December 2008, by submitting the dispute to the International Court of Justice;

RECOGNIZING the role of the Office of the Secretary General and of the OAS Office in the Adjacency Zone as an independent interlocutor to assist in preventing and resolving conflict, verifying incidents, fostering community-to-community contacts and promoting confidence and better relations between Belize and Guatemala;

NOTING the invaluable support of the Group of Friends for the process, and in particular that of Canada, Costa Rica, the European Union, Germany, Mexico, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, who have assisted in funding the OAS Office in the Adjacency Zone over the last thirteen years since its inception;

RECOGNIZING the need for the Governments of Belize and Guatemala to advance as early as possible with the necessary steps to submit their dispute to the International Court of Justice for a peaceful and final resolution in accordance with the commitments under the Special Agreement of 2008 and the amended protocol thereto.

REQUESTS the Secretary General, Good Offices role, to continue supporting Belize and Guatemala in their efforts to resolve their differences and reach a peaceful and final resolution to Guatemala's Territorial, Insular and Maritime Claim to the International Court of Justice in accordance with their Special Agreement of 8 December 2008 and the amended protocol thereto;

INVITES all member states, permanent observers, multilateral institutions, and other potential donors, as defined in Article 69 of the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat, and in accordance with other norms and regulations of the Organization, to contribute to the financing of the Belize-Guatemala Sub-fund of the OAS Peace Fund and other related activities that promote peace and stability between the two countries;

CALLS on the international community to fully support the continued operations of the OAS Office in the Adjacency Zone between Belize and Guatemala, especially in its critical role of preventing conflict and promoting peace, cooperation and confidence between the two countries;

SUPPORTS efforts directed at promoting community development in the area of the Adjacency Zone, reversing deforestation and combatting illegal activities, especially in the protected areas.

URGES both countries to exercise caution and restraint in the treatment of all issues-related to the differendum, in particular, to cooperate to avoid incidents on the ground conducive to tension between them, and to implement fully the Confidence Building Measures between Belize and Guatemala of 2005, and especially those outlined in Annex C so as to avoid tensions;

URGES Belize and Guatemala to ratify and implement the 25 May 2015 Protocol to amend the Special Agreement of 8 December 2008, as soon as possible;

TAKES NOTE of the agreement of both countries to work in the design and development of a mechanism for cooperation in the Sarstoon River, which should include the participation of relevant institutions of both Parties and be coordinated by both Foreign Ministries with the participation of the Organization of American States;

EMPHASIZES the need for Belize and Guatemala to promote nation-wide public awareness campaigns to properly inform and sensitize their respective citizenry on the importance of peacefully and finally resolving their territorial, insular and maritime differendum through the International Court of Justice.

AG/DEC. 92 (XLVI-O/16)

DECLARATION TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DECLARATION OF  
SANTA CRUZ DE LA SIERRA AND THE PLAN OF ACTION FOR  
THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE AMERICAS

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session held on June 15, 2016)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING resolutions AG/RES. 1427 (XXVII-O/96) “Fostering Awareness of Sustainable Development”; AG/RES. 1440 (XXVI-O/96) “Sustainable Development”; AG/RES. 1513 (XXVII-O/97) “Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development”; AG/RES. 1514 (XXVII-O/97) “Coordination and Follow-up of the Declaration of Santa Cruz de la Sierra and the Plan of Action for the Sustainable Development of the Americas”; AG/RES. 2312 (XXXVII-O/07) “Report of the First Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development within the Framework of CIDI”; AG/RES. 2644 (XLI-O/11) “Report of the Second Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development within the Framework of CIDI,” the “Report of the Third Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development” (CIDI/RIMDS-III/doc.8/15) and the commitments contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

RECALLING AS WELL that the Summit of the Americas on Sustainable Development, held on December 7 and 8, 1996, saw the signing of the Declaration of Santa Cruz de la Sierra and the adoption of the Plan of Action for the Sustainable Development of the Americas;

RECALLING ALSO that at that Summit of the Americas the Heads of State and Government reaffirmed their determination to move forward toward sustainable development; renewed their commitment to the fundamental principle of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS) that representative democracy is essential for peace, justice, and development; and recognized that sustainable development requires strengthening and promotion of democratic institutions and values;<sup>1/</sup>

CONSIDERING that the Summit of the Americas on Sustainable Development, held in 1996, prompted the recognition of sustainable development as a conceptual framework within which the OAS should work and ushered in institutional arrangements, including the prioritization of the work of the Organization and the General Secretariat on coordination and follow-up regarding the Declaration of Santa Cruz and the Plan of Action for the Sustainable Development of the Americas;

RECOGNIZING that the Declaration of Santa Cruz de la Sierra reaffirmed that human beings are the focus of sustainable development concerns and that it and the Plan of Action for the Sustainable Development of the Americas were pioneering instruments that established a common vision of the future in the Americas aligned with the concept of sustainable development;

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1. Note by the delegation of Venezuela and the Republic of Nicaragua: There is no single model of democracy. The commitment of the OAS and of other regional and global forums ...

REITERATING that human beings are the focus of sustainable development concerns and entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature, and that the alleviation of poverty is an integral part of sustainable development;

RECOGNIZING that Mother Earth is a common expression for the planet earth in a number of countries and regions, which reflects the interdependence that exists among human beings, other living species and the planet that we all inhabit;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT our commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

CONSIDERING that all of the above has been reflected in the Declaration of Santa Cruz +10, the Declaration of Santo Domingo for the Sustainable Development of the Americas, and the Declaration of Tela “Building a Sustainable Development Agenda for the Americas” (CIDI/RIMDS-III/DEC.1/15); and,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that the forty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly, held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, from June 13 to 15, 2016, adopted important decisions on the theme “Institutional Strengthening for Sustainable Development in the Americas”;

DECLARES:

1. The importance that on December 7, 2016, the member states, permanent observer states, and General Secretariat mark the twentieth anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Santa Cruz de la Sierra and adoption of the Plan of Action for the Sustainable Development of the Americas.

2. The importance of the Summit of the Americas process, Hemispheric fora of the Inter-American system that promotes democratic institutions<sup>1/</sup>, and of continued promotion of inter-American dialogue on sustainable development in subsequent Summits of the Americas, in the ministerial process on sustainable development and at the meetings of the Inter-American Committee on for Sustainable Development, for support and evaluation of the implementation of the Inter-American Program on Sustainable Development.<sup>2/</sup>

3. The need to continue promoting sustainable development goals based on harmony between its three dimensions – the economic, the social, and the environmental –, as well as the need to keep moving forward with effective implementation, by each member state of the commitments on sustainable development in the Americas, particularly those that will allow the 2030 Agenda to be accomplished and the Paris Agreement on climate change to be implemented.<sup>3/</sup>

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1. Note to the Style Committee: It was agreed that in following texts of the Inter-American Democratic Charter – Chapter IV - the term “*institucionalidad democrática*” be translated ...
  2. The Government of the Republic of Nicaragua does not agree with the references to the mandates, decisions, and initiatives arising out of the Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh Summits of the Americas ...
  3. The Government of the Republic of Nicaragua cannot endorse the reference to the so-called “Paris Agreements” because irregular procedures were used in their adoption, because the position ...



4. To request the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI), that its report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh regular session includes a follow-up on the aforementioned commitments, taking into account the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in light of the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Santa Cruz de la Sierra and of the Plan of Action of the Summit of the Americas on Sustainable Development.

FOOTNOTES

1. ... is to strengthen democracy, while respecting the principle of non-intervention.
2. ... into English as “*democratic institutions*”.
3. ... because in them the Heads of State and Government did not approve the political statements which contain the mandates and operative sections of the core themes that formed part of the Political Declaration.
4. ... of the most vulnerable countries was not taken into account, and because, on the contrary, the negotiation process was compromised by the failure to recognize the historical responsibility toward the countries suffering the effects of climate change and their indemnification, a position that was backed by Nicaragua and other countries in order to ensure that those states that have caused the climate change problem and are the main emitters of greenhouse gases assume the responsibility of mitigating the harm inflicted on the small countries—such as Nicaragua and other nations in Central America and the Caribbean—that suffer the consequences in the form of droughts, rising sea levels, hurricanes, and other catastrophes.

AG/DEC. 93 (XLVI-O/16)

DECLARATION FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
INTER-AMERICAN DEMOCRATIC CHARTER

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session held on June 15, 2016)

GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

RECALLING that, at its twenty-eighth special session, held in Lima, Peru on September 11, 2001, it adopted the Inter-American Democratic Charter in order to promote, defend, and strengthen democracy and the full exercise of the rule of law in the Hemisphere, convinced that respect for the intrinsic dignity of human beings and the promotion of democracy, peace, security, and inclusive development are inseparable and indivisible parts of a renovated and comprehensive vision of American solidarity;

CONVINCED that perfecting democracy in all the member states should be an ongoing task and that, despite the progress made with strengthening democratic institutions in the region, various challenges still need to be overcome before the vision, principles, and values of the Inter-American Charter materialize; and

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT all the topics addressed and discussions contained in the Final Report (CP/doc.4669/11 rev. 3), adopted on December 14, 2011,

DECLARES:

1. That the celebration of the fifteenth Anniversary of the Inter-American Democratic Charter next September affords a valuable opportunity for member states, the General Secretariat, and other social actors to continue to promote hemispheric debate on topics related to democratic governance, through dialogue, forums, and seminars, and for the Permanent Council to continue the dialogue on the effectiveness of the implementation of the Inter-American Democratic Charter.<sup>1</sup>

2. That the promotion and protection of human rights is a basic prerequisite for the existence of a democratic society and the democracy and economic and social development are interdependent and mutual reinforcing.

3. Its commitment to continue promoting and defending democracy as a right to which the peoples of the Americas are entitled and a permanent obligation of their governments, as stated in

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1. Footnote of the delegations of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the Republic of Nicaragua: The new types of *coups d'état*, different actions that destabilize democratic institutions, ...

the Inter-American Democratic Charter, which constitutes a hemispheric contribution to the community of nations.

FOOTNOTE

1. ... and new *de facto* powers, among others, should be a part of all discussions on challenges to democracy in the Hemisphere

AG/DEC. 94 (XLVI-O/16)

DECLARATION ON THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session held on June 15, 2016)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECOGNIZING that the events of April 1965, which caused disruption and grief, as well as indignation, remain a source of consternation for the Dominican people;

REAFFIRMING the principles of non-intervention and respect for sovereignty enshrined in the Charter of the OAS,

DECLARES THAT IT:

1. Laments the loss of human lives and to express the Organization's condolences to the Dominican people.
2. Expresses regret to the Dominican people for the actions of April 1965, which disrupted the process of restoration of the constitutional order in the Dominican Republic.
3. Reaffirms the principles of international law, the Charter of the United Nations, and the OAS Charter.



AG/RES. 2880 (XLVI-O/16)

ADVANCING HEMISPHERIC SECURITY: A MULTIDIMENSIONAL APPROACH

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 14, 2016)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly 2015-2016 (AG/doc.5514/16 add. 1), in particular the section on the activities of the Committee on Hemispheric Security (CSH);

RECALLING the resolutions assigned to the CSH as detailed in the document “List of Resolutions Assigned to the Committee on Hemispheric Security (1991-2015)” and Other Resolutions Related to Security Issues (1991-1994)” (CP/CSH/INF. 453/16), as well as its resolutions AG/RES. 2862 (XLIV-O/14), “The Americas: A Zone of Peace, Cooperation, and Peaceful Dispute Settlement,” and AG/RES. 2866 (XLIII-O/14) “Advancing Hemispheric Security: A Multidimensional Approach”;

REITERATING the efforts to combat threats to hemispheric peace and security and transnational crimes that threaten the public security of member states, bearing in mind their peculiarities and diverse natures, as called for in paragraph 4, subparagraphs a), i), and m), as well as paragraph 43 of the Declaration on Security in the Americas (Mexico, 2003);

HAVING SEEN the annual reports presented to the forty-fifth and forty-sixth regular sessions of the General Assembly by the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) (CP/doc.5120/15 and CP/doc.5188/16), by the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) (CP/doc.5112/15 and CP/doc.5177/16), and by the Inter-American Defense Board (IADB) (CP/doc.5121/15 rev. 1 and CP/doc.5170/16);

EXPRESSING ITS SATISFACTION with the holding of the Fourth Meeting of National Authorities on Trafficking in Persons, in Brasilia, Brazil, on December 4 and 5, 2014; the Fifth Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Public Security in the Americas (MISPA V), in Lima, Peru, on November 19 and 20, 2015; two regular sessions of CICTE, at OAS headquarters in Washington, D.C.: the fifteenth, on March 19, 2015, and the sixteenth, on February 25 and 26, 2016; four regular sessions of CICAD: the fifty-sixth, in Guatemala City, Guatemala, from November 19 to 21, 2014; the fifty-seventh, at OAS headquarters in Washington, D.C., from April 29 to May 1, 2015; the fifty-eighth, in Trujillo, Peru, from November 11 to 13, 2015; and the fifty-ninth, at OAS headquarters in Washington, D.C., on April 25 and 26, 2016; the sixteenth and seventeenth regular meetings of the Consultative Committee of the CIFTA, on May 5, 2015, and May 2, 2016, respectively; and the United Nations General Assembly special session on the World Drug Problem, in New York from April 18 to 21, 2016;

TAKING NOTE of the XI Conference of Ministers of Defense in the Americas, held in Arequipa, Peru, from October 12 to 14, 2014;

TAKING NOTE ALSO of the Report of the Chair of the Working Group on the Hemispheric Plan of Action against Transnational Organized Crime (CSH/GT/DOT-13/16 rev. 2) and the Report of the Chair of the Working Group to Coordinate All the Preparations for the Fifth Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Public Security in the Americas (MISPA-V) (CSH/GT/MISPA V-21/15);

UNDERSCORING the holding of the second meeting of the MISPA Subsidiary Technical Working Group on Police Management, in Trujillo, Peru, on April 23 and 24, 2015; the meeting of the MISPA Subsidiary Technical Working Group on International Cooperation, at OAS headquarters in Washington, D.C., on September 28, 2015; and the Sixth Forum on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures, on March 12, 2015, at OAS headquarters in Washington, D.C.;

BEARING IN MIND the results, reports, and recommendations of the aforesaid conferences and meetings; and

RECOGNIZING that the global drugs problem impacts public health, individuals and families, citizen security, justice and people's wellbeing, and that it affects development and undermines the rule of law, democratic institutions, and political stability, and that therefore it must be addressed, in accordance with the principle of common and shared responsibility, through a comprehensive, balanced, and multidisciplinary approach, based on evidence and scientific knowledge and with full respect for human rights; and that the design and implementation of drug-related policies and actions must be geared toward the wellbeing and health of all humankind, pursuant to the Charter of the United Nations, the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs and the 1972 Protocol amending it, the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances, the 1988 Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other pertinent international instruments, bearing in mind the commitments set out in resolution AG/RES. 1 (XLVI-E/14) "Reflections and Guidelines to Formulate and Follow up on Comprehensive Policies to Address the World Drug Problem in the Americas,"

RESOLVES:

#### I. ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE ON HEMISPHERIC SECURITY AND MEMBER STATES

1. To reaffirm to the Permanent Council and to the General Secretariat the applicable General Assembly mandates on hemispheric security; to urge the member states to continue contributing to the attainment of the objectives established in those mandates through the development and execution of activities, the submission of reports, the exchange of information, the adoption of measures and policies, and cooperation, support and mutual assistance, and technical and financial contributions; and to instruct the General Secretariat to provide the necessary support for those ends.

2. To recognize the central role of the CSH in matters of multidimensional security, including defense, in the framework of the Organization of American States (OAS), and to instruct the Permanent Council to continue, through the CSH, promoting and coordinating cooperation among the organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization, and participating in, holding consultations with, and sharing experiences and information with other regional and international forums.



### Meetings of Ministers Responsible for Public Security in the Americas (MISPA)

3. To endorse the Lima Recommendations for the Prevention of Crime, Violence, and Insecurity (MISPA-V/doc.3/15 rev. 1), adopted by the Fifth Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Public Security in the Americas (MISPA V), held on November 19 and 20, 2015, in Lima, Peru; to urge member states to apply and continue implementing the Recommendations of Medellín for Strengthening International Cooperation in the Area of Public Security, the Consensus of Santo Domingo on Public Security, the Recommendations of Port of Spain on Police Management, and the Commitment to Public Security in the Americas; and to request that the OAS General Secretariat continue providing technical support to the member states and subregional bodies that so request, in order to attain the goals and objectives of those recommendations for preventing crime, violence, and insecurity in the region; and that it keep the Permanent Council informed, through the CSH, on the results obtained. (Agreed upon on April 28, 2016)

4. To convene the first meeting of the Subsidiary Technical Working Group on the Prevention of Crime, Violence, and Insecurity, to be held in the city of Quito, Ecuador, in the fourth quarter, 2016, pursuant to follow-up paragraph No. 3 of the “Lima Recommendations for the Prevention of Crime, Violence, and Insecurity”; to thank the Ecuadorian Government for its offer to host that meeting; and to request that the results of that meeting be presented to the CSH.

5. To express its gratitude for and accept the offer made by the Government of Honduras to host the Sixth Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Public Security in the Americas (MISPA VI) and to convene it in the second half of 2017. To that end, to instruct the Permanent Council to establish, through the CSH, a Working Group chaired by Honduras, to coordinate all the preparations for MISPA VI.

### Preventing violence and crime

6. To include the subject of preventing violence and crime in the CSH’s Schedule of Activities for 2016-2017.

7. To request that the General Secretariat, through its Secretariat for Multidimensional Security, report to the Permanent Council, through the CSH, on progress with the implementation of the Inter-American Network for the Prevention of Violence and Crime, and that it present a report on the use and results of the Specific Fund set up to support the activities carried out under the aegis of that network.

8. To develop and adapt, as appropriate, strategies and actions with a comprehensive rights-based approach for preventing and reducing all forms of violence, involving children and adolescents in various social settings: families, institutions, communities; as well as prevent the use of children and adolescents by organized crime including in cyberspace.

### Combating transnational organized crime

9. To recognize that the work of the Working Group on the Hemispheric Plan of Action against Transnational Organized Crime, established by the Committee on Hemispheric Security in January 2016, and underscore the agreements reached contained in the Report of the Chair on the

matter (CSH/GT/DOT-13/16 rev. 2), in particular, the development of the evaluation questionnaire on the level of implementation of the Hemispheric Plan of Action against Transnational Organized Crime, the review of the mandates regarding resolution AG/RES.2866 (XLIV-O/14), and the list of recommendations made by the delegations to improve implementation of said Hemispheric Plan of Action, which shall be considered by the Committee on Hemispheric Security during future discussion on the matter.

10. To instruct the Committee on Hemispheric Security to include on its schedule of activities for the 2016-2017 period a meeting of National Points of Contact, with the support of the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security, in the second half of 2016, in order to assess the implementation of the Hemispheric Plan of Action against Transnational Organized Crime, bearing in mind the Report of the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security with the replies received to the questionnaire adopted by the CSH (CP/CSH-1729/16) and yearly special sessions of the CHS to address matters of importance for the members states on organized transnational crime.

11. To support the creation of the Department to Combat Transnational Organized Crime (DDOT) by the OAS General Secretariat in 2016, and urge the competent committees and bodies of the organization to create synergies to bolster DDOT work.

#### Hemispheric efforts to combat trafficking in persons

12. To condemn trafficking in persons in all its forms, reaffirm its commitment to fight that scourge, and assist and protect the victims; and to reiterate its will to cooperate at the international, regional, and subregional levels in fighting this form of modern-day slavery.

13. To endorse the outcomes of the Fourth Meeting of National Authorities on Trafficking in Persons held in Brasilia, Brazil, on December 4 and 5, 2014, particularly the Inter-American Declaration against Trafficking in Persons (Declaration of Brasilia) and the Second Work Plan against Trafficking in Persons in the Western Hemisphere 2015-2018, as points of reference to guide the actions of member states in preventing, combating, and punishing trafficking in persons and in providing assistance and protection to victims; and to instruct the General Secretariat to move forward with implementing the mandates assigned to it.

14. To include World Day against Trafficking in Persons in the Organization's calendar of events and support its commemoration on July 30 each year, as established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2014 for the purposes of increasing awareness of the plight of victims of this crime and promoting and protecting their rights.

15. To convene the Fifth Meeting of National Authorities on Trafficking in Persons in the first half of 2017 and to establish, through the CSH, a working group to coordinate the preparations for that meeting of national authorities, with the support of the General Secretariat.

#### Illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects

16. To include the issues associated with illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, in the CSH Schedule of Activities for 2016-2017.

17. To continue the discussions on public policies and existing best practices on controlling small arms and light weapons and ammunition, and their parts and components, the production and illicit trafficking thereof, border controls, the lawful import and export of weapons and ammunition, and on measures for the marking and tracing of small arms and light weapons, taking into account that further provisions on illicit trafficking in firearms are contained in Section II of this resolution, "Legal Instruments," under the heading Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (CIFTA).

18. To urge member states to implement the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, and to underscore the importance of submitting national implementation reports voluntarily on a biennial basis.

#### Police Technical Cooperation<sup>1/2/</sup>

19. To encourage the General Secretariat, through its Secretariat for Multidimensional Security, to continue strengthening police cooperation in areas such as technology, science, and education, taking into consideration the Framework Agreement on Interinstitutional Cooperation that was signed between the General Secretariat of the OAS and the Police Community of the Americas (AMERIPOL), including the Network for Police Development and Professionalization. To urge member states of AMERIPOL to continue to offer police technical cooperation, to countries so requesting, and to designate, where appropriate and pursuant to national legislation, in coordination with the AMERIPOL Secretariat and the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security, the relevant liaison officers.

20. To request the Secretariat for Multidimensional-Department of Public Security to establish within the department and coordinate, under its leadership and with existing resources, a round table to which it could invite technical officers and police attaches appointed by countries, regional and sub-regional organizations, as well as AMERIPOL to collaborate in the implementation of OAS actions related to police training and cooperation.

#### The Americas as a Zone of Peace

21. To encourage member states to take actions at the regional, sub-regional and bilateral level to continue to consolidate the Americas as a zone of peace based on respect for the principles and provisions of international law, including the international instruments to which the member states are parties, and the principles and purposes of the United Nations Charter and of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS); and to assist in the preservation of peace and the peaceful settlement of disputes among OAS member states and to reiterate the commitment that no state or group of states has the right to intervene, directly or indirectly, for any reason whatever, in the internal or external affairs of any other state.

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1. Footnote from Venezuela: The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela questions the existence and enforceability of the Framework Cooperation Agreement signed by the OAS General Secretariat and the ...
  2. Footnote from Bolivia: Agreements signed by the General Secretariat neither can nor should become a source of mandates for the Organization, given that the member states gathered in the ...

22. To applaud the progress made in the process of dialogue between the Government of the Republic of Colombia and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) aimed at reaching a Final Agreement to end the conflict and establish stable and lasting peace in the country, which will significantly assist peace and stability throughout the Hemisphere. In that regard, to commend efforts by the member states that have supported the peace talks in Havana, Cuba, thereby underscoring the importance of international solidarity and cooperation. To applaud, at the same time, announcement of the start of negotiations between the Government of Colombia and the Army of National Liberation (ELN), wishing success in this process.

Consolidation of the regime established in the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco)

23. To recognize the Treaty of Tlatelolco, on the 49<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its entry into force, as demonstrating the fact that the absence of nuclear weapons in the region strengthens security and confidence among the states of the Hemisphere and sets a clear example for those states that possess such weapons and contributes to efforts toward a world free of nuclear weapons.

24. To encourage the states that have ratified the protocols to the Treaty of Tlatelolco to review any related reservations, in keeping with Action 9 of the final document of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). 1/

Disarmament and nonproliferation in the Hemisphere

25. To step up the member states' efforts to attain peace and security for a world without weapons of mass destruction and, in that regard, to reaffirm our decision to implement controls to avoid the proliferation of armaments of that kind; and to continue developing and implementing confidence-building measures, including among them the Inter-American Convention on Transparency in Conventional Weapons Acquisitions (CITAAC), and to reiterate the agreements adopted in resolution AG/RES. 2862 (XLIV-O/14), "The Americas: A Zone of Peace, Cooperation, and Peaceful Dispute Settlement."

26. To take note of the work of the Open-ended Working Group, established under resolution 70/33, entitled "Taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations," of the United Nations General Assembly, chaired in 2016 by Thailand, to substantively address concrete effective legal measures, legal provisions and norms that will need to be concluded to attain and maintain a world without nuclear weapons, and recommendations on other measures that could contribute to taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations.<sup>2/</sup>

27. To take note of the efforts being made at the multilateral level to identify and seek effective measures to fulfill the commitments on non-proliferation.

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1. Footnote from Mexico: The Government of Mexico believes that the use of the word "reservation" in the context of the paragraph is incorrect, given that Article 28 of the Treaty for the Prohibition of ...
  2. Footnote from the United States: The United States does not support this paragraph. The United States remains committed to seeking the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons. The Open-ended ...

28. To strongly support the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention as a cornerstone of the international legal regime banning biological weapons, call on all states that are not yet Parties to the Convention to join without delay, and affirm our commitment to strengthening the Convention at the Eighth Review Conference in 2016.

Support for the hemispheric implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) of the United Nations Security Council

29. To request that the Permanent Council, through the CHS and with the support of the CICTE, continue to support member states in the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) of the United Nations Security Council by holding a meeting that enables, among other actions, disseminating lessons learned, exchanging experiences, identifying areas and specific projects requiring assistance, even though the preparation of voluntary national action plans on implementation, with a view to establishing priorities based on a hemispheric perspective; and to foster enhanced exchange of information with international, regional, and sub-regional organization on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), including Committee 1540 of the United Nations Security Council and, in particular, its second Comprehensive Review of the resolution, thereby contributing to the efforts made in the framework of the United Nations.

The Americas as an antipersonnel-land-mine-free zone<sup>1/</sup>

30. To instruct the Organization's General Secretariat to continue its work in support of the affected member states' efforts to free their territories of antipersonnel landmines, to destroy stockpiles thereof, and to make the Americas the world's first antipersonnel-landmine-free zone; and to firmly condemn, in accordance with the principles and norms of international humanitarian law, the use, stockpiling, production, and transfer of antipersonnel mines and improvised explosive devices. In this framework, to specifically condemn the carrying out of these practices by illegal armed groups, whose acts put at grave risk the population of the affected countries; and to strongly urge non-state actors to observe the international norm established by the Ottawa Convention to facilitate progress in the Americas toward a mine-free world.

31. To urge all States Parties to the Ottawa Convention, interested states, the United Nations, other competent international organizations or institutions, regional organizations, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and competent non-governmental organizations to review progress made in implementing the commitments under the 2014-2019 Plan of Action and the Maputo+15 Political Declaration, which were adopted at the Third Review Conference, held from June 23 to 27, 2014, and to renew their commitment to the Ottawa Convention.

32. To resolutely support and promote fulfillment of the principles of the Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines in each of its pillars, to wit: universalization, education on risks, victims assistance, humanitarian de-mining, and international cooperation and assistance, including the commitments undertaken in the Review Conferences, as well as support for States that have requested an extension for fulfilling their commitments related to cleaning and decontamination, in order to meet the established deadlines on time.

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1. Footnote from the United States: The United States is the largest contributor of demining humanitarian assistance in the world and the hemisphere. We have contributed over \$2.6 billion for conventional ...

33. To urge the States Party that have requested extensions in virtue of Article 5 of the Ottawa Convention to undertake all the necessary efforts to fulfill their obligations by established deadlines.

34. Considering the importance of having comprehensive mine action policies, to recognize the results achieved by the Government of the Republic of Colombia on the matter, highlighting the contributions of the international community, which have been channeled through the Organization of American States (OAS) for this purpose and which reaffirm the unwavering commitment of the member states and the General Secretariat of the Organization to continue supporting efforts being pursued in this country. To highlight as well the central role that humanitarian demining has played in peace talks, a fact that has yielded results with a highly positive impact on the standard of living for populations affected by this scourge.

#### Confidence- and security-building measures in the Americas

35. To adopt, as the thirty-seventh Confidence and Security-building Measure (CSBM), “Exchange information related to adopting and/or adapting provisions under domestic laws that govern processes for obtaining data and information, and also, with the participation of governments, service providers, end users, and others, exchange experiences in the prevention and management of and protection against cyberthreats, with a view to sustained mutual cooperation to prevent, address, and investigate criminal activities that threaten security, and to ensure an open, interoperable, secure, and reliable internet, while respecting obligations and commitments under international law, particularly international human rights law,” and to include it in the corresponding New Consolidated List of Confidence- and Security-Building Measures (CSBM) for Reporting According to OAS Resolutions,” in a new section titled “Non-traditional Measures,” and, thus, adopt this New List in keeping with the decision made by the Committee on Hemispheric Security on May 5, 2016 (CP/CSH-1743/16)<sup>1</sup>

36. To urge all member states to furnish the General Secretariat, no later than July 15 of each year, with information on the application of CSBMs, using the “New Consolidated List of Confidence- and Security-Building Measures for Reporting According to OAS Resolutions” (CP/CSH-1743/16) and the “Format for Reporting on the Application of Confidence- and Security-Building Measures” (CSH/FORO-IV/doc.7/10) and to request the OAS General Secretariat to complete the online CSBMs database and electronic template for the submission of online annual reports on CSBMs and to provide funding for this endeavor as mandated in resolution AG/RES. 2866 (XLIV-O/14).

37. To convene the Seventh Meeting of the Forum on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures in the first quarter of 2017 at the headquarters of the OAS General Secretariat.

#### Follow-up to the Special Conference on Security

38. To reaffirm the commitment to the Declaration on Security in the Americas and, in particular, the multidimensional security approach, recognizing their important contribution to the

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1. Footnote from Nicaragua: Nicaragua’s position regarding the adoption of confidence- and security-building measures, remains the same as that which it expressed at the meeting of the ...

hemispheric agenda and the need to continue their implementation, by the OAS and its member states, considering the elements identified in the 10-year anniversary seminar that addressed the relationship between security and social development, in order to bolster hemispheric cooperation; to contribute to reducing poverty, fostering social inclusion, and promoting the preventive approach that enables counteracting the threats that jeopardize integral development.

39. To encourage member states to continue to make progress on the implementation of the Declaration on Security in the Americas and to voluntarily report on their progress, ensuring the security of citizens; combatting transnational threats; promoting the peaceful resolution of conflicts; and fostering a climate of confidence, security, and cooperation in the Americas.

#### Declaration of San Salvador on Citizen Security in the Americas

40. To urge member states and the General Secretariat to continue to implement the Hemispheric Plan of Action to Follow-up on the Declaration of San Salvador on Citizen Security in the Americas, whose implementation has been extended.

#### Special Security Concerns of the Small Island States of the Caribbean

41. To express satisfaction with the successful outcome of the Meetings on the Special Security Concerns of the Small Island States of the Caribbean held within the Committee on Hemispheric Security at the Organization of American States in Washington D.C., on March 27, 2015 and April 7, 2016; and to instruct the Permanent Council to continue convening the annual meeting on the special security concerns of the small island states of the Caribbean, re-emphasizing that their peculiar characteristics of small, fragile economies and scarce resources render these states particularly vulnerable and susceptible to the effects of the myriad forms of transnational organized crime and other types of insecurities.

42. To acknowledge the following recommendations put forward by the member states and the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security:

- a. Develop a concrete security agenda through development of a joint plan of action addressing the core areas of the Memorandum of Understanding between the OAS and the Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS).
- b. Enhance cooperation between the OAS and IMPACS in order to mitigate the damaging effects of crime, violence and man-made and natural disasters.
- c. Develop a focused agenda for security cooperation with tangible outcomes.
- d. Maximize benefits to be derived by member states from limited resources through cooperative initiatives.

43. To instruct the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States through the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security, to continue collaborating with the CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS) and to develop a five-year Work Plan to facilitate implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding between the OAS and IMPACS bearing in mind that specific funds should be sought for implementation of this Work Plan so as to reduce the financial burden on the OAS.

### Support for the Central American Security Strategy

44. To urge the General Secretariat to continue providing cooperation and support, through the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security, to the Central American Integration System (SICA), in order to strengthen implementation of the Central American Security Strategy.

### Protecting Critical Infrastructure in the Event of Natural Disasters

45. To instruct the Committee on Hemispheric Security, with support from the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security, to hold a meeting of experts, to which it will also invite members of the Inter-American Committee for Natural Disaster Reduction (IACNDR), on “Protecting Critical Infrastructure in the Event of Natural Disasters” in the fourth quarter of 2016, with the aim of raising awareness about the importance of the issue and exploring mechanisms to strengthen, where appropriate, the prevention, mitigation, and rebuilding efforts of member states in relation to such infrastructure in the event of natural disasters.

### Cyber Security

46. To urge member states to deepen the regional dialogue on matters related to cyber security and, where defined by the States, digital security, in keeping with national legislation, to create awareness and promote a culture on cyber security among member states, in response to the challenges posed by information and communication.

## II. LEGAL INSTRUMENTS

47. To urge those member states that have not already done so to give prompt consideration to ratifying or acceding to, as the case may be, the Inter-American Convention Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (CIFTA) and the Inter-American Convention on Transparency in Conventional Weapons Acquisitions (CITAAC) and the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism.

### Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (CIFTA)

48. To adopt as a non-binding reference guide the document “OAS Firearms Standards: Marking and Recordkeeping,” prepared by the Virtual Working Group of designated national experts and approved by the Consultative Committee of the CIFTA at its Seventeenth Meeting, held on May 2, 2016.

49. To convene the eighteenth regular meeting of the Consultative Committee of the CIFTA, pursuant to Article XXI of the Convention, as a one-day event to be held during the first half of 2017, and the IV Conference of States Party to the CIFTA to be held the first week of December 2016; and to request the Technical Secretariat of the CIFTA to provide support for the preparations for and follow-up for both meetings.



50. To instruct the Technical Secretariat to prepare a comparative study of the CIFTA and other related international conventions on the subject, to, among other issues, find synergies among them, lending visibility to potential work opportunities, and showing possible duplication of efforts that may exist among these conventions. This comparative study should also include the United Nations Programme of Action to prevent, combat, and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects (UNPOA), and the International Tracing Instrument (ITI). The results of the study should be submitted to the Eighteenth Regular Meeting of the Consultative Committee of the CIFTA.

Inter-American Convention on Transparency in Conventional Weapons Acquisitions (CITAAC)

51. To renew the request that the General Secretariat, through the SMS, prepare the consolidated annual reports for the years 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016.

52. To hold the Second Conference of States Party to the Inter-American Convention on Transparency in Conventional Weapons Acquisition (CITAAC) in the second half of 2017.

III. OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE ANNUAL REPORTS  
OF THE ORGANS, AGENCIES, AND ENTITIES OF THE ORGANIZATION  
(ARTICLE 91.F OF THE CHARTER OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES)

Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD)

53. To instruct the General Secretariat to strengthen the Executive Secretariat of CICAD so that it may continue to discharge its mandates, including, but not limited to, providing the member states with technical assistance and facilitating the development and implementation of policies on drugs based on a comprehensive, balanced, sustainable, and multidisciplinary approach; and to urge the member states, permanent observers, and other international donors to continue to make voluntary contributions toward those goals.

54. To conclude the preparation of the 2016-2020 Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs prior to the 60th regular session of CICAD, pursuant to the mandate of the resolution adopted by the forty-sixth special session of the OAS General Assembly (held in Guatemala City, Guatemala) AG/RES. 1 (XLVI-E/14), "Reflections and Guidelines to Formulate and Follow up on Comprehensive Policies to Address the World Drug Problem in the Americas," and taking into consideration the outcome document of the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on the World Drug Problem, titled "Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem" (A/S-30/L.1).

Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE)

55. To instruct the General Secretariat to provide the CICTE Secretariat, within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the OAS, the human and financial resources needed for implementing the CICTE Work Plan, which includes the areas of border controls, legislative assistance and combating terrorism financing, critical infrastructure protection, strengthening strategies on emerging terrorist threats, Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540, and

international coordination and cooperation, as well as preparing for and holding the Seventeenth Regular Session.

56. To instruct the General Secretariat to provide, through the CICTE Secretariat, continued support to member states' comprehensive capacity-building efforts aimed at establishing and/or strengthening national alert, monitoring, and response groups known as Computer Security Incident Response Teams (CSIRTs); to strengthen specialized units within their relevant law enforcement agencies for the prevention and investigation of cybersecurity incidents, as well as the hemispheric security network of the CSIRTs and cybersecurity authorities, member states' exchanges of information, and their cooperation related to the protection of critical information infrastructure; and to continue to develop comprehensive national cybersecurity strategies and to involve all relevant actors and stakeholders in their development and implementation, including the private sector, academia, the technical community, civil society, and other social stakeholders.

57. To convene the Seventeenth Regular Session of CICTE, scheduled to be held from March 16-17, 2017, in Panama City, Panama, as well as the three one-day preparatory meetings to be held at the Organization's headquarters on December 2, 2016, January 20, 2017, and February 17, 2017, in accordance with the rules and regulations governing the activities of CICTE.

Inter-American Defense Board (IADB) <sup>1/2/3/4/</sup>

58. To request that the IADB, within the framework of its Statutes and the mandates of the OAS, continue providing technical, consultative, and educational advice to the OAS and the member states that request and technical advisory support needed by the Pro Tempore Secretariat of the XII Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas; and to invite the member states that so wish to consider continuing to provide the IADB with the financial and human resources necessary to support that institution.

59. To instruct the IADB to prepare studies and reports, which can be used by the organs of the OAS and member states, on military and defense issues, particularly as regards confidence- and security-building measures, the Inter-American Convention on Transparency in Conventional Weapons Acquisitions (CITAAC), defense forums and conferences in the hemisphere, demining, and stockpile management, security, and destruction, as well as humanitarian assistance and disaster search and rescue.

60. To invite member states to designate civilian, military, and police candidates to pursue the Master of Sciences degree in Inter-American Defense and Security offered by the Inter-American Defense College, the educational arm of the Inter-American Defense Board, which degree was recently accredited by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS).

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1. Footnote from Ecuador: The Government of Ecuador, in keeping with Article 4, paragraph 4.4 of the Statutes of the Inter-American Defense Board (IADB), gave notice of its definitive withdrawal ...
  2. Footnote from Nicaragua: The Government of Nicaragua believes that the historical context that enabled the establishment of the Inter-American Defense Board differs from the current realities ...
  3. Footnote from Venezuela: the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela calls into question the continued validity of the Inter-American Defense Board (IADB), given its origins, nature, scope, objectives, ...
  4. Footnote from Bolivia: In the new climate of relations among states in the Hemisphere and in keeping with the decisions of the OAS member states in terms of making the Americas a Zone of Peace, ...

IV. RENEWAL OF MANDATES CONTAINED IN RESOLUTION ASSIGNED BY  
THE PERMANENT COUNCIL TO THE CHS

61. Given that their implementation is not yet complete, to renew the mandates contained in operative paragraphs 16 (on CSBM), 36, 37, 41, and 44 (on TOC), 75, 77, 78, 81, and 85 (on the CIFTA), and 92 (on the CITAAC) of resolution AG/RES. 2866 (XLIV-O/14).

V. FOLLOW-UP AND REPORTING

62. To instruct the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security to submit, in due course, its 2016-2017 plan of activities for consultations or proper oversight by the member states.

63. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh regular session on the implementation of this resolution. Execution of the activities envisaged in this resolution will be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

VI. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Sequence	Topic	Estimated Date	Name	Place
1.	CDMA	October 10-12, 2016	XII Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas	Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago
2.	CICAD	November 1-4, 2016	60 <sup>th</sup> regular session of the CICAD	Nassau, Bahamas
3.	CIFTA	December 5-9, 2016	Fourth Conference of the States Party to the CIFTA	OAS headquarters Washington, D.C.
4.	MISPA	Fourth quarter 2016	First meeting of the Subsidiary Technical Working Group on the Prevention of Crime, Violence, and Insecurity	Quito, Ecuador
5.	Protecting Critical Infrastructure in the Event of Natural Disasters	Fourth quarter 2016	Meeting of experts on Protecting Critical Infrastructure in the Event of Natural Disasters	OAS headquarters, Washington, D.C.
6.	Transnational Organized Crime	Second half of 2017	Meeting to assess implementation of the Hemispheric Plan of Action against Transnational Organized Crime	OAS headquarters Washington, D.C.
7.	CIFTA	First half of 2017	13 <sup>th</sup> regular meeting of the Consultative Committee of CIFTA	OAS headquarters Washington, D.C.
8.	CICTE	March 16-17, 2017	17 <sup>th</sup> Regular Session of CICTE	Panama City, Republic of Panama
9.	Human Trafficking	First half of 2017	Second Meeting of National Authorities on Trafficking in Persons	(To be determined)
10.	CSBMs	First half of 2017	Seventh Forum on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures	OAS headquarters Washington, D.C.
11.	Special Security Concerns of the Small Island States of the	First half of 2017	Special Security Concerns of the Small Island States of the Caribbean	OAS headquarters Washington, D.C.

Sequence	Topic	Estimated Date	Name	Place
	Caribbean			
12.	MISPA	Second half of 2017	MISPA VI	Honduras
13.	CITAAC	Second half of 2017	Second Conference of States Party to the Inter-American Convention on Transparency in Conventional Weapons Acquisitions (CITAAC)	OAS headquarters Washington, D.C.

## FOOTNOTES

1. ... American Police Community in June 2011. That document was not negotiated or approved by OAS member states. Moreover, AMERIPOL does not represent the police agencies of all the Hemisphere's countries. Accordingly, a pretense at institutionalization in the Organization cannot be used to impose cooperation with said community. Venezuela supports voluntary cooperation on police matters based on respect for sovereignty, independence, the principle of noninterference, the system of laws, and the institutions of countries. Such cooperation must always be coordinated by and subject to the civilian control of all the OAS member states.

2. ... appropriate organs are the only ones that can set mandates. Therefore, the agreement with AMERIPOL does not constitute a mandate for the member states.

3. ... Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco) stipulates that it may not be subject to reservation; as such, Mexico's intention in proposing the use of "Interpretive Declarations" in its place seeks to rectify a historical error that undermines the treaty itself. To this end, it bears also noting resolutions CG/E/Res.568 and CG/Res.03/2015 of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL), adopted by the 33 member states of the agency in November 2014 and 2015, respectively, in which the following language is used: "...with a view to achieving the review or withdrawal of the Interpretive Declarations that States Party to the Additional Protocols to the Treaty of Tlatelolco made to such instruments.

4. ... Working Group established under UNGA resolution 70/33, however, is neither inclusive nor consensus-based, and such non-consensus efforts will not advance the cause of nuclear disarmament. The United States supports practical steps towards the elimination of nuclear weapons, an approach that has reduced dramatically nuclear arsenals from their Cold War highs and which the United States seeks to build on through negotiations on further reductions, which require a willing partner and a conducive security environment and through support for FMCT, CTBT and Nuclear Weapon Free Zones.

5. ... weapons destruction since 2003. The United States will continue to support OAS efforts to eliminate the humanitarian threat of all remaining landmines and declare countries "mine-impact-free." In February 2016, President Obama announced that the United States and Norway will lead a Global Demining Initiative for Colombia. The President highlighted his request to Congress for \$21 million dollars to support this initiative. In September 2014 the United States announced that it would align its activities outside the Korean Peninsula with key requirements of the Ottawa Convention. This means the United States will:

- not use anti-personnel landmines (APL) outside the Korean Peninsula;
- not assist, encourage, or induce anyone outside the Korean Peninsula to engage in activity prohibited by the Ottawa Convention; and
- undertake to destroy APL stockpiles not required for the defense of the Korean Peninsula.

Although the United States is not party to the Ottawa Convention, we continue our efforts to diligently pursue material and operational solutions that would be compliant with the Convention and that would ultimately allow us to accede to the Convention while ensuring our ability to meet our alliance commitments to the Republic of Korea.

6. ... Committee on Hemispheric Security meeting held on March 3, 2016:

“The Government of the Republic of Nicaragua acknowledges confidence- and security-building measures as a mechanism that helps to foster an international climate of trust and peace in the region. It agrees with the need that such measures be consistent with geographic, political, social, cultural, economic, and technological conditions and realities. In that sense, it is broadly in favor of a confidence-building measure involving the exchange of information related to adopting and adapting provisions under domestic laws that govern processes for obtaining data and information, and exchanges of experiences among governments regarding prevention, management of, and protection against cyber threats. Furthermore, the participation of service providers and end-users under this measure should be voluntary and should not entail any obligation for States.”

7. ... from the IADB on February 20, 2014, and in keeping with the established procedure, ceased its membership of the Board on February 20, 2015. As such, Ecuador cannot be part of any consensus or commitment that the states make on this matter.

8. ... of our states. Nicaragua does not agree that the Inter-American Defense Board should intervene in matters of a military or any other nature that would undermine the sovereignty, independence, institutions, or legal system of a country.

9. ... and performance. The international context in which the IADB was conceived is long gone. Therefore, it should adapt to the new paradigms and times of the Hemisphere. The Government of Venezuela reiterates that the IADB's activities should be confined to the competencies specifically established in its Statutes, and it should refrain from intervening in matters of a military or other nature that undermine peace, sovereignty, independence, freedom, the principle of noninterference, territorial integrity, self-determination, system of laws, and institutions of states, which are fundamental elements for the peaceful coexistence of nations.

10. ... the Inter-American Defense Board has ceased to have any validity and does not contribute to the priorities of the member states, or those of the OAS. Accordingly, an agency that is nothing more than a drain on the Organization's financial resources should not continue to be maintained.





AG/RES. 2881 (XLVI-O/16)

ADVANCING HEMISPHERIC INITIATIVES ON  
INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 14, 2016)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

REAFFIRMING:

That the Charter of the Organization of American States proclaims the essential purposes of the Organization, which include “to promote, by cooperative action, their economic, social, and cultural development” and “to eradicate extreme poverty, which constitutes an obstacle to the full democratic development of the peoples of the hemisphere”;

That the Inter-American Democratic Charter and the Social Charter Americas recognize that development with equity strengthens and consolidates democracy, since the two are interdependent and mutually reinforcing;

That the Inter-American Democratic Charter states that “[d]emocracy is essential for the social, political, and economic development of the peoples of the Americas,” and that “[p]overty, illiteracy, and low levels of human development are factors that adversely affect the consolidation of democracy”; and

That the Social Charter of the Americas underscores “the determination and commitment of member states to urgently combat the serious problems of poverty, social exclusion, and inequity that affect, in varying degrees, the countries of the Hemisphere; to confront their causes and consequences; and to create more favorable conditions for economic and social development with equity to promote more just societies”;

That the Social Charter of the Americas highlights that “the individual is at the center, as principal participant and beneficiary, of an inclusive, just, and equitable economic development process”;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that in the framework of the United Nations the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted, which is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity. It also seeks to strengthen universal peace in larger freedom. It recognizes, as well, that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development;

RECALLING the Summit of the Americas<sup>1/</sup> process and the mandates on integral development agreed upon by the Heads of State and Government;<sup>2</sup>

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1. The Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela reiterates its reservations to the FTAA, as formulated in the declarations and plans of action of the Summits of the Americas...

RECALLING ALSO that the Statutes of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) provide that the purpose of CIDI is “to promote partnership for development among the member states of the OAS for the furtherance of their integral development and, in particular, to help eliminate poverty” and that “[i]t achieves its objectives through the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Integral Development”;

HAVING SEEN the Strategic Plan for Partnership for Integral Development 2006-2009, whose term was extended until December 31, 2016, by resolution AG/RES. 2874 (XLV-O/15);

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION the declarations and plans of action of the meetings of ministers and high-level authorities in the framework of CIDI in the areas of sustainable development, social development, culture, education, science and technology, labor, and tourism, as well as the meetings of high-level authorities responsible for cooperation; and,

RECALLING General Assembly resolution AG/RES. 2874 (XLV-O/15) “Advancing Hemispheric Initiatives on Integral Development”;

#### I. CURRENT MANDATES IN THE AREA OF INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT

CONSIDERING resolution CP/RES. 1061 (2063/16) “Conclusion of the Mandate Prioritization Process and Preparation of the Organization’s Four-year Strategic Plan” and the conclusion of the technical-methodological process of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Strategic Vision of the OAS, including 80 mandates arising from the application of the first criterion of the Methodology for the Prioritization of Mandates,

#### Continuing Participation in the Inter-American Council for Integral Development by Member States that have not Ratified the Protocol of Managua”

HAVING SEEN resolution AG/RES. 2 (XXII-E/96), “Participation of Member States That Have Not Ratified the Protocol of Managua in the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) When Said Protocol Enters into Force,” as well as resolution AG/RES. 2636 (XLI-O/11), “Continuing Participation in the Inter-American Council for Integral Development by Member States That Have Not Ratified the Protocol of Managua”;

EMPHASIZING the amendments made to the Charter of the Organization of American States to incorporate the elimination of extreme poverty as a basic objective of integral development (Protocol of Washington) and to establish an Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) to promote cooperation among the American states for the purpose of achieving their integral development and, in particular, helping to eliminate extreme poverty (Protocol of Managua); and

CONSIDERING that as of the date of this resolution there are still member states that have not ratified the Protocol of Managua,

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2. The Government of the Republic of Nicaragua does not agree with the references to mandates, decisions, and initiatives arising from the Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh Summits of the Americas, ...

RESOLVES:

1. To urge those member states that have signed but not ratified the Protocol of Washington—which incorporates the elimination of extreme poverty as a basic objective of development—and the Protocol of Managua—which establishes the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI)—to consider doing so as soon as possible.

2. To extend the period during which its resolution AG/RES. 2 (XXII-E/96), “Participation of Member States That Have Not Ratified the Protocol of Managua in the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) When Said Protocol Enters into Force,” will remain in force until the fifty-first regular session of the General Assembly to be held in 2021, which will review the situation if at that time there are still member states that have not ratified the Protocol of Managua.

3. To request the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development to undertake outreach and awareness-raising efforts on the importance of ratifying the instruments referred to in operative paragraph 1 above, and report to CIDI annually for such time as this resolution remains in force.

II. STRENGTHENING THE INTER-AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR  
INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT: POLICY DIALOGUE AND PARTNERSHIP FOR  
DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Policy dialogue in the framework of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development

RECOGNIZING the progress made by the member states in the process of reflection and consultation for strengthening the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) and its subsidiary organs over the past three years described in the Report of the Chair of the Working Group to Strengthen CIDI and its Organs, CIDI/doc.200/16), in accordance with the tasks assigned in its Work Plan (CIDI/GT/FORCIDI/doc.91/13); and in response to the OAS General Assembly mandates regarding the guidelines of the Strategic Vision, Mandate Prioritization, Business Modernization, and Reorganization of the General Secretariat processes, as well as the OAS Charter, the Inter-American Democratic Charter, and the Social Charter of the Americas and its Plan of Action, and from the commitments assumed by OAS member States at the global level such as the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals; and,

WHEREAS the Working Group to Strengthen CIDI and its Organs has identified five main areas of action for strengthening CIDI: (A) substantive political dialogue, (B) predictable and organized sectoral dialogue processes, (C) mandate implementation and follow-up, (D) intersectoral cooperation, and (E) cooperation projects,

RESOLVES:

Substantive political dialogue:

4. To establish the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as the general framework for the work of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) and its organs. This alignment must be reflected in the Work Plan for the integral development pillar of the Four-year Comprehensive Strategic Plan for the Organization<sup>3/</sup>, entrusted by the OAS General Assembly resolution “Guidelines and Objectives of the Strategic Vision of the Organization of American States” [AG/RES. 1 (XLVII-E/14)].

Predictable and organized sectoral dialogue processes:

5. To request the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) with the support of the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) and with the objective to optimize predictable, effective and efficient sectoral processes in the framework of this Council, including the preparation of ministerial meetings and meetings of the inter-American committees, take the actions referred below before the next OAS General Assembly:

- i. Defines a schedule for the sectoral ministerial meetings and the meetings of CIDI’s inter-American committees to be held over the following four years, taking into account the available resources of the Organization. In addition, and as part of that scheduling and in order to foster synergies among those processes, to consider holding an annual meeting of CIDI with the participation of authorities from CIDI’s different sectoral processes;
- ii. Establishes guidelines for the format of CIDI’s ministerial meetings so that they better respond to the expectations of the sectoral authorities and guarantee a substantive political dialogue;
- iii. Establishes general guidelines for the preparation of draft agendas for Ministerial meetings so that they take into account the OAS Four-year Strategic Plan for the integral development pillar once approved, the topics proposed by the governments of the member states, the relevant mandates of the General Assembly, as well as CIDI agreements in prior sectoral meetings; and,
- iv. Establishes general guidelines for the preparation of working documents, and for the drafting of mandates to be adopted at ministerial meetings and meetings of the inter-American committees, to ensure that they reflect the available resources, capacity, and experience of the OAS, and facilitate accountability and their follow-up. Prior to being placed before the CIDI authorities for consideration, all mandates with financial implications must be cost-accounted, include their source(s) of funding, and abide by the OAS Four-year Strategic Plan and the Work Plan for the integral development pillar, as well as applicable instructions of the General Assembly and of

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3. Note: The “four-year comprehensive strategic plan” referred to in resolution AG/RES. 1 (XLVII-E/14) is the same “Four-year Strategic Plan” of resolution CP/RES. 1061 (2063/16)

the Permanent Council, including those incorporated by the OAS Strategic Vision regarding the inclusion of new integral development mandates for the General Secretariat.

6. To request CIDI to include, as part of all ministerial processes, a planning meeting with its prior, current and future authorities, to determine a calendar for the implementation of the ministerial agreements.

7. To request CIDI to conclude its analysis of the proposal to replace the structure based on inter-American committees for working groups no later than February 15, 2017. Once this analysis is concluded, to standardize the rules of procedure of the agreed mechanism before the forty-seventh regular session of the OAS General Assembly.

#### Mandate implementation and follow-up

8. To request CIDI to integrate the topics of Ministerials and Inter-American Committees meetings in its regular meetings, and in this regard, to request the Secretariat to prepare at the beginning of each CIDI Chairmanship a list of the topics considered by member States in recent Ministerial processes so that they are included in the work plan of the Chair.

#### Intersectoral cooperation

9. To request that CIDI, by December 31, 2016, implement coordination mechanisms within that Council so that open channels for communications and consultation exist between CIDI's ministerial meetings, the inter-American committees, the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD), and other multilateral organizations and agencies so that CIDI's work is centered in the activities defined in the OAS Four-year Strategic Plan and the Work Plan for the integral development pillar once approved. Similarly, to request that the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development promote coordination within SEDI and its departments, and with other areas of the Secretariat and with the permanent missions to the OAS, in order to facilitate the systematic, ordered and timely flow of information.

#### Cooperation projects

10. To request SEDI to promote crosscutting coordination of its Technical Cooperation Section with all its departments, in order to coordinate the design and implementation of the cooperation programs and projects carried out by SEDI financed by the Development Cooperation Fund (DCF/OAS). Accordingly, to request SEDI to strengthen coordination between all areas of this Secretariat and the permanent missions to the OAS, and to facilitate the member states' access to information on the Organization's projects and programs in the area of integral development.

#### Strategic Plan for Partnership for Integral Development

##### TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

That the Strategic Plan for Partnership for Integral Development, referenced in the OAS Charter, is essential for coordinating policies, programs, and measures for action in the area of

partnership for integral development, in the framework of the general policy and priorities defined by the General Assembly as well as mandates from CIDI, including from its sectoral meetings of ministers and high-level authorities;

That the CIDI Statutes stipulate that the Strategic Plan “shall have a four-year planning target period, subject to adjustment when the General Assembly considers it appropriate,” and instruct CIDI to formulate and recommend the Strategic Plan to the General Assembly and to examine and, as appropriate, adopt the proposals dealing with its formulation and updating; and

RECOGNIZING that in resolution AG/RES. 1 (XLVII-E/14) “Guidelines and Objectives of the Strategic Vision of the Organization of American States,” the Permanent Council was instructed to prepare a four-year comprehensive strategic plan with work plans for each of the four pillars as well as for administrative management and institutional strengthening; and the resolution of the Permanent Council CP/RES. 1061 (2063/16) which states that “following the adoption of the Four-year Strategic Plan, the General Secretariat shall adapt its plans and programs and its planning, operational, and evaluation strategies for the purposes of implementing the Plan of the Organization”,

RESOLVES:

11. To extend the life of the 2006-2009 Strategic Plan for Partnership for Integral Development until the four-year Strategic Plan of the Organization of American States and the Work Plan for the integral development pillar are adopted.

#### Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development

CONSIDERING that resolution AG/RES. 2817 (XLIV-O/14) adopted the “Guidelines for the Strengthening of the Various Modalities of Cooperation for Development” (CIDI/doc.95/14), which considered appropriate to review the Statute of the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development and the Rules of Procedure of its Management Board,

RESOLVES:

12. To adopt the Statute of the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (CIDI/doc.201/16) and the Rules of Procedure of its Management Board (CIDI/doc.202/16), addendum to this resolution.

### III. CIDI MINISTERIAL MEETINGS

#### Inter-American Congress of Ministers and High-level Authorities of Tourism

HAVING SEEN the Declaration of Lima on Community-Based Rural Tourism in the Americas (CIDI/TUR-XXIII/ DEC.1/15), the Medium-term Strategy to Enhance Tourism Cooperation and Competitiveness in the Americas (CIDI/TUR- XXIII/doc.7/15), and the “Final Report of the Twenty-third Inter-American Congress of Ministers and High-level Authorities of Tourism” (CIDI/TUR-XXI/doc.9/15);

RESOLVES:

13. To thank the Government of Peru for its hospitality and contributions to the results of the Twenty-third Inter-American Congress of Ministers and High-Level Authorities of Tourism, held in Lima on September 3 and 4, 2015, and to endorse the Declaration of Lima on Community-Based Rural Tourism in the Americas (CIDI/TUR-XXIII/DEC. 1/15), which recognizes the importance of fostering community-based rural tourism in the Americas to combat extreme poverty, promote economic growth with social inclusion through a propitious competitive environment and government strategies that facilitate community-based enterprises and innovation, as well as the need for developing systems to monitor and measure success, the development of competitive enterprises, and guidelines to ensure responsible sustainable tourism.

14. To underscore the adoption of the Medium-term Strategy to Enhance Tourism Cooperation and Competitiveness in the Americas as well as the election of the new officers of the Inter-American Committee on Tourism: Peru as Chair, with El Salvador and Saint Kitts and Nevis as Vice Chairs.

15. To thank the Government of Guyana for its offer to host the XXIV Inter-American Congress of Ministers and High-level Authorities of Tourism in the Framework of CIDI in Georgetown in 2017 and to urge ministers and high authorities of tourism to attend the Congress and promote the participation of civil society and other social actors.

Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development and progress in the review and update of the Inter-American Program on Sustainable Development (PIDS)

HAVING SEEN resolutions AG/RES. 2816 (XLIV-O/14) and AG/RES. 2874 (XLV-O/15), “Advancing Hemispheric Initiatives on Integral Development”; and the Declaration of Tela “Building a Sustainable Development Agenda for the Americas” ([CIDI/RIMDS-III/DEC. 1/15](#)) that adopted the Strategic Framework for the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development (PIDS) ([CIDI/RIMDS-III/doc.6/15](#)); extended the mandate of the PIDS until December 31, 2016; and urged CIDI and, where appropriate, the Inter American Committee for Sustainable Development (CIDS) to meet in 2016 and continue the review and update of such program,

RESOLVES:

16. To endorse the Declaration of Tela “Building a Sustainable Development Agenda for the Americas” (CIDI/RIMDS-III/DEC.1/15) and the Strategic Framework for the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development (PIDS) (CIDI/RIMDS-III/doc.6/15).

17. To reiterate and endorse the vote of thanks to the people and Government of Honduras for having hosted the Third Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development within the Framework of CIDI.

Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor (IACML)

HAVING SEEN the Declaration of Cancún 2015: Achieving Decent Work with Social Inclusion and Sustainable Development in the Americas (CIDI/TRABAJO/DEC. 1/15) and its corresponding Plan of Action of Cancún 2015 (CIDI/TRABAJO/doc.22/15 rev. 10),

RESOLVES:

18. To thank the Government of Mexico for its hospitality and its contributions to the outcomes of the Nineteenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor (IACML), held in Cancún, from December 3-4, 2015; and to endorse the Declaration of Cancun 2015: Achieving Decent Work with Social Inclusion and Sustainable Development in the Americas (CIDI/TRABAJO/DEC. 1/15) and the Plan of Action of Cancún 2015 (CIDI/TRABAJO/doc.22/15 rev. 1), which reflect hemispheric consensus achieved on building integrated public policies on education and labor to generate decent, dignified and productive work and effectively link labor with equity; the promotion of inclusive labor policies and the generation of quality jobs and enterprises; consensus on labor migration, progress in protecting the rights of migrant workers, and hemispheric cooperation to strengthen labor ministries and highlight the ongoing dialogue between the ministries of labor and education.

19. To recognize the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Inter-American Network for Labor Administration (RIAL), created by the IACML to complement policy dialogue with cooperation activities, and to highlight its concrete results in building human and institutional capacity and deepening cooperation among ministries of labor in the region. To instruct the Technical Secretariat to continue coordinating this Network and, mindful of the need for it to be financially sustainable, to invite the labor ministries and other donors to contribute to the RIAL Voluntary Contributions Fund.

20. To accept with gratitude the offer by the Government of Barbados to host the Twentieth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor (IACML) in the second half of 2017.

Meeting of Ministers and High-level Authorities of Social Development in the framework of CIDI

HAVING SEEN the Social Charter of the Americas (AG/doc.5242/12 rev.2) and its Plan of Action (AG/RES.2878 (XLV-O/15); resolution AG/RES. 2816 (XLIV-O/14), “Advancing Hemispheric Initiatives on Integral Development”, the Declaration of Asuncion “Development with Social Inclusion” adopted at the forty-fourth regular session of the OAS General Assembly, held in Asuncion, Republic of Paraguay, in June of 2014, and the Communique of Cali, adopted at the Second Meeting of Ministers and High-level Authorities of Social Development,

RESOLVES:

21. To accept with appreciation the offer of the Government of the Republic of Paraguay to host the Third Meeting of Ministers and High-level Authorities of Social Development in the framework of CIDI in Asuncion, Paraguay on July 13-14, 2016 with the theme “Equity and Social Inclusion: Overcoming Inequalities for More Inclusive Societies” and to urge OAS member States’ ministers and high-level authorities of social development to attend and to promote the active



participation of organs and agencies of the inter-American system, permanent observers, other observers and special guests.

Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities in the framework of CIDI

HAVING SEEN the Social Charter of the Americas (AG/doc.5242/12 rev.2) and its Plan of Action (AG/RES.2878 (XLV-O/15); resolution AG/RES. 2816 (XLIV-O/14), “Advancing Hemispheric Initiatives on Integral Development” and the “Declaration of Port-au-Prince on Cultural Interdependence in the context of Globalization”,

RESOLVES:

22. To accept with appreciation the offer of the Government of the Republic of Paraguay to host the Seventh Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities in the framework of CIDI in Asuncion, Paraguay on November 17-18, 2016 with the theme “Development in the Americas: Improving the Circulation of Cultural Goods and Services” and to urge OAS member States’ ministers and high-level authorities of culture to attend and to promote the active participation of organs and agencies of the inter-American system, permanent observers, other observers and special guests.

Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Education

CONSIDERING that the VIII Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Education took place in Panama on February 4 and 5, 2015 and adopted resolution CIDI/RME/RES. 1/15, in which the ministries of education of the OAS member states committed to building an Inter-American Education Agenda; and,

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION the advances on the Process of Building the Inter-American Education Agenda during the VII regular meeting of CIE that took place on April 28-29, 2016, in Washington DC; and recognizing that the Meeting of Ministers of Education, the Inter-American Committee on Education (CIE) and the Inter-American Teacher Education Network (ITEN) provide valuable fora for dialogue, facilitating partnership and coordination of efforts to ensure that: quality, inclusive and equitable education is accessible to all, to strengthen the teaching profession, and to enhance provision of comprehensive early childhood care; and emphasizing that member States should continue supporting the construction of the Inter-American Education Agenda,

RESOLVES:

23. To thank the Government of Panama for its leadership of the Inter-American Committee on Education (CIE) from October 2014 to April 2016, for their hospitality and support in bringing about the VIII Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Education, fostering the building of the Inter-American Education Agenda and to initiate the work of intersectoral coordination between ministries of labor and ministries of education; for its valuable contribution to the development and implementation of the Virtual Platform for Educational Cooperation in the Americas and to the first day seminar to reflect on the building of the Inter-American Education Agenda among the countries

heading the working groups established to carry out that hemispheric task; and for its steadfast efforts to forge hemispheric consensus regarding the construction of integrated education and labor policies.

24. To take note of the progress of the VII Regular Meeting of the CIE, on the construction of the Inter-American Education Agenda and the roadmap for the work of the IX Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Education in the framework of CIDI, and to thank Member States for their support to the three working groups and encourage their continued support in the construction of said Agenda.

25. To congratulate and thank the Government of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas for assuming the chairmanship of the CIE, for having expressed full support for, and commitment to, the ongoing efforts to the process of constructing the Inter-American Educational Agenda and for its offer to host the IX Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Education on February 9 and 10, 2017.

#### Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities on Science and Technology

HAVING SEEN resolution AG/RES. 2874 (XLV-O/15) containing the documents adopted at sectoral meetings of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) in 2015, including the “Plan of Action of Guatemala: Inclusive Innovation: Key to Reducing Inequality and Increasing Productivity in the Region” (CIDI/REMCYT-IV/doc. 5/15 rev. 2), adopted at the Fourth Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities on Science and Technology in the Framework of CIDI, held in Guatemala City, Guatemala, from March 10-11, 2015, and the “Final Report of the Fourth Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities on Science and Technology (REMCYT IV)” CIDI/REMCYT-IV/doc.12/15,

#### RESOLVES:

26. To accept with gratitude the offer by the Government of Colombia to host the Fifth Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities on Science and Technology in 2017 and to instruct the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) to convene it and allocate the resources needed to hold it, and to urge the highest-level authorities on science and technology in the member states to participate.

27. To instruct CIDI to convene the Inter-American Committee on Science and Technology (COMCyT) at OAS headquarters in the first semester of 2017, and, if available, allocate the resources needed to hold it, so that said Committee may begin the preparations for holding the Fifth Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Science and Technology. To also instruct SEDI to provide the necessary support for this process as a whole.

#### Specialized CIDI Meeting of High-Level Authorities on Cooperation

CONSIDERING that resolution AG/RES.2817 (XLIV-O/14) adopted the “Guidelines for the Strengthening of the Various Modalities of Cooperation for Development” (CIDI/doc.95/14) by which it requested SEDI, based on the aforementioned guidelines, to promote and strengthen cooperation mechanisms and modalities, and in this regard, urged member states to hold meetings of high-level cooperation authorities every three years, in order to steer partnership for development policies within the Organization;

RECOGNIZING the importance of promoting various forms of OAS cooperation, including horizontal, South-South, and triangular cooperation, which are mechanisms for knowledge transfer, and commitment to democracy and development in the Hemisphere; and highlighting that the last meeting of the High-Level Authorities on Cooperation, held from October 26-27, 2009 in Bogota, Colombia, underscored the importance of holding meetings of High-level Cooperation Authorities as frequently as deemed necessary;

RESOLVES:

28. To request CIDI to convene a meeting of High-level Authorities on Cooperation within the framework of CIDI, in Washington, D.C. in the first semester of 2017, to review the follow-up done by the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD) on the recommendations reached at the Specialized CIDI meeting of High-Level Cooperation Authorities, and to support their continued implementation and update, as appropriate.

Inter-American Committee on Ports (CIP)

HAVING SEEN the Declaration of Cartagena [CIDI/CIP/DEC. 1 (VIII-O/13)] and the Action Plan of Cartagena 2014-2015 [CIDI/CIP/PA.1/13 (VIII-O/13)], endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution AG/RES. 2816 (XLIV-O/14) “Advancing Hemispheric Initiatives on Integral Development” and the resolution CIDI/CIP/RES. 1 (IX-O/14), “Agreements of the Ninth Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Ports on the Election of the Authorities of Its Executive Committee and on the Guidelines to Extend Its Work until 2016”,

RESOLVES:

29. To accept with satisfaction the offer of the Government of Uruguay to host the Tenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Ports (CIP), which will be held in Montevideo, Uruguay, from July 27 to 29, 2016, with the theme “Partnership with the Private Sector for Port Development,” and urge the highest level port authorities of the OAS member states to take part in that meeting and promote the active participation of associate members of the CIP, permanent observers, international agencies, private-sector enterprises, experts, and special guests.

IV. CAPACITY BUILDING

Human Development and Education

RECALLING Article 95 of the Charter of the Organization of American States, which tasks SEDI to facilitate the "improvement and extension of education to cover all levels, promotion of scientific and technological research, through technical cooperation, and support for cultural activities”;

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION the “Manual of Procedures for the Scholarship and Training Programs of the Organization of American States” (CIDI/doc.61/13),

RESOLVES:

30. To urge Member States, in reaffirming education and human development as fundamental to eliminating extreme poverty, reducing inequalities, strengthening democratic governance and promoting inclusive, just and equitable economic and social development, to provide appropriate support for efforts to attain those goals.

31. To instruct the General Secretariat through SEDI to continue to facilitate the advancement of individual and institutional capacities in member states by:

- a. Expanding strategic partnerships, particularly through the Consortium of Universities, while strengthening existing relationships to increase access to quality, inclusive and equitable educational opportunities, at all levels, in all modalities and in all four official languages of the Organization;
- b. Expanding course offerings through engaging partners to better respond to the priorities and professional development needs of member states and to consider those proposals obtained through active engagement with partners as well as through the requisite open call;
- c. Promoting life-long learning and decent, dignified and productive work through, among other things, offering scholarships for technical studies with particular emphasis on the interests and priorities of Member States.

Rights of the Child

BEARING IN MIND the demographic characteristics of the region, where 40% of the population is under the age of 18, and of subregions such as Central America, where these numbers exceed 55%;

CONSIDERING the priorities expressed by state representatives on the Directing Council of the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN) and included in the 2015-2019 Action Plan; and,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that those priorities match those contained in other international documents, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted at the Sustainable Development Summit 2015 in the context of the 70<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly (Resolution A/RES/70/1),

RESOLVES:

32. To contribute to the implementation of policies that guarantee all children the necessary conditions, from birth, for them to fully develop their personality, their cognitive, emotional, and bonding potential, and their aptitudes for co-existence and the full exercise of their rights and citizenship. To this end, efforts shall be made to promote horizontal and cross-sector cooperation models, as well as strategies for strengthening family care and childrearing that encourage gender equality.

### Migration and development

RECALLING resolutions AG/RES. 2738 (XLII-O/12), “Strengthening the Topic of Migration in the OAS: Establishment of the Committee on Migration Issues,” and AG/RES. 2790 (XLIII-O/13), “The Human Rights of Migrants, Including Migrant Workers and Their Families,” and all its previous relevant resolutions; and,

CONSIDERING the importance of continuing the analysis of migration in the Americas, within the OAS framework, in order to encourage identification of joint measures, *inter alia*, through cooperation, international, regional, and/or bilateral dialogue, as applicable, and the exchange of good practices by which to strengthen its advantages and address its collateral challenges,

RESOLVES:

33. To instruct the CAM, in keeping with the document “Future Framework of Action for the CAM” (CIDI/CAM/doc.11/14 rev. 4) and in accordance with the activities envisaged in the Inter-American Program for the Promotion and Protection of the Human Rights of Migrants, Including Migrant Workers and Their Families, to center its cooperation work during the 2016-2017 period on, among others:

- A. Protection of human rights of migrants
- B. Migrant integration in host countries
- C. Inclusion of migrants who return to their countries of origin
- D. Contributions of migrants

34. To promote the continuous exchange of information and best practices among member states in relation to migration and implementation of public policies for its care and management.

35. To encourage member states to join the Continuous Reporting System on International Migration of the Americas (SICREMI), in order to help improve information and knowledge about migrant flows and trends in the Americas, and to request the Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity to keep the CAM informed about the System’s financial sustainability, in order to ensure its continuity.

36. To acknowledge the important contribution of migrants to integral development and vigorously condemn all manifestations or acts of racism, discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance toward migrants, in connection with among others, access to employment, professional training, housing, education, health care services, social services, and public services.

37. To support the Organization in its efforts to assist states in meeting the Sustainable Development Goals on migration and human mobility.

### Financial Inclusion

MINDFUL of the “Declaration of Asunción: Development with Social Inclusion,” (AG/DEC. 74 (XLIV-O/14) which promotes the encouragement of financial inclusion policies that

enhance access to and the use of affordable and quality financial services and strengthen the financial capability of excluded or underserved households, micro- and small businesses, cooperatives and other units of production as well as the promotion of financial education programs, and considering that several countries in the region have already launched initiatives to that end and that such efforts could be bolstered by regional initiatives to foster greater mutual knowledge, exchanges of experience, and regional cooperation,

RESOLVES:

38. To entrust CIDI with continuing to promote the development of financial inclusion policies and programs through activities to encourage exchanges of experience, and facilitating partnership with organizations and institutions in the public and private sectors, civil society, and other social actors.

Network for Consumer Safety and Health and Inter-American Rapid Product Safety Warning System

RESOLVES:

39. To strengthen cooperation with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and civil society organizations and other social actors with a view to increased participation and interaction with national health and consumer authorities and other relevant authorities, so as to work together to boost monitoring capacity and cooperation to prevent unsafe products from entering and keeping risks from harming consumers in the Americas.

40. To request the General Secretariat, through its Department of Social Inclusion, of the Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity, in its role as Technical Secretariat to the CSHN, to continue to assist national agencies in member states with the substantive and technological aspects of the IAPSWS, in order to strengthen rapid and secure communication as part of consumer protection, especially in the area of consumer product safety and monitoring; as well as in promoting and implementing national systems and public policies to guarantee consumer rights and establish agreements with subregional and international organizations to promote and disseminate the work of the CSHN-IAPSWS.

Strengthening of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises, as well as cooperatives and other production units

HAVING SEEN resolution AG/RES. 2816 (XLIV-O/14), which makes reference to the promotion of economic growth with equity and social inclusion by strengthening micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises, as well as cooperatives and other units of production,

RECOGNIZING the work done by the United States government in hosting the IV Inter-American Dialogue of High-Level MSME Authorities: “Public Policies to Promote Internationalization of Small and Medium Enterprises,” held at the OAS headquarters in Washington D.C. from 16 to 17 April, 2015, with the support of the Department of Economic Development of the OAS Executive Secretariat for Integral Development with funding from the Government of Canada

RESOLVES:

41. To request that the V Inter-American Dialogue of High-Level Authorities for Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises addresses, as a main issue, the strengthening of the institutions that support micro, small and medium-sized enterprise (MSMEs), as well as cooperatives and other units of production. In this regard, to instruct the General Secretariat to continue to promote the development of the OAS-supported initiative on Small Business Development Centers throughout the Hemisphere that support the professionalization of MSMEs, and enhance their capacity to respond to the needs of the local economy. Likewise, that it encourages collaboration and explores synergies amongst regional MSME initiatives to support an exchange of best practices and institutional strengthening to increase regional competitiveness.

42. To accept with gratitude the offer by the Government of Mexico to host the V Inter-American Dialogue of High-Level MSME Authorities in 2017, in coordination with the X Americas Competitiveness Forum, in keeping with the Work Plan for the RIAC 2016-2018, and to instruct SEDI to continue providing assistance for this process, including cooperation and exchange of experiences and best practices being undertaken through the three working groups.

The Key Role of the OAS in the Advancement of Telecommunications/Information and Communication Technologies through the Inter-American Telecommunication

CONSIDERING that Telecommunications and Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs), ICT applications, and digital contents have a key role in the economic, social, environmental, political, and cultural dimensions of national and regional development; and that, despite the substantial growth and expansion of the use of telecommunications and ICTs in the Americas, the region still has major disparities as many countries do not have the necessary basic long-term infrastructure, long-term programs and public policies, laws and/or appropriate regulations that encourage the development of ICT applications and contents,

RESOLVES:

43. To ask CITELE to support member states that so request in harmonizing, developing, transferring technology on mutually agreed terms, and enhancing telecommunications and ICTs in the region by: the analysis and development of studies and models of affordable, sustainable systems of access to services, particularly in rural areas and in countries that require transit through third parties in order to connect to international fiber optics, in order to ensure equitable access to information and knowledge; broad dissemination of national and regional initiatives; strengthening its cooperation and coordination with regional and international telecommunications/ICT organizations to achieve short-term results.

44. In addition, to ask CITELE to promote and facilitate collaboration and support for the various areas of the OAS to carry out activities aimed at expanding the use of telecommunications/ICTs as an essential tool to achieve optimal use of resources.

Inter-American Competitiveness Network (RIAC)

HAVING SEEN resolution AG/RES. 2586 (XL-O/10), "Inter-American Competitiveness Network", which urges "member states to support programs and initiatives to promote integration,

cooperation, and partnership, and to enhance competitiveness and promote social development and sustainable economic growth with equity and social inclusion in the countries of the region, instructing the OAS General Secretariat to lend support, as appropriate, to the member states in this effort”; and,

RECOGNIZING the leadership of Republic of Guatemala for serving as Pro Tempore Chair of the RIAC in 2015 and hosting of the Ninth Americas Competitiveness Forum (ACF), “Stronger Institutions = more Competitiveness”, held in Guatemala City from November 16-18, 2015, and thanking the Governments of Argentina and the United States for hosting the IV and V Americas Competitiveness Exchange (ACE) on Innovation and Entrepreneurship, held in October 2015 and April 2016, respectively,

RESOLVES:

45. To request SEDI to take note of the Work Plan for the RIAC 2016-2018, “Structural Reforms and Enterprise to Drive Competitiveness in the Americas,” approved in 2015 in Guatemala, including the activities of the Americas Competitiveness Exchange (ACE) on Innovation and Entrepreneurship and the activities of the Group of Experts on Subnational Competitiveness.

46. To instruct the General Secretariat to continue to support the Inter-American Competitiveness Network (RIAC) as a regional engagement for the sharing of knowledge and promotion of inter-sectoral collaboration amongst academia, government, and the private sector. Likewise, that it promotes the expansion and strengthening of economic and academic exchanges amongst member states through hemispheric initiatives such as the America’s Competitiveness Exchange and America’s Competitiveness Forum which promote the growth of innovation and entrepreneurship.

47. To accept with gratitude the offer by the Government of Canada to host the Sixth ACE in September 2016, and the offer by the Government of Mexico, as Chair pro-tempore of the RIAC, to host the Tenth ACF in 2017, and to request that SEDI provides these processes with the necessary support.

#### Promoting clean and renewable energy in the Americas

RECOGNIZING that energy is fundamental to achieving sustainable development objectives and that therefore the combination and complementarity of use of all types of energy sources, including biofuels and a cleaner use of fossil fuels, contributes to the attainment of those objectives, and underscoring the need to promote the development and use of clean and renewable energy through research, development, and the voluntary transfer of environmentally sound technology on mutually agreed upon terms and conditions, and international partnerships and/or agreements; and,

RECALLING the Second Ministerial Meeting for Energy Climate Partnership of America (ECPA) held on May 25-26, 2015 in Merida, Yucatan-Mexico, and recognizing that since its inception in 2009, it has worked on diverse projects to increase energy security, promote low-carbon growth and foster regional integration to realize social and sustainable development for the Americas,



RESOLVES:

48. To instruct the General Secretariat to continue to promote regional dialogue amongst countries and between the public and private sectors toward developing reliable, cleaner, more affordable, and renewable and sustainable energy systems that facilitate access to energy and energy-efficiency technologies and practices. Likewise, that it encourages the development of partnerships that promote greater donor coordination as well as access to information and knowledge sharing in order to more effectively pursue regional energy strategies.

Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in the Americas<sup>4/</sup>

WELCOMING the First Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 in the Americas, held in Asunción, Paraguay, on June 8 and 9, 2016, as well as the leadership of the Republic of Paraguay in promoting regional dialogue on the subject,

RESOLVES:

49. To instruct the General Secretariat to continue assisting the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030.

Coordination of Voluntary Enlistment in the Hemisphere for Disaster Response and the Fight against Hunger and Poverty – White Helmets Initiative

MINDFUL OF the General Secretariat's reports on the White Helmets Initiative, resolutions AG/RES. 1351 (XXV-O/95), AG/RES. 1403 (XXVI-O/96), AG/RES. 1463 (XXVII-O/97), AG/RES. 2018 (XXXIV-O/04), AG/RES. 2165 (XXXVI-O/06), AG/RES. 2372 (XXXVIII-O/08), AG/RES. 2558 (XL-O/10), AG/RES. 2704 (XLII-O/12), and AG/RES. 2827 (XLIV-O/14) and declarations AG/DEC. 45 (XXXV-O/05) and AG/DEC. 55 (XXXVII-O/07),

RESOLVES:

50. To reiterate its support for the White Helmets Initiative as an invaluable mechanism in the Hemisphere for disaster prevention, mitigation, and response and for fighting hunger and poverty.

51. To encourage the General Secretariat to continue strengthening and coordinating efforts between the White Helmets Initiative and the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development, and with other OAS agencies and mechanisms, promoting the establishment of partnerships and working agreements between other agencies and institutions in the region and the White Helmets Initiative.

52. To invite member states to contribute to the OAS–White Helmets Special Fund, in order to facilitate continuation of national and international seminars, training workshops, local

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<sup>4</sup> The United States was pleased to participate in the third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan in 2015. We are deeply grateful to ....

capacity-building projects, and humanitarian assistance missions in Latin American and Caribbean countries.

#### V. REPORTING AND FOLLOW UP

53. To thank those member states that have contributed financial, logistical, and human resources to support of the programs and activities mentioned in this resolution, and to request SEDI to continue developing new partnerships.

54. To request SEDI to continue presenting reports to CIDI on the implementation of mandates entrusted to it.

55. To request CIDI to report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh regular session on the implementation of this resolution. Execution of the activities envisaged in this resolution will be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

## FOOTNOTES

1. ... (paragraph 15 of the Declaration of Quebec City and paragraph 6.A of the Plan of Action, and paragraph 12 of the Declaration of Nuevo León), as well as in resolution AG/RES. 2014 (XXXIV-O/04), “Trade and Integration in the Americas,” and prior resolutions with the same title, as well as in the Strategic Plan for Partnership for Integral Development. The content of this footnote applies to all mentions of the Summits of the Americas process and of the Strategic Plan for Partnership for Integral Development included in this resolution.

2. .. because on those occasions the Heads of State and Government did not adopt the Political Declarations containing the mandates and the operative paragraphs of the thematic axes that were a part of those Political Declarations.

3. ... the Government of Japan for hosting the conference and for providing invaluable leadership in efforts to address disaster risk reduction. The United States was a strong supporter of the Hyogo Framework for Action and will continue to participate actively in global efforts to reduce the risk of disasters, consistent with the core principle of Disaster Risk Reduction that gives each state the primary responsibility for taking effective measures to reduce disaster risk. The United States nonetheless is obliged to reiterate its concerns about the Sendai Framework that that we expressed in our Explanation of Position of March 18, 2015, dissociating from certain paragraphs in the Sendai Framework that contain elements that distract from our collective efforts to address disaster risk reduction. The United States continues to dissociate from those paragraphs. In particular, concerning the transfer of technology, the United States supports a broad range of initiatives and mechanisms that provide technical assistance, including through the transfer of technology, to developing countries. However, we maintain that the transfer of technology must not be coerced and that the rights of private holders of intellectual property must not be abrogated. As such, we underscore our view that the present framework does not change the obligations of countries under national law and relevant international agreements. The language on technology transfer in this framework cannot serve as a precedent for future negotiated documents, including any documents relating to the Sustainable Development Goals or the Conference of Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), or any other negotiation in or outside of the UN system.



ADDENDUM

OEA/Ser.W  
CIDI/doc. 201/16  
6 June 2016  
Original: Spanish

STATUTES OF THE  
INTER-AMERICAN AGENCY FOR COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (IACD)

(Approved at the LX regular CIDI meeting, held June 6, 2016)

**CHAPTER I  
NATURE AND PURPOSE**

Article 1  
Nature

The Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD) is a subsidiary organ of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) created pursuant to Articles 53, 54.a, 77, 93, and 95.c of the Charter and Articles 5 and 17 of the CIDI Statutes.

Article 2  
Purpose

The purpose of the IACD is to promote, coordinate, manage, and facilitate the planning and execution of programs, projects, and activities (hereinafter "partnership for development activities"), within the scope of the OAS Charter and, in particular, the framework of the Strategic Plan for Partnership for Development of CIDI (hereinafter "Strategic Plan").

**CHAPTER II  
FUNCTIONS AND SCOPE OF AUTHORITY**

Article 3  
Functions

The IACD shall have the following functions:

1. The administration, evaluation, and supervision of the partnership for development activities established within the framework of the CIDI Strategic Plan and its Inter-American Programs approved by CIDI.

2. The administration and supervision of the fellowship, scholarship and training programs of the OAS.

3. The development and establishment of cooperative relations with Permanent Observers, other states, and national and international organizations, regarding partnership for development activities.

4. Manage and account for the resources of the Development Cooperation Fund (DCF/OAS) and other funds raised by and entrusted to the IACD.

5. The mobilization of financial, technical, and other resources in order to strengthen partnership for development activities.

6. The approval, in accordance with Article 9 of these Statutes and of the program and policy guidelines approved by CIDI, of the method of implementation of partnership for development activities and the determination of their level of financing, endeavoring to target the most pressing needs of the member states, especially the relatively less-developed countries and those with smaller economies.

Article 4  
Scope of Authority

1. The IACD shall exercise its authority within the framework of the OAS Charter, in particular Article 95c.; the Strategic Plan of CIDI; the CIDI Statutes; these Statutes; the DCF/OAS FEMCIDI Statutes; the applicable provisions of the General Standards that Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat; and other guidelines and directives adopted by the General Assembly or CIDI.

2. The IACD is responsible to CIDI.

3. In the event that the IACD exceeds its authority under this Article, CIDI may take any action it deems appropriate, including directing IACD to reconsider such action.

**CHAPTER III**  
**STRUCTURE**

Article 5  
Structure

The IACD shall have the following structure:

1. The Management Board;
2. The Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI).

Article 6  
The Management Board

The Management Board is the representative body of the member states established to promote greater efficiency in the management of partnership for development activities and strengthen the Organization's capacity to benefit from expertise in development cooperation and to attract contributions of technical support and other resources from member states, other states, and public and private organizations.

Article 7  
Membership of the Management Board

1. The Management Board shall consist of nine member states of the Organization of American States elected by CIDI, observing, in accordance with the provisions of Article 77 of the Charter, the criteria of rotation and equitable geographic representation and guaranteeing that no Member State shall be excluded from the opportunity for election to the Board and that every region shall have the opportunity to be represented at all times.

2. The members of the Management Board shall serve for a term of two years. The election shall be held annually at the Regular Meeting of CIDI held before the OAS General Assembly and shall be arranged so that in the year after the first election four vacancies and in the subsequent year five vacancies shall occur, alternating annually thereafter. CIDI shall establish the procedures governing the conduct and timing of elections and method of determining the initial vacancies.

3. Each member state elected to the Management Board shall designate an official representative who preferably should have recognized experience and expertise in matters pertaining to cooperation and development programs and related activities. Such member state may also designate Management Board alternate representatives and advisers.

4. The Chair of CIDI shall serve ex officio as a non-voting member of the Management Board.

Article 8  
Participation in Board Meetings

1. Each State on the Management Board shall accredit its representatives by means of a communication from its Permanent Mission addressed to the Secretary General of the Organization.

2. Each member of the Board shall have the right to one vote.

3. Each member state shall bear the cost of participation of its representatives on the Board.

4. The Management Board shall permit, in accordance with its Rules of Procedure, as approved by CIDI, attendance and participation, without the right to vote, in the Board's meetings and activities by member states which are not on the Management Board and, as appropriate, by

Permanent Observers and other states and international organizations that have demonstrated substantial support for and commitment to technical cooperation and development programs and activities of the Organization of American States.

Article 9  
Functions of the Management Board

The Management Board shall:

1. Oversee, analyze and evaluate the implementation of partnership for development activities in accordance with program and policy guidelines approved by CIDI;
2. Provide operational guidance to the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development for implementing, monitoring, and evaluating partnership for development projects within the program and policy guidelines established by CIDI;
3. Determine the execution and the level of financing of partnership for development activities in accordance with the DCF/OAS Statutes and recommendations made by the CENPES;
4. Issue strategies and guidelines for raising additional funds to finance partnership for development activities;
5. Recommend for approval by CIDI, as appropriate, general guidelines for the allocation of resources mobilized by the IACD, which have not had purposes and limitations defined by the donors;
6. Oversee the management of all resources entrusted to the IACD and inform CIDI in this regard when requested;
7. Authorize the establishment of sectoral sub-accounts of DCF/OAS, as appropriate, within the framework of the priorities of the Strategic Plan, in accordance with Article 9 of the DCF/OAS Statutes;
8. Approve guidelines for the establishment of specific and trust funds associated with the objectives and activities of the IACD and the allocation of such funds in accordance with agreements reached with donors;
9. Adopt guidelines for the establishment by IACD of arrangements with banks and other financial institutions for the management of the IACD's financial resources;
10. Submit to CIDI for its consideration the proposed annual budget of the IACD on the basis of the policies and priorities determined by CIDI;
11. Propose to CIDI amendments to the rules and regulations relating to the personnel, budget, operations, and administration of the IACD for its consideration as appropriate or for referral to the competent organs;



12. Approve, within the framework of policies established by CIDI and for the purposes of enhancing resources, guidelines for the IACD to foster cooperative relations with Permanent Observers, other states, national and international organizations, and other entities and persons;

13. Report on the activities of the IACD at least semi-annually to CIDI and, as appropriate, to other entities and persons.

#### Article 10

##### The Executive Secretariat for Integral Development

The Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI), a dependency of the General Secretariat, shall serve as the Executive Secretariat of the IACD and shall be identified in the IACD's rules, regulations, and official documents as the "Executive Secretariat for Integral Development."

#### Article 11

##### Functions of the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development

The Executive Secretariat for Integral Development shall:

1. Support member states in strengthening partnership for development in the exchange of experiences, joint action, mutual support, and coordination among agencies responsible for cooperation for development of the member states, as well as among public and private institutions in the member states. To this end, it shall:

- a. Conduct a preliminary evaluation of all requests for cooperation activities submitted.
- b. Prepare the Proposal for Programming Partnership for Development Activities (hereinafter "Programming Proposal") taking into account the guidelines on cooperation that are established in the Strategic Plan.
- c. Conduct an evaluation of results of implementation of projects and activities for inclusion in the reports to the Management Board.

2. Formulate, promote, and implement initiatives and cooperation agreements with development and cooperation entities and public and private entities of member states, Permanent Observers, and other states, as well as international organizations, regional and international cooperation agencies and financial institutions and other entities in order to:

- a. Facilitate fundraising and mobilization of human, technical, and financial resources.
- b. Promote horizontal cooperation, as a significant aspect of partnership-for-development activities, through improved coordination and establishment of the necessary mechanisms.

- c. Promote development of human resources by means of fellowship, scholarship, and training programs, professional and academic exchanges, various forms of distance education, and other similar activities.
  - d. Promote the exchange of experiences and specialized knowledge, identify resources, and coordinate offers and requests for cooperation, by compiling, processing, and disseminating information to facilitate and encourage joint action and related technology transfers.
3. Provide, upon their request, support to the institutions of the member states, especially the relatively less developed countries and those with smaller economies, to identify, formulate, and facilitate the execution and coordination of projects and activities financed by DCF/OAS.
  4. Develop activities and manage projects to be financed by resources raised by or entrusted to the IACD.
  5. Provide specific support to the institutions of member states, upon their request with resources provided for this purpose, to facilitate the formulation, management, and evaluation of projects and activities financed with resources other than DCF/OAS.
  6. Manage and authorize the obligation and disbursement of resources from DCF/OAS, the specific funds, and other resources entrusted to the IACD, in accordance with applicable regulations and agreements.
  7. Report regularly to the Management Board, CIDI, and, as appropriate, to contributors of resources on the status of projects and activities, the results achieved in their execution, fundraising, and the status of funds and other resources entrusted to the IACD.
  8. Support CIDI in the formulation, updating, and evaluation of the Strategic Plan and the Inter-American Programs.
  9. Recommend to the Management Board amendments to the rules and regulations relating to the personnel, budget, operations, and administration of the IACD.
  10. Provide the support services necessary for the proper functioning of the Management Board.
  11. Submit to the Management Board for its consideration the proposed annual budget of the IACD on the basis of the policies and priorities determined by CIDI.
  12. Coordinate the support of the Units, Offices and other dependencies of the Organization in order to carry out the functions of the IACD.
  13. Perform any other functions assigned to it by CIDI or the Management Board.

Article 12  
Director General of the IACD

1. The Executive Secretary for Integral Development, appointed by the Secretary General in accordance with Articles 117 and 120 of the Charter taking into account the recommendations of the Management Board, shall be designated Director General of the IACD, and the position shall be referred to hereinafter as Director General.

2. The term of office of the Director General is four years and may be renewable once, upon consultation with the Management Board and upon CIDI's approval. Notwithstanding the four-year term, the appointment shall be a position of trust under Articles 17(c) and 20 of the General Standards; however, the Director General may be removed from office for cause either by a two-thirds vote of CIDI or by the Secretary General, in consultation with the Management Board.

3. The Director General shall be a person of recognized ability in, inter alia, cooperation programs, development, project administration, financial management and, particularly, in fundraising.

Article 13  
Functions of the Director General

The Director General shall:

1. Direct the Executive Secretariat in the performance of its functions under the OAS Charter, the CIDI Statutes, the Statutes of the IACD, and other applicable rules and regulations of the Organization.

2. Perform the technical, operational, and administrative activities that the Management Board and Secretary General entrust to the Director General within the framework of the rules and standards of the Organization and the policy guidelines established by CIDI in accordance with their respective areas of competence;

3. Report on IACD financing, operations, partnership for development activities, and other matters to the Management Board, CIDI, and the Secretary General.

4. Participate with voice but without vote in meetings of the IACD Management Board and CIDI, and in other CIDI activities.

5. Direct the execution of strategies to mobilize financial, technical, and other resources within the framework of guidelines approved by the Management Board and, to that end, subject to the appropriate delegation of authority from the Secretary General, enter into appropriate cooperation agreements.

6. Appoint the personnel of the IACD, subject to the appropriate delegation of authority from the Secretary General, taking into account Article 113 of the Charter.

7. Represent the IACD in executing the pertinent functions set forth in these Statutes.

8. Direct the coordination of the support of the Units, Offices and other dependencies of the Organization necessary to carry out the functions of the IACD.

Article 14  
Resources

1. The resources to finance the partnership for development activities are grouped in the following funds: the DCF/OAS and Provisions regarding other partnership for Development Resources; specific funds; trust funds; and the Regular Fund of the Organization, as applicable. All DCF/OAS resources shall continue to constitute part of the program-budget of the Organization that is approved each year by the General Assembly.

2. The IACD shall also manage the other resources it mobilizes or that are entrusted to it.

3. The General Secretariat shall establish the IACD Fund for Operations to finance the supervisory, administrative, and related overhead expenses of the Executive Secretariat. That Fund shall be administered exclusively by the Executive Secretariat and shall contain:

- a. A transfer from the Regular Fund of the entire amount of Chapter V of the OAS program-budget, excluding (i) the amount assigned to Object 3 (Fellowships) under that Chapter, and (ii) the amounts expended directly by the Secretariat for Management for salaries, emoluments, and any other payments owed to the staff of the Executive Secretariat. This transfer shall be made on a quarterly basis, in proportion to the percentage of budgeted regular fund income received by the General Secretariat.
- b. The contributions for administrative support and technical supervision from the Specific Funds and Trust Funds administered by the IACD;
- c. Interest income earned by this Fund; and
- d. Other miscellaneous income received by the IACD or by the General Secretariat for the IACD.

Nothing in this provision shall be construed to prevent the financing of temporary personnel on contracts for limited time with DCF/OAS resources under Article 11 of the DCF/OAS Statutes, or the financing of personnel with Specific Funds and Trust Funds, to the extent permitted under the terms governing those Funds.

4. The General Secretariat shall establish an IACD Fellowships, Scholarships, and Training Programs Fund.

**CHAPTER IV**  
**GENERAL PROVISIONS**

Article 15  
Languages and Documents

1. The official languages of the IACD shall be English, French, Portuguese, and Spanish.

2. The Management Board shall have two working languages, which shall be determined by the Board. For the regular meetings of the Management Board, working documents shall be available in the working languages, and interpretation in those two languages shall be available. However, the member states of the Organization may present their written proposals in any of the official languages of the IACD.

3. The reports, rules of procedure, and decisions of the Management Board, and any other official IACD documents issued in final form shall be distributed in the official languages of the IACD. All other IACD documents may be distributed in the working languages.

Article 16  
Costs of Support Services to the Management Board and  
Executive Secretariat Personnel

The costs of the Executive Secretariat's infrastructure and personnel, conference services, and logistical support to the Management Board shall be covered by the General Secretariat, in accordance with the pertinent provisions of the DCF/OAS Statutes.

Article 17  
Support by Offices of the General Secretariat in the member states

The IACD shall draw upon the services provided by the offices of the General Secretariat in the member states, where they exist, in accordance with existing regulations.

Article 18  
Fellowship, Scholarship, and Training Program

1. The IACD, through the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development, shall manage and administer the Fellowship, Scholarship, and Training Program under standards governing the program and in accordance with policies and priorities adopted by CIDI and with other applicable regulations, and shall report thereon to CIDI.

2. The Regular Fund shall continue to finance the Fellowship, Scholarship, and Training Program. The Executive Secretariat shall nevertheless develop a strategy to mobilize resources to strengthen the Fellowship, Scholarship, and Training Program, taking into account inter alia the Capital Fund for OAS Fellowship, Scholarship, and Training Programs, with a view to making the program financially and fully self-sustaining.

Article 19  
Review

CIDI, no later than four years after the entry into force of these Statutes, and on a regular basis thereafter, shall conduct a comprehensive review of the functioning, operations, and financing of the IACD and shall present its recommendations thereon to the General Assembly.

Article 20  
Rules of Procedure

The Management Board shall formulate its Rules of Procedure, which shall be submitted to CIDI for its approval.

Article 21  
Amendments

These Statutes may be amended by the General Assembly, either at its own initiative or at the request of CIDI.

Article 22  
Entry into Force

The present Statutes shall enter into force on the date on which they are approved by the General Assembly.

OEA/Ser.W  
CIDI/doc.202/16  
6 June 2016  
Original: Spanish

RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE  
MANAGEMENT BOARD OF THE INTER-AMERICAN AGENCY FOR  
COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (IACD)

(Approved at the LX regular CIDI meeting, held June 6, 2016)

I. COMPOSITION

Composition of the Board

Article 1. The Management Board of the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD) (hereinafter "the Board" or "the Management Board") shall consist of nine member states of the Organization of American States (hereinafter "the Organization") elected by the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (hereinafter "CIDI"), in compliance with the requirements outlined in Article 7 of the IACD Statutes. The Chair of CIDI serves *ex officio* as a non-voting member of the Management Board.

Duration of term

Article 2. The members of the Management Board shall be elected for the period of time set forth in article 7.2 of the IACD Statutes. Their term of office shall commence on the date of their election and continue until the election of their successors.

Designation of representatives

Article 3.

1. Each member state elected to the Management Board shall designate a principal representative who preferably should have recognized experience and expertise in matters pertaining to cooperation and development programs and related activities. Such member state may also designate alternate representatives and advisors to the Management Board. Each member state shall notify the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) in writing whenever it changes its representatives on the Board.

2. Each member state shall bear the cost of participation of its representatives on the Board.

### Accreditation of representatives

Article 4. Each member state elected to the Management Board shall accredit its representatives by means of a written communication from its permanent mission to the Secretary General of the Organization, within 15 days of the date when the member state is elected. The Director General of the IACD shall notify the members of the Board and CIDI in writing whenever any change occurs in the representation of member states on the Board.

## II. FUNCTIONS

### Functions of the Management Board

#### Article 5.

1. The Management Board shall carry out the functions provided for in Article 9 of the IACD Statutes and any other functions assigned to it by the General Assembly or CIDI.

2. As provided for in Article 17 of the Statutes of the Development Cooperation Fund (DCF/OAS), the Management Board may amend the Programming, Obligation, and Execution Schedule for Partnership-for-Development Activities, for reasons of necessity and convenience related to improving the operations of the IACD for the benefit of all member states. The Board shall notify CIDI of the changes in the schedule within five working days following the date on which the decision was taken.

3. In carrying out its functions, the Management Board shall give due consideration to the decisions and recommendations of the different organs of CIDI in relation to cooperation activities.

## III. OFFICERS

### Chair and Vice Chair

Article 6. The Management Board shall elect annually a chair and a vice chair at the first meeting following the CIDI meeting at which members of the Board were elected. The Chair shall be elected from among the principal representatives. The office of vice chair may be occupied by an alternate representative.

### Term of office of the Chair and Vice Chair

Article 7. The Chair and Vice Chair shall hold office from the time of their election until the election of their successors the following year. This provision shall not apply when the state represented by the Chair and Vice Chair is no longer a member of the Management Board. In that case, the offices of Chair and Vice Chair shall be determined in accordance with the rules established in Article 9, until the Board elects new officers at its first meeting after the annual election of its members, in accordance with Article 6. The Chair and Vice Chair may be re-elected.



### Functions and powers of the Chair

Article 8. The Chair of the Management Board shall:

1. Convene meetings of the Board; establish the order of business; open and adjourn sessions; direct the debate; give the floor to delegations in the order of their requests; put matters to a vote and announce the results; rule on points of order, and in general observe and enforce the provisions of these Rules of Procedure;
2. Install the working groups created by the Board;
3. Represent the Board before other organs of the Organization;
4. Carry out other functions expressly assigned to him or her in other legal instruments of the Organization, as well as those specifically entrusted to him or her by the General Assembly, CIDI, and the Management Board.

### Replacement of officers

Article 9.

1. The Vice Chair shall replace the Chair in the event of the latter's temporary absence. If the absence of the Chair or the Vice Chair is of a permanent nature, the Management Board shall elect a new Chair or Vice Chair as the case may be, for the remainder of the term. The election of the new Chair or of the Vice Chair shall take place within 60 days following the official notification by SEDI to the members of the Board of the permanent absence of either officer.

2. If both the Chair and the Vice Chair are temporarily absent, the office of the Chair shall be occupied by the representative of the member state whose name follows, in alphabetical order in Spanish, that of the member state occupying the office of the Chair.

## IV. PARTICIPATION IN MEETINGS

Article 10.

1. Each member of the Management Board shall have a voice and a vote at all meetings of the Board.

2. The Chair of CIDI shall serve *ex officio* as a non-voting member of the Board.

3. Member states of the Organization that are not members of the Board may attend Board meeting sessions, as defined in Article 18, and participate in the Board's activities, without the right to vote.

4. Representatives of the permanent observers to the Organization may attend open sessions of the Board's meetings and may be invited by the Board to participate in its activities.

5. Representatives of organizations listed in the Organization's register of civil society organizations may attend open sessions of the Board's meetings as observers, in accordance with Article 13 of the "Guidelines for the Participation of Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities."

6. Representatives of other states and of international organizations which, in the opinion of the Management Board, have demonstrated substantial support for and commitment to the technical cooperation and development programs and activities of the Organization may be invited by the Board to attend open sessions of its meetings and to participate in its activities.

7. The Secretary General of the Organization and the Director General of the IACD may participate in Board meetings with voice but without vote.

8. The Board may invite to its open sessions as special guests national and international governmental organizations and entities and persons of recognized standing in the matters to be considered in the meetings who perform activities related to the work of the Board.

## V. FUNCTIONING OF THE MANAGEMENT BOARD

### Methods of operation

Article 11. The Management Board may carry out its functions through:

- a. Meetings of its members;
- b. Teleconference or videoconference meetings, when feasible;
- c. Electronic consultations between the Chair and members of the Board; and
- d. The working groups referred to in Part VI of these Rules of Procedure.

### Meetings of the Management Board

Article 12.

1. The Management Board shall hold two meetings each year: one to elect its officers and to fulfill the functions provided for in Article 9 of the IACD Statutes, as appropriate, and the other to approve the Integral Programming for Partnership-for-Development Activities, provided for under Article 17 of the DCF/OAS Statutes, and to carry out other necessary functions.

2. The Board may hold additional meetings, as required, by decision of CIDI or a majority of the members of the Management Board.

### Meeting agenda and distribution of documents

Article 13.

1. The Chair of the Board, in collaboration with the Director General of the IACD, shall prepare a preliminary draft agenda for each meeting and submit it to the other Board members for their consideration at least 60 days before the meeting. Board members shall be afforded 10 days in

which to submit their observations to the Chair who, on this basis, shall prepare the draft agenda for the meeting.

2. SEDI shall distribute the final draft agenda and the documents for the meeting to the members of the Board and to the other member states of the Organization at least 30 days before the meeting.

#### Place of meetings

Article 14. Meetings of the Board shall be held at the headquarters of the General Secretariat of the Organization, unless the Board decides otherwise, bearing in mind financial considerations. The annual meeting for the approval of the Integral Programming for Partnership-for-Development Activities shall always be held at headquarters.

#### Electronic meetings

##### Article 15.

1. Subject to prior notice by the Chair, the Board may hold teleconference or videoconference meetings. These meetings shall comply with the requirements for convocation, quorum, and other formalities prescribed by these Rules. They shall be provided with secretariat and interpretation services and shall be numbered in sequence along with the other meetings of the Board.

2. Decisions adopted by the Board in teleconference or videoconference meetings shall have the same validity as those adopted with the members physically present.

#### Notice of convocation

##### Article 16.

1. On behalf of the Chair, SEDI shall transmit meeting convocation notices to the members of the Board. Notification may be given by e-mail, or by any other written means.

2. SEDI shall send copies of the convocation notice to the permanent missions of all member states and to the permanent observers to the Organization for information purposes and with a view to their participation in accordance with Article 10.

#### Invitations

Article 17. On behalf of the Chair of the Board, SEDI shall extend invitations to Board meetings to the entities referred to in paragraphs 6 and 8 of Article 10.

Open and closed sessions

Article 18.

1. Board meeting sessions shall be open unless the Board decides otherwise and gives written notice thereof to the delegations of the member states of the Organization at least 24 hours prior to the meeting. Board meeting sessions held for the purpose of adopting the Integral Programming for Partnership-for-Development Activities, referred to in Article 12.1, shall always be open.

2. Closed sessions of the Board may be attended by any CIDI member who so desires, as an observer, and by any other person that the Board deems necessary for consideration of the issues at hand.

3. Sessions of the working groups of the Board shall be closed unless their members decide otherwise.

Electronic consultations by the Chair

Article 19

1. Whenever decisions must be taken on matters within the Board's competence requiring immediate attention, the Chair, with the logistical support of SEDI, shall transmit to the member states on the Board by electronic means including facsimile, information relating to the matter in question, including a proposed course of action. The same message shall ask the Board members to cast their votes and inform them of the deadline for their replies, indicating that the absence of a reply by that date shall be taken as acceptance of the proposal. Member states that reply shall do so by the above-mentioned electronic means to the Chair with a copy to SEDI. Upon expiration of the deadline, the Chair shall tally the votes, certify the result, and report to the member states.

2. SEDI shall send copy of the electronic consultation to the members of CIDI for their information.

3. Proposals made by electronic means shall be deemed rejected if opposed by five or more of the member states of the Board.

4. Decisions taken by the Board following this procedure shall have the same validity and reporting requirements as those taken at Board meetings. SEDI shall register and number them accordingly.

## VI. WORKING GROUPS

### Establishment and functions

Article 20. The Management Board may establish working groups of a temporary nature when it deems necessary. The working groups shall consider, develop, examine, or study specific matters that the Board assigns to them and shall report their conclusions and recommendations to the Board. Working groups shall determine procedures for the performance of their functions.

## VII. QUORUM, DEBATES, AND VOTING

### Quorum

Article 21. A majority of the members of the Management Board (five members) shall constitute a quorum for Board meetings.

### Debates and voting

Article 22. Meetings of the Management Board shall follow the rules on debate and forms of voting established in the Rules of Procedure of CIDI to the extent that they are relevant.

### Majority required for taking decisions

Article 23. The Management Board shall take its decisions by the affirmative vote of the Board members (five votes), except as otherwise provided in these Rules of Procedure or other instruments applicable to the Board.

Article 24. The affirmative vote of six of the members of the Board shall be required:

1. To take decisions on budgetary matters; and
2. To reconsider decisions of the Board.

## VIII. RELATIONS BETWEEN THE MANAGEMENT BOARD AND CIDI

Article 25. The Chair of the Board shall keep CIDI informed, through its Chair, of the work performed by the Board pursuant to the functions set out in Article 9 of the IACD Statutes. The Chair of the Board, with the collaboration of SEDI, shall inform CIDI, in writing, through its Chair, of all decisions adopted by the Board, within five working days.

## IX. SECRETARIAT

Article 26. SEDI shall serve as technical secretariat of the Management Board and shall provide the assistance necessary for the Board to fulfill its functions. The technical secretariat shall be responsible for arranging for meetings of the Board, preparing documents for and reports of the

Board's meetings, including the texts of the decisions taken, and performing those other functions assigned to it in these Rules of Procedure or in other applicable legal instruments of the Organization.

## X. DOCUMENTS

### Working documents

Article 27. SEDI shall distribute to all member states, in the two working languages determined by the Management Board, the working documents submitted to the Board for its consideration.

### Decisions of the Board

Article 28. Decisions of the Management Board shall be recorded in an official document, prepared by SEDI in the two working languages determined by the Board, and approved by the Board before the end of the meeting. This document shall contain the title, number and text of the decisions, the manner of their approval, and the matter or matters that gave rise to them. The document shall be published in the four official languages of the Organization and distributed by SEDI to all member states.

### Final reports

Article 29. SEDI shall prepare a final report of each meeting of the Board and send it for consultation to the members of the Board and to the Chair for his or her approval. Once approved, SEDI shall publish it in the four official languages of the Organization and distribute it to all member states.

### Reports of the Director General to the Management Board

Article 30. The Director General of the IACD shall present quarterly reports to the Management Board on the activities accomplished during that period and planned for the next quarter.

## XI. AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

### Article 31.

1. These Rules of Procedure may be amended by CIDI on its own initiative, on the recommendation of CIDI, or on the recommendation of the Management Board itself, transmitted through CIDI.

2. When the Board determines that it is urgent to make a specific amendment to these Rules of Procedure, it may request CIDI to provisionally put said amendment into effect until it is examined and acted upon by CIDI at its next regular meeting.

Article 32. Procedural matters not provided for in these Rules shall be resolved by the Board itself provided that the solution is not be inconsistent with provisions of other legal instruments applicable to the Board.





AG/RES. 2882 (XLVI-O/16)

INTER-AMERICAN PROGRAM FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT<sup>1</sup>

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 14, 2016)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

Resolutions AG/RES. 1440 (XXVI-O/96), “Sustainable Development”; AG/RES. 1513 (XXVII-O/97) “Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development”; AG/RES. 1514 (XXVII-O/97) “Coordination and Follow-up of the Declaration of Santa Cruz de la Sierra and the Plan of Action for the Sustainable Development of the Americas”; AG/RES. 2312 (XXXVII-O/07) “Report of the First Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development within the Framework of CIDI”; AG/RES. 2644 (XLI-O/11), “Report of the Second Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development within the Framework of CIDI”; AG/RES. 2816 (XLIV-O/14) and AG/RES. 2874 (XLV-O/15) “Advancing Hemispheric Initiatives on Integral Development”; CIDI/RES. 312 (LVIII-O/16) “Convocation of the Fifth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Sustainable Development” and the “Report on the of the Fifth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Sustainable Development” (CIDI/CIDS/doc.\_\_/16), as well as the reports of the Chair of the Inter-American Committee on Sustainable Development (CIDS) on the review and update of the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development ([CIDI/CIDS-IE/doc.13/15](#) and [CIDI/doc.187/16](#)); and the Report on the Third Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development ([CIDI/RIMDS-III/doc.8/15](#));

CONSIDERING:

That the purpose of the Inter-American Committee on Sustainable Development is to promote inter-American dialogue and cooperation on sustainable development, formulate policy proposals to the Organization of American States (OAS) in this field, promote the development and execution of the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development (PIDS), and direct coordination and follow-up on the various decisions arising out of the Summits of the Americas on Sustainable Development;

That the PIDS sets out the priorities and policy guidelines of the OAS in the area of sustainable development, bearing in mind that the latter should support the implementation of the mandates of the Summits of the Americas process,<sup>2</sup> particularly the Summit on Sustainable Development held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, in 1996, as well as the complementary role of the OAS in consonance with other regional and multilateral entities, especially the United Nations;

- 
1. The Government of the Republic of Nicaragua cannot endorse the reference to the so-called “Paris Agreements” because irregular procedures were used in their adoption, ...
  2. The Government of the Republic of Nicaragua does not agree with the references to mandates, decisions, and initiatives arising from the Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh Summits of the Americas, ...

That the Declaration of Tela “Building a Sustainable Development Agenda for the Americas” [CIDI/RIMDS-III/DEC. 1/15](#), taking account of the commitments given under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted the Strategic Framework for the PIDS ([CIDI/RIMDS-III/doc.6/15](#));

That the Fifth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Sustainable Development was held at OAS headquarters from June 1 to 3, 2016, and successfully completed the review and update of the PIDS; and,

That the forty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly, held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, addressed the theme “Institutional Strengthening for Sustainable Development in the Americas”,

RESOLVES:

1. To adopt the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development (PIDS) 2016-2021 (CIDI/Doc.205/16).
2. To instruct the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (OAS) to continue, through the Department of Sustainable Development of the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI), to work with authorities for sustainable development of the Member States that so request it, in implementing the measures set forth in the PIDS in coordination with other international entities and agencies.
3. To instruct the General Secretariat to, as established in the PIDS, reports to the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) and the Inter-American Committee on Sustainable Development on progress in its implementation.
4. To instruct CIDI that in its annual report to the General Assembly informs on the implementation of this resolution.
5. The execution of the activities envisaged in this resolution will be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

FOOTNOTE

1. ... because the position of the most vulnerable countries was not taken into account, and because, on the contrary, the negotiation process was compromised by the failure to recognize the historical responsibility toward the countries suffering the effects of climate change and their indemnification, a position that was backed by Nicaragua and other countries in order to ensure that those states that have caused the climate change problem and are the main emitters of greenhouse gases assume the responsibility of mitigating the harm inflicted on the small countries—such as Nicaragua and other nations in Central America and the Caribbean—that suffer the consequences in the form of droughts, rising sea levels, hurricanes, and other catastrophes.

2. ... , because on those occasions the Heads of State and Government did not adopt the Political Declarations containing the mandates and the operative paragraphs of the thematic axes that were a part of those Political Declarations.



OEA/Ser.W  
CIDI/Doc.205/16<sup>1/</sup>  
6 June 2016  
Original: Spanish

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INTER-AMERICAN PROGRAM FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (PIDS)

(Approved at the LX regular meeting of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development,  
held June 6, 2016)

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1. A prior version of this document was distributed with classification CIDI/CIDS/doc.3/16 rev. 3



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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

<b>2030 Agenda</b>	2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
<b>CIDI</b>	Inter-American Council for Integral Development
<b>CIDS</b>	Inter-American Committee on Sustainable Development
<b>COP</b>	Conference of the Parties
<b>COP21</b>	21st Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC
<b>DRM</b>	Disaster Risk Management
<b>DSD</b>	Department of Sustainable Development
<b>EWS</b>	Early Warning Systems
<b>Habitat III</b>	United Nations 3rd Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development
<b>IACNDR</b>	Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction
<b>INDM</b>	Inter-American Network for Disaster Mitigation
<b>IWRM</b>	Integrated Water Resources Management
<b>OAS</b>	Organization of American States
<b>OAS/GS</b>	General Secretariat of the Organization of American States
<b>PIDS</b>	Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development
<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>SEDI</b>	Executive Secretariat for Integral Development
<b>SEOS</b>	Satellite Earth Observation Systems
<b>UNFCCC</b>	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change



## INTER-AMERICAN PROGRAM FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (PIDS)

(Approved at the third plenary session, held June 3, 2016)

### 1. BACKGROUND

The Member States of the Organization of American States (OAS) have recognized that sustainable development requires an approach that integrates its three scopes –economic, social and environmental– with the objective of a balanced advance to support development, to eradicate poverty and to promote equality, equity, and social inclusion. OAS Member States have reiterated their support for sustainable development through a number of General Assembly Resolutions and the adoption of national, sub regional, regional, and international commitments.

AG/RES. 1440 (XXVI-O/96) considers “the importance of sustainable development as a conceptual framework within which the Organization of American States should work both as a forum for concerted action and for technical cooperation.”

In September 2015, Member States adopted under the United Nations framework the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). These goals came into effect on 1 January 2016. Member States committed to working tirelessly for the full implementation of 17 Sustainable Development Goals that are “integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, social and environmental.”

Consistent with the Strategic Framework for the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development (PIDS, CIDI/RIMDS-III/doc.6/15) adopted in Tela, Honduras, the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) should continue supporting efforts of Member States towards the achievement of goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1), the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (A/RES.69/313), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement adopted by Parties to the Twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21, FCCC/CP/2015/L.9) as well as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (A/RES/69/283).

#### **Purpose of the PIDS**

The Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development (PIDS) establishes the strategic actions to ensure that the work of the Secretariat on sustainable development, is aligned with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement on climate change in the hemisphere, and that its objectives and results are guided by the SDGs approved by Member States that contribute to the attainment of such. The implementation of these strategic actions by the General Secretariat shall be carried out at the request of Member States.

In establishing the PIDS, the General Assembly emphasized the importance of ensuring that the role of the OAS, in implementing all aspects of the PIDS should be consistent with, and complementary to, those of other relevant regional and multilateral entities, particularly with the Organization of the United Nations.

## **2. MANDATE AND CONTEXT**

The objectives of the PIDS are based on the decisions of the Summit of the Americas as well as the General Assembly, the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI), the Inter-American Committee on Sustainable Development (CIDS) resolutions, in particular by the Declaration of Tela for Sustainable Development in the Americas and the Strategic Framework for PIDS adopted at the Third Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities on Sustainable Development that took place in Tela, Honduras, in October 2015.

The PIDS seeks to focus on the comparative advantage of the OAS and to direct the OAS toward areas where, in the opinion of the member states, opportunities exist for action to complement the efforts of the states themselves, as well as the efforts of other international organizations and institutions, particularly those operating within the Hemisphere. The PIDS also responds to the call by the United Nations for cooperation of regional organizations in the implementation and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda.

## **3. DEFINING THE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK**

The goal of the PIDS is to support OAS Member States that so request, in their efforts to achieve sustainable development in its three dimensions: economic, social and environmental, including their poverty eradication policies, particularly on extreme poverty.

The PIDS is guided by resolutions 66/288, “The Future We Want,” adopted by the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, and resolution A/RES/70/1 “Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.

In line with its current capacity and expertise, the General Secretariat of the OAS shall also support member States that so request it in their efforts to advance the implementation of the commitments made by individual States in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement on climate change adopted by Parties to COP21, recognizing that the Convention is the primary international intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change. Climate change is one of the cross cutting themes for the strategic areas identified in the PIDS.

The PIDS will support actions in the following strategic areas:

1. Disaster Risk Management;
2. Sustainable Management of Ecosystems;
3. Integrated Water Resources Management;
4. Sustainable Cities and Communities;
5. Sustainable energy management, prioritizing the promotion of clean, renewable, environmentally sustainable energy and energy efficiency; and,

6. Strengthening and capacity building for efficient, effective, accountable<sup>1/</sup> and inclusive institutions for sustainable development.

The PIDS provides that in carrying out the work in all strategic areas, the Secretariat should take into account the impact on vulnerable groups of society, as well as an inclusive approach. In this sense, consultations and participation of civil society and other social actors will play a constructive role in advancing sustainable development initiatives.

The PIDS also places emphasis on ensuring consistency, and strengthening synergies between existing program areas within the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI), as well as with other areas of the General Secretariat.

### **3.1. Disaster Risk Management**

#### **Goals and Bases for Action**

The work of the Secretariat on disaster risk management shall contribute directly to support member states in their efforts towards the attainment of the SDG 11: “Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”, in particular targets 11.5 and 11.b under this SDG; as well as the targets interrelated with other SDGs of the 2030 Agenda, and its cross-cutting elements.

In pursuing this goal, the OAS will use as reference the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. It will also take into consideration the commitments emanating from the Paris Agreement on climate change adopted during the COP21.

#### **Strategic actions**

The SEDI will focus its efforts in the following key strategic actions:

- i. Act as technical secretariat to the Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction (IACNDR), as stipulated in article 4 in its statutes.
- ii. Support the implementation of the Inter-American Plan for Disaster Prevention and Response and the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance, in accordance with article 2 of AG/RES. 2750.
- iii. Support the design and implementation of national and regional policies for Disaster Risk Management (DRM) – in the context of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the regional action plan for the implementation of the Sendai Framework 2015-2030 and sub-regional mechanisms.

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1. The correct term in English is accountable. The term used in Spanish is “responsible” which refers to accountability at the national level, according to each country’s laws.

- iv. Serve as Secretariat of the Inter-American Network for Disaster Mitigation (INDM) to foster the exchange of experiences, knowledge and best practices as well as coordination with other international organizations, as per RES 2314.
- v. Organize and promote hemispheric encounters for the sharing and exchange of knowledge and practical experience on the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.
- vi. Support the formulation and application of Disaster Preparedness and Response Protocols, and disseminate regional and sub-regional Mechanisms and Instruments.
- vii. Support the sharing and exchange of knowledge on applications and data of Satellite Earth Observation Systems (SEOS) and Image Processing (IP) for Disaster Mitigation and Prevention, Disaster Response and Rapid Damage Assessment on voluntary and mutually agreed terms and conditions.
- viii. Support the development and harmonization, cross border, as well as community-centered Early Warning Systems (EWS) and resilient-community development in the context of sustainable communities.

### **3.2. Sustainable Management of Ecosystems**

#### **Goals and Bases for Action**

The work of the Secretariat on sustainable management of ecosystems shall contribute directly to support Member States in their efforts towards the attainment of the SDG 15: “Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss”, and its specific targets; as well as the targets interrelated with other SDGs of the 2030 Agenda, and its cross-cutting elements.

#### **Strategic Actions**

The SEDI will focus its efforts in the following key strategic actions:

- i. Provide support to the Inter-American networks working for the protection and preservation of hemispheric biodiversity, and migratory marine and land species, as well as inland freshwater ecosystems and its environmental services and biodiversity corridors.
- ii. Support the exchange of national best practices and access to data and information on biodiversity, ecosystem management and sustainable land management to improve decision-making, and those linked to climate change.
- iii. Strengthen the design and implementation of systems that recognize and support the functions of ecosystems for the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources

through technical cooperation, the exchange of experiences, best practices, and information at the regional level.

- iv. Support programs of environmental education and technical cooperation for the sustainable development, use and management of ecosystems, protected areas, and biodiversity, among others, for Coastal Marine Risk Management.

### **3.3. Integrated Water Resources Management**

#### **Goals and Bases for Action**

The work of the Secretariat on integrated water resources management shall contribute directly to support member states in their efforts towards the attainment of the SDG 6: “Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all” and, in particular, targets 6.4, 6.5, 6.6, 6.a and 6.b; as well as the targets interrelated with other SDGs of the 2030 Agenda, and its cross-cutting elements. It will also take into consideration the commitments emanating from the Paris Agreement on climate change adopted during the COP21.

#### **Strategic Actions**

The SEDI will focus its efforts in the following key strategic actions:

- i. Foster dialogue, technical cooperation, sharing of information, and the exchange of experiences and best practices among Member States to develop public policies on integrated water resources management.
- ii. Promote the dialogue for the development of hemispheric-wide and regional strategies related to integrated water resource management.
- iii. Support Member States in their efforts to promote public-private partnerships for the development of infrastructure projects related to integrated water resource management.
- iv. Support Member States in the identification of synergies amongst their relevant institutions responsible for integrated water resource management, and promote coordinated activities of water sustainability, among others.
- v. Support Member States in strengthening existing and promote new strategic partnerships for the implementation of integrated water resource management and climate change mitigation and adaptation projects, as appropriate.
- vi. Provide technical cooperation to Member States for capacity-building and encourage transfer of technology on voluntary and mutually agreed terms and conditions, for development and implementation of strategies for integrated water resources management and to strengthen training in policies, programs, and tools on this subject.

- vii. Ensure that projects in support of Member States' water resource management contribute to strengthening national technical capacities, in order to maximize the benefits for recipient countries.

### **3.4. Sustainable Cities and Communities**

#### **Goals and Bases for Action**

The work of the Secretariat on sustainable cities and communities shall contribute directly to support Member States in their efforts towards the attainment of the SDG 11: "Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable" and, in particular, 11.1, 11.2, 11.3, 11.6, 11.7, 11.a and 11.c.; as well as the targets interrelated with other SDGs of the 2030 Agenda, and its cross-cutting elements.

#### **Strategic Actions**

The SEDI will focus its efforts in the following key strategic actions:

- i. Promote sharing of information and dialogue among Member States to facilitate the exchange of experiences and best practices to develop public policies and specific actions on sustainable cities and communities.
- ii. Promote the development of hemispheric-wide and regional strategies and networks related to sustainable cities and communities.
- iii. Support Member States in the identification of synergies amongst their relevant institutions responsible for sustainable transport, waste management, resilience, and renewable and efficient energy, as well as promote coordinated activities respecting the mandates and specific areas of responsibility of these institutions.
- iv. Provide technical assistance and cooperation for development and implementation of strategies for sustainable cities and communities and to strengthen training in policies, programs, and tools on this subject.
- v. Support the Member States in the development and use of national performance indicators as requested to assess the use of materials, energy and water consumption, waste generation, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and other impacts in line with the framework of the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement and Habitat III Conference.
- vi. Promote the creation of infrastructure that is resilient and adaptable to climate change, among others, to support Member States in their efforts to mobilize financial, technical, and technological resources.



### **3.5 Sustainable Energy Management, prioritizing the promotion of clean, renewable, environmentally sustainable energy and energy efficiency**

#### **Goals and Basis for Action**

The work of the Secretariat on sustainable energy shall contribute directly to support Member States in their efforts towards the attainment of the SDG 7: “Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all” and the specific targets grouped under this SDG; as well as the targets interrelated with other SDGs of the 2030 Agenda, and its cross-cutting elements.

In pursuing this goal, the OAS will prioritize the promotion of clean, renewable, environmentally sustainable energy and energy efficiency. It will also take into consideration the commitments emanating from the Paris Agreement on climate change adopted during the COP21.

#### **Strategic Actions**

The SEDI will focus its efforts in the following key strategic actions:

- i. Promote dialogue among countries on sustainable energy integration at the regional level.
- ii. Support Member States in organizing regional and sub-regional meetings on the subject of energy to, promote and disseminate best practices, among other actions.
- iii. Establish coordination mechanisms between the offices of the General Secretariat and generate synergies with inter-American institutions, as appropriate.
- iv. Support Member States in identifying opportunities and challenges for the implementation of the sustainable development targets under SDG 7: “Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development” and other elements under the 2030 Agenda that focus on sustainable energy management.
- v. Support Member States in the development of policy and regulatory measures to advance the use of renewable energy and energy-efficiency technologies.
- vi. Organize hemispheric, sub-regional, and national capacity building workshops.
- vii. Support Member States in the development of national and regional energy planning instruments focused on climate change, to attain energy sustainability in the region.

### **3.6 Strengthening and capacity building for efficient, effective, accountable and inclusive institutions for sustainable development**

#### **Goals and Basis for Action**

The work of the Secretariat in support of institutions for sustainable development shall contribute directly to support Member States in their efforts towards the attainment of the SDG 16: "...build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels" and, in particular, targets 16.6, 16.7, 16.10, and 16.b.; as well as the targets interrelated with other SDGs of the 2030 Agenda, and its cross-cutting elements.

In pursuing this goal, the OAS will prioritize initiatives that strengthen and build capacity for efficient, effective, accountable and inclusive institutions.

#### **Strategic actions**

The SEDI will focus its efforts in the following key strategic actions:

- i. Encourage dialogue among Member States towards capacity building for efficient, effective, accountable and inclusive institutions.
- ii. Promote, among Member States, the exchange of and access to technical, legal, institutional, and financial information at the hemispheric level to improve decision-making and civil society and other social actors participation, according to national regulations.
- iii. Promote the sharing of best practices and lessons learned about law, policy initiatives and programs in the region related to institutional strengthening for sustainable development.
- iv. Support Member States that so request it, to identify the challenges and needs on environmental law and management.
- v. Provide technical assistance to Member States for the strengthening of their relevant institutions in the management and follow-up of sustainable development.
- vi. Establish coordination mechanisms between the offices of the General Secretariat and synergies with the institutions of the inter-American, regional and sub-regional multilateral organizations, as appropriate.
- vii. Build capacity of key stakeholders including public officials or implementing governmental agents that participate in issues relating to the environmental rule of law and support effective enforcement of environmental laws, Multilateral and Regional Agreements.
- viii. Support the implementation of the Inter-American Strategy for Public Participation in Decision-making for Sustainable Development.

#### 4. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM

The General Secretariat through the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development and its Department of Sustainable Development will be responsible for the implementation, oversight and evaluation of the PIDS in coordination and with assistance of relevant departments, offices and specialized units of the General Secretariat.

It will also align with the Strategic Plan for Partnership for Integral Development until the adoption of the Four Year Strategic Plan for the OAS and the Work Plan for the pillar of Integral Development, the OAS Strategic Vision, the mandate prioritization process, approved by Member States, as well as with the results of ongoing processes related to strategic planning and management modernization.<sup>2/</sup>

Within the framework set out in this Program, the selection and/or implementation of particular activities or projects will adhere to the following key principles:

- i. A results-based management that includes the determination of a baseline measurement of the current state or condition before the implementation of the activity or project, the identification of a result for strategic actions and the measurement of progress toward that result.
- ii. The consistency and complementarity with efforts of other regional and global implementing agencies. Likewise the coordination and non-duplication of activities in relevant areas of the OAS/GS.
- iii. A needs-based approach that allows prioritizing activities and projects in areas that demonstrate the greatest potential for success; the needs will be identified by Member States.
- iv. The efficient and effective use of the OAS/GS human, financial, and knowledge resources to reach the goals outlined in this program.

The OAS/GS should ensure that Member States are clearly informed about implementation activities through their permanent missions and the representatives designated by the competent authorities before the launch of those efforts.

To ensure that the OAS/GS focuses on its human and financial resources on its unique capacities relative to this program, projects and initiatives may support the efforts of other implementing agencies via use of the organization's technical expertise and convening functions.

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2. The Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela reiterates its reservations to the FTAA, as formulated in the declarations and plans of action of the Summits of the Americas...

## **5. FOLLOW UP, EVALUATION AND REPORTING**

The PIDS shall be implemented for a period of five years (2016-2021). Based on the results it has achieved during this period, it will be subject to review and update by Member States.

In order to appropriately follow-up, evaluate and report on the implementation of this program by the Secretariat, the GS/OAS should ensure that baseline and the concrete objectives, as well as performance indicators are generated for all projects and initiatives. These indicators should be aligned with and contribute to the indicators developed for the 2030 Agenda's Sustainable Development Goals, unless the indicator of the 2030 Agenda does not correspond to the PIDS' area of work.

The GS/OAS will provide Member States with reports based on verifiable data on the progress made by this Program on an annual basis.

## **6. FINANCING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM**

The GS/OAS must ensure that all of its resource mobilization efforts for the implementation of the PIDS are coordinated to ensure efficient and coherent outreach to potential donors.

In order to most effectively leverage resources under the framework of the 2030 Agenda for the implementation of the PIDS, the GS/OAS should also seek to establish relevant partnerships and fundraising efforts with different development organizations, as well as with other relevant bodies of the inter-American and the United Nations system.

FOOTNOTES

1. ... (paragraph 15 of the Declaration of Quebec City and paragraph 6.A of the Plan of Action, and paragraph 12 of the Declaration of Nuevo León), as well as in resolution AG/RES. 2014 (XXXIV-O/04), "Trade and Integration in the Americas," and prior resolutions with the same title, as well as in the Strategic Plan for Partnership for Integral Development. The content of this footnote applies to all mentions of the Summits of the Americas process and of the Strategic Plan for Partnership for Integral Development included in this resolution.



AG/RES. 2883 (XLVI-O/16)

INTER-AMERICAN PROGRAM FOR THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE  
HUMAN RIGHTS OF MIGRANTS, INCLUDING MIGRANT WORKERS  
AND THEIR FAMILIES

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 14, 2016)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING resolution AG/RES. 2141 (XXXV-O/05), which adopts the Inter-American Program for the Promotion and Protection of the Human Rights of Migrants, Including Migrant Workers and Their Families”;

RECALLING ALSO resolutions AG/RES. 2738 (XLII-O/12), “Strengthening the Topic of Migration in the OAS: Establishment of the Committee on Migration Issues,” and AG/RES. 2790 (XLIII-O/13), “The Human Rights of Migrants, Including Migrant Workers and Their Families,” and all relevant past resolutions;

HIGHLIGHTING the close nexus among migration, development, and human rights, and recognizing that respect for those rights is a vital pillar for strengthening the contribution of migrants to development; and

REAFFIRMING that resolution AG/RES. 2816 (XLIV-O/14, “Advancing Hemispheric Initiatives on Integral Development,” “instruct[s] the Committee on Migration Issues (CAM) to update the Inter-American Program for the Promotion and Protection of the Human Rights of Migrants, Including Migrant Workers and Their Families, taking into account the diagnostic assessment of said inter-American program contained in document CIDI/CAM/doc.14/14 rev. 1,”

RESOLVES:

1. To adopt the Inter-American Program for the Promotion and Protection of the Human Rights of Migrants, Including Migrant Workers and Their Families.

2. To instruct the Committee on Migration Issues (CAM) to implement and follow up on the Inter-American Program for the Promotion and Protection of the Human Rights of Migrants, Including Migrant Workers and Their Families, in consultation and coordination with the Program actors, with a view to accomplishing the proposed objectives.

3. To request the General Secretariat to establish a Specific Fund for Voluntary Contributions to finance the activities assigned to organs, agencies, and entities of the OAS in support of the Program, in accordance with Article 74 of the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat, and to urge member states to make contributions to said fund.





DRAFT INTER-AMERICAN PROGRAM FOR THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE  
HUMAN RIGHTS OF MIGRANTS, INCLUDING  
MIGRANT WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

(Agreed upon at the LVII regular meeting held on April 19, 2016, to be referred for consideration by the Forty-Sixth Regular Session of General Assembly. Subject to review by the Style Committee)

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Program Background

In the Plan of Action of the Third Summit of the Americas, adopted in April 2001 in Quebec City, Canada, the Heads of State and Government declared that they would “establish an inter-American program within the OAS for the promotion and protection of the human rights of migrants, including migrant workers and their families”.

The General Assembly of the OAS adopted resolutions AG/RES. 1928 (XXXIII-O/03), “The Human Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families”; and AG/RES. 2027 (XXXIV-O/04), also entitled “The Human Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families.” The latter resolution instructed the Permanent Council to renew the mandate of the Working Group of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP) to prepare an Inter-American program so that, as soon as possible, it might draft the proposed Inter-American Program, starting from the draft presented by the IACHR and the proposals of member states, specialized organizations, and other bodies, in accordance with the mandate of the Third Summit of the Americas.

The thirty-fifth regular session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS), through resolution AG/RES. 2141 (XXXV-O/05), adopted the “Inter-American Program for the Promotion and Protection of the Human Rights of Migrants, Including Migrant Workers and Their Families.”

Pursuant to resolution AG/RES. 2738 (XLII-O/12), the Committee on Migration Issues (CAM) was created as a permanent committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) of the Organization of American States (OAS) with the mandate to serve as the principal forum of the Organization charged with migration issues.

Under this same resolution, the CAM was instructed to review, implement, and monitor the “Inter-American Program for the Promotion and Protection of the Human Rights

of Migrants, Including Migrant Workers and Their Families” with a view to optimizing its objectives, and to present a report that reflected the results obtained during these processes.

In fulfillment of said mandate, the CAM, in keeping with its Work Plan contained in document CIDI/CAM/doc.1/12, created the Informal Working Group to Review the “Inter-American Program for the Promotion and Protection of the Human Rights of Migrants, Including Migrant Workers and Their Families.”

## II. CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

In the last decades, the scope, prevalence, and significance of the migration phenomenon have turned virtually every state in the Americas into a country of origin, destination, transit, and return for migrants. As a direct result of this, migration has become a priority on the political and diplomatic agenda in the region. Violence and disparity in standards of living, including social and employment benefits, are factors that are related to migratory flows in the region.

There is recognition of the close connection between economic development *and* human mobility in countries of origin, destination, transit, and return. There is likewise recognition that migratory flows have had significant social, political, cultural, and economic consequences for countries of origin, destination, and, to a lesser degree, transit. The impact of migrant workers on local labor markets, integration of migrant populations in receiving countries, return migration, the effect of remittances on the macroeconomy, among others, have spurred interest in addressing this complex issue. Furthermore, phenomena associated with migration, such as migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons, violations and abuses of and threats to human rights; criminalization and stigmatization of persons residing in border areas, and the humanitarian crisis of unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents are factors that demand special attention from the countries in our region.

The countries of the Hemisphere recognize the right of any individual to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country, and are interested in optimizing cooperation procedures and practices to facilitate safe, orderly, and regular migration including labor mobility, in order to maximize the migration phenomenon’s positive impacts, while mitigating its hardships. The quantitative and qualitative impacts stemming from migration demand and require greater international cooperation to thus ensure that migratory policies respects and protects migrants’ human rights.

The Program shall be conducive specifically to a human rights, gender and cultural diversity approach and respects the rights of migrants and their families. Given the diverse causes of migration, be they humanitarian, employment-related, or for purposes of reunification, among others, it is recognized that there are mixed migratory flows which include different kinds of migrants. The Program will incorporate a cross-cutting gender approach such that it will explore and assess the gender differences in migratory patterns.

The program will also address the relationship between migration and development, taking into account the close ties between migration and the issues of work, health,

education, culture, and economic development projects of the communities of origin of migrants among other areas. This approach complements the vision of strengthening member states capacities so that, in an integral manner, they contribute to identifying the challenges and opportunities that migration entails. The goals of promoting and protecting the human rights of migrants are compatible with states' sovereign rights to control their borders and enforce their laws. The Program therefore acknowledges the right of member states to regulate the entry and stay of foreigners in their territories and to determine the status of migrants and the effect of that status within the domestic political, legal, economic, and educational systems of receiving countries, as well as access to government services and benefits, in keeping with the legal system in each country.

The states' regulation of the entry and stay of foreigners in their territories must be consistent with applicable international law, including human rights and refugee treaties to which the state is a party, with special attention provided to unaccompanied migrant children due to the significant level of vulnerability they face. Nevertheless, the emergence of worrisome issues related to migration, such as the adoption of measures that tend to criminalize migrants, must be considered.

This Program is structured on the basis of general and specific objectives. In order to attain said objectives, activities to be undertaken by the Program implementers i.e., organs, agencies, and entities of the OAS, and member states are identified. Implementers with whom cooperation is recommended, such as multilateral organizations and civil society including migrants themselves and migrant workers and their families are likewise identified. The beneficiaries of the Program are migrants, including migrant workers and their families, temporary residents,<sup>1/</sup> and the states.

The activities the Program assigns to the organs, agencies, and entities of the OAS stem from existing programs and activities. Subsequently, others will be added when those bodies identify them. In the case of the states, the Program suggests activities for their consideration. This Program also recommends activities that may be undertaken in collaboration with civil society organizations and other social actors that work in human rights, migration, development, as well as migrant organizations. Furthermore, the Program includes the Activities that are being carried out by the IIHR, in keeping with its mandate.

These activities may be undertaken gradually and flexibly, taking into consideration the existing financial and human resources capacity. Furthermore, the activities envisaged under this Program may be reviewed periodically by the CIDI Committee on Migration Issues, which is responsible for coordinating and following up on the Program.

The Program envisages a series of measures to facilitate its follow-up, in order to measure progress, facilitate the exchange of best practices, and take advantage of updates and new developments that may occur at the regional and international levels, according to the section "Program Follow-Up Activities."

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1. Temporary residents include, among others, students and retirees.

### III. THE PROGRAM ACTORS

The term “Actors” is understood to mean the organizations or entities that, by their nature, mission, or mandate, engage in activities that could contribute to the fulfillment of the Program’s objectives; they include migrants and their organizations. Details of the activities suggested for the actors listed below are provided in Section V.

The Program actors are listed below, without prejudice to the possible inclusion of others, as relevant.

#### A. Organs, agencies, and entities of the OAS and the inter-American system

- General Secretariat
- Committee on Migration Issues (CIDI-CAM)
- Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR)
- Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM)
- Inter-American Children’s Institute (IIN)
- Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)
- Other organs and entities of the OAS

#### B. OAS member states

#### C. Multilateral organizations

#### D. Other actors: Civil society organizations and other social actors, universities, and diaspora and migrant networks

### IV. PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

#### A. General Objectives

1. Promote and protect the human rights of migrants, including migrant workers and their families regardless of their immigration status, and promote the formulation, adoption, and implementation of comprehensive immigration policies to promote development. Likewise, integrate those considerations into the work of the OAS organs, agencies, and entities, as appropriate.
2. Foster analysis and understanding of the contribution of migrants and migration to overall development and their impact on the national and regional agendas of the countries of the Hemisphere, taking into account the crosscutting core issues of human rights protection, gender perspective, and the special needs vulnerable population groups.
3. Promote dialogue and cooperation on migration among the Program's stakeholders and promote their coordination with multilateral organizations, academia, civil

society, and other social players engaged in the field, including migrants themselves and their organizations.

B. Specific Objectives

Facilitate orderly, regular, responsible, and informed migration, in order to reduce vulnerabilities, related to migrant status and promote comprehensive migrant security. Also, strengthen cooperation to prevent, combat and sanction labor exploitation, trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling and assist persons who have been subjected to these conducts.

Foster the creation or strengthening of migrant support networks or systems in the member states and call upon the states to develop policies and programs to establish ties with their nationals abroad through the consular network.

Provide migrants with information, notification, communication, and consular assistance in keeping with the obligations of states party to the 1963 Vienna Convention on Consular Relations.

Bring the work and programs of the organs, agencies, and entities of the OAS in line with this Program and take into consideration the 2030 Development Agenda's approach to the issue of migration.

Foster the creation of migrant regularization programs as a mechanism for the advancement and protection of their human rights and visibility in destination countries, in accordance with constitutional and legal provisions in each state.

Intensify efforts by member states, in cooperation with civil society and other social actors, the private sector, and local communities, to warn migrants and their families of the dangers posed by human traffickers and migrant smugglers, as well as the potential risks and vulnerabilities of irregular migration.

Promote in depth studies and dissemination of information on the causes, consequences, impact, and potential of migrants as agents for development and on the side-effects of the migration phenomenon in vulnerable populations.

To keep in mind the best interests of the child and the principle of family unity in the design and implementation of public policies, national laws, and procedures that apply to the plight of unaccompanied migrant minors.

Compile and systematize data in order to understand migration flows and trends in the region; as well as to become aware of the needs and special characteristics of persons on the move, including the collection of information on communities abroad.

Establish policies and promote measures to advance the social integration and cultural appreciation of migrants with a view to celebrating their contributions, as well as to combat xenophobia, discrimination, and intolerance. Likewise, pay

special attention to border areas that may constitute key locations for cultural and social ties.

Promote the sharing of best practices and cooperation among migrants' countries of origin, transit, destination, and return, in order to promote human rights protection for migrants and their family members, including migrant workers, including in cases of humanitarian crises or natural disasters.

Encourage participation, cooperation, and partnership-building among governments, the private sector, international organizations, academia, civil society and other social actors, migrants, and their organizations, to ensure consistency and maximum effectiveness of policies aimed at taking optimal advantage of migration's positive effects on development in the countries of the region and to address their challenges.

## V. SUGGESTED SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

### A. Organs, agencies, and entities of the OAS and the inter-American system mentioned in this Program:

- General Secretariat:
  1. Coordinate with the Committee on Migration Issues any initiatives or activities related to the Program
  2. Enter into cooperation agreements in order to contribute to the implementation of this Program's objectives and specific optional activities.
  3. Incorporate into assistance and technical cooperation activities consideration of the condition of migrant and migrant family vulnerability without distinction as to race, gender, sexual orientation, language, creed, or any other factor, and applicable international human rights law.
- Committee on Migration Issues (CAM):
  4. Implementation and monitoring of the Inter-American Program for the Promotion and Protection of the Human Rights of Migrants, Including Migrant Workers and Their Families, with a view to optimizing its objectives (Mandate from resolution AG/RES. 2738 (XLII-O/12).
  5. Exchange best practices among the different actors of the Program.
  6. The CAM will include in its annual work plan the activities established in the Inter-American program, in consultation and/or in coordination with the Program implementers.

- Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR):
  7. Facilitate the exchange of information and technical assistance on human rights and migration legislation with state agencies, organs and entities of the OAS, multilateral organizations, civil society organizations and social actors.
  8. Design and promote instruments to fight trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling, while at the same time making a distinction between them and determining their root causes.
  9. Offer training on guarantees of due process in migration proceedings and on the use of the inter-American human rights system, to organizations that make free legal aid programs available to migrants and their families.
  10. Offer training to government officials from origin, transit, and host countries on access to consular assistance for migrants, in accordance with the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, taking into account information, notification, communication, and consular assistance for migrants.
  11. Foster a discussion on the promotion and protection of the human rights of migrants and their families that involves governments, international organizations, representatives of the private sector, and community leaders.
- Specialized organizations
  - Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM):
    12. Conduct research on, inter alia, female migration and its impact on family structure, the labor market, and migration control.
    13. Include the situation of migrant women, their protection, and the prevention of gender-based violence in its programs and activities.
    14. Intensify the study on the situation of women and girls who are victims of trafficking in persons, and promote exchange of best practices and experiences in combating it.
  - Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN):
    15. Consider as part of its activities the recognition of the special situation of unaccompanied migrant children.)
    16. Include in its programs and activities consideration of protection and reintegration of child and adolescent victims of trafficking in persons.

Pan American Health Organization (PAHO):

17. Develop tools for dissemination, learning, and monitoring of general human rights standards as well as regional and international standards to protect the right to health and other human rights of migrant workers and their families.
18. Enhance training for PAHO staff, health ministries, and other government stakeholders so requesting, on obligations arising from regional and international human rights treaties related to the health of migrant workers and their families.
19. Provide technical assistance to review and formulate national plans, policies, and laws on public health in relation to the health of migrants, when needed.
20. Provide technical collaboration to the Program Actors.

B. OAS MEMBER STATES

The OAS member states may carry out the following activities on a unilateral basis or bilaterally or multilaterally. To this end cooperation is recommended with intergovernmental, multilateral, and regional organizations, civil society organizations and other social actors, universities, migrants, specialized research centers and diaspora networks.

21. Exchange information on the migration phenomenon, its characteristics, dimension, statistics, and implications with the aim of optimizing migration processes.
22. Cooperate and exchange information among states regarding trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling networks, in order to develop individual and collective strategies designed to prevent, investigate, prosecute, and punish these activities, as well as protect and assist victims of these crimes.
23. Consider the signing and ratification of, or accession to, all universal and inter-American human rights instruments, and take specific measures at the national level to promote and strengthen respect for the human rights, fundamental freedoms, and economic, social, and cultural rights of all migrants, particularly those in vulnerable circumstances.
24. Consider signing, ratifying, or acceding to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols on trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling.
25. Promote and facilitate public policies, laws, and practices aimed at protecting the rights of migrants and their families who are subject to migration proceedings, in keeping with the domestic legal system of each state and applicable international human rights law, including access to



justice, protection against arbitrary detention, due process, (US4-23-2015) and equal treatment under the law.

26. Develop institutional capacity to administer and manage migration by training government officials, reviewing regulatory frameworks, and establishing orderly and fair migration management systems.
27. Issue and facilitate provision of identity documents to migrants by their countries of origin, at their respective consular offices.
28. Promote consular assistance, in keeping with the obligations of the states party to the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, ensuring the right of the sending state to information, notification, communication, and assistance for its national, under said Convention; and sign and implement cooperation agreements with states in this area, for example, through liaison officer networks.
29. Promote the development of ties among communities of migrants residing abroad, in a joint undertaking with consular networks.
30. Review migration practices regarding the entry and stay of foreign nationals to ensure that they are carried out in a manner consistent with international human rights and refugee law.
31. Undertake efforts to harmonize migration requirements between interested states of the Americas, and within sub regional groups and promote the establishment of areas for the free movement of persons, as appropriate.
32. Consider, in accordance with domestic legislation, the development of programs to promote regular migration and migrant worker agreements.
33. Promote and implement voluntary repatriation programs as an alternative to deportation or expulsion, as well as develop and exchange best practices on information and assistance programs aimed at migrants and their families who return to their countries of origin.
34. Provide suitable mechanisms for reporting and filing complaints made by migrants and civil society organizations regarding violence and alleged violations of human rights, without prejudice to their right to access to applicable protection mechanisms under the inter-American and universal systems.
35. Support voluntary community or individual initiatives on the use of investment funds and productive projects to promote the general welfare and development of the communities of origin, together with the participation of migrant communities in the formulation of public policies that affect them.

36. Promote the signing of bilateral agreements on the social security benefits of migrants and their families, so that any social security contributions made in one state may be claimed in or transferred to the state in which the migrant worker lives.
37. Protect the physical safety of migrants and take appropriate measures to prevent, combat, and eradicate violence and other forms of crime against migrants, such as fraud, extortion, and corruption against migrants, particularly migrants with irregular status.
38. Provide all migrants with access to the judicial system, on equal terms, so they may exercise their rights, particularly their right to mount a defense and to prevent and challenge imprisonment or arbitrary and/or collective deportation in any form.
39. Provide the means to preserve the health of every person through sanitary measures relative to medical care to the extent permitted by public and community resources, consistent with each state's constitutional and legal framework and applicable international human rights law.
40. Implement the actions and programs needed to improve effective and equal access by all migrants and their families, especially children, to educational systems, in keeping with each state's constitutional and legal framework and applicable international human rights law.
41. Ensure that labor laws are observed, taking into account the particularly vulnerable situation of migrant workers and their families.
42. Protect the right to property of all migrants, including freedom to dispose of their assets, and prevent the illegal transfer of their property.

C. MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATIONS

Urge multilateral organizations to take into account the objectives of this Inter-American Program in their activities, in keeping with their mandate and their budget permitting, with a view to possible cooperation between them and the CAM, OAS member states, and the organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization.

D. OTHER ACTORS

Urge civil society organizations and other actors, universities, and diaspora and migrant networks, to take into account the objectives of this Inter-American Program in their activities, in keeping with their mandate and their budget permitting, with a view to possible cooperation between them and the CAM, OAS member states so requesting, and the organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization.

## VI. PROGRAM COORDINATION AND FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

The political organ responsible for Program execution will be the CAM, which, for this purpose, will receive support from the unit within the General Secretariat designated for this purpose.

The organs, agencies, and entities of the OAS will include actions aimed at implementing the activities listed in this Program in their annual reports to the General Assembly of the Organization. Furthermore, member states of the OAS will be invited to report on the specific optional activities suggested in this Program.

The Inter-American Council for Integral Development shall consider convening an annual meeting, to be attended by the Program implementers, in order to exchange best practices, information, and new proposals for inclusion in this initiative. The Program implementers and the states will have the opportunity at this meeting to present the contributions mentioned in the preceding paragraph.

In order to guarantee appropriate Program follow-up, the Inter-American Council for Integral Development, through the CAM, will consider convening prior to the Summits of the Americas, a meeting of experts to review the progress of the Program and submit recommendations to the Summits of the Americas. In its work, the meeting of experts shall consider the contributions submitted by the organs, agencies, and entities of the OAS and by the member states, as well as the conclusions of the annual meetings convened by the CAM.

## VII. HUMAN AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES

### Funding:

A specific voluntary fund will be established to contribute to funding the activities assigned to the organs, agencies, and entities of the OAS in support of this Program, in addition to the existing resources in the Regular Fund of the program-budget of the Organization. The use of such a fund will be determined by the Committee on Migration Issues.



AG/RES. 2884 (XLVI-O/16)

SUPPORT FOR AND FOLLOW-UP TO THE SUMMITS OF THE AMERICAS PROCESS

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 14, 2016)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the mandates and decisions adopted and initiatives emanating from the First Summit of the Americas (Miami, 1994), the Summit of the Americas on Sustainable Development (Santa Cruz de la Sierra, 1996), the Second Summit of the Americas (Santiago, 1998), the Third Summit of the Americas (Quebec City, 2001), the Special Summit of the Americas (Monterrey, 2004), the Fourth Summit of the Americas (Mar del Plata, 2005), the Fifth Summit of the Americas (Port of Spain, 2009), the Sixth Summit of the Americas (Cartagena de Indias, 2012),<sup>1</sup> and the Seventh Summit of the Americas (Panama City, 2015);<sup>2</sup>

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT ALSO the acknowledgment by the Third Summit of the Americas of the function that the Committee on Inter-American Summits Management and Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities (CISC) fulfills in coordinating the efforts of the OAS in supporting the Summits of the Americas process and in serving as a forum for civil society to contribute to that process; as well as the establishment of the Summits Secretariat; the importance of coordinated, timely, and effective follow-up of the mandates and initiatives of the Summits of the Americas; and the important role that the OAS plays in following up on the implementation of the decisions adopted at the Summits of the Americas and as the Technical Secretariat of the Summits process; and

HIGHLIGHTING the importance of the work of the Joint Summit Working Group, and of the Summits' Virtual Community as an instrument for modernizing mechanisms for dialogue among all the players involved in the Summits process,

RESOLVES:

1. To implement the commitments set out in resolution AG/RES. 2846 (XLIV-O/14) to support the Summits of the Americas process; and to request that the General Secretariat, through the Summits of the Americas Secretariat, continue to serve as the institutional memory and Technical Secretariat of the Summits of the Americas Process, providing the Summit host country and the member states with advice, when they so request, on all matters related to the Summits process, and that it continue to support the preparations and technical coordination of the Eighth Summit of the Americas, to be held in Peru in 2018.

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1. The Republic of Ecuador enters its express reservation to references to the Sixth Summit of the Americas, held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, on April 14 and 15, 2012, without prejudice to the contents approved by Ecuador in other negotiation contexts, as appropriate.
  2. The Government of the Republic of Nicaragua does not agree with the first preambular paragraph of resolution "Support for and Follow-up on the Summits of the Americas Process," ...

2. To request that the General Secretariat, through the Summits of the Americas Secretariat, continue supporting the follow-up and dissemination of the Summits' mandates and initiatives, as applicable, including through the involvement of the ministerial processes; that it continue to provide the member states with support in the implementation thereof; and that it make efforts to promote and publicize the existing mandates and initiatives among the stakeholders involved, in order to facilitate their contribution and their participation in the implementation of the mandates and initiatives of future Summits, promoting, for that purpose, the use of the Summits' Virtual Community and other information and communications platforms.

3. To instruct the General Secretariat, through the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG), chaired by the Summits of the Americas Secretariat on behalf of the OAS, to continue coordinating and promoting the implementation and follow-up of the Summits' mandates within the institutions of the JSWG; to hold at least one meeting of those institutions' heads every year to examine the progress made and to plan joint activities; and to report thereon to the Committee on Inter-American Summits Management and Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities and to the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG).

4. That execution of the activities envisaged in this resolution will be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources; to instruct the Secretary General to seek additional voluntary funds to carry out the activities mentioned in this resolution; and to urge the member states to contribute to the funding of those activities.

5. To urge member states, through the SIRG, to report regularly on the implementation and follow-up of the mandates and initiatives established by the Summits of the Americas process.

#### FOOTNOTE

2. ... which refers to mandates and decisions adopted at, and initiatives emanating from, the Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Summits of the Americas, due to the fact that at those Summits the Heads of State and Government did not adopt the political declarations that contained the mandates and operative paragraphs on the core themes that were part of the Political Declaration.

AG/RES. 2885 (XLVI-O/16)

INTER-AMERICAN PROGRAM ON ACCESS TO PUBLIC INFORMATION

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 14, 2016)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

REITERATING the vital role of international instruments in the promotion and protection of access to public information, as well as the essential role of access to public information in electoral and democratic processes; in state governance, transparency, and anticorruption efforts; in the protection and promotion of human rights, especially the right to freedom of thought and expression; and in freedom of the press;

RECALLING that the principle of maximum disclosure is consubstantial to access to public information;

REAFFIRMING the importance of the Model Inter-American Law on Access to Public Information in the promotion of access to public information, as well as the role of member states, the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States, and civil society and other social actors in implementing the Model Law;

TAKING NOTE of the proposed “Preliminary Draft Inter-American Program on Access to Public Information” (CP/CAJP-3135/13), presented by the Department of International Law at the meeting of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs held on April 11, 2013, pursuant to resolution AG/RES. 2727 (XLII-O/12), and the recommendation of the CAJP that this preliminary draft program be referred to the General Assembly for its approval;

RESOLVES:

1. To adopt the Inter-American Program on Access to Public Information included in this resolution.
2. To request that the Department of International Law of the Secretariat for Legal Affairs coordinate the actions necessary for the full implementation of the program.
3. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh regular session, on the implementation of this resolution. Execution of the activities envisaged in this resolution shall be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

INTER-AMERICAN PROGRAM ON ACCESS TO PUBLIC INFORMATION

**A. Regarding Member States**

1. To proceed with the adoption and implementation of domestic legislation on access to public information, using the content of the corresponding Model Inter-American Law as a point of reference, specifically through the following actions:
  - a. The adoption, management, and dissemination of flexible, modern disclosure schemes that enable access to information in the possession of public authorities, in order to minimize the need for individuals to submit requests for information.
  - b. The incorporation of regulations in their legislation to identify the “key information” subject to proactive dissemination.
  - c. The implementation of a maintenance, storage, and disposal system for information assets.
  - d. The creation, maintenance, and publication of a registry of requests and disclosures.
  - e. The promotion of tools and mechanisms to monitor and evaluate enforcement of the regulations and practices of institutions required to observe the law, including, among others, the use and analysis of indicators and statistics.
  - f. The incorporation into domestic legislation of a clear, detailed system for exemptions.
  - g. The establishment of a clear system regarding the burden of proof, which reaffirms that said burden lies with the state in cases in which requests for information are denied.
  - h. The implementation of clear legislation on the procedures for submitting requests for information, the content of requests, costs for reproduction, timeframes, public authority responsibility, the role of third parties, and the formats for delivering the information.
  - i. The implementation of clear legislation on administrative and judicial review of decisions to deny access to information.
  - j. The clear establishment of the responsibility of public authorities or information officials, pursuant to national legislation.
  - k. The creation and/or strengthening, as appropriate, of a Committee on Information, with operational, budgetary, and decision-making autonomy.



1. The promotion of access to public information in all branches of the government and at all levels of the internal governmental structure, at the federal, state, and local level, as well as for independent or autonomous state agencies, organizations, or entities or those controlled by the state, or private organizations or individuals receiving substantial (direct or indirect) state funds or benefits or those which perform functions or public services, pursuant to national legislation.
2. To promote the right to access public information as part of the national development and growth strategies and sector-specific policies, including awareness campaigns targeting the most vulnerable groups.
3. To authorize a budget for each public body, subject to statutory requirements, to provide access to public information, in order to enable complete compliance with their obligations on the matter.
4. To establish, where applicable, an appropriate training system for the officials responsible for providing information.
5. To conduct research and studies on the socio-economic impact of access to public information, in collaboration with the civil society and other social actors, and to disclose the results to key actors.
6. To consider participation in the yearly special meetings, in the framework of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs of the Permanent Council of the OAS, to assess the progress countries have made in implementing the Model Law, to share good practices, and to evaluate the implementation of the program, with a view to fine tuning and strengthening it, as well as the project developed by the Department of International Law, for the purpose of enhancing member state capacity in the area of transparency and equal access to public information.

**B. Regarding the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States**

1. To support member states and their efforts to take legislative measures and other appropriate steps to guarantee access to public information and, specifically, to implement the Model Law or continue adapting it.
2. To facilitate forums for sharing good practices and successful experiences that ensure rapid and effective access to public information.
3. To disseminate the content of the Inter-American Law on Access to Public Information by preparing publications and organizing events like conferences, workshops, technical meetings, among others.
4. To promote the exchange of experiences and practices to protect the confidentiality of personal data.

5. To promote training programs for judges and national courts on the proper enforcement of judicial guarantees to protect the right to access public information.
6. To promote channels for collaboration with other international organizations and cooperation agencies working in the area, with a view to facilitating the exchange of information and cooperation.
7. To maintain a virtual platform that, among other features, contains the national legislation of member states on access to public information and related best practices.
8. To promote training programs for judges and national courts on the proper enforcement of judicial guarantees to protect access to public information.

**C. Regarding the Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights**

1. To develop and publicize the contents of the inter-American legal framework on the right of access to information, including the Inter-American Model Law on Access to Public Information, by preparing reports on the scope of the right and application of its principles, assistance to member states, and organizing and participating in training programs for officials of national authorities on access to information and justice system personnel.

**D. Regarding Non-State Actors**

1. To invite civil society organizations and other social actors to support states in their initiatives to modernize legislation and systems for disclosing public information and to actively participate and support the implementation of this program.
2. To provide incentives to the media to promote among the general public the dissemination of guarantees for better access to public information.
3. To request that cooperation agencies, development banks, and donor countries support member states by financing initiatives to modernize domestic legislation, to implement projects designed to enhance state capacity to boost transparency and equal access to public information, and to implement this program.

AG/RES. 2886 (XLVI-O/16)

INTERNATIONAL LAW

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 14, 2016)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the “Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly 2015-2016” (AG/doc.5514/16), in particular the section on the activities of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP);

CONSIDERING that the programs, activities, and tasks established in the resolutions dealing with international law under the purview of the CAJP assist in meeting the essential purposes of the Organization enshrined in the Charter of the Organization of American States;

REAFFIRMING the standards and principles of international law and the Charter of the Organization of American States; and

RECALLING resolutions AG/RES. 2795 (XLIII-O/13), AG/RES. 2852 (XLIV-O/14), and AG/RES. 2849 (XLIV-O/14), and all previous resolutions adopted on this topic,

I. ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE ON JURIDICAL AND POLITICAL AFFAIRS

RESOLVES:

1. To instruct the Permanent Council, the General Secretariat, and the other bodies referred to in Article 53 of the Charter of the Organization of American States to continue working on the implementation of the current, applicable mandates set out in earlier resolutions of the General Assembly assigned to the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP), save when any given resolution provides otherwise.

2. To urge the member states to continue contributing to meeting the objectives set out in these resolutions by developing and implementing activities, presenting reports, exchanging information, adopting measures and policies, as well as cooperation, support, and mutual assistance; and to instruct the General Secretariat to provide the necessary support for these purposes.

3. To recognize the role of the CAJP in juridical and political matters within the Organization of American States (OAS) and to instruct it to work to promote the topics included in this resolution over which it has jurisdiction and, in addition, to instruct the Permanent Council, through the CAJP, to continue promoting and coordinating cooperation among the Organization’ agencies, organs, and entities.

**i. Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law**

CONSIDERING the adoption of the Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law, by means of resolution AG/RES. 1471 (XXVII-O/97), as updated via resolution AG/RES. 2660 (XLI-O/11); and

BEARING IN MIND that the Department of International Law, in the framework of this Inter-American Program, has initiated implementation of specific projects to provide institutional support to member states in matters of access to information, secured transactions, international arbitrations, personal data protection, and private international law,

RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm the importance of and support for the Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law and, likewise, request that the Department of International Law continue to implement the actions called for in this Program and to provide an annual report thereof to the CAJP.

2. To instruct the Department of International Law, as part of the activities provided for in the Inter-American Program, to continue supporting member states in the implementation of domestic legislation on matters of access to public information; to extend the training for judges and other public officials on the effective implementation of international treaties on enforcing decisions and arbitral awards, with strict respect for due process and the sovereignty of each state, and in compliance with international law; to continue promoting the Model Law on Secured Transactions among member states; and to report on the work of the Inter-American Juridical Committee, including the principles of privacy and personal data protection and the model law on simplified joint-stock companies.

3. To also instruct the Department of International Law to promote a greater spread of private international law among member states, in collaboration with other organizations and associations that work in this area, to include the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law, the Hague Conference on Private International Law, and the American Association of Private International Law.

**ii. Observations and recommendations on the Annual Report of the Inter-American Juridical Committee (CJI)**

HAVING SEEN the observations and recommendations of the member states on the Annual Report of the Inter-American Juridical Committee (CP/CAJP-3356/16), presented to the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs of the Permanent Council on April 7, 2016,

RESOLVES:

1. To instruct the Permanent Council, through its CAJP, to grant the due consideration to the most recent reports adopted by the CJI, to wit: "Privacy and Personal Data Protection" (CJI/doc.474/15 rev. 2), "Guide for the Protection of Stateless Persons" (CJI/doc.488/15 rev. 1); "Migration in Bilateral Relations (CJI/doc.461/14 rev. 3); and "Corporate Social Responsibility in the

Area of Human Rights and the Environment in the Americas” [CJI/RES. 205 (LXXXIV-O/14)]; and report to the CJI on the outcome of these considerations.

2. To thank the CJI for preparing the document “Model Law on Simplified Joint-Stock Companies” [CJI/RES. 188 (LXXX-O/12)] and request that the Permanent Council, through its Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs, study the possibility of having the General Assembly consider this Model Law during its next regular session.

3. To underscore the need to bolster the administrative and budgetary support for the CJI and the Course on International Law organized each year in Rio de Janeiro by the CJI and its Technical Secretariat, as well as reaffirm the importance of the Committee’s contacts with the Organization’s organs.

**iii. Protection of Cultural Heritage Assets**

AFFIRMING the commitment of our countries to protect the cultural heritage of the Americas for future generations;

RECOGNIZING that the entirety of cultural heritage as defined in section 23 of the Mexico City Declaration on Cultural Policies, of August 1982, includes “the works of artists, architects, musicians, writers, and scientists and also the work of anonymous artists, expressions of people’s spirituality, and the body of values which give meaning to life. It includes both tangible and intangible works through which the creativity of that people finds expression: language, rites, beliefs, historic places and monuments, literature, works of art, archives, and libraries”;

TAKING NOTE of the Convention on the Protection of the Archeological, Historical, and Artistic Heritage of the American Nations of 1976 and the report approved by the Inter-American Juridical Committee on the “Model Law on the Protection of Cultural Assets during Armed Conflict” (CJI/doc.403/12 rev. 5) of March 15, 2013; and

EXPRESSING concern for the loss of cultural heritage due to the destruction, looting, and illicit trade of cultural assets, for which reason there is a need for a shared response and the creation of effective international cooperation mechanisms to combat it,

RESOLVES:

1. To encourage the member states of the Organization of American States that have not yet done so to consider acceding to the conventions of the United Nations Education, Science and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), as pertains to the protection of cultural assets, as well as the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict of 1954 and its additional protocols and the UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects of 1995.

2. To instruct the Inter-American Juridical Committee to study existing legal instruments, in both the inter-American and international systems, pertaining to the protection of cultural heritage assets in order to inform the Permanent Council, prior to the forty-seventh regular

session, about the current status of existing regulations in this area to bolster the inter-American legal framework in this area.

**iv. Promotion of and Respect for International Humanitarian Law**

RECALLING that the obligation, in all circumstances, to respect international humanitarian law, whether treaty-based or arising from customary international law, applies to all states parties to the four Geneva Conventions of 1949, together with the states that are parties to the three Additional Protocols;

REAFFIRMING that, to that end, the rules of international humanitarian law need to be strengthened by promoting their universalization, their broader dissemination, and the adoption of national measures for their proper application; and

EMPHASIZING the special role of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) as a neutral, impartial, and independent institution to protect and assist the victims of armed conflicts and other situations of violence, as well as promote respect for international humanitarian law,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge member states to consider ratifying or acceding to treaties on international law, including those that prohibit or limit the use of certain weapons for humanitarian reasons, and, as applicable, take the legislative steps needed to prevent conduct prohibited under those and other treaties, especially as regards the destruction of weapons, clean-up of weapons contaminated with explosive remains, due care for victims, and control over the arms trade, and to incorporate international humanitarian law into the doctrines, procedures, and training of the armed and security forces;

2. To urge member states to contribute actively to follow-up on resolutions adopted at the XXXII International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, held in Geneva, Switzerland, from November 28 to December 10, 2015, especially those regarding the strengthening of compliance with international humanitarian law; the strengthening of international humanitarian law protecting persons deprived of liberty; sexual and gender-based violence; and health care assistance services in the event of danger.

3. To invite member states to continue to support the work of national committees or commissions responsible for the implementation and dissemination of international humanitarian law; and to urge any state without such a body to consider establishing one as a means of strengthening advancement and observance of international humanitarian law.

4. To express satisfaction with OAS-ICRC cooperation in promoting respect for international humanitarian law and the principles that govern that law; and to urge the General Secretariat to continue to strengthen such cooperation, including through special sessions on issues related to international humanitarian law.

v. **Free Trade and Investment in the Hemisphere**

RECALLING resolution AG/RES. 1364 (XXVI-O/96), "Free Trade and Investment in the Hemisphere," in which the Inter-American Juridical Committee (CJI) was instructed to conduct a study on the matter;

ACKNOWLEDGING the opinion of the CJI (CJI/RES. II-14/96), which states that the Committee unanimously concluded that in the significant areas referred to, the bases and potential application of the legislation covered by the opinion were not in conformity with international law; and

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the resolutions that have been adopted on this topic to date, and the Report of the Permanent Council on Free Trade and Investment in the Hemisphere (CP/CG-2006/14 rev. 2),

RESOLVES:

1. To request that the Permanent Council report on developments in this regard to the forty-seventh regular session of the General Assembly.

II. FOLLOW-UP AND REPORTING

RESOLVES:

1. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh regular session on the implementation of this resolution. Execution of the activities envisaged in this resolution will be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.





AG/RES. 2887 (XLVI-O/16)

PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS<sup>1/2/3/4/5/6</sup>

(ADOPTED AT THE SECOND PLENARY SESSION, HELD ON JUNE 14, 2016)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the “Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly 2015-2016” (AG/doc.XXXX/16), in particular the section on the activities of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP);

CONSIDERING that the programs, activities, and tasks set out in the resolutions within the purview of the CAJP help to further the essential purposes of the Organization enshrined in the Charter of the Organization of American States;

REAFFIRMING the norms and principles of international law as well as those contained in the Charter of the Organization of American States; international human rights law, and international humanitarian law, as well as the rights enshrined in the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, the American Convention on Human Rights, and other binding inter-American instruments on the subject, and the important role played by the organs of the inter-American human rights system in promoting and protecting human rights in the Americas;

RECALLING resolutions AG/RES. 2821 (XLIV-O/14), AG/RES. 2822 (XLIV-O/14), AG/RES. 2823 (XLIV-O/14), AG/RES. 2825 (XLIV-O/14), AG/RES. 2826 (XLIV-O/14), AG/RES. 2829 (XLIV-O/14), AG/RES. 2831 (XLIV-O/14), AG/RES. 2832 (XLIV-O/14), AG/RES. 2839 (XLIV-O/14), AG/RES. 2840 (XLIV-O/14), AG/RES. 2845 (XLIV-O/14), AG/RES. 2847 (XLIV-O/14), AG/RES. 2850 (XLIV-O/14), AG/RES. 2851 (XLIV-O/14), AG/RES. 2854 (XLIV-O/14), AG/RES. 2863 (XLIV-O/14), AG/RES. 2864 (XLIV-O/14), AG/RES. 2867 (XLIV-O/14), AG/RES. 2781 (XLIII-O/13), AG/RES. 2790 (XLIII-O/13), AG/RES. 2799 (XLIII-O/13), AG/RES. 2802 (XLIII-O/13), AG/RES. 2804 (XLIII-O/13), AG/RES. 2805 (XLIII-O/13), AG/DEC. 71 (XLIII-O/13), and all previous resolutions adopted on this topic,

- 
1. The Government of Jamaica is fully committed to protecting the human rights of all its citizens including from any form of violence in accordance with the rule of law and the ...
  2. The Republic of Honduras declares its commitment to human rights and international conventions and, with respect to the provisions of this resolution, it states its reservation to those articles...
  3. The state of Guatemala declares that it promotes and defends all human rights and, with respect to the provisions of this resolution, reaffirms the equality of all human beings under the provisions of the ...
  4. The Government of Nicaragua considers unacceptable the double standard of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in maintaining Chapter IV.B of its annual report. ...
  5. The Republic of Paraguay reiterates its commitment to the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international conventions signed in that area, and it reaffirms the ...
  6. Trinidad and Tobago is unable to join the consensus on this document as some areas are contrary to the laws of the Republic. Trinidad and Tobago remains firmly committed to the promotion and ...

I. ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE ON JURIDICAL AND POLITICAL AFFAIRS

RESOLVES:

1. To instruct the Permanent Council, the General Secretariat, and the other organs identified in Article 53 of the Charter of the Organization of American States to continue pursuing implementation of the applicable and current mandates contained in previous General Assembly resolutions assigned to the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP), except as stated otherwise in any resolution.

2. To urge the member states of the Organization to continue contributing to the attainment of the objectives established in said resolutions through the development and execution of activities, the submission of reports, the exchange of information, the adoption of measures and policies, and cooperation, support, and mutual assistance; and to instruct the General Secretariat to provide the necessary support to those ends.

3. To recognize the role of the CAJP in juridical and political matters in the framework of the Organization of American States (OAS) and to instruct it to work on the promotion of the topics over which it has jurisdiction included in this resolution and, similarly, to instruct the Permanent Council to continue, through the CAJP, to promote and coordinate cooperation among the organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization.

i. **Recognition and Promotion of the Human Rights of People of African Descent in the Americas**

BEARING IN MIND that the Inter-American Democratic Charter proclaims that respect for ethnic, cultural, and religious diversity in the Americas contributes to strengthening democracy and citizen participation; and that the Social Charter of the Americas provides that “member states recognize the contributions of indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants, and migrant communities to the historical process of the Hemisphere and will promote recognition of their value”;

REAFFIRMING the steadfast commitment of the member states to confront, through various mechanisms, the scourge of racism, discrimination, and intolerance in their societies as a problem that affects society in general, and that all of its individual, structural, and institutional manifestations must be fought against,

RESOLVES:

TO INSTRUCT:

1. The General Secretariat and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, in collaboration with the member states, to continue disseminating and promoting the rights of people of African descent; prepare and implement projects to promote, protect, and guarantee their rights, within the Organization and in the member states; and publicize and promote the Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination, and Related Forms of Intolerance, as well as the Inter-American Convention against all Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance.

2. The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to continue devoting special attention to the rights of people of African descent and to eliminating racial discrimination through its mechanisms and functions and, in particular through its Rapporteurship on this issue.

3. To again urge member states that have not yet done so to sign, ratify, or accede to, as applicable, the inter-American instruments on human rights protection, including the Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial discrimination and Related Intolerance and the Inter-American Convention against all Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance.

**ii. Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in Business**

NOTING the Special Meeting of the OAS Permanent Council's Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs to foster the exchange of best practices and experiences in the promotion and protection of human rights in business, held on January 29, 2015;

EMPHASIZING that the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development promotes development based on responsible, corporate behavior, and makes reference the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, among other initiatives.

ACKNOWLEDGING FURTHER the important contributions of businesses, including micro-enterprises and cooperatives, to sustainable development based on responsible, dynamic, and efficient corporate behavior, which protects labor rights and health and environmental requirements, in keeping with the relevant international regulations and agreements and other initiatives being carried out in this area.

**RESOLVES:**

1. To continue promoting the implementation of the United Nations guiding principles on business and human rights, and to urge member states and their respective national human rights institutes and/or competent institutions to disseminate these principles as broadly as possible, promoting the exchange of information and sharing best practices on the promotion and protection of human rights in business, in order to raise awareness about the benefits of applying them and invite all member states to constructively participate in initiatives related to effective observance of human rights by businesses;

2. To encourage regional funding and development mechanisms, especially the Inter-American Development Bank, as requested by both member states and companies and other public and private entities, to support efforts to implement the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights among other initiatives on the matter being carried out in the Americas and to consider, within management, evaluating the standards for respecting human rights in their project funding mechanisms.

3. To request that the General Secretariat, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) and the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) to collaborate, within the sphere of their responsibilities and as requested by member states, in the promotion and implementation of state and business commitments in order to contribute to the progressive development of standards in the area of human rights and business, including, among other

initiatives, support to develop national action plans on human rights and business as one way of applying the Guiding Principles; and

4. To request that the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights conduct, by the last half of 2016, a study on inter-American standards on business and human rights based on an analysis of conventions, case law, and reports issued by the inter-American system, which could be an input for the efforts made by member states in various national and international initiatives regarding business and human rights. This mandate shall be subject to the necessary financial resources being identified. In pursuance of the foregoing, to ask the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to report to the Permanent Council during the first quarter of 2017 on the outcomes of that study.

**iii. Conscious and Effective Regulation of Business in the Area of Human Rights**

RECALLING the contents of resolution A/HRC/RES/26/9, which the United Nations Human Rights Council approved on July 14, 2014 under the title “Elaboration of an international legally binding instrument on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights;”

EMPHASIZING that states have an obligation and the primary responsibility for promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, and against abuses perpetrated within their territory and their jurisdiction, including by third parties such as corporations;

RECOGNIZING that business enterprises have the capacity to foster economic wellbeing, development, technological progress, and wealth, as well as the responsibility to respect human rights, and to promote gender equity and women’s economic empowerment;

TAKING NOTE of the report “Social Corporate Responsibility in the Area of Human Rights and the Environment in the Americas,” adopted by the Inter-American Juridical Committee [CJI/RES. 205 (LXXXIV-O/14),

RESOLVES:

1. To call upon the member states to strengthen mechanisms to establish guarantees to ensure that business enterprises respect human rights and the environment, acting in line with and pursuant to applicable international instruments and domestic laws;

2. To encourage the member states to consider their participation in national or regional or global initiatives for protecting the human rights of individuals affected by the activities of business;

3. To request that the Inter-American Juridical Committee prepare a compilation of good practices, initiatives, legislation, case law, and challenges that may be used as a basis for identifying alternatives for addressing the issue, which will be submitted for the consideration of the Permanent Council within one year; and, additionally, require the organs of the Inter-American Human Rights System to make contributions and share experiences on the process. The execution of

the mandate envisaged in this resolution shall be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

**iv. Protection of Asylum Seekers and Refugees in the Americas**

EMPHASIZING that the commemorative process to mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1984 Cartagena Declaration on Refugees (Cartagena+30), conducted in 2014, highlighted new challenges regarding international protection for refugees, displaced and stateless persons in the Americas, through active participation by the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, in collaboration with international and civil society organizations and other social actors;

UNDERSCORING the importance of the Brazil Declaration: “A Framework for Cooperation and Regional Solidarity to Strengthen the International Protection of Refugees, Displaced and Stateless Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean” (“Brazil Declaration”) and the Brazil Plan of Action: “A Common Roadmap to Strengthen Protection and Promote Sustainable Solutions for Refugees, Displaced and Stateless Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean within a Framework of Cooperation and Solidarity” (“Brazil Plan of Action”), adopted on December 3, 2014, as the new strategic framework for the protection of refugees, those seeking refugee status, displaced and stateless persons.

RESOLVES:

1. To urge all States to continue defending and observing the international principles for the protection of refugees and those seeking refugee status, especially the principle of non-refoulement.

2. To recognize and reaffirm the full and ongoing validity and the fundamental importance of the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol as the principal instruments for the protection of refugees and to reaffirm the commitment of the States Parties to those instruments to abide by the obligations therein fully and effectively, as well as the Declaration of Cartagena.

3. To urge the countries that adopted the Brazil Declaration and Plan of Action as the new strategic framework for meeting the protection needs of refugees, displaced, and stateless persons to pursue their thematic programs over the next decade, based on regional solidarity and cooperation, and to foster exchanges of best practices among the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, with the support of the international community.

4. To reaffirm the importance and vital role of international cooperation in the search for and strengthening of admission mechanisms and lasting solutions to address the situation of refugees and asylum seekers; and to urge member states and the international community to increase technical and economic cooperation with the refugees-receiving countries of the Hemisphere and of other regions that so require and to work in cooperation with the UNHCR, where appropriate, to provide effective protection to asylum seekers and refugees.

**v. Prevention and Reduction of Statelessness and Protection of Stateless Persons in the Americas**

RESOLVES:

1. To welcome the Global Plan of Action and the Brazil Declaration and Plan of Action and the UNHCR's global campaign known as #IBELONG, as the global and sub-regional strategic framework for ending statelessness.

2. To underscore the importance of the conventions on statelessness; and to invite member states that as yet have not done so to consider ratifying them or acceding thereto, as the case may be, and also to invite member states to establish fair and efficient procedures for determining statelessness, and to grant facilities for the naturalization of stateless persons, as applicable.

3. To urge member states that have not yet done so to eliminate discrimination against women from the legal framework pertaining to nationality, to include appropriate safeguards to prevent cases of statelessness, promote civil registry, and to duly resolve existing cases of statelessness, in line with their international obligations relating to human rights and statelessness.

**vi. Internally Displaced Persons**

EMPHASIZING that the states have the primary responsibility to respect, promote, and protect the human rights of all persons within their territory and subject to their jurisdiction, including internally displaced persons, and to provide them with humanitarian protection and assistance, as well as to address, as appropriate, the causes of the internal displacement problem within their territories and calling on them to do so, when appropriate, in cooperation with the international community;

RESOLVES:

1. To urge member states to include, as appropriate, in their sectoral plans, policies, and programs, the special needs of internally displaced persons such as the loss of physical protection, the loss of livelihoods, and exposure to new risks, and of communities affected by internal displacement, in particular, in the preparation of programs on prevention of the diverse causes and consequences directly related to that displacement, including social and security policies and programs to foster development, fight poverty, and reduce the risk of natural disasters, bearing in mind a gender-based perspective and the unique and distinct needs of vulnerable groups, in which the needs of receiving communities could also be taken into account.

2. To urge member states to consider the advisability of incorporating the "Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement," prepared by the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Internally Displaced Persons, into their domestic laws and apply them in designing and implementing plans, policies, and programs in support of displaced persons.

**vii. International Migration and Protection of the Rights of Migrants**

RECALLING the principles and norms enshrined in the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, which proclaims that all persons are equal before the law; the American Convention on Human Rights, which recognizes that the essential rights of the human individual are not derived from the fact that a person is a national of a certain state, but are based upon attributes of the human personality; and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states that everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state, and to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country;

RESOLVES:

1. To urge states to promote and protect effectively the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, including migrant workers and their families, especially women and children, regardless of their immigration status, in accordance with international human rights law;

2. To acknowledge the important contribution of migrants to integral development and highlight the economic, social, and cultural benefits of diverse and pluralistic societies; vigorously condemn all manifestations or acts of racism, discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance toward migrants in connection with access to employment, professional training, housing, education, health care services, social services, and public services.

3. To express concern over the increasing activities of transnational and domestic organized crime and others that benefit from crimes against migrants, especially against migrant women and children, and to encourage states that have not yet done so to enact domestic laws and adopt more effective measures to combat trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants and to intensify international cooperation efforts to combat these crimes.

**viii. Strengthening the Follow-up Mechanism for Implementation of the Protocol of San Salvador**

HIGHLIGHTING that to date, sixteen member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) have ratified the Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the Area of Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, "Protocol of San Salvador," Article 19 of which provides that the States Parties shall undertake to submit periodic reports on the progressive measures they have taken to ensure due respect for the rights set forth in the Protocol, and that the corresponding rules were established by resolution AG/RES. 2074 (XXXV-O/05) and other subsequent resolutions;

MINDFUL that AG/RES. 2823 (XLIV-O/14) requested that Technical Secretariat of the Working Group review all existing regulations concerning the composition, designation, and rotation of the members of the Working Group and the length of their terms of office and, as necessary, to submit to the General Assembly any adjustments and clarifications required to ensure the group's smooth operations in its review of the reports; and that the Rules of Procedure and Other Provisions of the Working Group, distributed by means of document CP/CAJP/INF. 187/13, provide that if new members of the Working Group are not elected to replace those members whose mandates are concluding, the latter shall continue to serve until the new members are elected,

RESOLVES:

1. To request that the States Parties submit national progress reports on the second group of rights by December 31, 2016.

2. To invite member states to consider signing and ratifying, ratifying, or acceding to, as the case may be, the Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the Area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, "Protocol of San Salvador," and to invite all the States Parties to the Protocol of San Salvador, member states and permanent observers, and national or international public or private persons or entities to contribute to the Specific Fund for the Working Group to Examine the Periodic Reports of the States Parties to the Protocol of San Salvador; as defined in Article 74 of the General Standards To Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat and other OAS provisions.

3. To request that the Technical Secretariat of the Working Group review within a reasonable timeframe the existing regulations concerning the composition, designation, and rotation of the members of the Working Group and, as necessary, submit to the General Assembly any adjustments and clarifications required to ensure the Group's smooth operations in its review of the periodic reports of the States Parties. Meanwhile, the Working Group shall continue to operate with its current members, until such time as those regulations are reviewed or candidacies to replace its members are presented.

**ix. Toward Autonomous Official Public Defenders as a Safeguard for Integrity and Personal Liberty**

UNDERSCORING the key importance of free legal aid services and official public defender institutions, or the relevant name indicated in domestic legislation, in the promotion and protection of the right of access to justice by all persons and, most especially, by those who are in situations of particular vulnerability;

APPLAUDING the adoption of the "Regional Guidelines for Public Defender Systems and Comprehensive Protection for Persons Deprived of Their Liberty," the "Handbooks for Monitoring Human Rights at Detention Centers by Public Defenders: General Visits and Individual Interviews," the "Regional Handbook of Good Prison Practices," and the "Regional Handbook: The Bangkok Rules as Key to Public Defense," prepared by the AIDEF;

RESOLVES:

1. TO ENCOURAGE states and official public defense institutions, where appropriate, to ensure absolute respect for the work of public defenders and public institutions providing legal aid in the pursuit of their functions, conducted free from undue interference and constraint from other branches of the government.

2. TO PROMOTE the development by official defense institutions, in accordance with their autonomy and where appropriate, of instruments to systematize and record cases of reported torture and other inhumane, cruel, and degrading treatment, which will be used as tools for developing prevention strategies and policies with the central aim of preventing violations of the



human rights of people deprived of freedom, recognizing that public defenders are key players in preventing and reporting torture and other inhumane, cruel, and degrading treatment and in assisting the victims thereof. In line with the foregoing, the General Secretariat, through the Department of International Law, shall continue to work with the AIDEF on training public defenders in different areas to help improve access to justice.

**x. Protecting Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms While Countering Terrorism**

RECALLING that antiterrorism measures must be applied with full respect for the human rights of all persons, including members of national, ethnic, religious, and linguistic minorities, and that, in accordance with international law, they must entail no discrimination on the grounds of race, color, sex, language, religion, or social origin;

RESOLVES:

1. To call on member states, in a framework of respect and observance of the human rights contained in the international instruments in this area, to promote and implement at every level the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, bearing in mind that one of its pillars is ensuring respect for human rights, in order to move toward the common goal of eradicating the scourge of international terrorism; and to take into account the adoption, implementation, and application of the various international conventions and protocols on terrorism, as well as follow-up on United Nations Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005).

**xi. Persons Who Have Disappeared and Members of Their Families**

REAFFIRMING the responsibility of the States to continue the necessary efforts to alleviate the suffering, anxiety, and uncertainty experienced by the family members of persons reported disappeared, as a result of armed conflicts, armed violence, migration, or natural disasters, among others, in order to meet their diverse needs and fulfill their right to truth and justice and, where appropriate, to reparation for harm caused;

RECALLING that forced disappearance is a multiple and continuous violation of many human rights, the widespread and systematic practice of which constitutes a crime against humanity, according to applicable international law;

UNDERSCORING the experience in several States of using mechanisms to address the needs of family members; the development of forensic sciences and their important contribution to the search operations for missing persons, and the documents and tools developed by the International Committee of the Red Cross and other organizations with experience in searching for missing persons and meeting the needs of family members; and the minimum psychosocial working standards for search and forensic investigation processes for cases of forced disappearance and arbitrary or extrajudicial executions;

RESOLVES:

1. To urge member states, in keeping with their obligations in matters of international humanitarian law and international human rights law, and taking into consideration existing related

case law, to continue the progressive adoption of measures, including domestic regulatory and institutional provisions to:

- a. Prevent the disappearance of persons, paying particular attention to the disappearance of groups in conditions of vulnerability;
- b. Address cases of disappeared migrants, as well as children reported missing, in order to find them, identify them, and, where possible, reunite them with their families and promote regional technical care and judicial cooperation;
- c. Clarify the whereabouts and fate of the disappeared persons to provide a rapid response to their families, with the possibility of establishing mechanisms to search for the missing persons, so as to provide a framework for a broad, comprehensive investigation and, in the case of death, prioritize the humanitarian objective of recovery, identification, restitution, and dignified burial of the human remains, without sacrificing compliance with the obligations to investigate, prosecute, and punish those responsible for the disappearances;
- d. Meet the needs of the family members, such as knowing what happened to their loved ones; recovering the human remains and giving them a dignified burial according to their customs and traditions; settling legal and administrative problems through a comprehensive domestic legal framework that recognizes the legal status of missing persons, such as “certificate of absence by reason of disappearance;” receiving economic support, psychological and psychosocial counseling; accessing justice; conducting memorials and commemorations; obtaining compensation and reparations; among others, bearing in mind the priorities of the family members;
- e. Guarantee the participation and representation of the victims and their families in the related proceedings; access to justice and to mechanisms through which they may obtain fair, prompt, and effective reparation; and provisions to protect victims and witnesses coming before criminal courts and in other transitional justice mechanisms, whose security and personal safety is affected as a result of their reporting crimes of forced disappearance;
- f. Strengthen technical capacities for search, recovery, and the use of diverse forensic sciences and support training processes for forensic science professionals for identifying human remains, to include the challenges associated with migrants reported missing, in keeping with internationally recognized scientific standards and procedures;
- g. Guarantee the proper handling of information, including the personal data of missing persons and their family members, through the creation of centralized databases that gather, protect, and manage the information, in accordance with national and international laws and legal provisions.

2. To encourage member states to ratify or accede to the Inter-American Convention on Forced Disappearance of Persons and to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance; to implement them in domestic legislation and recognize the competence of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances; and to share best practices and experiences; strengthen international cooperation and information-sharing; and support the participation of and technical assistance from international and national institutions with recognized experience in searching for missing persons; and urge the member states to continue cooperating with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) by facilitating its work and welcoming its technical recommendations, with a view to consolidating the measures taken by states in searching for missing persons and in caring for their family members.

3. To encourage member states to promote the national plan to adopt measures related to the provisions of the resolution “People Who Have Disappeared and Assistance to Members of Their Families,” adopted by the General Assembly in 2005, and to provide regular updates on the matter, charging the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs with including the dissemination of this information in its agenda prior to the 48<sup>th</sup> regular session of the OAS General Assembly.

**xii. Observations and Recommendations on the Annual Report of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights<sup>7</sup>**

RECOGNIZING that the Inter-American Court of Human Rights is the only regional human rights tribunal and that compliance with its judgments is mandatory for states recognizing its jurisdiction;

UNDERSCORING the importance that the Inter-American Court of Human Rights has in the effective protection of human rights in the hemisphere, through the carrying out of its adjudicatory and advisory functions;

RECOGNIZING the importance of continuing to extend invitations to hold sessions outside of the headquarters of the Inter-American Court, given its importance as an initiative to spread and promote human rights and the constructive nature of the hearings to oversee compliance.

**RESOLVES:**

1. To reaffirm the fundamental value of the work, jurisprudence and advisory opinions of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights for the effective exercise and observance of human rights in the Hemisphere and the rule of law.

2. To reaffirm its commitment to attain full financing of the Inter-American Court through the Regular Fund of the OAS, without prejudice to the financing of the other mandates of the Organization. While that commitment is fulfilled, to invite member states, observer states, and other institutions to continue to make voluntary contributions to the Inter-American Court. The member states and other institutions are also invited to continue to make their contributions to the legal assistance fund for victims.

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<sup>7</sup> The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela promotes, respects, and guarantees the human rights enshrined in inter-American and international law. However, it considers that the organs of the ...

**xiii. Observations and Recommendations on the Annual Report of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights<sup>8</sup>**

RECOGNIZING the work of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in fulfilling its function of promoting, observing, and defending human rights and as serving as an advisory body in this area, in particular for the development of standards for protecting human rights on such crosscutting issues as equality and nondiscrimination through its thematic, country, and case reports; the conduction of observation and working visits; the implementation of innovative mechanisms to provide technical advice and promote justice in member states; the progress made in updating the individual cases and petitions system to facilitate access to justice by victims of human rights violations; the promotion of the use of the friendly settlement mechanism; the organization of human rights outreach and training activities; and the convening of public hearings as an inter-American forum for human rights in the region.

REITERATING the importance of all the Organization's member states ratifying or adhering to, as applicable, the inter-American conventions, declarations, and protocols governing human rights, particularly the American Convention on Human Rights;

CONSIDERING that compliance with the decisions of the agencies of the inter-American human rights system is an element in ensuring the full effect and observance of human rights in the OAS member states and in contributing to the consolidation of that system's legitimacy,

RECOGNIZING that the Commission has stated that "The establishment of peace in Colombia is a fundamental condition to guarantee its inhabitants respect for their fundamental rights" and that "the Commission commends the steps toward a final agreement" and to this end, underscores the valuable contribution offered by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to the State and the Colombian society as a whole to assist with this process.

RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm the member states' commitment toward the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.
2. To urge the member states that have not yet done so to sign, ratify, or adhere to, as soon as possible and as applicable, all the universal and inter-American human rights instruments, particularly the American Convention on Human Rights.
3. To reaffirm its commitment to attain full financing of the IACHR through the Regular Fund of the OAS, without prejudice to the financing of the other mandates of the Organization. While that commitment is fulfilled, to invite member states, observer states, and other institutions to continue making voluntary contributions. In this context, to encourage member states to continue to extend invitations to the Commission to make observation and working visits and to hold special meetings in the member states. Also to encourage the IACHR to continue submitting its financial and resources report that is customarily included in its annual report.

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8. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela promotes, respects, and guarantees the human rights enshrined in inter-American and international law. However, it considers that the organs of the ...

**xiv. Gender Equity and Geographic Representation and Legal Systems Representation in the Inter-American Court and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights**

UNDERSCORING the importance of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights being composed of impartial and independent individuals of recognized competence in human rights, in keeping with the principles of nondiscrimination, gender equity, and geographic representation, so they can continue to properly carry out their mandates.

RESOLVES:

1. To encourage States, in the selection process of judges to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and commissioners to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, to nominate and elect persons that would ensure a balanced makeup, with representation from the different regions, population groups, and legal systems of the Hemisphere, thereby guaranteeing compliance with the requirements for independence and impartiality and recognized competence in human rights matters.

2. To instruct the Permanent Council to invite the candidates put forward by member states for the positions of judge on the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and commissioner of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to give a public presentation to the Council prior to the elections, to the extent possible, in order to describe in greater detail their vision, proposals, and the initiatives they would undertake should they be elected. These presentations will be made, if possible, in the same meeting of the Council, and would be disseminated as widely as possible.

**xv. Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment**

BEARING IN MIND that the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment states that: “the term “torture” means any act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, is intentionally inflicted on a person for such purposes as obtaining from him or a third person information or a confession, punishing him for an act he or a third person has committed or is suspected of having committed, or intimidating or coercing him or a third person, or for any reason based on discrimination of any kind, when such pain or suffering is inflicted by or at the instigation of or with the consent or acquiescence of a public official or other person acting in an official capacity;” and further recalling that this definition is without prejudice to any international instrument or national legislation which does or may contain provisions of wider application;

COMMENDING the review of the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (“Nelson Mandela Rules”), adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 17, 2015 (Resolution A/RES/70/175), and urging the effective application thereof;

RESOLVES:

1. To urge the States to consider the content of resolution AG/RES.2829, approved June 4, 2014 by the General Assembly of the Organization of American States, and resolution A/RES/70/146, approved by consensus on December 17, 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly.

2. To reaffirm the absolute and irrevocable prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhumane, and degrading treatment or punishment, and the need to adopt effective measures to prevent these acts – particularly in places of deprivation of liberty – including the implementation of effective prevention mechanisms and judicial and procedural guarantees, as well as education and training activities for personnel that may be charged with the custody, interrogation, or treatment of persons subject to any form of arrest, detention, or reclusion.

3. To urge all States to adopt a perspective bearing in mind gender issues in the fight against torture and other cruel, inhumane, and degrading treatment, paying special attention to violence based on gender, sexual orientation, and gender identity, and taking into account relevant international instruments; and to adopt specific measures addressing health, to combat this discrimination that is often underlying in torture and other abuse committed against them, particularly to guarantee sexual and reproductive rights and the right to access sexual and reproductive health services free of discriminatory stereotypes that lead to situations of torture or other types of gender-based abuse.<sup>9/</sup>

4. To urge States to implement effective resources for fair and adequate reparation, restitution, compensation, rehabilitation, and satisfaction and guarantees of non-repetition to victims of torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment, taking into full account the specific needs of the victim; to further urge States to ensure that victims are granted prompt access, without discrimination of any kind until they obtain the maximum level of rehabilitation possible, to adequate rehabilitation services and considering the possibility of offering rehabilitation to immediate family members or dependents of the victims, as well as those who have been harmed in intervening to help the victim in danger or to prevent victimization;

**xvi. Follow-up to the Inter-American Program for a Universal Civil Registry and the “Right to Identity”**

CONSIDERING that recognizing the identity of persons facilitates the enjoyment of human rights, including the right relating to nationality, enshrined in international instruments like the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man and the American Convention on Human Rights, understanding that the exercise of these rights is essential to consolidate all democratic societies;

RECOGNIZING the work conducted under the Universal Civil Identity Program of the Americas (PUICA); and

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9. The Government of Barbados is unable to join consensus on the approval of this section, given that a number of the issues and terms contained therein are neither reflected in its national laws ...

CONSIDERING that the Latin American and Caribbean Council for Civil Registration, Identity, and Vital Statistics (CLARCIEV), in which the OAS currently acts as Executive Secretariat, has been the international forum since 2005 that promotes the “Right to Identity” and civil registration in the region, through interinstitutional ties, as well as the exchange of knowledge and experiences among the institutions charged with registering persons and their identification and recording vital statistics;

RESOLVES:

1. To instruct the General Secretariat, through its Universal Civil Identity Program of the Americas (PUICA), to continue providing assistance to member states that so request it, in order to improve and strengthen their civil registry system to ensure the universal registration of births, deaths, marriages, and divorces, among other life events, and to link national civil systems to national identity systems to guarantee a universal and equal access to essential public services and the protection of human rights, especially the rights of women and girls.

2. To convene the Third Regional Conference of Latin American and the Caribbean on the Right to an Identity and Universal Birth Registration, as well as the First Meeting of Ministers and National Authorities of the Americas on the Right to an Identity, both to be held in the third quarter of 2016, to develop recommendations to strengthen institutional registry capacity; to measure the registration of persons using a uniform methodology that includes all people and to discuss and adopt strategies to implement on the matter through 2030, which will in turn enable fulfillment of the Sustainable Development Goals issued by the United Nations. To this end, the General Secretariat is instructed, in conjunction with the Inter-American Development Bank, the United Nations Children’s Fund, and the Government of Mexico, to organize these meetings.

3. To recognize the General Secretariat as the Executive Secretariat of the Latin American and Caribbean Council for Civil Registration, Identity, and Statistics.

**xvii. Support for the Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (CEDDIS) and Its Technical Secretariat**

BEARING IN MIND the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (CIADDIS), the Declaration on the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities (2006-2016), as well as the (technical) support from the Department of Social Inclusion, of the Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity;

RESOLVES:

1. To encourage OAS member states that are not party to the CIADDIS to accede to and ratify the convention, with a view to stepping up regional efforts in the area of inclusion for persons with disabilities, and to also encourage the states party to the convention that have not yet done so to submit the Second National Report on the implementation thereof, as part of the due monitoring of the progress and challenges reported in the region to prevent and eliminate discrimination against persons with disabilities.

2. To urge OAS member states that are party to the CIADDIS to strengthen the organization and participation of civil society and other social actors, in order to make advances in improving the quality of life and inclusion for persons with disabilities and their families, especially those segments of the population with disabilities who live in conditions of marginalization.

3. To congratulate the CEDDIS for its efforts to develop an instructive manual on support and safeguards for exercising the extensive legal capacity of persons with disabilities, and request that the Department of Social Inclusion of the Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity develop projects and initiatives to promote this right in the region, reiterating the importance of voluntary contributions to the Specific Fund for the Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities, created to complement the funding for CEDDIS activities and its Technical Secretariat, and thanking the governments of Chile and Argentina for their recent financial contributions to this fund in 2015-2016, as well as the peoples and governments of Mexico and Guatemala for their generous hospitality and resolved and effective support for ensuring the success of the Fifth and Sixth Meetings of the CEDDIS, respectively.

4. To reiterate the request for the General Secretariat to implement broader efforts to mainstream the perspective for including persons with disabilities, based on awareness of the human rights of those persons, in all OAS actions and decisions, in line with the objectives of the Decade and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

#### **xviii. Protection of the Human Rights of Older Persons**

NOTING with satisfaction the approval of the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons on June 15, 2015. This is the first binding international legal instrument on the matter, which has been signed by five OAS member states to date;

#### **RESOLVES:**

1. To urge member states that have not yet done so to consider signing and ratifying, as applicable, the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons.

2. To instruct the OAS General Secretariat to continue to disseminate and promote the rights of older persons and to design and implement projects for advancing the issue both within the Organization and in OAS member states, and to disseminate and promote, as applicable, the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons.

#### **xix. Human Rights, Sexual Orientation, and Gender Identity and Expression<sup>10/</sup>**

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that, in its Report on Violence Against LGBTI Persons, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) notes that “LGBTI persons, or persons perceived as such, are subject to various forms of violence and discrimination based on the perception of their sexual orientation, gender identity or expression” and that “these situations of

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10. The Government of Barbados is unable to join consensus on the approval of this section, given that a number of the issues and terms contained therein are neither reflected in its national laws ...



violence and discrimination are a clear violation of their human rights, as recognized by international and inter-American instruments on human rights”;

RESOLVES:

1. To condemn all forms of discrimination by reason of sexual orientation and gender identity or expression, and to urge member states within the parameters of the legal institutions of their domestic systems to eliminate, where they exist, barriers faced by lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, and intersex (LGBTI) persons in equal access to political participation and in other areas of public life, and to avoid interferences in their private life, encouraging member states to consider adopting public policies against discrimination by reason of sexual orientation and gender identity or expression.

2. To condemn acts of violence and human rights violations committed by reason of sexual orientation and gender identity or expression; and to urge states to strengthen their national institutions, including through the production of data on homophobic and transphobic violence for the promotion of public policies that protect the human rights of LGBTI persons, with a view to preventing and investigating these acts and violations and ensuring due judicial protection for victims on an equal footing and that the perpetrators are brought to justice, as well as to consider the recommendation of the Report on Violence Against LGBTI Persons, approved by the IACHR in November 2015, with the aim of adopting and implementing effective measures to combat violence and discrimination against LGBTI persons.

3. To urge member states to ensure adequate protection for human rights defenders who work in the area of violence, discrimination, and human rights violations committed against individuals on the basis of their sexual orientation and gender identity or expression.

4. To urge member states to afford appropriate protection to intersex people and to implement policies and procedures, as appropriate, to ensure medical practices that are consistent with applicable human rights standards.

5. To request the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) and the General Secretariat to continue to pay particular attention to activities related to the protection and promotion of rights of LGBTI persons, including the preparation of studies and regional or thematic reports and the generation of spaces for the exchange of good practices; and to urge member states to support the efforts of the Commission and the General Secretariat in this area.

**xx. Rights of the Child**

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the demographic characteristics of the region, in which 40% of the population is under 18 years of age, and that in subregions like Central America this population sector exceeds 55%;

RESPONDING to the priorities voiced by representatives of the states in the Directing Council of the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN) and set forth in the 2015-2019 Plan of Action;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the convergence of these priorities with those set forth in other international documents such as the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, which was adopted at the 2015 Sustainable Development Summit in the context of the 70th session of the United Nations General Assembly (resolution A/RES/70/1),

RESOLVES:

1. To assist in strengthening the promotion and protection systems to ensure the full exercise of the rights of the child in the region, promoting universal and inclusive public policies, with special attention to groups traditionally excluded and/or vulnerable groups.

2. To encourage educational and communications actions to promote a culture of rights with the firm belief that the approaches of guaranteeing and restoring the rights of the child, promotion of equality, and the gender-based approach are inseparable from the consolidation and deepening of democracies as a lifestyle respectful of the dignity of all persons over and above their differences.

**xxi. Strengthening the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) for the promotion of gender equity and equality, women's human rights, and ending discrimination and all forms of violence <sup>11</sup>**

RECOGNIZING the importance attached by the Organization of American States (OAS) to gender equality, the empowerment of women and girls, and the exercise of their human rights, and to strengthening the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM);

BEARING IN MIND the results of the XXXVII Assembly of Delegates of the CIM, held in Lima, Peru, on May 24 and 25, 2016, especially of the adoption of the "Declaration of Lima on Equality and Autonomy in the Exercise of Women's Economic Rights; the 2016-2021 Strategic Plan and the 2016-2019 Triennial Work Program of the Inter-American Commission of Women;

RESOLVES:

1. To continue to support the work of the CIM as the leading forum for generating hemispheric policies on gender equality, the empowerment of women and girls, and the exercise of their gender-related human rights, for tackling new emerging and relevant areas, and for following up on the objectives established in the IAP, especially in mainstreaming gender in all OAS activities and, as a priority matter in the ministerial meetings, the OAS General Assembly, and in following up on the mandates and initiatives of the Summits of the Americas.<sup>12</sup>

2. To request the Secretary General to ensure the building the capacities of the CIM in its capacity as a specialized organization of the OAS, providing it with sufficient human and financial resources to fulfill its mandates and implement the results of the XXXVII Assembly of Delegates of the CIM; and with working in close coordination with the Executive Secretariat of the CIM in incorporating an approach that takes account of gender-related matters and promotes the

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11. Paraguay reserves the right to decide on acceptance of internal provisions arising from the General Secretariat in the discharge of its functions that may violate the provisions of existing national legislation.

12. The Government of the Republic of Nicaragua does not agree with the references to mandates, decisions, and initiatives arising from the Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh Summits of the Americas, ...

identification of mechanisms to strengthen work done with civil society organizations and other social actors working in the areas of gender and the promotion and protection of the human rights of women and girls, in accordance with the Strategic Plan of the CIM 2016-2020.

3. To instruct the Secretary General to implement institutional policies to further gender equality and gender mainstreaming within the OAS and to report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh regular session on the progress made.<sup>13</sup>

**xxii. Strengthening the Mechanism to Follow up on Implementation of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women (MESECVI)**

RECALLING that the Convention of Belém do Para established that the States Parties condemn all forms of violence against women and the duty of the States Parties to adopt by all appropriate means and without delay policies designed to prevent, punish, and eradicate discrimination and violence against them in the public and private spheres.

BEARING IN MIND the importance of and need to strengthen the Mechanism to Follow Up on Implementation of that Convention (MESECVI), as well as the results of the Sixth Conferences of States Parties of the Convention of Belém do Pará, held in Lima, Peru, October 15 and 16, 2015, and, especially, of the adoption of the “Declaration on Political Harassment and Violence against Women” and of the publication of the Second Follow-up Report on Implementation of the Recommendations of the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI, as applicable.

RESOLVES:

1. To continue to support the work of the MESECVI as a hemispheric referent for preventing, punish, and addressing violence against women and for monitoring the full implementation of the Convention of Belém do Pará, including adjustment of their legislation and implementation, as applicable, of the recommendations of the Multilateral Evaluation Rounds conducted by the Mechanism.

2. To urge the Secretary General to provide the Executive Secretariat of the CIM with sufficient human and financial resources to enable it to optimize its operation as the Technical Secretariat of the Mechanism to Follow Up on Implementation of the Convention of Belém do Pará (MESECVI).

II. FOLLOW-UP AND REPORTING

RESOLVES:

1. To instruct the General Secretariat to submit in due course, through the areas responsible for follow-up and execution of activities connected with the purpose of this resolution, its 2016-2017 plan of activities for consultation or proper oversight by member states.

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13. The State of Guatemala reserves the right to accept provisions of an internal nature issued by the General Secretariat in the exercise of its functions.

2. To request that the Permanent Council, through the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs, include in its agenda the following matters covered by this resolution, prior to the forty-seventh regular session of the General Assembly, with a view to promoting exchange of experiences and good practices:

- “Recognition and Promotion of the Human Rights of People of African Descent in the Americas”
- “Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in Business”
- Toward Autonomous Official Public Defenders as a Safeguard for Integrity and Personal Liberty. Holding of a fifth special meeting in the OAS Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs on methods being implemented by each public defense institution in the region for the prevention of torture and other cruel and degrading treatment and punishment, in the first quarter of 2017, with the presence of member states and their respective official public defender institutions for legal aid, members of AIDDEF, experts from academia and the civil society, as well as international organizations. The AIDDEF guarantees the attendance of its members.
- “Protecting Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms While Countering Terrorism.” Discussion of possible alternatives for compiling and more widely disseminated the international standards on the promotion and protection of human rights while countering terrorism.
- “Persons Who Have Disappeared and Members of Their Families”
- “Gender Equity and Geographic and Legal Systems Representation in the Composition of the Inter-American Court and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights”
- Protection of the human rights of older persons

3. To request the Executive Secretariat of the CIM to report periodically to the Permanent Council and its respective organs on specific and relevant aspects of the situation of women and girls in the Americas and, through the Permanent Council, to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh regular session, on the implementation of the mandates contained in this resolution.

4. To instruct the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to continue to pay special attention to the matters covered by this resolution and falling under its purview, in particular through the technical support of its thematic rapporteurships.

5. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh regular session, on the implementation of this resolution. Execution of the activities envisaged in this resolution shall be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

FOOTNOTES

1. ... Jamaican Constitution. Jamaica, however expresses its reservation regarding terminologies such as gender identity and gender expression which are not defined in Jamaican law and have not gained international acceptance.

2. ... that are contrary to the Constitution of the Republic of Honduras.

3. ... Constitution of the Republic and does not discriminate for any reason, without regard to race, creed, sex, etc. It also does not consider legal nonrecognition of marriage between persons of the same sex to be a discriminatory practice. Therefore, Guatemala takes exception to those parts that are incompatible with and contravene its applicable national law and reserves the right to interpret the terms of this resolution.

4. ... The criteria used are subjective, politicized, and discriminatory and are inconsistent with the primary function of promoting and protecting human rights assigned by the States to this organ. The delegation therefore recommends the elimination of this chapter, whose existence contravenes the provisions established in the American Convention on Human Rights.

5. ... precepts set down in Title II “Rights, Duties, and Guarantees,” Chapters III “Equality” and IV “Rights of the Family,” of its National Constitution and concordant provisions.

Therefore, it expresses its reservation regarding the text contained in paragraph xix “Human Rights, Sexual Orientation, and Gender Identity and Expression.”

In addition, the expression “gender identity” used in other parts of this resolution will be interpreted in accordance with its domestic system of laws.

6. ... preservation of the rule of law; the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms of all people as enshrined in the Constitution of Trinidad and Tobago.

7. ... Inter-American Human rights system established as “means of protection” contravene the objectives for which they were established. The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights should be re-established due to the bias, politicization and discriminatory and selective attitude they have adopted toward the progressive countries of the region. Those features have destroyed the credibility of both institutions that once stood for ethical values and commitment to protect human rights. That was what led the Venezuelan State to denounce the American Convention on Human Rights.

8. ... Inter-American Human rights system established as “means of protection” contravene the objectives for which they were established. The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights should be re-established due to the bias, politicization and discriminatory and selective attitude they have adopted toward the progressive countries of the region. Those features have destroyed the credibility of both institutions that once stood for ethical values and commitment to protect human rights. That was what led the Venezuelan State to denounce the American Convention on Human Rights.

9. ... nor the subject of national consensus. As such, Barbados would not be in a position to meet these requirements. However, the Government of Barbados remains committed to protecting the rights of all from harm and violence, in keeping with the rule of law and the provisions of its Constitution.

10. ... nor the subject of national consensus. As such, Barbados would not be in a position to meet these requirements. However, the Government of Barbados remains committed to protecting the rights of all from harm and violence, in keeping with the rule of law and the provisions of its Constitution.

12. ... because on those occasions the Heads of State and Government did not adopt the Political Declarations containing the mandates and the operative paragraphs of the thematic axes that were a part of those Political Declarations.

AG/RES. 2888 (XLVI-O/16)

AMERICAN DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

(Adopted at the third plenary session, held on June 15, 2016)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING the contents of resolution AG/RES. 2867 (XLIV-O/14), “Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,” as well as all the previous resolutions on this issue;

RECALLING also the “Declaration on the Rights of the Indigenous Peoples in the Americas,” document AG/DEC. 79 (XLIV-O/14), which reaffirms that progress in promoting and effectively protecting the rights of the indigenous peoples of the Americas is a priority for the Organization of American States;

RECOGNIZING the valuable support provided by the member states, observer states, the organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization of American States for the process within the Working Group to Prepare the Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

RECOGNIZING as well the important participation of indigenous peoples of the Americas in the process of preparing this Declaration; and

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the significant contribution that the indigenous peoples of the Americas have made to humanity,

RESOLVES:

To adopt the following Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples<sup>1, 2/</sup>

- 
1. The United States remains committed to addressing the urgent issues of concern to indigenous peoples across the Americas, including combating societal discrimination against indigenous peoples and...
  2. Canada reiterates its commitment to a renewed relationship with its Indigenous peoples, based on recognition of rights, respect, co-operation and partnership. Canada is now fully engaged, ...





AMERICAN DECLARATION  
ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

**PREAMBLE**

The member states of the Organization of American States (hereinafter the states),

RECOGNIZING:

That the rights of indigenous peoples are both essential and of historic significance to the present and future of the Americas;

The important presence in the Americas of indigenous peoples and their immense contribution to development, plurality, and cultural diversity and reiterating our commitment to their economic and social well-being, as well as the obligation to respect their rights and cultural identity; and

That the existence of indigenous cultures and peoples of the Americas is important to humanity; and

REAFFIRMING that indigenous peoples are original, diverse societies with their own identities that form an integral part of the Americas;

CONCERNED that indigenous peoples have suffered from historic injustices as a result of, inter alia, their colonization and dispossession of their lands, territories and resources, thus preventing them from exercising, in particular, their right to development in accordance with their own needs and interests;

RECOGNIZING the urgent need to respect and promote the inherent rights of indigenous peoples which derive from their political, economic and social structures and from their cultures, spiritual traditions, histories and philosophies, especially their rights to their lands, territories and resources;

RECOGNIZING FURTHER that respect for indigenous knowledge, cultures and traditional practices contributes to sustainable and equitable development and proper management of the environment;

BEARING IN MIND the progress achieved at the international level in recognizing the rights of indigenous peoples, especially the 169 ILO Convention and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

BEARING IN MIND ALSO the progress made in nations of the Americas, at the constitutional, legislative, and jurisprudential levels to safeguard, promote, and protect the rights of indigenous peoples, as well as the political will of states to continue their progress toward recognition of the rights of indigenous peoples in the Americas;

RECALLING the commitments undertaken by the Member States to guarantee, promote, and protect the rights and institutions of indigenous peoples, including those undertaken at the Third and Fourth Summits of the Americas;

RECALLING AS WELL the universality, inseparability, and interdependence of human rights recognized under international law;

CONVINCED that recognition of the rights of indigenous peoples in this Declaration will foster among states and indigenous peoples harmonious and cooperative relations based on the principles of justice, democracy, respect for human rights, nondiscrimination, and good faith;

CONSIDERING the importance of eliminating all forms of discrimination that may affect indigenous peoples, and taking into account the responsibility of states to combat them;

ENCOURAGING States to respect and comply with and effectively implement all their obligations as they apply to indigenous peoples under international instruments, in particular those related to human rights, in consultation and cooperation with the peoples concerned;

DECLARE:

### **SECTION ONE: Indigenous Peoples. Scope of Application**

#### **Article I.**

1. The American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples applies to the indigenous peoples of the Americas.

2. Self-identification as indigenous peoples will be a fundamental criteria for determining to whom this Declaration applies. The states shall respect the right to such self-identification as indigenous, individually or collectively, in keeping with the practices and institutions of each indigenous people.

#### **Article II.**

The states recognize and respect the multicultural and multilingual character of the indigenous peoples, who are an integral part of their societies.

#### **Article III.**

Indigenous peoples have the right to self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.

#### **Article IV.**

Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as implying for any State, people, group or person any right to engage in any activity or to perform any act contrary to the Charter of the Organization of American States and the Charter of the United Nations or construed as authorizing or

encouraging any action which would dismember or impair, totally or in part, the territorial integrity or political unity of sovereign and independent States.

## **SECTION TWO: Human Rights and Collective Rights**

### **Article V. Full effect and observance of human rights**

Indigenous peoples and persons have the right to the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, as recognized in the Charter of the United Nations, the Charter of the Organization of American States and international human rights law.

### **Article VI. Collective rights**

Indigenous peoples have collective rights that are indispensable for their existence, well-being, and integral development as peoples. In this regard, the states recognize and respect, the right of the indigenous peoples to their collective action; to their juridical, social, political, and economic systems or institutions; to their own cultures; to profess and practice their spiritual beliefs; to use their own tongues and languages; and to their lands, territories and resources. States shall promote with the full and effective participation of the indigenous peoples the harmonious coexistence of rights and systems of the different population, groups, and cultures.

### **Article VII. Gender equality**

1. Indigenous women have the right to the recognition, protection, and enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms provided for in international law, free of all forms of discrimination.

2. States recognize that violence against indigenous peoples and persons, particularly women, hinders or nullifies the enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

3. States shall adopt the necessary measures, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, to prevent and eradicate all forms of violence and discrimination, particularly against indigenous women and children.

### **Article VIII. Right to belong to the indigenous peoples**

Indigenous persons and communities have the right to belong to one or more indigenous peoples, in accordance with the identity, traditions, customs, and systems of belonging of each people. No discrimination of any kind may arise from the exercise of such a right.

### **Article IX. Juridical personality**

The states shall recognize fully the juridical personality of the indigenous peoples, respecting indigenous forms of organization and promoting the full exercise of the rights recognized in this Declaration.

**Article X.**     Rejection of assimilation

1.     Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain, express, and freely develop their cultural identity in all respects, free from any external attempt at assimilation.

2.     The States shall not carry out, adopt, support, or favor any policy to assimilate the indigenous peoples or to destroy their cultures.

**Article XI.**     Protection against genocide

Indigenous peoples have the right to not be subjected to any form of genocide or attempts to exterminate them.

**Article XII.**     Guarantees against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and other related forms of intolerance

Indigenous peoples have the right not to be subject to racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and other related forms of intolerance. The states shall adopt the preventive and corrective measures necessary for the full and effective protection of this right.

**SECTION THREE: Cultural identity**

**Article XIII.**     Right to cultural identity and integrity

1.     Indigenous peoples have the right to their own cultural identity and integrity and to their cultural heritage, both tangible and intangible, including historic and ancestral heritage; and to the protection, preservation, maintenance, and development of that cultural heritage for their collective continuity and that of their members and so as to transmit that heritage to future generations.

2.     States shall provide redress through effective mechanisms, which may include restitution, developed in conjunction with indigenous peoples, with respect to their cultural, intellectual, religious and spiritual property taken without their free, prior and informed consent or in violation of their laws, traditions and customs.

3.     Indigenous people have the right to the recognition and respect for all their ways of life, world views, spirituality, uses and customs, norms and traditions, forms of social, economic and political organization, forms of transmission of knowledge, institutions, practices, beliefs, values, dress and languages, recognizing their inter-relationship as elaborated in this Declaration.

**Article XIV.**     Systems of Knowledge, Language and Communication

1.     Indigenous peoples have the right to preserve, use, develop, revitalize, and transmit to future generations their own histories, languages, oral traditions, philosophies, systems of knowledge, writing, and literature; and to designate and maintain their own names for their communities, individuals, and places.

2. The states shall adopt adequate and effective measures to protect the exercise of this right with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples.

3. Indigenous peoples have the right to promote and develop all their systems and media of communication, including their own radio and television programs, and to have equal access to all other means of communication and information. The states shall take measures to promote the broadcast of radio and television programs in indigenous languages, particularly in areas with an indigenous presence. The states shall support and facilitate the creation of indigenous radio and television stations, as well as other means of information and communication.

4. The states, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, shall make efforts to ensure that those peoples can understand and be understood in their languages in administrative, political, and judicial proceedings, where necessary through the provision of interpretation or by other effective means.

**Article XV. Education**

1. Indigenous peoples and individuals, particularly indigenous children, have the right to all levels and forms of education, without discrimination.

2. States and indigenous peoples, in keeping with the principle of equality of opportunity, shall promote the reduction of disparities in education between indigenous and non-indigenous peoples.

3. Indigenous peoples have the right to establish and control their educational systems and institutions, providing education in their own languages, in a manner appropriate to their cultural methods of teaching and learning.

4. In conjunction with indigenous peoples, the states shall take effective measures to ensure that indigenous persons living outside their communities, particularly children, may have access to education in their own languages and cultures.

5. States shall promote harmonious intercultural relations, ensuring that the curricula of state educational systems reflect the pluricultural and multilingual nature of their societies and encourage respect for and knowledge of the different indigenous cultures. States shall, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, promote intercultural education that reflects the worldview, histories, languages, knowledge, values, cultures, practices, and ways of life of those peoples.

6. States, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, shall adopt necessary and effective measures to ensure the exercise and observance of these rights.

**Article XVI. Indigenous spirituality**

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to freely exercise their own spirituality and beliefs and, by virtue of that right, to practice, develop, transmit, and teach their traditions, customs, and ceremonies, and to carry them out in public and in private, individually and collectively.

2. No indigenous people or person shall be subject to pressures or impositions, or any other type of coercive measures that impair or limit their right to freely exercise their indigenous spirituality and beliefs.

3. Indigenous Peoples have the right to preserve, protect, and access their sacred sites, including their burial grounds; to use and control their sacred objects relics, and to recover their human remains.

4. States, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, shall adopt effective measures, to promote respect for indigenous spirituality and beliefs, and to protect the integrity of the symbols, practices, ceremonies, expressions, and spiritual protocols of indigenous peoples, in accordance with international law.

#### **Article XVII. Indigenous family**

1. The family is a natural and fundamental group unit of society. Indigenous peoples have the right to preserve, maintain, and promote their own family systems. States shall recognize, respect, and protect the various indigenous forms of family, in particular the extended family, as well as the forms of matrimonial union, filiations, descent, and family name. In all cases, gender and generational equity shall be recognized and respected.

2. In matters relating to custody, adoption, severance of family ties, and related matters, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration. In determining the best interests of the child, courts and other relevant institutions shall take into account the right of every indigenous child, in community with member of his or her people, to enjoy his or her own culture, to profess and practice his or her own religion or to use his or her own language and in that regard shall look to the indigenous law of the peoples concerned and shall consider their points of view, rights and interest, including the positions of individuals, the family, and the community.

#### **Article XVIII. Health**

1. Indigenous peoples have the collective and individual right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical, mental, and spiritual health.

2. Indigenous peoples have the right to their own health systems and practices, as well as to the use and protection of the plants, animals, minerals of vital interests, and other natural resources for medicinal use in their ancestral lands and territories.

3. States shall take measures to prevent and prohibit indigenous peoples and individuals from being subject to research programs, biological or medical experimentation, as well as sterilization without their prior, free, and informed consent. Likewise, indigenous peoples and persons have the right, as appropriate, to access to their data, medical records, and documentation of research conducted by individuals and public and private institutions.

4. Indigenous peoples have the right to use, without any discrimination whatsoever, all the health and medical care institutions and services accessible to the general population. States, in consultation and coordination with indigenous peoples, shall promote intercultural systems or

practices in the medical and health services provided in indigenous communities, including training of indigenous technical and professional health care personnel.

5. States shall guarantee the effective exercise of the rights contained in this article.

**Article XIX. Right to protection of a healthy environment**

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to live in harmony with nature and to a healthy, safe, and sustainable environment, essential conditions for the full enjoyment of the right to life, to their spirituality, worldview and to collective well-being.

2. Indigenous peoples have the right to conserve, restore, and protect the environment and to manage their lands, territories and resources in a sustainable way.

3. Indigenous peoples are entitled to be protected against the introduction of, abandonment, dispersion, transit, indiscriminate use or deposit of any harmful substance that could negatively affect indigenous communities, lands, territories and resources.

4. Indigenous peoples have the right to the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands or territories and resources. States shall establish and implement assistance programmes for indigenous peoples for such conservation and protection, without discrimination.

**SECTION FOUR: Organizational and Political Rights**

**Article XX. Rights of association, assembly, and freedom of expression and thought**

1. Indigenous peoples have the rights of association, assembly, organization and expression, and to exercise them without interference and in accordance with their worldview, *inter alia*, values, usages, customs, ancestral traditions, beliefs, spirituality, and other cultural practices.

2. Indigenous peoples have the right to assemble on their sacred and ceremonial sites and areas. For this purpose they shall have free access and use to these sites and areas.

3. Indigenous peoples, in particular those who are divided by international borders, shall have the right to travel and to maintain and develop contacts, relations, and direct cooperation, including activities for spiritual, cultural, political, economic, and social purposes, with their members and other peoples.

4. These states shall adopt, in consultation and cooperation with the indigenous peoples, effective measures to ensure the exercise and application of these rights.

**Article XXI. Right to autonomy or self-government**

1. Indigenous peoples, in exercising their right to self-determination, have the right to autonomy or self-government in matters relating to their internal and local affairs, as well as ways and means for financing their autonomous functions.

2. Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and develop their own decision-making institutions. They also have the right to participate in the decision making in matters which would affect their rights. They may do so directly or through their representatives, and accordance with their own norms, procedures, and traditions. They also have the right to equal opportunities to access and to participate fully and effectively as peoples in all national institutions and fora, including deliberative bodies.

**Article XXII. Indigenous law and jurisdiction**

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to promote, develop and maintain their institutional structures and their distinctive customs, spirituality, traditions, procedures, practices and, in the cases where they exist, juridical systems or customs, in accordance with international human rights standards.

2. The indigenous law and legal systems shall be recognized and respected by the national, regional and international-legal systems.

3. The matters referring to indigenous persons or to their rights or interests in the jurisdiction of each state shall be conducted so as to provide for the right of the indigenous people to full representation with dignity and equality before the law. Consequently, they are entitled, without discrimination, to equal protection and benefit of the law, including the use of linguistic and cultural interpreters.

4. The States shall take effective measures in conjunction with indigenous peoples to ensure the implementation of this article.

**Article XXIII. Contributions of the indigenous legal and organizational systems**

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to full and effective participation in decision-making, through representatives chosen by themselves in accordance with their own institutions, in matters which affect their rights, and which are related to the development and execution of laws, public policies, programs, plans, and actions related to indigenous matters.

2. States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them.<sup>1/</sup>

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1. The State of Colombia breaks with consensus as regards Article XXIII, paragraph 2, of the OAS Declaration on Indigenous Peoples, which deals with consultations for obtaining indigenous ...



**Article XXIV. Treaties, agreements, and other constructive arrangements**

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to the recognition, observance, and enforcement of the treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements concluded with states and their successors, in accordance with their true spirit and intent in good faith and to have the same be respected and honored by the States. States shall give due consideration to the understanding of the indigenous peoples as regards to treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements.

2. When disputes cannot be resolved between the parties in relation to such treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements, these shall be submitted to competent bodies, including regional and international bodies, by the States or indigenous peoples concerned.

3. Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as diminishing or eliminating the rights of indigenous peoples contained in treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements.

**SECTION FIVE: Social, Economic, and Property Rights**

**Article XXV. Traditional forms of property and cultural survival. Right to land, territory, and resources**

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinctive spiritual, cultural, and material relationship to their lands, territories, and resources and to assume their responsibilities to preserve them for themselves and for future generations.

2. Indigenous peoples have the right to the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired.

3. Indigenous peoples have the right to own, use, develop and control the lands, territories and resources that they possess by reason of traditional ownership or other traditional occupation or use, as well as those which they have otherwise acquired.

4. States shall give legal recognition and protection to these lands, territories and resources. Such recognition shall be conducted with due respect to the customs, traditions and land tenure systems of the indigenous peoples concerned.

5. Indigenous peoples have the right to legal recognition of the various and particular modalities and forms of property, possession and ownership of their lands, territories, and resources in accordance with the legal system of each State and the relevant international instruments. The states shall establish the special regimes appropriate for such recognition, and for their effective demarcation or titling.

**Article XXVI. Indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation or initial contact**

1. Indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation or initial contact have the right to remain in that condition and to live freely and in accordance with their cultures.

2. The states shall adopt adequate policies and measures with the knowledge and participation of indigenous peoples and organizations to recognize, respect, and protect the lands, territories, environment, and cultures of these peoples as well as their life, and individual and collective integrity.

**Article XXVII. Labor Rights**

1. Indigenous peoples and persons have the rights and guarantees recognized in national and international labor law. States shall take all special measures to prevent, punish and remedy the discrimination to which indigenous peoples and persons are subjected.

2. States, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, shall adopt immediate and effective measures to eliminate exploitative labor practices with regard to indigenous peoples, in particular, indigenous children, women and elders.

3. In case indigenous peoples are not effectively protected by the laws applicable to workers in general, states, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, shall take all measures that may be necessary in order to:

- a. protect indigenous workers and employees in relation to contracting under fair and equal conditions in both formal and informal employment;
- b. establish, apply, or improve labor inspection and the enforcement of rules with particular attention to, *inter alia*, regions, companies, and labor activities in which indigenous workers or employees participate;
- c. establish, apply or enforce laws so that both female and male indigenous workers:
  - i. enjoy equal opportunities and treatment in all terms, conditions, and benefits of employment, including training and capacity-building, under national and international law;
  - ii. enjoy the right of association, the right to form trade unions, and join trade union activities, and the right to bargain collectively with employers through representatives of their own choosing or workers' organizations, including traditional authorities;
  - iii. are not subject to discrimination or harassment on the basis of, *inter alia*, race, sex, indigenous origin or identity;
  - iv. are not subject to coercive hiring systems, including debt servitude or any other form of forced or compulsory labor regardless of whether the labor arrangement arises from law, custom, or an individual or collective arrangement, in which case the labor arrangement shall be deemed absolutely null and void;
  - v. are not forced to work in conditions that endanger their health and personal safety; and are protected from work that does not comport with occupational health and safety standards; and

- vi. receive full and effective legal protection, without discrimination, when they provide their services as seasonal, occasional, or migrant workers, as well as when they are contracted by employers such that they receive the benefits of the national legislation and practices, which shall be in accordance with the international human rights laws and standards for this category of workers;
  - d. ensure that the indigenous workers and their employers are informed of the rights of indigenous workers under national law and international and indigenous standards, and of the remedies and actions available to them to protect those rights.
4. States shall take measures to promote employment of indigenous individuals.

**Article XXVIII. Protection of Cultural Heritage and Intellectual Property**

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to the full recognition and respect for their property, ownership, possession, control, development, and protection of their tangible and intangible cultural heritage and intellectual property, including its collective nature, transmitted through millennia, from generation to generation.

2. The collective intellectual property of indigenous peoples includes, *inter alia*, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions including traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, ancestral designs and procedures, cultural, artistic, spiritual, technological, and scientific, expressions, tangible and intangible cultural heritage, as well as the knowledge and developments of their own related to biodiversity and the utility and qualities of seeds and medicinal plants, flora and fauna.

3. States, with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples, shall adopt measures necessary to ensure that national and international agreements and regimes provide recognition and adequate protection for the cultural heritage of indigenous peoples and intellectual property associated with that heritage. In adopting these measures, consultations shall be effective intended to obtain the free, prior, and informed consent of indigenous peoples.

**Article XXIX. Right to development**

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and determine their own priorities with respect to their political, economic, social, and cultural development in conformity with their own world view. They also have the right to be guaranteed the enjoyment of their own means of subsistence and development, and to engage freely in all their economic activities

2. This right includes the development of policies, plans, programs, and strategies in the exercise of their right to development and to implement them in accordance with their political and social organization, norms and procedures, their own world views and institutions.

3. Indigenous peoples have the right to be actively involved in developing and determining development programmes affecting them and, as far as possible, to administer such programmes through their own institutions.

4. States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free and informed consent prior to the approval of any project affecting their lands or territories and other resources, particularly in connection with the development, utilization or exploitation of mineral, water or other resources.<sup>2/</sup>

5. Indigenous peoples have the right to effective measures to mitigate adverse ecological, economic, social, cultural, or spiritual impacts for the implementation of development projects that affect their rights. Indigenous peoples who have been deprived of their own means of subsistence and development have the right to restitution and, where this is not possible, to fair and equitable compensation. This includes the right to compensation for any damage caused to them by the implementation of state, international financial institutions or private business plans, programs, or projects.

**Article XXX. Right to peace, security, and protection**

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to peace and security.
2. Indigenous peoples have the right to recognition and respect for their institutions for the maintenance of their organization and control of its communities and peoples.
3. Indigenous peoples have the right to protection and security in situations or periods of internal or international armed conflict pursuant to international humanitarian law.
4. States, in compliance with international agreements to which they are party, in particular international humanitarian law and international human rights law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 relative to the protection of civilian persons in time of war, and Protocol II of 1977 relating to the protection of victims of non-international armed conflicts, in the event of armed conflicts shall take adequate measures to protect the human rights, institutions, lands, territories, and resources of the indigenous peoples and their communities. Likewise, States:
  - b. Shall not recruit indigenous children and adolescents into the armed forces under any circumstances;
  - c. Shall take measures of effective reparation and provide adequate resources for the same, in jointly with the indigenous peoples affected, for the damages incurred caused by an armed conflict.
  - d. Shall take special and effective measures in collaboration with indigenous peoples to guarantee that indigenous women, children live free from all

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2. The State of Colombia breaks with consensus as regards Article XXIX, paragraph 4, of the OAS Declaration on Indigenous Peoples, which deals with consultations for obtaining indigenous...

forms of violence, especially sexual violence, and shall guarantee the right to access to justice, protection, and effective reparation for damages incurred to the victims.

6. Military activities shall not take place in the lands or territories of indigenous peoples, unless justified by a relevant public interest or otherwise freely agreed with or requested by the indigenous peoples concerned.<sup>3/</sup>

## **SECTION SIX: General Provisions**

### **Article XXXI**

1. The states shall ensure the full enjoyment of the civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights of indigenous peoples, as well as their right to maintain their cultural identity, spiritual and religious traditions, worldview, values and the protection of their religious and cultural sites, and human rights contained in this Declaration.

2. The states shall promote, with the full and effective participation of the indigenous peoples, the adoption of the legislative and other measures that may be necessary to give effect to the rights included in this Declaration.

### **Article XXXII**

All the rights and freedoms recognized in the present Declaration are guaranteed equally to indigenous women and men.

### **Article XXXIII**

Indigenous peoples and persons have the right to effective and appropriate remedies, including prompt judicial remedies, for the reparation of all violations of their collective and individual rights. The states, with full and effective participation of indigenous peoples, shall provide the necessary mechanisms for the exercise of this right.

### **Article XXXIV**

In case of conflicts and disputes with indigenous peoples, states shall provide, with the full and effective participation of those peoples, just, equitable and effective mechanisms and procedures for their prompt resolution. For this purpose, due consideration and recognition shall be given to the customs, traditions, norms or legal systems of the indigenous peoples concerned.

### **Article XXXV**

Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted so as to limit, restrict, or deny human rights in any way, or so as to authorize any action that is not in keeping with international human rights law.

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3. The State of Colombia breaks with consensus as regards Article XXX, paragraph 5, of the OAS Declaration on Indigenous Peoples, since according to the mandate contained in the ....

**Article XXXVI**

In the exercise of the rights enunciated in the present Declaration, human rights and fundamental freedoms of all shall be respected. The exercise of the rights set forth in this Declaration shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law and in accordance with international human rights obligations. Any such limitations shall be non-discriminatory and strictly necessary solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and for meeting the just and most compelling requirements of a democratic society.

The provisions set forth in this Declaration shall be interpreted in accordance with the principles of justice, democracy, respect for human rights, equality, non-discrimination, good governance, and good faith.

**Article XXXVII**

Indigenous peoples have the right to have access to financial and technical assistance from States and through international cooperation, for the enjoyment of the rights contained in this Declaration.

**Article XXXVIII**

The Organization of American States, its organs, agencies, and entities, shall take all necessary measures to promote the full respect, protection, and application of the rights of indigenous peoples contained in this Declaration and shall endeavor to ensure their efficacy.

**Article XXXIX**

The nature and scope of the measures that shall be taken to implement this Declaration shall be determined in accordance with the spirit and purpose of said Declaration.

**Article XL**

Nothing in this declaration shall be construed as diminishing or extinguishing rights that indigenous peoples now have or may acquire in the future.

**Article XLI**

The rights recognized in this Declaration and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples constitute the minimum standards for the survival, dignity, and well-being of the indigenous peoples of the Americas.

## FOOTNOTES

1. ...individuals, increasing indigenous participation in national political processes, addressing lack of infrastructure and poor living conditions in indigenous areas, combating violence against indigenous women and girls, promoting the repatriation of ancestral remains and ceremonial objects, and collaborating on issues of land rights and self-governance, among many other issues. The multitude of ongoing initiatives with respect to these topics provide avenues for addressing some of the consequences of past actions. The United States has, however, persistently objected to the text of this American Declaration, which is not itself legally binding and therefore does not create new law, and is not a statement of Organization of American States (OAS) Member States' obligations under treaty or customary international law.

The United States reiterates its longstanding belief that implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples ("UN Declaration") should remain the focus of the OAS and its Member States. OAS Member States joined other UN Member States in renewing their political commitments with respect to the UN Declaration at the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples in September 2014. The important and challenging initiatives underway at the global level to realize the respective commitments in the UN Declaration and the outcome document of the World Conference are appropriately the focus of the attention and resources of States, indigenous peoples, civil society, and international organizations, including in the Americas. In this regard, the United States intends to continue its diligent and proactive efforts, which it has undertaken in close collaboration with indigenous peoples in the United States and many of its fellow OAS Member States, to promote achievement of the ends of the UN Declaration, and to promote fulfillment of the commitments in the World Conference outcome document. Of final note, the United States reiterates its solidarity with the concerns expressed by indigenous peoples concerning their lack of full and effective participation in these negotiations.

2. ...in full partnership with Indigenous peoples in Canada, to move forward with the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in accordance with Canada's Constitution. As Canada has not participated substantively in recent years in negotiations on the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, it is not able at this time to take a position on the proposed text of this Declaration. Canada is committed to continue working with our partners in the OAS on advancing Indigenous issues across the Americas.

3. ...communities' prior, free, and informed consent before adopting and enforcing legislative or administrative measures that could affect them, in order to secure their free, prior, and informed consent.

This is because Colombian law defines such communities' right of prior consultation in accordance with ILO Convention No. 169. Thus, the Colombian Constitutional Court has ruled that the consultation process must be pursued "with the aim of reaching an agreement or securing the consent of the indigenous communities regarding the proposed legislative measures." It must be noted that this does not translate into the ethnic communities having the power of veto over measures affecting them directly whereby such measures cannot proceed without their consent; instead, it means that following a disagreement "formulas for consensus-building or agreement with the community" must be presented.

Moreover, the Committee of Experts of the International Labour Organization (ILO) has established that prior consultation does not imply the right to veto state decisions, but is rather a suitable mechanism for indigenous and tribal peoples to enjoy the right of expression and of influencing the decision-making process.

Accordingly, and in the understanding that this Declaration's approach to prior consent is different and could amount to a possible veto, in the absence of an agreement, which could bring processes of general interest to a halt, the contents of this article are unacceptable to Colombia.

4. ...communities' prior, free, and informed consent before approving projects that could affect their lands or territories and other resources.

This is because although the Colombian State has included in its legal order a wide range of rights intended to recognize, guarantee, and uphold the constitutional rights and principles of pluralism and ethnic and cultural diversity in the nation within the framework of the Constitution, the recognition of the collective rights of indigenous peoples is regulated by legal and administrative provisions, in line with the objectives of the State and with principles such as the social and ecological function of property and the state ownership of the subsoil and nonrenewable natural resources.

Accordingly, in those territories indigenous peoples exercise their own political, social, and judicial organization. By constitutional mandate, their authorities are recognized as public state authorities with special status and, as regards judicial matters, recognition is given to the special indigenous jurisdiction, which represents notable progress compared to other countries of the region.

In the international context, Colombia has been a leader in enforcing the rules governing prior consultation set out in Convention No. 169 of the International Labour Organization (ILO), to which our State is a party.

In the understanding that this Declaration's approach to prior consent is different and could amount to a possible veto on the exploitation of natural resources found in indigenous territories, in the absence of an agreement, which could bring processes of general interest to a halt, the contents of this article are unacceptable to Colombia.

In addition, it is important to note that the constitutions of many states, including Colombia, stipulate that the subsoil and nonrenewable natural resources are the property of the State to preserve and ensure their public usefulness to the benefit of the entire nation. For that reason, the provisions contained in this article are contrary to the domestic legal order of Colombia, based on the national interest.

5. ...Constitution of Colombia, the security forces are obliged to be present in any part of the nation's territory to provide and uphold protection and respect for all inhabitants' lives, honor, and property, both individually and collectively. The protection of the rights and integrity of indigenous communities depends largely on the security of their territories.

Thus, in Colombia the security forces have been given instructions to observe the obligation of protecting indigenous peoples. Accordingly, the provision of the OAS Declaration on Indigenous



Peoples under examination would be in breach of the principle of need and effectiveness of the security forces, hindering the performance of their institutional mission, which renders it unacceptable to Colombia.



ANNEX I

NOTES OF INTERPRETATION FROM THE DELEGATION OF COLOMBIA

INTERPRETATIVE NOTE No. 1  
OF THE STATE OF COLOMBIA WITH RESPECT TO ARTICLE VIII OF THE OAS  
DECLARATION ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES:

As regards Article VIII, on the right to belong to indigenous peoples, Colombia expressly declares that the right to belong to one or more indigenous peoples is to be governed by the autonomy of each indigenous people.

This is pursuant to Article 8.2 of ILO Convention 169: “These peoples shall have the right to retain their own customs and institutions, where these are not incompatible with fundamental rights defined by the national legal system and with internationally recognized human rights. Procedures shall be established, whenever necessary, to resolve conflicts which may arise in the application of this principle.”

It is important to specify that when a person shares different indigenous origins—in other words, when his or her mother belongs to one ethnic group and his or her father belongs to another (to give just one example)—his or her belonging to one or another of those indigenous peoples may only be defined according to the traditions involved. In other words, to determine an individual’s belonging to a given indigenous people, the cultural patterns that determine family ties, authority, and ethnic attachment must be examined on a case-by-case basis.

A case of contact between two matrilineal traditions is not the same as a contact between a matrilineal tradition and a patrilineal one. Similarly, the jurisdiction within which the individual lives, the obligations arising from the regime of rights contained in that jurisdiction, and the socio-geographical context in which he or she specifically carries out his or her everyday cultural and political activities must be established.

The paragraph to which this note refers is transcribed below:

ARTICLE VIII  
RIGHT TO BELONG TO THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

“Indigenous persons and communities have the right to belong to one or more indigenous peoples, in accordance with the identity, traditions, customs, and systems of belonging of each people. No discrimination of any kind may arise from the exercise of such a right.”

INTERPRETATIVE NOTE No. 2  
OF THE STATE OF COLOMBIA WITH RESPECT TO ARTICLE XIII, PARAGRAPH 2,  
ARTICLE XVI, PARAGRAPH 3, ARTICLE XX, PARAGRAPH 2, AND ARTICLE XXXI,  
PARAGRAPH 1, OF THE OAS DECLARATION ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES.

As regards the idea of sacred sites and objects referred to in Article XIII, paragraph 2, Article XVI, paragraph 3, Article XX, paragraph 2, and Article XXXI, paragraph 1, of the OAS Declaration on Indigenous Peoples, the Colombian State expressly declares that the determination and regulation of indigenous peoples' sacred sites and objects is to be governed by the developments attained at the national level. This is because there is no internationally accepted definition and since neither Convention 169 of the International Labour Organization (ILO) nor the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples make reference to or define those terms.

On this matter, Colombia has been making progress with the regulation of that issue, and that progress has involved and will continue to involve the participation of the indigenous peoples and it will continue to advance toward that goal in accordance with the Colombian legal order and, when appropriate, with the applicable international instruments.

The paragraphs to which this note refers are transcribed below:

ARTICLE XIII  
RIGHT TO CULTURAL IDENTITY AND INTEGRITY

2. "States shall provide redress through effective mechanisms, which may include restitution, developed in conjunction with indigenous peoples, with respect to their cultural, intellectual, religious and spiritual property taken without their free, prior and informed consent or in violation of their laws, traditions and customs."

ARTICLE XVI  
INDIGENOUS SPIRITUALITY

3. "Indigenous Peoples have the right to preserve, protect, and access their sacred sites, including their burial grounds; to use and control their sacred objects relics, and to recover their human remains." (Approved on April 24, 2015 – Seventeenth Meeting of Negotiations in the Quest for Points of Consensus.)

ARTICLE XX  
RIGHTS OF ASSOCIATION, ASSEMBLY, AND FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND  
THOUGHT

2. "Indigenous peoples have the right to assemble on their sacred and ceremonial sites and areas. For this purpose they shall have free access and use to these sites and areas." (Approved on January 18, 2011 – Thirteenth Meeting of Negotiations in the Quest for Points of Consensus.)

#### ARTICLE XXXI

1. “The states shall ensure the full enjoyment of the civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights of indigenous peoples, as well as their right to maintain their cultural identity, spiritual and religious traditions, worldview, values and the protection of their religious and cultural sites, and human rights contained in this Declaration.”

#### INTERPRETATIVE NOTE No. 3

OF THE STATE OF COLOMBIA WITH RESPECT TO ARTICLE XIII, PARAGRAPH 2, OF THE OAS DECLARATION ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES:

The State of Colombia expressly declares that of indigenous peoples’ right to promote and develop all their communication systems and media is subject to the requirements and procedures established in the current domestic regulations.

The paragraph to which this note refers is transcribed below:

#### ARTICLE XIV

SYSTEMS OF KNOWLEDGE, LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION

3. “Indigenous peoples have the right to promote and develop all their systems and media of communication, including their own radio and television programs, and to have equal access to all other means of communication and information. The states shall take measures to promote the broadcast of radio and television programs in indigenous languages, particularly in areas with an indigenous presence. The states shall support and facilitate the creation of indigenous radio and television stations, as well as other means of information and communication.”

AG/RES. 2889 (XLVI-O/16)

PROGRESS TOWARD ACCOUNTABILITY, EFFICIENCY  
AND EFFECTIVENESS, AND RESULTS IN THE OAS GENERAL SECRETARIAT

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 14, 2016)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING that through resolutions AG/RES. 2353 (XXXVII-O/07), AG/RES. 2437 (XXXVIII-O/08), AG/RES. 1 (XXXVI-E/08), AG/RES. 1 (XXXVIII-E/09), AG/RES. 1 (XL-E/10), AG/RES. 1 (XLII-E/11) rev. 1, AG/RES. 1 (XLIII-E/12), AG/RES. 2774 (XLIII-O/13), AG/RES. 1 (XLV-E/13), and AG/RES. 2815 (XLIV-O/14), has requested the General Secretariat to pursue efforts, for the purpose of improving the transparency and efficiency of the General Secretariat's operations, to establish appropriate planning, control, and evaluation systems that will enable the member states to follow up on budget programming and fiscal supervision;

BEARING IN MIND that at its forty-fourth regular session held in Asunción, Paraguay, by resolution AG/RES. 2814 (XLIV-O/14) it adopted the following strategic vision statement of the Organization:

“The Organization of American States is the hemispheric political forum inclusive of all the countries of the Americas, committed to the strengthening of democracy, the promotion and protection of human rights, the advancement of integral development and the fostering of multidimensional security, all equal and interdependent, with justice and social inclusion, for the benefit of the peoples of the Americas”;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that, by resolution AG/RES. 1 (XLVII-E/14) rev. 1, entitled “Guidelines and Objectives of the Strategic Vision of the Organization of American States,” it adopted the strategic objectives for institutional strengthening, for administrative management, and for each of the pillars established in the vision statement of the Organization;

CONSIDERING that through resolution CP/RES. 1061 (2063/16) entitled “Conclusion of The Mandate Prioritization Process and Preparation of the Organization's Four-Year Strategic Plan”, the Permanent Council concluded the technical-methodological process of the Working Group on the Strategic Vision of the OAS; aligned the mandates referred with the Guidelines and Strategic Objectives established in resolution AG/RES. 1 (XLVII-E/14) rev. 1; and referred these elements to the General Secretariat so that, within the scope of its competence, it may include them as inputs for the four-year work plans for each of the four pillars and for the management and institution building;

REAFFIRMING that the General Assembly, as the supreme organ of the OAS, is responsible for determining the mandates of the Organization and for undertaking a regular review thereof under the advice of the Permanent Council;

RECOGNIZING the progress made and the pending challenges in implementing results-based budgeting and the ongoing work of the Working Group on the Implementation of the Strategic Plan for Management Modernization;

STRESSING the need to continue efforts in aligning the program-budget of the OAS with the assigned mandates;

CONSIDERING that the implementation of a biennial program-budget will permit long-range planning of the Organization's programs and, at the same time, facilitate forecasting, the apportionment of expenditures, and a results-based approach;

EMPHASIZING the importance of upholding the highest standards of transparency and quality of information provided by the General Secretariat;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

That, through resolution AG/RES. 1 (L-E/15), authorized the Permanent Council to adopt, after considering the recommendations of the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs, any necessary amendments to Chapter IX of the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat (the General Standards) *ad referendum* of the General Assembly, in order for them to take effect immediately; and

That the submission of the resource management and performance reports of the General Secretariat have been submitted quarterly in accordance with previous decisions of the General Assembly, in particular through resolution AG/RES. 2815 (XLIV-O/14);

CONSIDERING that the Inspector General has the function of verifying compliance with standards through systematic and selective examination of transactions and procedures related to the resources administered by the General Secretariat and that his investigations and audits include administrative and financial operations;

TAKING NOTE of the document "International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS)" ([CP/CAAP-3288/14](#));

CONSIDERING that on September 30, 2015, in keeping with resolution AG/RES. 2876 (XLV-O/15), the Permanent Council adopted resolution [CP/RES. 1055 \(2036/15\)](#), entitled "Structure of the General Secretariat", which established the Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity, the Secretariat for Hemispheric Affairs, and the Strategic Counsel for Organizational Development and Management for Results; renamed the Secretariat for Political Affairs as the Secretariat for Strengthening Democracy; and abolished the Secretariat for External Relations;

BEARING IN MIND that several of the mandates included in resolution AG/RES. 2815 (XLIV-O/14), have already been fulfilled; and

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that the document (CP/doc.5179/16 rev. 2), entitled "Proposal Concerning Resolutions and Mandates of the Forty-Sixth Regular Session of the General Assembly", was approved by the Permanent Council at its regular meeting held on March 30, 2016,

RESOLVES:

1. Columbus Memorial Library

To request the General Secretariat to prepare options for better leveraging existing internal and external resources through strategic alliances with other libraries and academic institutions and for applying modern information management principles to facilitate and expand access, and present a proposal to the Permanent Council through CAAP no later than February 28, 2017.

2. International Public Sector Accounting Standards

To instruct the Permanent Council, through CAAP, to identify the necessary funding for the project "Implementation of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS)" within the General Secretariat.

3. Budgetary review process

- a. To instruct the General Secretariat, in direct collaboration with the different secretariats of the Organization, to adopt a rigorous approach to developing, clearly presenting, executing, and evaluating the program-budget according to Chapters IV to VIII of the General Standards. The proposed program-budget shall include proposals' rationale as well as explanations of variances from the previous year and of human and financial resources requirements in line with expected results.
- b. To request that the General Secretariat continue holding on a regular basis informal technical meetings with the delegations on the entire budgetary process and topics under review in preparation for formal discussions in order to promote a culture of trust and transparency.
- c. To request the Permanent Council, with the assistance of CAAP, to give consideration to modifying the General Standards in order to align them with the requirements of a biennial program-budget, in keeping with the Four-year Strategic Plan of the Organization. To that end:
  - i. The overall budget level for the second year will be considered a tentative planning figure; and
  - ii. It is understood that member states' financial commitments to the Regular Fund are made on an annual basis.
- d. To instruct the General Secretariat to identify the necessary financial resources to establish a benchmarking framework that provides the basis for an audit to identify optimal staffing levels, in order transparently to assess the performance of the areas programmed based on the Organization's activities, vision, direction, and results. In parallel, the above should be



complemented by a general audit of all the Organization's functions that also examines the conversion of CPR employees into staff. To that end, independent auditors should be hired for the post audit, as should an external specialist to determine the Organization's optimal staffing levels.

4. Quota System

To instruct the Permanent Council via the CAAP to conduct a review of the current quota system as recommended in document [GT/IMG-32/16 rev. 1](#) and present the outcomes at the next regular General Assembly in 2017 for approval.

5. Effectiveness and efficiency

- a. To request the General Secretariat to report, within 30 days following the conclusion of regular sessions of the General Assembly, on the cost of the mandates contained in the approved resolutions and on their impact on the program-budget.
- b. To request the General Secretariat to realign the Organization's resources and organizational structure with the mandates.

6. Accountability and transparency

- a. The General Secretariat shall continue to publish the following updated information on the Organization's website, in accordance with the Organization's legal structure:
  - (1) Organizational structure of each organizational unit;
  - (2) Goals and objectives of the organizational units in accordance with their operational plans;
  - (3) The results of evaluations, monitoring, and audits of programs and operations;
  - (4) Staffing per organizational unit, also including the salary scale and other benefits, as well as vacant positions; and
  - (5) Results-based contracts awarded for both consultants and goods and services, pursuant to applicable regulations.

7. Semi-annual Reports on Resource Management and Performance

To request the General Secretariat to continue presenting its resource management and performance reports to the CAAP on a semi-annual basis (corresponding to the periods January – June and July – December), including an executive summary, in accordance with Annex I of resolution [AG/RES. 1 \(XLVIII-E/14\)](#) rev. 1, adopted at the forty-eighth special session of the General Assembly held on October 29, 2014.

8. External resource mobilization

To instruct the Secretary General to ensure greater efforts toward external resource mobilization for the implementation of the mandates of the General Assembly and to maintain transparency and accountability in the utilization of and reporting on those funds in the semi-annual Reports on Resource Management and Performance.

9. Foundations and other organizations created by the General Secretariat<sup>1/</sup>

To request foundations and other organizations created and subsidized by the OAS to maintain a culture and practice of austerity, effectiveness, efficiency, transparency, prudence, and accountability in the use, execution, and management of resources allocated by the Organization.

10. Gender equity and equality policies

To urge the Secretary General to continue the work of executing gender equity and equality policies in the workplace and to ensure accountability for their implementation.

11. Travel

To request the Secretary General and Assistant Secretary General to submit quarterly reports to the Permanent Council on their activities away from headquarters.

12. Cycle of the Chair of the CAAP

To instruct the Permanent Council to make the necessary amendments to its rules of procedure to be able to change the cycle of the Chair of the CAAP to align it with the Organization's fiscal and budget year, that is, from January to December, and to consider a transitional period.

13. Amendments to Chapter IX of the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States

To approve the amendments to Chapter IX (Subchapter A: The Inspector General) of the General Standards adopted by the Permanent Council, *ad referendum* of this General Assembly, through resolution [CP/RES. 1062/16 \(2069/16\)](#) on April 20, 2016.

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1. The Republic of Ecuador places on record its opposition to the financing of foundations that maintain clear links to companies that have been convicted in the justice systems of the OAS member states of acts that are clearly detrimental to the human rights of their citizens and peoples.

AG/RES. 2890 (XLVI-O/16)

FOUR-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN OF THE ORGANIZATION

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 14, 2016)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

Resolution AG/RES. 2814 (XLIV-O/14), which adopts the Strategic Vision Statement of the Organization of American States; and

Resolution AG/RES. 1 (XLVII-E/14), which adopts the Guidelines and Objectives of the Strategic Vision; and

CONSIDERING:

That the aforementioned resolution instructed the Permanent Council to establish an ad hoc working group to prepare, in conjunction with the Secretariat, the plans mentioned in said resolution, incorporating the mandate prioritization process;

That, since 2012, the Organization has been engaged in a process of purging, classification, and prioritization of its mandates;

That, through document ([CP/doc.5108/15](#)), the Permanent Council adopted the Methodology for Prioritization of the Organization's mandates;

That, through resolution [CP/RES. 1061/16 \(2063/16\)](#), the Permanent Council concluded the technical-methodological process of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Strategic Vision of the OAS, including 80 mandates arising from the application of the first criterion of the Methodology for the Prioritization of Mandates;

That, in order fully to comply with resolution [AG/RES. 1 \(XLVII-E/14\) rev. 1](#) with respect to the preparation of a comprehensive strategic plan of the OAS, the Permanent Council, through resolution [CP/RES. 1061/16 \(2063/16\)](#), decided to refer all the elements reflected in the document ([GT/VE 22/16](#)), including the mandate prioritization, to the General Secretariat, so that, within the scope of its competence, it may include them as inputs for the four-year work plans for each of the four pillars and for the management and institution-building referred to in operative paragraph 2.a of resolution [AG/RES. 1 \(XLVII-E/14\) rev. 1](#) with a view to submitting them to each Permanent Council committee and to the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) for consideration;

That, in keeping with resolution [CP/RES. 1061/16 \(2063/16\)](#), the General Secretariat provided each Permanent Council committee and CIDI with input for developing the Four-Year Plan of the Organization; and

That, in view of the foregoing, the Committees deemed the technical input provided by the General Secretariat to have been received and are in the process of submitting them to policy evaluation,

RESOLVES:

1. To endorse resolution [CP/RES. 1061/16 \(2063/16\)](#), which concludes the technical-methodological process of the mandates prioritization process undertaken by the committees and the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Strategic Vision of the OAS, including 80 mandates, which will serve as input for preparing the Four-Year Strategic Plan.

2. To extend the period for delivery of the Comprehensive Strategic Plan of the OAS entrusted to the Permanent Council through resolution [AG/RES. 1 \(XLVII-E/14\) rev. 1](#), so that such process may be completed before September 15 and the results may be submitted to this General Assembly for consideration at its special session to be held in October 2016. The Council shall deliver the following products mandated by the Assembly:

- a. *Preparation of a comprehensive strategic plan of the OAS: Develop a four-year comprehensive strategic plan with work plans for each of the four pillars, and for administration and institution-building, taking into account, inter alia, the guidelines set out in Annex II. These plans should be based on criteria of interdependence, level of impact, viability, value added, non-duplication, and financial sustainability.*
- b. *Design of tools and mechanisms to improve management: Equip the Organization with appropriate management instruments to foster harmonious interaction among the pillars as well as the establishment of performance indicators, so that the Organization will have quantitative and qualitative information on the outcomes and impact in implementing the Strategic Plan.*
- c. *Establishment of evaluation mechanisms: Measure the execution of the Strategic Plan and assess progress and changes brought about since its implementation.*

3. The mandates adopted by the General Assembly in this period will be incorporated into the preparations for the Four-year Comprehensive Strategic Plan of the OAS.

4. Following the approval by the Permanent Council of the Four-year Comprehensive Strategic Plan of the OAS, the preparation of the 2017 program-budget should be aligned with that Strategic Plan.

AG/RES. 2891 (XLVI-O/16)

PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE DECADE FOR PERSONS OF AFRICAN  
DESCENT IN THE AMERICAS  
(2016-2025)

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 14, 2016)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING resolution AG/RES. 2824 (XLIV-O/14), which recognizes the International Decade for People of African Descent;

RECOGNIZING the valuable contributions at every level of the member states to the effective exercise of the human rights of the persons of African descent;

REAFFIRMING the importance of the full and equal participation of people of African descent in all aspects of political, economic, social, and cultural life in the countries of the Americas;

REAFFIRMING ALSO the steadfast commitment of the member states to confront the scourge of racism, discrimination, and intolerance in their societies as a problem that affects society in general,

RESOLVES:

To adopt the following Plan of Action for Persons of African Descent in the Americas:

**PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE DECADE  
FOR PERSONS OF AFRICAN DESCENT IN THE AMERICAS**

**(2016-2025)**

**BACKGROUND**

According to various international and regional organizations, there are some 200 million persons of African descent in the Americas.

Persons of African descent are among the most vulnerable groups in the Hemisphere as a result of poverty, underdevelopment, social exclusion, and economic disparities which are closely associated with racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

In addition, the Afro-descendant nations and other member states of the Caribbean Community have traced their developmental challenges to the legacies of the Trans Atlantic Slave Trade, colonialism, racism, racial discrimination, and intolerance.

Against that backdrop, various international and regional organizations have expressed concern about the vulnerable situation in which persons of African descent in the region exist.

The Organization of American States (OAS), through its General Secretariat and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), as well as the Summits of the Americas process, have also repeatedly expressed their concern about inclusion, respect for human rights, and meeting the needs of this group.

Following up on that concern, the OAS General Assembly adopted resolutions AG/RES. 2550 (XL-O/10) "Recognition of the International Year of Persons of African descent"; AG/RES 2693 (XLI-O/11) "Recognition and Promotion of the Rights of Persons of African descent in the Americas"; AG/RES. 2708 (XLII-O/12) "Recognition and Promotion of the Rights of Persons of African descent in the Americas"; AG/RES. 2784 (XLIII-O/13) "Recognition and Promotion of the Rights of Persons of African descent in the Americas"; and AG/RES. 2847 (XLIV-O/14) "Recognition and Promotion of the Rights of Persons of African descent in the Americas."

Through resolution AG/RES. 2824 (XLIV-O/14), "Recognition of the International Decade for Persons of African descent," the OAS General Assembly recognized the International Decade for Persons of African descent, which was proclaimed by the United Nations. It also instructed the Permanent Council to hold a special meeting to mark the beginning of the International Decade of Persons of African descent, with a view to exchanging ideas for the possible development of an OAS Plan of Action for the Decade.

In November 2015, the OAS Permanent Council Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs approved the establishment of the Working Group to Prepare the Plan of Action for the Decade for Persons of African descent in the Americas.

This Plan of Action provides a framework for the OAS to implement policies, programs, and projects well as guidelines for cooperation with other regional and national organizations to recognize and promote the rights of persons of African descent in the Americas.

**PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE DECADE FOR  
PERSONS OF AFRICAN DESCENT IN THE AMERICAS**

**(2016-2025)**

THE MEMBER STATES OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES,

BEARING IN MIND the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, the American Convention on Human Rights, the Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the Area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, "Protocol of San Salvador," the Inter-American Democratic Charter, the Social Charter of the Americas, the Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination, and Related Forms of Intolerance, and the Inter-American Convention against All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance;

STRESSING that the OAS member states have focused on persons of African descent in various resolutions of the OAS General Assembly, in the declarations of the Summits of the Americas, as well as in the Declaration of the Regional Conference of the Americas (Preparatory Meeting for the Third World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance), held in Santiago, Chile, in 2000; and the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean Preparatory to the Durban Review Conference held in Brasilia, Brazil, in 2008;

RECALLING that vast majority of persons of African descent in the Americas are the descendants of millions of Africans who were forcibly enslaved and transported in the framework of the inhumane practice of the transatlantic slave trade, between the fifteenth and nineteenth centuries, that caused indescribable hardship to this population who continue to suffer the effects of slavery;

RECALLING FURTHER that the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Forms of Intolerance acknowledged that slavery and the slave trade, especially the transatlantic slave trade, are a crime against humanity and should always have been so;

ACKNOWLEDGING the movement by the Caribbean Community Reparations Commission for reparatory justice to correct the legacies of underdevelopment caused by the enslavement of Africans in the Caribbean.

REAFFIRMING the steadfast commitment of the member states to confront, through various mechanisms, the scourge of racism, discrimination, and intolerance in their societies as a problem that affects society in general, and that all of its individual, structural, and institutional manifestations must be fought;

BEARING IN MIND the work of the Rapporteurship on the Rights of Persons of African Descent and Against Racial Discrimination of the Inter American Commission on Human Rights.

BEARING IN MIND AS WELL United Nations resolution A/RES/68/237 “Proclamation of the International Decade for Persons of African descent,” which began on 1 January 2015 and ends on 31 December 2024, under the theme “Persons of African descent: Recognition, Justice, and Development.”

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the considerations of the Special Meeting of the OAS Permanent Council to celebrate the start of the International Decade for Persons of African descent, and the decision of the OAS Permanent Council’s Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs to prepare a Plan of Action for the Decade for Persons of African descent in the Americas.

ADOPT the following Plan of Action:

**PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE DECADE FOR  
PERSONS OF AFRICAN DESCENT IN THE AMERICAS**

**(2016-2025)**

**I. VISION**

The member states of the OAS will, at the domestic level and through the OAS, strengthen policies, programs, and projects to recognize, promote, protect, and observe the rights of persons of African descent in the Americas.

**II. MISSION**

The member states of the Organization of American States commit to gradually adopting and strengthening public policies and administrative, legislative, judicial, and budgetary measures to ensure persons of African descent in the Americas can enjoy their economic, social, cultural, civil, and political rights and fully participate, on equal terms, in all areas of society, with the support of the OAS, taking the steps needed to include the issue of persons of African descent in the policies, programs, and projects of the OAS.

In addition, Member States of the Organization will promote and support programs aimed at correcting the legacies of historical injustices caused by the enslavement of Africans in the Caribbean.

**III. CROSSCUTTING IMPLEMENTATION**

This Plan will be implemented in a cross-cutting manner, with special focus on:

The traditionally vulnerable groups within the population of African descent due to the multiple, aggravated, and concomitant forms of discrimination.



The nations of African descent and other member states of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) whose legacies of underdevelopment are traced to the enslavement of Africans in the Caribbean.

In its implementation, the Organization of American States (OAS) shall:

Include the rights of persons of African descent on the agenda of meetings of ministers and high authorities and in the policies, programs, and projects, as well as the organs, agencies, and entities of the OAS General Secretariat.

#### **IV. OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

##### **Goal 1: For the Organization of American States (OAS)**

Expand and foster cooperation, the exchange of experiences and good practices, to strengthen government structures that develop public policies and mechanisms in each state to promote racial equality.

Promote enhanced knowledge and respect of the diversity of the legacy and culture of persons of African descent and their contribution to societal development.

Commemorate every year on March 25, the International Day of Remembrance for the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade, by focusing on eminent persons of African descent who made significant contributions to the abolition of the slave trade, slavery and in favor of civil rights in the Americas.

##### **Goal 2: For countries**

Gradually adopt public policies and administrative, legislative, judicial, and budgetary measures for persons of African descent to access and enjoy their rights.

Develop programs and activities, particularly educational programs at the primary and secondary school levels to foster an understanding of the significance of slavery and the slave trade, and their consequences on the life of persons of African descent, as well as to acknowledge the significant contributions of persons of African descent to the economies, cultures and societies of the region.

##### **Strategic lines of action:**

- I. Recognition
- II. Justice
- III. Development

## **I. Recognition**

### ***(a) Right to equal treatment and nondiscrimination***

#### Goal 1:

1. Promote, when relevant, the incorporation of government bodies that promote racial equality in the work of the OAS' Inter-American Networks in the countries of the region.
2. Create campaigns against the multi-faceted discrimination suffered by persons of African descent, in collaboration with other organs and organization of the OAS and international and regional organizations.
3. Create a campaign for the signature, ratification, and implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination, and Related Forms of Intolerance, and the Inter-American Convention against All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance.
4. Promote respect for and tolerance of different cultural expressions and religions with African roots.
5. To promote measures aimed at combating racial profiling.
6. Recommend that the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) monitor and prioritize a study on situations related to religious intolerance towards practitioners of African and African Diaspora religions in the Americas.
7. Promote the strengthening of financial resources and the provision of the necessary personnel to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights Office of Special Rapporteur for Persons of African descent and against Racial Discrimination, as part of a process for the integral strengthening of all rapporteurships of the Inter American Commission on Human Rights.
8. Support states that so request, in the comprehensive review of domestic legislation to identify and abolish provisions that entail direct or indirect discrimination that could affect the persons of African descent in the region.
9. Promote appropriate legislative measures, where appropriate, to strengthen recognition of persons of African descent.
10. Promote the development of national action plans to promote the diversity, equality, equity, social justice, equal opportunities, and participation of persons of African descent.

Goal 2:

1. Promote awareness campaigns about the rights of persons of African descent, including campaigns against the multi-faceted discrimination of which they are victims.
2. Promote the inclusion of the focus on the rights of African descent in programs and projects aimed at vulnerable persons.
3. Encourage the signing, ratifying and adherence to the Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination, and Related Forms of Intolerance and the Inter-American Convention against All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance.

**(b). *Education on equality and awareness***

Goal 1:

1. Promote the recognition of the history of persons of African descent, particularly the recognition of the consequences or legacies of the historical injustices of the enslavement of Africans in the Americas.
2. Organize, at the OAS, expositions featuring publications from persons of African descent in the Americas, as well as exhibitions on persons and artists of African descent, and encourage the Art Museum of the Americas to establish cooperative relations with museums on persons of African descent and Africans.
3. In collaboration with international and regional organizations and universities, assist member states with the inclusion of the history of Africa and the population of African descent in the Americas, of the fight against racism, racial discrimination, and intolerance, and of the intercultural approach in study programs.
4. Raise the visibility of the cultural economic, political and social contributions made by the Afro-descendant population to progress in the region.
5. Consider the creation of a Historical Memory Center in the region.

Goal 2:

1. Promote campaigns to highlight culture and the economic, cultural and social contributions of persons of African descent.
2. Promote the inclusion of the history of Africa and the population of African descent, of the fight against racism, racial discrimination, and intolerance, and of the intercultural or ethno-educational approach in study programs.
3. Promote the recognition of intangible Afro-descendant cultural heritage.

4. Encourage investment in and the formalization of Afro-descendant Culture Research Centers.
5. Work for the implementation of educational programs aimed at raising the positive visibility of the contribution made by Afro-descendants as protagonists in constructing the region's nations and their economic, political, social, cultural, and historical contributions to development.
6. Promote the recovery, collection and dissemination of Afro-descendant stories, in particular those of women that enhance the visibility of their contributions and give them a voice in communities, organizations and families.
7. Encourage consideration of special measures, including affirmative actions, for access to quality education at all levels for persons of African descent.

**(c) *Information gathering***

Goal 1:

1. Support the states, upon request, in promoting the inclusion of the Afro-descendant variable in national statistical systems.

Goal 2:

1. Compile, analyze, disseminate, and publish reliable national and local statistical information and take other related necessary measures to regularly assess the status of persons of African descent in the Americas.
2. Promote the greater statistical visibility of the population of African descent for the formulation of public policies and the effective observance of human rights.
3. Promote diagnostic studies on current forms of discrimination against persons of African descent.
4. Incorporate the Afro-descendant variable in the collection of statistical data on migrant populations, refugees and those requesting refugee status to serve as a basis to establish public policy for economic and social inclusion and the effective exercise of their rights.

**(d) *Participation and inclusion***

Goal 1:

1. Support member states in promoting public policies for the participation and full inclusion of persons of African descent in their societies.

2. Promote, through member states, the inclusion of local governments, localities, municipalities or others in communities of persons of African descent in the Program for Modernization of Municipal Management, in collaboration with international and regional organizations.
3. Promote with the member states, when relevant, electoral observation with the Afro-descendant approach.
4. Promote the participation of persons of African descent in OAS activities and, among other things, promote inclusion of their organizations in the OAS Civil Society Register, facilitate forums for dialogue with Afro-descendant civil society organizations, create a Permanent Virtual Forum for Persons of African descent in the Americas, and facilitate the participation of persons of African descent as stakeholders in the Summits of the Americas process.
5. Promote, through member states, International Meetings of Afro-descendant Mayors and Authorities.
6. Develop awareness-raising processes to better understand the role of public policies in promoting the full social inclusion of the region's population of African descent.
7. Support the region's governments in designing, formulating, implementing, and following up on inclusive public policies and in establishing mechanisms for efficient and effective management, with particular emphasis on participation by Afro-descendant civil society and on accountability.

Goal 2:

1. Promote the inclusion of Afro-descendant persons and civil society organizations in the processes of development, formulation, execution and follow-up of public policies in the establishment of efficient and effective management mechanisms and accountability, through consultative mechanisms that facilitate their participation.
2. Encourage leadership training of the population of African descent and promote their political participation.

**II. Justice**

*(a) Access to Justice*

Goal 1:

1. Encourage implementation of the recommendations made by the Justice Studies Center of the Americas (JSCA) in its report on the Judicial System and Racism against Persons of African Descent in the Americas.

2. Promote the Judicial Facilitators Program in communities of persons of African descent and those that are predominantly Afro-descendant.
3. Include the Afro-descendant approach in the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), the Inter-American Observatory on Drugs (OID), the OAS Observatory on Citizen Security.
4. Include the Afro-descendant approach on the agenda of the Follow-up Mechanism for the Convention of Belem do Para (MESECVI).
5. Promote and apply measures aimed at combating racial profiling.

#### Goal 2

1. Take the necessary measures towards the implementation of the recommendations made by the Justice Studies Center of the Americas (JSCA) in its report on the Judicial System and Racism against Persons of African Descent in the Americas.
2. Promote instruments and channels of cooperation and dialogue between the security forces and communities of persons of African descent or those that are predominantly Afro-descendant.
3. Promote the inclusion of the Afro-descendant approach in the reports of the Follow-up Mechanism for the Convention of Belem do Para (MESECVI).
4. Promote public policies focused on providing equitable non-discriminatory treatment which will allow for equal access to the justice system for persons of African descent.
5. Promote the training of justice administrators and operators and security forces, especially on national and international legislation to combat ethnic and racial discrimination, and on protection standards for persons of African descent, to prevent and eradicate racial profiling and excessive use of force, especially against persons of African descent.
6. Work for the establishment of protocols for dealing with cases of ethnic and racial discrimination.
7. Promote and apply measures aimed at combating and punishing racial profiling.

#### **(b) *Special measures***

#### Goal 1

1. Promote an affirmative action policy for communities of persons of African descent under the OAS Academic Scholarship Program and Internship Program.

2. Create an affirmative action policy for the community of persons of African descent in all OAS training activities and in hiring and promoting staff in the Organization.
3. Encourage the creation of affirmative action policies for persons of African descent in the Inter-American Human Rights System, including the institutionalization of scholarships for young professionals of African descent in the internship program and for lawyers of African descent.
4. Promote the inclusion of gender in affirmative action policies aimed at the Afro-descendant population in the framework of the General Secretariat.
5. Encourage the creation of a compendium of best practices in inclusion of persons of African descent in various areas of the public and private sectors, with special emphasis on education and employment.

#### Goal 2

1. Promote the adoption of special measures, including affirmative actions for persons of African descent in public service, and encourage the establishment of such measures to promote the hiring and promotion of persons of African descent in the public and private sectors.
2. Promote the adoption of measures that facilitate political participation and equal opportunity to seek election of persons of African descent to office.

### **III. Development**

#### **(a) *Right to development and antipoverty measures***

##### Goal 1

1. Include the rights for persons of African descent on the agendas of the Inter-American Committees and Networks, secretariats, departments, programs and strategic initiatives of the OAS and in the development of work related to the 2030 Agenda.
2. Request the General Secretariat, through its diverse bodies, to incorporate cross-cutting dialogues on affirmative actions in favor of persons of African descent, in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and the Decade for Persons of African descent.
3. Recognize the claim for reparations by some member states of the Caribbean Community and to promote and facilitate discussions on this matter among member states of the OAS.

4. Promote the creation of financial education training programs, in collaboration with other international and regional organizations and the private sector.
5. Support the region's governments in formulating, implementing, and following up on inclusive and efficient public policies with emphasis on the participation of persons of African descent.

## Goal 2

1. Encourage inclusion of the rights of persons of African descent on the agenda for social development and anti-poverty policies and programs.
2. Encourage the formulation of public policies for the population of African descent within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
3. Encourage member states to include the rights of persons of African descent in their country indicators and in their respective reports on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
4. Promote the inclusion of the Afro-descendant population in programs for science, innovation and technology, trade and economic empowerment, culture and tourism, sustainable development, and the environment, in particular among communities with an Afro-descendant presence.
5. Encourage the creation of financial education training programs in communities with an Afro-descendant presence.
6. Encourage inclusion of cultural and tourist industries in communities with an Afro-descendant presence.
7. Promote training on the rights of persons of African descent for public officials working on development programs and policies on the Afro-descendant approach, as well as on the multiple forms of discrimination suffered by persons of African descent in vulnerable situations.

### **(b) *Employment***

## Goal 1

1. Promote the creation of job training programs in communities with an Afro-descendant presence.



*(c) Health*

Goal 1

1. Promote the Afro-descendant approach in health policies and encourage campaigns to promote sexual and reproductive health in communities with an African-descendant presence, in collaboration with the Pan American Health Organization.

Goal 2

1. Promote the inclusion of the Afro-descendant approach in the social determinants of health through inter-sectoral policies, and promote the creation of health programs for persons of African descent.
2. Encourage campaigns to promote sexual and reproductive health in communities with an African-descendant presence.
3. Encourage the creation of national health policies taking into consideration ethno-racial and intercultural perspective.
4. Promote the development and implementation of protocols for comprehensive healthcare for recurrent non-communicable diseases in the population of African descent.

*(d) Housing*

Goal 1

1. Facilitate access to decent and dignified housing with basic utility services for persons of African descent, especially those in vulnerable circumstances.

**V. PLAN IMPLEMENTATION AND FOLLOW-UP**

Through its Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity, the OAS General Secretariat will be responsible for monitoring implementation of this Plan of Action and coordination of its activities, and will collaborate with other bodies of the inter-American system.

The OAS General Secretariat will collaborate with other organizations, universities, and the public and private sector in order to create synergies in the execution of this Plan.

The General Secretariat will every two years deliver the Organization's progress report to a special meeting of the OAS Permanent Council Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs.

When the current Plan of Action runs its course, the OAS Permanent Council will hold a special meeting to evaluate the implementation of the Plan and consider the possibility of extending its mandate.

Execution of the activities envisaged in this Plan shall be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources, in keeping with the OAS strategic vision.

AG/RES. 2892 (XLVI-O/16)

MANAGEMENT MODERNIZATION

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session held on June 15, 2016)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING:

That the General Assembly approved the Strategic Vision [AG/RES. 2814 (XLIV-O/14)] in September 2014; and that the Permanent Council approved the resolution on Mandate Prioritization [CP/RES. 1061/16](#), in March 2016;

That the Strategic Plan for Management Modernization (CP/doc.5077/14 corr. 1) was presented to the Permanent Council in November 2014;

That the Permanent Council created the “Ad Hoc Working Group on the Implementation of the Strategic Plan for Management Modernization,” whose objectives are identified in document CP/CAAP-3368/15 rev. 1: and

RECOGNIZING that the 2014 Strategic Vision process and the Strategic Plan for Management Modernization are the product of efforts spearheaded by the member states as well as by the General Secretariat to fulfill a vision and strengthen management practices;

RESOLVES:

1. To continue supporting the implementation of the Strategic Vision and Management Modernization initiative as a comprehensive framework, implementing the outcomes listed below:

A. Quota and liquidity:

To instruct the Permanent Council to continue considering, while taking into account the recommendations of the CAAP, such measures as may be needed to encourage prompt payment and increase liquidity ad referéndum of the General Assembly at its special sesión in October 2016 .

B. Indirect Cost Recovery

To instruct the General Secretariat to conduct a review of what constitutes Direct and Indirect costs and submit the outcomes of this review to the Permanent Council and the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI), no later than September 15, 2016.

To instruct the General Secretariat to continue to disclose Indirect Cost Recovery allocations as part of the biennial program-budget exercise.

To instruct the Secretary General to implement measures to improve Indirect Cost Recovery (ICR) by applying a rate of 13% on all projects and programs funded through specific funds and eliminating the option to waive or reduce the ICR.

To instruct also the Secretary General to submit to the Permanent Council for consideration the possibility of raising the ICR to 20% for projects under \$50,000; and to also submit for the consideration to exclude ICR charges to the IAHRs.

C. Council Committees

To contain costs and improve the organization of meetings of the Permanent Council and the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI), as well as their subsidiary committees and working groups, by adopting sound and responsible measures, as recommended by the Working Group on the Implementation of the Strategic Plan for Management Modernization in “Options to address the ineffectiveness and costs of meetings” ([GT/IMG 8/16 rev. 4 corr. 1](#)); and based on this, prepare, by July 31, 2016, a “Chair’s Manual for Managing Meetings.”

D. Real Estate Strategy

To instruct the Secretary General to submit to the Permanent Council for consideration and decision, as part of the real estate strategy:

- a. A complete plan to house the IADB in the facilities of the Administration Building, located at 19<sup>th</sup> Street and Constitution Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006, which shall ensure appropriate work space and technology services necessary for its operations, in accordance with the operational needs of the IADB.

This plan should contain:

- i. The cost-benefit of the sale of the building and the transfer of the IADB to its new facilities.
- ii. Timeline of activities and costs of remodeling the Administration Building.
- iii. Administrative actions for the direct relocation of the IADB from the Casa del Soldado to the Administration Building, in order to avoid temporary allocations of space and duplication of costs.
- iv. Financial alternatives for carrying out the plan, including a plan to recover costs incurred in the process of planning and adaptation of facilities to house the IADB.

In considering the plan of the General Secretariat, the Permanent Council will take the opinion of the IADB into account.

E. National Offices

To instruct the General Secretariat, in preparation of the 2017 program-budget, to submit a proposal to reduce the regular fund budget of the national offices of the OAS.

F. Board of External Auditors

To instruct the CAAP, after reviewing the report of the Board of External Auditors, to present a consolidated response to the recommendations of the Board, to the Permanent Council no later than September 15 of each year. The Permanent Council shall use this as the basis of the OAS' formal feedback to the Board of External Auditors.

G. Implementing Management Modernization

To instruct the General Secretariat to report to the Permanent Council on a semi-annual basis, through the CAAP, results achieved on the recommendations of the strategic plan for Management Modernization, which fall under the authority of the Secretariat.

H. Results-Based Management

To instruct the CAAP to continue to work on completing the Four-Year Strategic Plan for Administrative Management, in keeping with the provisions of the resolution "Conclusion of the Mandate Prioritization Process and Preparation of the Organization's Four-year Strategic Plan" [CP/RES. 1061 (2063/16)]; and to develop a performance management framework, aligned with the objectives and guidelines of the Strategic Vision and to align all programs, projects and activities and resources with this plan, in accordance with paragraphs 2.b) and 2.c) of AG/RES. 1 (XLVII-E/14) "Guidelines and Objectives of the Strategic Vision of the Organization."



AG/RES. 2893 (XLVI-O/16)

INCREASING AND STRENGTHENING THE PARTICIPATION OF CIVIL SOCIETY  
AND SOCIAL ACTORS IN THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ORGANIZATION OF  
AMERICAN STATES AND IN THE SUMMITS OF THE AMERICAS PROCESS

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session held on June 15, 2016)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECOGNIZING the importance of the participation of civil society organizations and other social actors in strengthening the democracies, social development, human rights, and security of all member states and that their participation in the activities of the Organization of American States (OAS) and in the Summits of the Americas process should be carried out in the framework of close collaboration among the political and institutional organs of the organization and in keeping with the provisions of the Charter of the Organization of American States and resolution CP/RES. 759 (1217/99) "Guidelines for the Participation by Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities;"

BEARING IN MIND resolution AG/RES. 2861 (XLIV-O/14), "Increasing and Strengthening the Participation of Civil Society and Social Actors in the Activities of the Organization of American States and in the Summits of the Americas Process" and the "Strategy for Strengthening Participation by Civil Society Organizations and Social Actors in Activities of the Organization of American States (OAS)" (CP/CISC-422/09 rev. 3); resolution AG/RES. 2772 (XLIII-O/13), "Support for and Follow-Up to the Summit of the Americas Process;" and resolution AG/RES. 2773 (XLIII-O/13) "Increasing and Strengthening the Participation of Civil Society and Social Actors in the Activities of the Organization of American States and in the Summits of the Americas Process;"

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION the "Strategies for Increasing and Strengthening Participation by Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities," adopted by the Permanent Council in resolution CP/RES. 840 (1361/03) and endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution AG/RES. 1915 (XXXIII-O/03), which requested "the Committee on Inter-American Summits Management and Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities (CISC) to follow up on these strategies; to evaluate their implementation; and, if appropriate, to propose amendments to them or new mechanisms for increasing and strengthening participation by civil society organizations in OAS activities;"

TAKING NOTE of the establishment of the Specific Fund to Support the Participation of Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities and in the Summits of the Americas Process, by resolution CP/RES. 864 (1413/04), for the purpose of supporting participation by civil society organizations and other social actors in OAS activities, including the dialogue of the heads of delegation of member states and the Secretary General with civil society organization representatives and other social actors, which has been included on the draft schedule for regular sessions of the General Assembly as a regular activity before the inaugural session, as established in resolution AG/RES. 1915 (XXXIII-O/03), "Increasing and Strengthening Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities,"

RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm the commitment and will of the member states of the Organization of American States (OAS): a) to continue strengthening and implementing effective mechanisms and concrete actions to actively support and promote the registration of civil society organizations and other social actors, in accordance with resolution CP/RES. 759 (1217/99), "Guidelines for Participation by Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities," and well as national and multilateral efforts to enable civil society organizations and other social actors to participate in OAS activities; b) to support the host country of the Eighth Summit of the Americas in its efforts to engage the civil society and other stakeholders in the Summits process, through the Summits of the Americas Secretariat and the Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity; and c) to continue participating in the dialogue of heads of delegation with civil society organization representatives in the framework of the regular sessions of the General Assemblies and the Summits of the Americas process.

2. To instruct the Permanent Council, the Inter-American Council for Integral Development, and the General Secretariat to continue, in coordination with all organs, agencies, and entities of the OAS, facilitating the implementation of the strategies for increasing and strengthening participation by civil society organizations and other social actors in the Summits of the Americas and OAS activities, including the strategies adopted by the Permanent Council in resolution CP/RES. 840 (1361/03) and endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution AG/RES. 1915 (XXXIII-O/03), "Increasing and Strengthening Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities," and those included in the "Strategy for Strengthening Participation by Civil Society Organizations and Social Actors in Activities of the Organization of American States (OAS)," adopted by the Committee on Inter-American Summits Management and Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities (CISC) and by the General Assembly through resolution AG/RES. 2861 (XLIV-O/14).

3. To instruct the General Secretariat to continue supporting member states that so request in their efforts to increase the institutional capacity of their governments to receive, integrate, and incorporate civil society and stakeholder input and advocacy; and to submit, before the forty-seventh regular session of the General Assembly, a report on the implementation of this resolution, which shall be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the organization and other resources.

4. To strengthen the participation of the social actors in the member states in the Summits of the Americas process and in the OAS activities as a result of said process, considering the ways, uses and customs that they use to organize themselves.

5. To encourage all member states, permanent observers, and other donors, as defined in Article 74 of the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat and in other rules and regulations of the organization, to consider contributing to the "Specific Fund to Support the Participation of Civil Society Organizations" in OAS Activities and in the Summits of the Americas Process, in order to sustain and promote the effective participation of civil society organizations and other social actors in OAS activities, in accordance with the goals set by the General Assembly and by the Heads of State and Government in the Summits of the Americas process, including the dialogue of heads of delegation of the member states, the Secretary General, and the representatives of civil society organizations.



AG/RES. 2894 (XLVI-O/16)

STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session held on June 15, 2016)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the “Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly 2015-2016” (AG/doc.5514/16), in particular the section on the activities of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP);

CONSIDERING that the programs, activities, and tasks set out in the resolutions within the purview of the CAJP help to further the essential purposes of the Organization enshrined in the Charter of the Organization of American States;

REAFFIRMING the norms and principles of international law as well as those contained in the Charter of the Organization of American States;

MINDFUL that the Charter of the Organization of American States provides in its preamble “that representative democracy is an indispensable condition for the stability, peace and development of the region” and proclaims that one of the essential purposes of the Organization is to “promote and consolidate representative democracy, with due respect for the principle of nonintervention;”

RECALLING resolutions AG/RES. 2255 (XXXVI-O/06), AG/RES. 2833 (XLIV-O/14), AG/RES. 2835 (XLIV-O/14), AG/RES. 2838 (XLIV-O/14), AG/RES. 2842 (XLIV-O/14), AG/RES. 2843 (XLIV-O/14), AG/RES. 2844 (XLIV-O/14), AG/RES. 2848 (XLIV-O/14), AG/RES. 2849 (XLIV-O/14), AG/RES. 2853 (XLIV-O/14), and all previous resolutions adopted on the matter,

I. ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE ON JURIDICAL AND POLITICAL AFFAIRS

RESOLVES:

1. To instruct the Permanent Council, the General Secretariat, and the other organs identified in Article 53 of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS) to continue pursuing implementation of the current pertinent mandates contained in the aforementioned General Assembly resolutions assigned to the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP), unless a particular resolution states otherwise.

2. To urge member states to continue contributing to the attainment of the objectives established in said resolutions through the development and execution of activities, submission of reports, exchange of information, and adoption of measures and policies, as well as through cooperation, support, and mutual assistance; and to instruct the General Secretariat to provide necessary support to those ends.

3. To recognize the central role of the CAJP in legal and political matters in the framework of the Organization of American States (OAS); to instruct the CAJP to promote the issues falling under its purview included in this resolution; and instruct the Permanent Council to continue, through the CAJP, promoting and coordinating cooperation among the organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization.

**i. Follow-up on the Inter-American Democratic Charter**

RECALLING that the Inter-American Democratic Charter states that “the peoples of the Americas have a right to democracy and their governments have an obligation to promote and defend it” and that “democracy is essential for the social, political, and economic development of the peoples of the Americas;”

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that the Charter of the Organization of American States establishes that “every State has the right to choose, without external interference, its political, economic, and social system and to organize itself in the way best suited to it, and has the duty to abstain from intervening in the affairs of another State. Subject to the foregoing, the states of the Americas shall cooperate fully among themselves, regardless of the nature of their political, economic, and social systems;”

RECALLING that the Inter-American Democratic Charter establishes that “the promotion and observance of economic, social, and cultural rights are inherently linked to integral development, equitable economic growth, and to the consolidation of democracy in the states of the Hemisphere,”

**RESOLVES:**

1. To continue promoting democratic cooperation in order to support member states, at their request, in their efforts to strengthen democratic institutions, values, practices, and governance; fight corruption; enhance the rule of law; bring about the full exercise of human rights, and reduce poverty, inequality, and social exclusion.

2. To reaffirm all the mandates contained in resolution AG/RES. 2835 (XLIV-O/14), “Promotion and Strengthening of Democracy: Follow-up to the Inter-American Democratic Charter.”

3. To instruct the Permanent Council to continue the dialogue on the effectiveness of the implementation of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, taking into account all the topics addressed and discussions contained in the “Final Report” (CP/doc.4669/11 rev. 3), approved on December 14, 2011.

4. To request the General Secretariat to continue implementing training programs to promote the principles, values, and practices of a democratic culture, on the basis of Articles 26 and 27 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, and to improve awareness and promote the application of this inter-American instrument in the countries of the Hemisphere. Furthermore, to instruct the General Secretariat to continue to support the Permanent Council and the member states that so request with implementation of the Inter-American Program on Education for Democratic Values and Practices.

**ii. The Rights of the Child**

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the demographic characteristics of the region, in which 40% of the population is under the age of 18, and in subregions such as Central America the figure exceeds 55%;

NOTING the priorities expressed by representatives of the States in the Directing Council of the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN) and recognized in the Action Plan 2015-2019;

BEARING IN MIND the congruence of these priorities with those contained in other international documents such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit in 2015 at the 70<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly (Resolution A/RES/70/1),

RESOLVES:

1. To promote the participation of children and adolescents and the exercise of their freedom to seek, receive, and impart information and ideas and, at the same time, to develop among authorities, political actors, and adults in general the capacity and attitudes necessary to listen to and respect the opinions and proposals of children and adolescents.

2. To promote inter-generational dialogue through peaceful co-existence based on democratic values that respect diverse opinions and encourage gender equality, equity, and nonviolence, and peaceful conflict resolution.

**iii. Meeting of the Ministers of Justice or Other Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas**

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that "cooperation among authorities with responsibilities in the area of justice" is one of the OAS's priority areas, and that the "the REMJA has consolidated itself as the hemispheric political and technical forum in the areas of justice and international legal cooperation," which is essential for the development of justice systems and consolidation of the rule of law in the region; and that at the Summits of the Americas, the Heads of State and Government have expressed their support for the work carried out through the REMJA process and for the implementation of its conclusions and recommendations,

RESOLVES:

1. To express its satisfaction with the results of the Tenth Meeting of Ministers of Justice or Other Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA X), held in Bogotá, Colombia, on October 15 and 16, 2015; to thank the Government of Colombia for the successful organization of that meeting; to endorse the "Conclusions and Recommendations of REMJA X," the text of which may be found in document REMJA-X/doc.2/15 rev. 2 and which is a part of this resolution; and to instruct the Department of Legal Cooperation of the Secretariat for Legal Affairs (hereinafter, the "REMJA Technical Secretariat") to carry out the mandates assigned to it therein, in accordance with the resources assigned in the Organization's program-budget and other resources.

2. To instruct the REMJA Technical Secretariat to continue providing support, legal advice, and technical assistance to the REMJA process and to its working groups and technical meetings; preparing documents and studies to support follow-up or implementation of their recommendations; carrying out programs, projects, and technical cooperation activities in pursuit thereof; managing and maintaining the networks created in the REMJA area for which it is responsible; taking steps to secure funding for the activities of the REMJA process; strengthening coordination and collaboration with the secretariats of other international cooperation agencies, entities, or international cooperation mechanisms in areas that concern the REMJA; and considering discharging the other functions assigned to it in the Document of Washington.

**iv. Follow-up on the Inter-American Convention against Corruption and on the Inter-American Program for Cooperation in the Fight against Corruption**

BEARING IN MIND resolution AG/RES. 1(XLVII-E/14) “Guidelines and Objectives of the Strategic Vision of the Organization of American States,” Annex II, Section III of which identifies “fighting corruption” as one of the OAS priority areas; the mandates of the Summits of the Americas with respect to the fight against corruption; the Inter-American Program for Cooperation in the Fight against Corruption (MESICIC/CEP-II/doc.5/06 rev. 2); and the recommendations of the Fourth Meeting of the Conference of States Parties to the MESICIC (MESICIC/CEP-IV/doc.2/15 rev. 1),

RESOLVES:

1. To express its satisfaction with the results of the Fourth Meeting of the Conference of States Parties to the MESICIC, held in Washington, DC, United States on December 14-15, 2015; to thank the Governments of Brazil, Colombia, and the United States, as Chair, Vice Chair, and host State, respectively, for the successful holding of that meeting; to endorse the “Recommendations of the Fourth Meeting of the Conference of States Parties to the MESICIC,” the text of which may be found in document MESICIC/CEP-IV/doc.2/15 rev. 1 and which is a part of this resolution; and to instruct the Department of Legal Cooperation of the Secretariat for Legal Affairs (hereinafter, the “MESICIC Technical Secretariat”) to carry out the mandates assigned to it therein.

2. To resolutely endorse the commitment of the member states to prevent and combat corruption, as well as join forces to comply with the Fifth Round of Evaluation of the MESICIC.

3. To instruct the MESICIC Technical Secretariat to continue to provide legal advice and identify opportunities for technical assistance for the Conference of States Parties and the Committee of Experts; support the organization of on-site visits and the preparation of draft reports with recommendations for each country; carry out programs and activities to facilitate the implementation of those recommendations; offer the states programs, projects, studies, mechanisms for the exchange of best practices, and legal and technical cooperation tools to help them prevent, detect, and punish acts of corruption in accordance with the Convention and provide technical support, as necessary, to the Inter-American Program for Cooperation in the Fight against Corruption; maintain the Anticorruption Portal of the Americas; pursue efforts to raise funds to finance legal cooperation activities in the fight against corruption; strengthen its coordination and collaboration with the secretariats of other agencies, entities, and international cooperation mechanisms active in that area; and discharge its other functions under the Report of Buenos Aires and the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of States Parties to the MESICIC and of its Committee of Experts.

**v. Technical Cooperation and Electoral Observation Missions**

RESOLVES:

1. To highlight the substantive contribution made by the Organization of American States (OAS) to the strengthening and development of electoral processes and systems in the member states, through OAS electoral observation missions, electoral advice, and technical cooperation, upon the request of a member state and consistent with the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation.

2. To request the General Secretariat to provide assistance to member states that so request in the implementation of recommendations contained in the reports of OAS electoral observation missions, and invite donors to pursue, through the General Secretariat, a coordinated donor approach in supporting OAS electoral observation missions, so as to facilitate the planning of missions.

3. To contemplate, in the context of the administrative reform of the OAS, having the member states and General Secretariat consider the possibility of providing the Electoral Observation Missions with resources from the regular fund in order to ensure greater stability and certainty in the planning thereof.

4. To ask the General Secretariat to present a report to the Permanent Council each year on the sources of funding for Electoral Observation Missions.

**vi. Access to public information and protection of personal data**

RECALLING that access to public information and protection of personal data are fundamental values that must operate in harmony at all times,

RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm the importance of access to public information as an essential requirement for democracy, as well as the commitment of the member states to respect and uphold the principle of providing access to public information.

2. To instruct the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States to continue supporting, with the assistance of civil society and other social actors, the efforts of those member states that so request to adopt the legislative and other appropriate measures needed to guarantee access to public information, in accordance with domestic legislation and in keeping with their international obligations and commitments, in particular for the implementation of the Model Inter-American Law on Access to Public Information or for continuing to bring themselves into line with it; and that it continue to promote contacts and exchanges of best practices among the national authorities (commissioners, ombudsmen, etc.) responsible for implementing access to public information.

3. To instruct the Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) to develop and disseminate the content of

the Inter-American legal framework regarding the Right to Access to Public Information, including the Inter-American Model Law on Access to Public Information, by continuing to prepare reports on the scope of the Law and the implementation of its principles, supporting member states' efforts to ensure this right, and organizing and taking part in training programs on access to information for national authorities and judicial operators.<sup>1</sup>

4. To invite member states, when applicable, and the General Secretariat, in its capacity as a permanent observer, to continue supporting and actively participating in the activities of the Transparency and Access to Information Network (RTA) and the Ibero-American Data Protection Network (RIPD).

**vii. Strengthening the Activities of the Inter-American Program of Judicial Facilitators**

CONSIDERING that the activities of the Inter-American Program of Judicial Facilitators are priorities for the strategic objectives of the OAS Vision at this new juncture and have a positive impact on its four pillars: democracy, human rights, security, and development,

RESOLVES:

1. To back the efforts of the Program, at the request of the states, to establish National Services for Judicial Facilitators, train justice operators, and support other initiatives on access to justice, with a view to covering the majority of the member countries by 2020.

**viii. Effective Public Management Strengthening and Innovation Initiative in the Americas**

CONSIDERING that Article 4 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter establishes that "Transparency in government activities, probity, responsible public administration on the part of governments, respect for social rights, and freedom of expression and of the press are essential components of the exercise of democracy,"

RESOLVES:

1. To instruct the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States, through the Department of Effective Public Management, to continue to support the efforts of member states that so request, to build their institutional capacity in public management through training activities, knowledge management, technical cooperation, facilitating dialogue, mutual learning and exchange of experiences, primarily through the Inter-American Cooperation Mechanism for Effective Public Management (MECIGEP).

2. To request that the General Secretariat continue to conduct training programs to promote innovation in public management and open government principles, like transparency, collaboration with the various social actors, and citizen engagement.

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1. Note from the Republic of Bolivia, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Republic of Nicaragua: The Model Inter-American Law on Access to Public Information is a promotion and support instrument ...

3. To invite member states, where appropriate, and the General Secretariat, through the Department for Effective Public Management, to continue to support the work of the Electronic Government Network of Latin America and the Caribbean (Red GEALC) and to actively participate in its activities.

4. To promote the efforts of the Department for Effective Public Management to continue providing cooperation, at the request of member states, to build government institutional capacity, including that of local governments, understanding its strategic importance for development and its close relationship to citizen problems and needs.

**ix. Recognizing the Inter-American Network on Government Procurement (INGP) as a mechanism of the Inter-American System**

CONSIDERING that the Inter-American Network on Government Procurement (INGP) is a hemispheric initiative comprised of an Executive Committee consisting of representatives from five countries by sub-region (North America, Caribbean, Central America, the Andean Region, and the Southern Cone), a President, and a Technical Secretariat, pursuant to its Statutes, which were adopted in 2008 by 32 member states and amended at the 2015 XI International Conference in the Dominican Republic;

BEARING IN MIND the importance of using information technology in government procurement to promote transparency and the participation of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises and other productive organizations;

RECOGNIZING the work carried out by the OAS, through the Technical Secretariat of the Network over the 11 years it has been in existence, as regards: Facilitating forums for policy and technical dialogue, promoting the capacity building of public officials in national government procurement institutions, promoting the creation of knowledge in government procurement, and providing technical assistance, bearing in mind shared needs and challenges, in order to develop regional solution strategies;

CONSIDERING that the INGP is the most important forum for regional cooperation and the only network with a hemispheric scope, which positions it as a regional point of reference on government procurement,

RESOLVES:

1. To once again recognize the INGP as a mechanism of high-level horizontal technical cooperation for the mobilization and exchange of human, technical, financial, and material resources for generating knowledge, experiences, and best practices in government procurement among the member countries of the Organization.

2. To request that the General Secretariat continue supporting the modernization of government procurement as a fundamental element to enhance the transparency and efficiency of public management, and to transmit greater credibility and accountability to citizens.

**x. Observations and Recommendations on the Annual Report of the Justice Studies Center of the Americas**

BEARING IN MIND the Annual Report of Activities for 2015 and the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of 2015 and the 2016 Plan of Action for the Center (CP/doc.XXXX/16), as well as the documents “*Informe CEJA al CP / CAJP OEA, 21 de abril 2016*” and “JSCA Report to the OAS Permanent Council and Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs, April 21, 2016” (CP/CAJP/INF. XXX/16), which were presented by Jaime Arellano Quintana, Executive Director of the Center, to the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs of the OAS Permanent Council on April 21, 2016. They reflect the specific initiatives on the research, training, and dissemination that the JSCA promoted last year to strengthen the legal systems of the member states. The documents provide information on the institutional sustainability of the JSCA and the results of its fund-raising efforts,

RESOLVES:

1. To take note of the observations and recommendations of the member states on the Annual Report of the Justice Studies Center of the Americas (JSCA) (CP/CAJP-3161/13) and forward them to the Center.

2. To congratulate the work of the Justice Studies Center of the Americas (JSCA), alongside member states, to study, design, train, install, monitor, and evaluate the oral adversarial criminal justice systems, which contribute to the rule of law and modernization of justice services.

3. To provide specific support for the strategy of the Center’s Board of Directors by promoting new management models for the Offices of the Attorney General to improve the effectiveness of criminal prosecution, by equipping them for criminal analysis, strategic criminal prosecution, and adopting good practices in investigating complex crimes; to encourage improving standards for criminal defense; to promote pre-trial services; and to provide training on litigation skills for attorneys general and defenders and holding hearings for judges.

4. To recognize and thank the Governments of Chile and Mexico for their bilateral financing in 2015 of the Program for “Supporting Criminal Justice System Reform in Mexico” (3<sup>rd</sup> phase) and the Chile-Mexico-Central America triangular cooperation project called “International Seminar on Judicial Administration: Chilean, Mexican, and Latin American Experiences in Innovation;” and underscore the important financial support from Canada for the program “Improving Access to Civil Justice in Latin America.”

**xi. Inclusive Dialogue for Effectively Dealing with Social Conflicts in Investments for Integral Development**

REAFFIRMING, as recognized in Article 11 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, that democracy and social and economic development are interdependent and mutually reinforcing;

AFFIRMING ITS CONVICTION that a peaceful and constructive approach to social conflicts associated with investment projects, from a rights-based perspective and through dialogue and other peaceful means for the prevention and alternative resolution of conflicts, contributes to democratic governance and integral development,



RESOLVES:

1. To instruct the General Secretariat to continue, upon request, to support member states in building institutional capacities for dealing with social conflicts associated with investment projects for advancing integral development; eradicating poverty, particularly extreme poverty; and promoting equality, equity, and social inclusion.
2. To request the General Secretariat to:
  - a. Promote opportunities for the sharing of information, experiences, and lessons learned in such matters among member states;
  - b. Promote and facilitate the operation of networks of public officials, experts, and academics on the prevention and management of conflicts associated with investment projects; and
  - c. Facilitate opportunities for reflection and analysis through regional, subregional, and national forums to share information and exchange experiences in this area.

II. FOLLOW-UP AND REPORTING

RESOLVES:

1. To instruct the Permanent Council to follow up on the topics addressed in this resolution through their inclusion on the agenda of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs, and the General Secretariat to report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh regular session.
2. To instruct the General Secretariat, through the areas responsible for follow-up and implementation of activities connected with the purpose of this resolution, to submit in due course its 2016-2017 plan of activities for consultations or proper oversight by member states.
3. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh regular session on the implementation of this resolution. Execution of the activities envisaged in this resolution will be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.
4. To issue a special call to the member states and permanent observers to make voluntary contributions and encourage the General Secretariat to support, as a matter of priority, specific funds that enable the financing of the Inter-American Program of Judicial Facilitators, the Inter-American Program for Cooperation in the Fight Against Corruption, the Inter-American Cooperation Mechanism for Effective Public Management (MECIGEP), and the Justice Studies Center of the Americas (JSCA), as well as implementation of the recommendations of the REMJAs, their working groups and technical meetings, and to both continue and deepen their efforts. They are urged to implement bilateral or multilateral mechanisms for the co-financing of cooperation activities in the region through these programs.

FOOTNOTE

1. ... that is in line with or incorporated into the relevant parts of domestic laws, solely in keeping with each state's sovereign will and decision. It is therefore not appropriate for the IACHR to be preparing reports as it has no authority under the American Convention on Human Rights to monitor this Model Law.

AG/RES. 2895 (XLVI-O/16)

FINANCING OF THE 2017 PROGRAM-BUDGET OF THE ORGANIZATION

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session held on June 15, 2016)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

The “Report of the Preparatory Committee to the General Assembly at Its Forty-sixth Regular Session”;

The “Report of the Chair of the Subcommittee on Administrative and Budgetary Matters of the Preparatory Committee of the General Assembly on the Financing of the Program-Budget of the Organization for 2017”; and

CONSIDERING:

That, in accordance with Articles 54.e and 55 of the Charter of the Organization of American States, the General Assembly approves the program-budget of the Organization and establishes the basis for setting the quota that each government is to contribute to the maintenance of the Organization, taking into account the respective countries’ ability to pay and their determination to contribute in an equitable manner;

That the General Assembly, at its thirtieth regular session, in resolution AG/RES. 1757 (XXX-O/00), approved measures to encourage the timely payment of quotas and has since modified those measures by way of resolutions AG/RES. 2157 (XXXV-O/05) and AG/RES. 1 (XLII-E/11) rev. 1;

That resolution AG/RES. 1 (XXXIV-E/07), adopted by the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth special session, approved the method for calculating the scale of quotas for financing the Regular Fund of the Organization for 2015–2017;

That, pursuant to the methodology established by resolution AG/RES. 1 (XXXIV-E/07), the percentage quotas of the member states for 2015–2017 have been assigned;

That, by resolution AG/RES. 1 (L-E/15) rev. 1, the General Assembly instructed the General Secretariat to present to the Preparatory Committee a draft overall budget level for 2017, as well as the tentative overall budget for 2018, including the cost of living and inflation adjustment, if applicable, pursuant to norms currently in effect;

That it is necessary to establish the overall budget level and the sources of financing for the 2017 program-budget, which will be adopted by the General Assembly at a special session to be held no later than October 30, 2016;

That, based on Article 80 of the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (General Standards), the General Secretariat shall submit to the Permanent Council a proposed budget for use of the indirect cost recovery (ICR) resources, which shall be based on projected revenue equivalent to 90 percent of the average ICR obtained in the three years immediately preceding the year in which the program-budget is adopted, and that the General Assembly shall also adopt the ICR budget,

That the Regular Fund has insufficient cash to meet its budgeted current expenditure commitments for 2016 under the applicable standards and contracts, it is necessary to receive in its entirety the quota payments from member states;

That, by resolution CP/RES. 1059 (2060/16) corr.1, entitled "Extension of the Authorization to the General Secretariat Temporarily to Utilize Resources from the OAS Treasury Fund for the Regular Fund of the Organization until January 31, 2017," the Permanent Council asked the Secretary General to submit, for consideration by the member states, the draft Program-Budget for 2017 with a budget ceiling of US\$84.3 million and an authorized expenditure ceiling of US\$72.5 million; and

That, in 2017, no contributions to the Regular Fund are expected from either the OAS Cooperation for Development Fund or from Specific Funds on account of technical supervision and administrative support, by virtue of Article 80 of the General Standards,

RESOLVES:

1. To assess the quotas through which the member states will finance the Regular Fund of the Organization for 2017 and the assessments for income tax reimbursements in keeping with the methods adopted in resolutions AG/RES. 1 (XXXIV-E/07) and AG/RES. 41 (I-O/71), respectively, using the scale and amounts that appear in Annex A, "Regular Fund Quota Assessments for 2017."

2. To set the overall budget level of the 2017 Regular Fund program-budget at US\$82,445,942 and to finance it as follows:

- a. Net contributions of member states in the form of quota payments to the Regular Fund totaling US\$81,995,942, computed as follows:
  - i. Total gross assessments of US\$82,440,400, apportioned according to the methodology for calculating the scale of quota assessments adopted in resolution AG/RES. 1 (XXXIV-E/07);
  - ii. A reduction of US\$444,458 in prompt payment discounts pursuant to the measures to encourage the prompt payment of quotas adopted by means of resolution AG/RES. 1757 (XXX-O/00), as amended by AG/RES. 2157 (XXXV-O/05) and AG/RES. 1 (XLII-E/11) rev. 1;
- b. Income in the amount of US\$450,000 from interest and refunds and other income, in accordance with Article 72 of the General Standards.

3. To authorize a level of expenditure for 2017 no greater than US\$70,341,742 which will be the basis on which the General Secretariat submits the draft 2017 program-budget for consideration by the member states at least 90 days prior to the date of the special session of the General Assembly in October 2016, pursuant to Article 90 of the General Standards.

4. To instruct the Secretary General to make such adjustments and reductions as may be needed to comply with the foregoing paragraph.

5. To set the overall expenditure ceiling for the Indirect Cost Recovery Fund at US\$4,500,000, in accordance with the General Standards.

6. In view of the commitment of the member states to attain full financing of the organs of the inter-American human rights system through the OAS Regular Fund, as expressed in resolution "Promotion and Protection of Human Rights," the General Secretariat is instructed to include in the proposed Program-Budget, through consultations with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Court on Human Rights, measures to address the critical situation of those organs and to submit proposals to strengthen their financial sustainability in the medium and long term.

7. To entrust the Permanent Council to, as soon as possible and ad referendum of the Special Session of the General Assembly to be held in October 2016, consider the possibility of increasing the Budget ceiling for the fiscal year 2017 agreed in this resolution.



**TABLE A**  
**ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES**  
**REGULAR FUND**  
**REGULAR FUND QUOTA ASSESSMENTS FOR 2017**

Quota increase: 0%

<b>Member States</b>	<b>Assessed Percentage</b>	<b>Quota Assessment</b>	<b>Tax Reimbursement</b>	<b>(a) Credits</b>	<b>Total</b>
Antigua and Barbuda	0.022%	18,200			18,200
Argentina	2.400%	1,987,200			1,987,200
Bahamas	0.049%	40,600		812	39,788
Barbados	0.034%	28,200	12,000 (b)		40,200
Belize	0.022%	18,200			18,200
Bolivia	0.056%	46,400		928	45,472
Brazil	12.427%	10,289,300			10,289,300
Canada	10.583%	8,762,500		262,875	8,499,625
Chile	1.347%	1,115,300			1,115,300
Colombia	1.311%	1,085,500			1,085,500
Costa Rica	0.230%	190,400		3,808	186,592
Dominica	0.022%	18,200		546	17,654
Dominican Republic	0.317%	262,500		5,250	257,250
Ecuador	0.322%	266,600			266,600
El Salvador	0.086%	71,200			71,200
Grenada	0.022%	18,200			18,200
Guatemala	0.145%	120,100			120,100
Guyana	0.022%	18,200		364	17,836
Haiti	0.026%	21,500			21,500
Honduras	0.042%	34,800			34,800
Jamaica	0.070%	58,000			58,000
Mexico	6.788%	5,620,300		168,609	5,451,691
Nicaragua	0.026%	21,500		645	20,855
Panama	0.176%	145,700			145,700
Paraguay	0.075%	62,100		621	61,479
Peru	0.860%	712,100			712,100
Saint Kitts and Nevis	0.022%	18,200			18,200
Saint Lucia	0.022%	18,200			18,200
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	0.022%	18,200			18,200
Suriname	0.026%	21,500			21,500
Trinidad and Tobago	0.135%	111,800			111,800
United States	59.470%	49,240,000	4,500,000 (b)		53,740,000
Uruguay	0.247%	204,500			204,500
Venezuela	2.144%	1,775,200			1,775,200
Subtotal	99.568%	82,440,400	4,512,000	444,458	86,507,942
Cuba (c)	0.431%	356,900			356,900
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>99.999%</b>	<b>82,797,300</b>	<b>4,512,000</b>	<b>444,458</b>	<b>86,864,842</b>

a. Represents 1% of 2016 quota assessment if full payment of 2016 quota was received by March 31, 2016, plus 2% of any payment received before February 29, 2016 and 3% if received by January 31, 2016.

b. The amount shown is estimated and may differ from the actual amount billed.

c. Shown only to establish the percentage corresponding to each member state.

AG/RES. 2896 (XLVI-O/16)

VOTE OF APPRECIATION TO THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT OF  
THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session held on June 15, 2016)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

CONSIDERING:

That the forty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) was held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, from June 13 to 15, 2016;

That during this regular session of the General Assembly, the delegations expressed their profound gratitude to His Excellency Andrés Navarro García, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic, for the skill with which he steered the discussions, which led to the adoption of important declarations and resolutions on issues of high priority for the hemispheric agenda; and

UNDERSCORING the warm welcome extended by the Dominican people and Government,

RESOLVES:

1. To express its gratitude to His Excellency Danilo Medina Sánchez, President of the Dominican Republic, and particularly to the citizens of the city of Santo Domingo for their warm and generous hospitality and the contribution that they have made to the success of the forty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS).

2. To recognize and commend His Excellency Andrés Navarro García, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic, on his able leadership as President of the forty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly.

3. To express its appreciation and gratitude to Ambassador Pedro Vergés Cimán, Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic to the OAS, the members of the Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic to the OAS, and the officials from the Dominican Foreign Ministry, whose efficiency, dedication, and professionalism contributed to the success of the forty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly.





AG/RES. 2897 (XLVI-O/16)

PLACE AND DATE OF THE FORTY-SEVENTH  
REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session held on June 15, 2016)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT Articles 43 and 44 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly relating to the holding of regular sessions of the General Assembly and the determination of the date and place for those sessions; and

CONSIDERING:

That the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) shall hold a regular session each year, preferably during the second quarter; and

That the Government of the Mexico, through its Ministry of Foreign Affairs offered on June 15, 2016, in the framework of the forty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly, held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, to host the forty-seventh regular session of the General Assembly, which is to be held in June 2017, as a reaffirmation of its commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the OAS and as a demonstration of its resolute decision to continue participating actively in strengthening the Organization,

RESOLVES:

1. To determine that the forty-seventh regular session of the General Assembly will be held in Mexico in June 2017.
2. To thank the Government of Mexico for its generous offer to host the forty-seventh regular session of the General Assembly.