

III. SPECIALIZED ORGANIZATIONS

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Chapter XVIII of the Charter defines the specialized organizations as intergovernmental organizations established by multilateral agreements and having specific functions with respect to matters of common interest to the American States. They enjoy the fullest technical autonomy, but are to take into account the recommendations of the General Assembly and the Councils. This chapter contains a summary of the reports that were submitted, pursuant to articles 127 and 91.f of the Charter, by the following specialized organizations:

- the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO);
- the Inter-American Children's Institute (IACI);
- the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM);
- the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH);
- the Inter-American Indian Institute (IIC); and
- the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).

PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), established by the Second International Conference of American States (Mexico, 1901-1902), is the World Health Organization's (WHO) regional organization for the Americas. Its mission is technical cooperation with the member states and promotion of cooperation among them. The aim is to preserve a healthful environment and advance toward sustainable human development so that the people of the Americas may achieve Health for All and by All. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., PAHO's present Director is Dr. George A. O. Alleyne.

In the period addressed in this report, PAHO continued to work with the member countries to promote the Pan American spirit and equitable access to health care, through five main program areas. The following examples highlight some of the major activities pursued in each area.

Health promotion and protection

Tobacco consumption

PAHO has committed itself to reduce tobacco consumption through a series of preventive and promotional activities. To this end, it improved its systems of information and surveillance on tobacco consumption and tobacco-related mortality, recognizing that there are one million tobacco-related deaths in the Americas each year. It also worked with the United States Centers For Disease Control and the World Health Organization in conducting the World Survey on Tobacco and Youth. In May 2001, PAHO launched the "smoke-free America" initiative to reduce exposure to secondhand tobacco smoke throughout the hemisphere. Member states pursued negotiations on a Framework Convention to Control Tobacco Use.

Health and human development

Virtual Health Library (BVS)

Through the Latin American and Caribbean Center for Information on Health Sciences (BIREME), PAHO pursued development of the regional health information network in support of the planning and execution of public policies. The BVS is a depository of scientific and technical documentation on health that has been recorded, organized and stored in electronic format. It is accessible worldwide through the Internet and is compatible with many international databases. Expansion of the BVS is one of the mandates from the 2001 Summit of the Americas.

Health and the environment

Water and sanitation facilities

PAHO paid special attention to the development of low-cost technology for providing water and sanitation facilities to low-income urban and rural groups. This initiative is led by the Pan American Center for Sanitary Engineering and Environmental Sciences (CEPIS). Among other activities, CEPIS launched a project to improve laboratory data on water quality, it completed a regional inventory of

wastewater treatment and use, pursued work on standards for monitoring drinking water, and conducted a study to establish policy criteria for reducing inequities in access to safe drinking water.

Development of health systems and services

Health sector reform

Through its Regional Initiative for Health Sector Reform in Latin America and Caribbean, PAHO continued its efforts to create instruments and methods, to compile and disseminate information, and to exchange experience in support of health reform in every member state. It established a website with analysis and information on health reform in the form of a virtual library, a thesaurus on reform, more than 20 profiles of national health systems and services, a network of contacts and an inventory of results from the initiative.

Disease prevention and control

Prevention of HIV/AIDS infection

PAHO conducted subregional consultations on its "step-by-step" strategy of comprehensive care for persons infected by HIV or AIDS. It also pursued initiatives in areas of mother-to-child transmission, swifter access to antiretroviral medications, promotion of sexual health and services to groups that are constantly on the move, particularly migrants.

In accordance with the Shared Health Agenda for the Americas, the Inter-American Development Bank, the World Bank and PAHO created a special working group to assist countries in combating HIV/AIDS infections. In particular, PAHO worked with the World Bank in the Caribbean and with the IDB on an initiative in Haiti, and assisted the IDB in incorporating activities to control HIV/AIDS infection in some of its projects in Central America. In the Caribbean, the Caribbean Epidemiology Center (CAREC) of PAHO drew up a regional plan to combat HIV/AIDS infection. In June 2001, PAHO participated in the special session of the United Nations General Assembly on HIV/AIDS in New York.

Technical cooperation

PAHO took the lead in coordinating and drafting the health component of the Action Plan for the Third Summit of the Americas, which was held in April 2001 in Quebec City. This plan, the most ambitious to date, will help countries renew their commitment to the goals of previous Summits and take new action in the areas of health reform, control of communicable and noncommunicable diseases, women's health issues, the environment and indigenous peoples. It will also facilitate the use of available technologies and means for communicating and sharing information. PAHO published a report on progress to date against the commitments from the 1994 and 1998 Summits of the Americas, which can be consulted at <http://www.paho.org/English/DEC/home.htm>.

In pursuit of the Shared Health Agenda launched in 2000, PAHO, the World Bank and the IDB continued their collaboration in four areas of leadership: the national health accounts, pharmaceuticals, epidemiological surveillance and the environment. The three institutions also prepared an action plan for strengthening regional surveillance of communicable diseases, reinforcing surveillance capacities over chronic diseases and establishing goals for achieving better health outcomes.

INTER-AMERICAN CHILDREN'S INSTITUTE

Created by the IV Pan American Child Congress in 1924 and established in 1927, the purpose of the Inter-American Children's Institute is to promote the creation of public policy on children's behalf, to articulate the relationship between the State and civil society, and to cultivate a critical awareness of the problems affecting children in the Hemisphere. Headquartered in Montevideo, Uruguay, the IACI's Director General is Mr. Alejandro Bonasso.

The priority of the Inter-American Children's Institute is to make the full protection of children's rights, recognized in the 1989 Convention, part of the region's political agenda. Its objectives are to encourage professionalism in working with children and to decentralize initiatives among agencies engaged in the care and protection of children and the prevention of child abuse.

The institution's agenda focused on providing technical support for national efforts in the areas of child abuse within the family, street children, drug addiction prevention, sexual violence, international adoption, children with different abilities, and civil records. It also encouraged states to equip themselves with child information systems.

The IACI is responsible for executing the 2000-2004 Strategic Plan, which was ratified by the General Assembly. Highlights of activities during the year included:

- Efforts to raise the profile of the issue of children and adolescents on the agenda of the major hemispheric forums, such as the Quebec Summit of the Americas.
- Organization, together with UNICEF, of the Americas Regional Meeting on Commercial Sexual Exploitation, in preparation for the second world congress that was held in Yokohama, Japan.
- The second meeting of First Ladies of Central America, Belize, the Dominican Republic and Panama. Pursuing the work of the previous meeting in El Salvador, the purpose of this meeting was to identify, share and promote initiatives in proposals to ensure that all children and adolescents have documented identity and are able to exert their rights to health and education, recreation and housing, and that there are sound information systems in place for monitoring these rights.
- The agreement reached with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), designating the IACI as executing agency for a project on child labor in the context of the Prototype of Targeted Policies that the agency is promoting, in the amount of US\$250,000, and which includes financing for an institutional strategy to raise external funding for executing programs under the Strategic Plan.
- Preparation of model laws and public policies on child disability, child labor, drug abuse and sexual exploitation, pursuant to Articles 23, 32, 33, and 34 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Administrative and budgetary restructuring in order to rationalize and reduce personnel costs so as to free up funding for operational uses.

- Launching of a policy to raise the profile of the IACI, including a change to the institution's logo and a substantial overhaul of its website.
- Strengthening of the Inter-American Youth Information System with the creation of National Data Centers in Guatemala and the Dominican Republic. Negotiations for the establishment of a Center in Venezuela are underway.
- Implementation of the Information System on Children (SIPI) in Central America. With IDB financing of more than \$500,000 the system is now operating in Nicaragua.
- The agreement with the nongovernmental organization Plan Internacional to promote a regional policy on civil records in Central America, the Dominican Republic and Haiti, and to prepare and launch a project for recording births in the region, in response to a need that has been underscored in various international forums.
- The agreement with the Latin American Television Network (RAL) to produce a new institutional video on the Right to Identity, for distribution in member states with the financial support of the Spanish Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs.

INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN

Created by the Sixth International Conference of American States (Havana, 1928), the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) is the OAS' advisory body on matters related to women in the Hemisphere. Its purpose is to promote and protect the civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights of women and, in this context, reports to the governments on the progress accomplished and the problems that need to be addressed, and suggests ways those problems can be resolved. The Commission is headquartered in Washington, D.C. Its President is the Honourable Indranie Chandarpal, Minister of Labor, Human Services and Social Security of Guyana. Its Vice President is Nora Uribe of Venezuela. The countries on the CIM's Executive Committee are Canada, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Honduras and Uruguay. The Executive Secretary of the CIM is Carmen Lomellin.

The CIM's activities were guided by the Biennial Work Program 2000-2002 approved by the 30th Assembly of Delegates of the CIM, as well as by the mandates from the 31st General Assembly of the OAS and the Summits of the Americas. Special attention was devoted to the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality (PIA).

Incorporation of the gender perspective in ministerial meetings

The CIM coordinated preparation of recommendations for incorporating the gender perspective into programs and policies of ministries of labor. These were presented at the preparatory meeting for the Twelfth Inter-American Conference of Labor Ministers (CIMT) and were considered at the ministerial meeting held in Ottawa, Canada, in October 2001. Subsequently, the CIM convened a meeting of government officials and civil society representatives to examine insertion of the gender issue into the Declaration and Plan of Action from the 12th CIMT and to make recommendations for its implementation. The general lines of action and recommendations from that meeting (SEPIA I, Gender and Labor) were adopted by the Executive Committee at its Third Regular Session and were submitted to Ministers of Labor and to the Secretariat pro tempore of the 12th CIMT. A similar process has been undertaken to submit recommendations on incorporation of the gender perspective to the meeting of Ministers of Justice, to be held in March 2002.

Gender training within the OAS

The Commission began a joint project (CIDA/CIM/OAS) supported by the government of Canada and the General Secretariat to provide training for OAS employees on integrating the gender perspective into programs and policies. A steering committee was established, a workplan and budget were designed, potential participants were identified and the first training course was held. This two-year program has funding of 500,000 Canadian dollars (US\$327,328).

Business leadership project for young women

A pilot test of this program was conducted in May 2001 in Argentina, under the auspices of the Secretariat for Equality of Opportunity of the Government of the Province of Buenos Aires, with support from the Golda Meir Mount Carmel International Training Center of Israel. The objective of the course was to train young people in microenterprise management, employment generation, business planning, access to credit, training and distance education and women's participation and leadership. Forty

individuals attended, of whom 70 percent were women. Participants included young micro-entrepreneurs, representatives of civil society organizations and municipal officials responsible for production, microenterprise development and employment.

CIM Seed Fund

Pursuant to the mandates from the 30th Assembly of Delegates of the CIM, resources of the 2000-2002 Seed Fund were channeled into a project for implementing the PIA. In this context, the Executive Committee allocated funds to eight projects submitted by Argentina, Chile, El Salvador (2), Guyana, Panama, Paraguay and Uruguay.

Follow-up to the Summits of the Americas

The CIM participated in preparatory work for the Third Summits of the Americas. The recommendations from the 30th Assembly of Delegates to incorporate the gender perspective into the Declaration and Plan of Action of the Summit were submitted to the Chair of the Summits Implementation Review Group (SIRG) and received the support of Heads of State and Government.

Eliminating violence

The CIM continued to implement the project on “Violence against women. Regional analysis, including a study of the Convention of Belem do Pará,” begun in 1999 and conducted jointly with at the International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy (ICCLR) and the Program on Women, Justice and Gender of the United Nations’ Latin American Institute for Crime Prevention and Treatment of Offenders (ILANUD). During the year two subregional meetings of experts were held in Ecuador and Panama to present the results of the research, analyze them and make subregional recommendations on areas for priority attention. These recommendations included: implementation of interinstitutional and intersectoral policies with the earmarking of funds to combat violence; construction of statistical registries of indicators broken down by sex and age in order to monitor the problem; training for all involved in addressing the problem; and comprehensive care for women who have been the victims of violence, as well as steps to ensure their access to justice. Both countries have set up CIM secretariats pro tempore to monitor implementation of the recommendations in the subregion.

At the thirty-first OAS General Assembly the Permanent Secretariat presented the second biennial report of the CIM on implementation of the resolution AG/RES. 1456 (XXVII-O/97), Promotion of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women, "Convention of Belém do Pará", reporting the results of the above-mentioned project and highlighting progress in the region in this area.

Work also continued on the project on “Trafficking in Women and Children in the Americas for purposes of sexual exploitation,” a partnership project of the Inter-American Children’s Institute (IACI) and the International Human Rights Law Institute of DePaul University in Chicago (IHRLI). Research in Central America was completed and the process of analyzing and commenting on the reports received was begun. In Brazil, project coordination meetings were held with government and nongovernmental organizations, and progress reports received. Contact was established for beginning work in Mexico, Argentina, Belize, Chile, Colombia and Jamaica.

Women's participation in power and decision-making structures

The CIM participated as co-sponsor and member of the Board for the Women's Representation and Leadership Program (PROLID) of the Inter-American Development Bank, which is financing leadership projects in the hemisphere. During the year financing was approved for ten projects in Central America and the Andean region.

Dissemination and outreach

With technical support from the OAS Department of Public Information, a video was produced on the status of women in the hemisphere, entitled "Women in the Americas". This video is available in Spanish and English and will be distributed in 2002.

INTER-AMERICAN INDIAN INSTITUTE

Created by the 1940 Pátzcuaro International Convention, the basic objectives of the Inter-American Indian Institute are to collaborate in the coordination of the member states' indigenous policies and to promote research and training for persons dedicated to indigenous communities' development. The Institute is headquartered in Mexico City and its Director is Mr. José Manuel del Val Blanco.

Meetings of the Governing Board

The Director of the Institute reported to member countries attending the Governing Board meeting of April 5, 2001, on the economic difficulties facing the Institute as a result of the failure of some member countries to pay their quotas, as well as the decision of the United States to withdraw from the Institute. The latter development has had significant repercussions on the structure of quotas, since the United States' contribution accounted for 45 percent of the Institute's revenues.

That meeting considered the initiative for dissolution and evolution of the Institute, and a special meeting of the Governing Board was convened so that member countries could present their considerations and decisions with respect to that proposal, as well as the alternative of obtaining additional quotas or contributions so as to provide greater solvency for the agency.

At the meeting of the Governing Board on June 14, 2001, member states engaged in a round of opinions on the proposed dissolution and evolution of the Institute, and proposed that its quotas be restructured.

At the Special Meeting of the Governing Board on July 7, 2001, a document entitled "Preliminary Considerations on the Institutional Future of the III", which addressed a number of proposals relating to specific activities that implied evolution of the Institute, as well as proposals on such projects as the Manuel Gamio Center for Documentation and Information on Indigenous Peoples of the Americas and the Permanent Forum of Indigenous Peoples in the OAS. In addition, a proposal was submitted for restructuring the Institute's quotas.

At the meeting of the Governing Board on October 9, 2001, Dr. Jose Manuel del Val Blanco submitted his irrevocable resignation as director of the Inter-American Indian Institute.

Publications

The Institute published the following materials: "*Pueblos indígenas y derechos constitucionales en América Latina: Un panorama*", by Cletus Gregor Barié (Instituto Nacional Indigenista, México) and "*El encuentro de la gente y los insensatos. La sedentarización de los cazadores Ayoreo en el Paraguay*", by Miguel Alberto Bartolomé (Universidad Católica "Nuestra Señora de la Asunción", Paraguay).

PAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY

Created by the Sixth International Conference of American States (Havana, 1928), the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) offers technical cooperation, training at research centers, circulation of publications, and organization of technical meetings in cartography, geography, history, and geophysics. Headquartered in Mexico City, its Secretary General is Mr. Carlos A. Carvallo Yáñez.

The 17th General Assembly, meeting in Bogota, elected authorities for the term 2001-2005 and approved 38 resolutions that will govern the institutional and academic life of PAIGH in the coming years. As well, Meetings of Consultation of the four working committees of PAIGH, in which researchers from the 21 member countries participated, established the policies, strategies, structure and lines of research and work for that period.

PAIGH supported and financed 32 research and training projects in 11 countries. Ten of these were under the Cartography Committee, six under the Geography Committee, eight under the History Committee and eight under the Geophysics Committee, for a total value of US\$226,560. Support was also provided indirectly for events, courses and meetings related to the Institute's scientific and technical interests.

As part of the PAIGH's modernization plan, invitations were issued to submit technical assistance projects for 2002, "*gran aliento*" projects for 2002, and nominations for the Silvio Zavala Prize in the Colonial History of the Americas. Under the first category, 69 applications received from 15 member countries. Under the second category 29 applications were received, constituting scientific and technical progress and representing an interesting portfolio of future projects, to the extent that PAIGH can interest international agencies in their financing. For the Silvio Zavala Prize, 26 works were received from 11 countries. The prize was awarded on February 7, 2002, on the 74th anniversary of PAIGH.

At the request of the OAS Secretary General, the Institute provided technical advice in demarcating the border between Belize and Guatemala. PAIGH thereby played an active role in resolving a serious border problem between these two states, demonstrating the confidence that PAIGH enjoys because of its neutrality and the technical quality of its work.

Continuing with the work to prepare the multimedia atlas, in February 2001 the Institute delivered the Panama Canal Multimedia Atlas to the President of the Republic of Panama, Mrs. Mireya Moscoso, as part of technical cooperation provided to that country. This Atlas, which is available in CD format, provides an innovative source for knowledge, education and formulation of development policies and strategies. It offers multidisciplinary information that will be of interest to a wide variety of users.

During the period covered by this report, medals and diplomas were awarded to researchers and scientists in ten member countries, in recognition of 25 and 50 years of service in PAIGH. As well, there were presentation ceremonies for books on issues related to the Institute's activities published by authors in member countries, most of the seven specialized periodicals published by the Institute were updated, and several occasional publications were produced, for distribution to the principal libraries and training and research centers in all member countries.

PAIGH edited and distributed the following periodical publications: *Revista Cartográfica*, Issues 68, 69, 70 and 71, *Revista Geográfica*, Nos. 128, 129 and 130, *Revista de Historia de América*, Nos. 126, 127 and 128, *Revista de Arqueología Americana*, No. 17-19, *Revista Geofísica* Nos. 52-53, 54 and 55, and *Boletines Aéreos*, Nos. 268 (January-April), 269 (May-August) and 270 (September-December).

Occasional publications included: *Humboldt el otro descubrimiento*, volumes 1 and 2, *Humboldt y la modernidad*, *Contribuciones a la Historia de la Ciencia en Bolivia, España: última colonia de sí misma*, *La Gran Expedición de Alejandro Malaspina a América (1789-1795)*, y *Memorias del IV Simposio Panamericano de Historia de la Comisión de Historia*.

On June 28 and 29, the 55th Meeting of Authorities was held in Bogota. The Advisory Committee on Financial Planning and Evaluation (APEF) met on July 2, in the same city. On October 23, the 56th Meeting of Authorities was held in Bogota. On October 24 to 27, the Meetings of Consultation of the four PAIGH Committees met, and the 17th General Assembly met from October 29 to November 1.

INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE

Founded in 1942, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture is the inter-American system's specialized organization for the agricultural sector. It stimulates, promotes, and supports the member states' efforts to further agricultural development and enhance rural life. Its headquarters are in San José, Costa Rica, and its Director General is Mr. Chelston W. D. Braithwaite.

A central theme of the second Medium-term Plan of IICA (1988-2002) is to reposition agriculture and rural life on the Inter-American agenda. During 2001, therefore, an important component of the institution's activities was the recognition that Heads of State and Government of the Hemisphere had reinforced the Inter-American dialogue and strengthened the commitment to integration and development of the Americas.

In this context, IICA expanded its mission to promote cooperation in support of the sustainable development of agriculture and the countryside, consistent with the vision of the Institute as a leader in cooperation for achieving integral and sustainable transformation of agriculture in the Hemisphere, through targeted activities; excellent quality of execution; a proactive, creative and innovative approach; and client-oriented cooperation that is participatory and committed.

In the Andean zone, advisory services were provided in institutional organization and commercial promotion; modernization of plant and animal health, with the outstanding example of SANIBANANO in Ecuador; integration of the capacities of national and international systems of research and technological development, with participation by more than 6000 professionals in more than 480 specialized events; support for the formulation of policies, plans and programs for rural microenterprise development; and the holding of 10 regional training courses for training trainers.

In the Caribbean region, Distance Learning Centers were developed in four countries, agricultural planning was improved in eight countries, and programs to control the Carambola fruit fly were launched in two countries. Other activities included regional development of agribusinesses, especially for tropical fruits and orchids, agro-ecotourism and fresh produce, non-traditional systems of production for small producers, water resource management, and support for the Caribbean Council of Advanced Agricultural Education and development of microenterprises for rural women and youth.

In the Central American region, technical cooperation focused on developing negotiating capacities and harmonizing agricultural competitiveness policies; strengthening technology transfer systems; community and institutional organization for improving the quality of rural life, supporting consolidation of the Central American Agricultural Council (CAC); strengthening the capacity to formulate policies and execute programs in plant and animal health and hygiene and food safety; and agro-sylvo-pastoral development of border areas.

In the Northern region, progress was made with the interchange program with Canada for farmers, researchers, young experts and leaders, as well as in providing access to information and communication technologies for rural communities. In the United States there was further sponsorship of trade missions to Latin America and the Caribbean, in cooperation with the public and private sectors. In Mexico, the most significant efforts focused on cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food, for modernizing the plant and animal health and food safety

system, development projects for rural and marginal areas, rural microfinance, and the commercialization of small enterprises of social interest.

In the Southern region, work proceeded on the Rural Development Program (PROCODER), on the agriculture development project in the Itaparica settlement in Brazil, the Regional Credit Project in Northeastern Paraguay, analysis of the agricultural sector in Argentina, modernization of vocational education in agriculture and forestry in Chile, modernization of operations and development of small farms in Uruguay, and strengthening agricultural research in all countries of the region.

The IICA Office in Spain was inaugurated at midyear, with broad and decisive support from the Spanish government through the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock. This office is expected to become an important instrument in developing strategic alliances with European countries and agencies.

Finally, the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (JIA), the senior body of IICA, has a new dimension thanks to Resolution 1728 of the 30th OAS General Assembly (Windsor, Canada), which defines it as "the primary ministerial forum within the OAS for analyzing and building consensus on policies and strategic priorities for the improvement of agriculture and rural life in the Hemisphere". At the same time, the Plan of Action of the Third Summit of the Americas, in its section on "Agriculture Management and Rural Development" instructed Ministers of Agriculture at the next JIA meeting to "promote joint action by all the actors of the agricultural sector to work towards the improvement of agricultural and rural life that enables the implementation of the Plans of Action of the Summits of the Americas". In Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, hemispheric consensus emerged at the Eleventh Regular Meeting of the JIA that were reflected in the Declaration of Punta Cana for Improving Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas and the Strategic Guidelines for a Shared Agenda for the Agriculture Community and Rural Life in the Americas, which were signed by Ministers or Secretaries of Agriculture of the countries of the Hemisphere.

At the Eleventh Regular Meeting of the JIA, Dr. Chelston W. D. Braithwaite of Barbados was elected Director General of IICA for the term 2002-2006, and he took up his duties as the ninth Director General of the institution on January 15, 2002.