

## DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL LEGAL AFFAIRS

The DAJI was established by Executive Order 05-13 Rev. 1. It consists of the International Law Office and the Juridical Cooperation Office (Technical Secretariat of Juridical Cooperation Mechanisms).

The Office of the Director continued to direct, plan, and coordinate programs, activities, and actions in progress. In its task of supporting the various inter-American organs and bodies charged with the development of international law, it participated in the two sessions of the Inter-American Juridical Committee, in the Meeting of Central Authorities, and in the Workshops on International Law.

It also acted as adviser on the high-level mission of the Permanent Council to Ecuador, in application of the Inter-American Democratic Charter (April 2005), and accompanied OAS observers of the selection process for members of the Supreme Court (October 2005). On behalf of the Secretary General, it participated in the annual congress of the Ibero-American Federation of Ombudsmen (Asunción, November 2005) and the congress of the International Association of Judges (Montevideo, November 2005).

In terms of academic affairs and the dissemination of inter-American law, it participated, among other activities, in the seminar entitled “Democracy and Multilateralism in the Americas,” organized by the *Université Laval* (Quebec, May 2005); and in the course on inter-American law at the Law School of the *Universidad Nacional de Córdoba*, in Argentina; served on the thesis defense committee for the state doctorate on democracy in the inter-American system, at the *Université de Paris II* (Paris, April 2005); and published articles on inter-American law in various specialized books and reviews.

### International Law Office

In 2005, the International Law Office (ODI) rendered legal services in the area of international law to the General Assembly and to the CAJP, drafting resolutions, organizing special meetings, and writing final reports, in addition to advising delegations. It provided legal advisory services to the working groups on racism, indigenous peoples, and trafficking in persons, and organized a number of meetings of experts. The ODI also conducted studies for the selection of topics for CIDIP-VII and for determination of a method for preparing inter-American instruments on electronic records and consumer protection. It prepared draft international instruments to amend the Inter-American Convention to Facilitate Disaster Assistance and to amend the Statutes of the FONDEM and the IACNDR.

As Secretariat to the Inter-American Juridical Committee (CJI), the ODI provided technical and administrative support during the CJI’s two regular sessions. It prepared annotated agendas, assisted in drafting resolutions, edited reports presented by CJI members, drew up summary minutes, and took charge of preparing the Committee’s Annual Report. While the CJI was in recess, the ODI assisted the rapporteurs in their work and carried out the mandates issued in CJI resolutions.

In fulfillment of the Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law, AG/RES. 1471 (XXVII-O/97), the ODI organized the 32<sup>nd</sup> Course on International Law. The Course was held from August 1 to 26, 2005, and attended by 28 teachers from different countries in the Americas and Europe, 29 OAS scholars chosen from among more than 100 candidates, and 14 paying students. The central theme of the Course was “The Contribution of International Organizations to Current International Law.” From October 22 to 26, 2005, the ODI organized the Workshops on International Law in Ottawa, Canada, together with the Faculty of Law of the University of Ottawa; 52 professors of international law attended. The ODI also published the 31<sup>st</sup> Course on International Law, the topic being “International Law, Trade, Finance, and Development”; the Workshops on International Law held in Peru in 2003 and those held in

Chile in 2004; and the CJI Opinion Series “Competition and Cartels in the Americas,” by João Grandino Rodas and Jonathan T. Fried. Since 1994, the ODI has maintained and updated an on-line shop, which has a catalogue of 19 publications. The ODI also updated the content, design, administration, and control of its Web page and that of the Inter-American Juridical Committee. It provided support services to the 24<sup>th</sup> Model Assembly, held at OAS headquarters for secondary-school students between November 30 and December 3, 2005. Its attorneys participated in various forums to provide legal advice and report on activities carried out in the OAS framework.

The ODI acts as depository for inter-American multilateral treaties and for bilateral agreements concluded by OAS bodies. In 2005, the ODI participated in four signature processes, 17 deposits of instruments of ratification and accession, and 15 designations of central authorities. It also prepared certificates and provided complete and updated information on those treaties. As for bilateral agreements, it recorded 92 cooperation agreements in various areas and published the complete texts on-line, in PDF format. Appendix C includes additional information regarding inter-American treaties and conventions.

### **Juridical Cooperation Office**

#### *Meetings of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJAs)*

Advisory and technical secretariat services were rendered to the following meetings:

- Second Meeting of Central Authorities and Other Experts on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters and Extradition, held in Brasilia, Brazil, from September 1 to 3, 2005 (private section: <http://www.oas.org/juridico/MLA/sp/index.html>)
- Meetings at OAS headquarters in the framework of the Working Group on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters and Extradition, on May 5 and 6 and November 9 and 10, 2005 (private section: <http://www.oas.org/juridico/MLA/sp/index.html>)
- Fourth Meeting of the Group of Government Experts on Cybercrime, held at OAS headquarters on February 27 and 28, 2006 ([http://www.oas.org/juridico/spanish/cybGE\\_IVreun\\_sp.htm](http://www.oas.org/juridico/spanish/cybGE_IVreun_sp.htm))

These events led to the adoption of various recommendations and measures on the topics addressed, which will be presented to REMJA-VI for consideration and may be viewed at the following Web addresses:

<http://www.oas.org/juridico/spanish/reunion.html>;  
<http://www.oas.org/juridico/MLA/sp/index.html>; <http://www.oas.org/juridico/spanish/cybersp.htm>;  
[http://www.oas.org/juridico/spanish/gapeca\\_sp.htm](http://www.oas.org/juridico/spanish/gapeca_sp.htm) ).

#### *Combating corruption*

The Office continued to serve as Technical Secretariat of the Follow-up Mechanism for the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (MESICIC). The Committee of Experts, one of the organs of this mechanism, successfully held eight meetings and will soon conclude the work planned for the first round. Two regular meetings were held, from March 7 to 12 and from September 26 to October 1, 2005, and 11 country reports were adopted.

As a result of its efforts to raise external funds for its activities, the Office is conducting a pilot project, financed by the Canadian Government’s cooperation agency, to support implementation of the recommendations of the MESICIC Committee in Argentina, Paraguay, Nicaragua, and Colombia.

In pursuit of the Plan of Action of Managua and of resolution AG/RES. 2034 (XXXIV-O/04), operative paragraph 6.c, the Meeting of Experts on Cooperation with respect to the Denial of Safe Haven to Corrupt

Officials and Those Who Corrupt Them, Their Extradition, and the Denial of Entry and Recovery of the Proceeds of Corruption and Their Return to Their Legitimate Owners, was held at OAS headquarters on March 28 and 29, 2005 ([http://www.oas.org/juridico/spanish/rexcor\\_sp.htm](http://www.oas.org/juridico/spanish/rexcor_sp.htm)).

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

Technical support was provided to the following meetings, held at OAS headquarters. The documents of these meetings can be viewed at the following address:

[http://www.oas.org/juridico/spanish/images/armas\\_r11\\_c46.jpg](http://www.oas.org/juridico/spanish/images/armas_r11_c46.jpg).

- Sixth regular meeting of the Consultative Committee of the CIFTA, held in accordance with General Assembly resolution AG/RES. 1999 (XXXIV-O/04), on April 14 and 15, 2005
- First Meeting of National Authorities Directly Responsible for Granting Export, Import, and International Transit Licenses or Authorizations for Transfers of Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials, held on October 6 and 7, 2005, in keeping with paragraph 8 of the Declaration of Bogotá on the Functioning and Application of the CIFTA, the work plan of the Consultative Committee, and resolution AG/RES. 1999 (XXXIV-O/04)
- First Meeting of the Group of Experts to Prepare Model Legislation on the Areas Covered by the CIFTA, held in keeping with paragraph 3 of the Methodology for the Development of Model Legislation for the Purpose of Facilitating the Effective Application of the CIFTA [resolution CP/RES. 884 (1484/05)], on February 6 and 7, 2006

The Office continues to work closely with other international institutions, such as the United Nations, the IDB, the Council of Europe, and the OCDE, and with subregional bodies.