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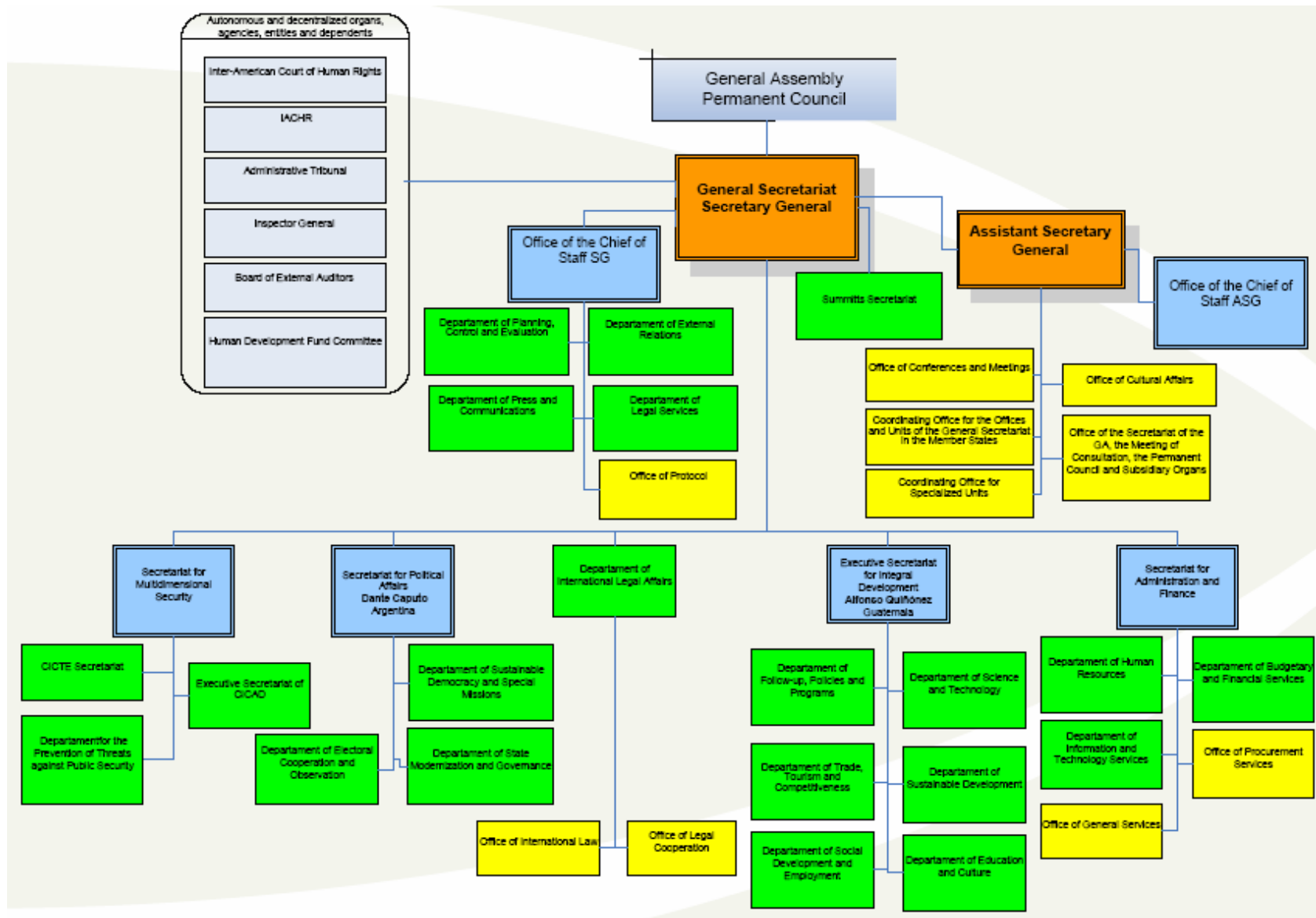
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OAS ORGANIZATION CHART



INTRODUCTION

In fulfillment of the mandate set forth in Articles 91 and 112 of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), I am pleased to present a report on the activities of the Organization and its financial situation for the period from March 1, 2006, to December 31, 2006. This report has been prepared pursuant to the guidelines contained in resolution AG/RES. 331, of 1978.

The Current State of the Americas

In delivering this annual report, it is with great satisfaction that I can affirm that today the Americas are experiencing growth with democracy.

In its most recent report on the economy of the region, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean tells us that in 2006 the gross domestic product of Latin America and the Caribbean grew 5.3 percent: a 3.8 percent increase in per capita income. It was the fourth consecutive year of growth and the third in which that growth exceeded 4 percent. And although a slightly lower pace of growth is expected this year, according to all the projections, accumulated growth over the 2003-2007 period is likely to be almost 15 percent.

The emergence of China and India in the global economy, robust economic performance in the United States and the European Union, and the now consolidated recovery of the Japanese economy have generated persistently strong demand for our raw materials. This translated, during 2006, into an 8.4 percent increase in the volume of our total exports, which, combined with improved prices for our principal export products, resulted in an increase of more than 7 percent in our terms of trade, compared to the previous year.

The increase in global demand has also led to an expansion of global liquidity, facilitating investment in our countries, which, simultaneously, have benefited from a decline in inflation from a weighted average of 6.1 percent in 2005 to 4.8 percent in 2006.

This strong economic performance is beginning to have an impact on an area of permanent and particular concern for our Organization: poverty. Also according to ECLAC's own figures, based on direct surveys of households in 18 countries in Latin America, plus Haiti, last year the number of poor appears to have diminished from 209 million to 205 million: in percentage terms a drop from 39.8 percent of the population in 2005 to 38.5 percent in 2006. The number of persons living in extreme poverty, for its part, is said to have fallen by 2 million (from 81 million to 79 million): a decline in percentage terms from 15.4 percent to 14.7 percent. The importance of the progress achieved in this field is even more marked if the 2006 figures are compared with those for 2002, a year in which there were 221 million people living in poverty and 97 million in extreme poverty, so that between 2002 and 2006 the number of people living in poverty fell by 16 million and the number of those living in extreme poverty fell by 18 million. Consequently, the past four years also yielded the best social performance indicators for the region in the past 25 years.

Democracy, too, is developing and consolidating its hold on our region. When I presented my annual report last year, I had occasion to point out that that development was being put to the test by an unprecedented succession of electoral processes and that seven of them had already been

held, as well as two general elections in countries with parliamentary systems of government. Well, by the end of 2006, 22 electoral processes had taken place, involving 34 elections. Between November 2005 and the end of 2006, 12 presidential elections had been held, all of them in Latin America, along with 4 parliamentary elections -- in Canada, Guyana, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines --, two referendums, one Constituent Assembly election, and municipal and regional elections. All these processes -- including those most tightly contested -- were conducted as they should be in democratic societies, in peace, and with massive participation by the electorate and results accepted by all.

This political stability and the practice of democracy have boosted the morale of our citizens. The 2006 edition of the Latinobarometer Report's annual regional survey shows that the percentage of the population that considers that "democracy may have its shortcomings, but it is the best form of government" averaged 74 percent over the year, a sharp increase over the 68 percent of the population that felt that way five years back, in 2002. And that is in even starker contrast with the answer elicited in another Latinobarometer survey, in 2004, which showed that, on average, 55 percent of Latin Americans said they would not mind living under a non-democratic government, provided it solved their country's economic problems.

It is that mindset that we are beginning to shed, along with the image of political instability and economic weakness that haunted us for decades. When our people and our governors look at themselves in the mirror today they see democracy and economic growth and a new current of optimism is beginning to course through our Hemisphere.

The OAS and Democracy

We can assert with pride that the OAS has played its part, too, in forging this turnaround. More than that: our Organization has tried to be alert to any threat of crisis and ever ready to go wherever it was asked to help mediate or facilitate solutions. Thus, in 2006, at the request of the Nicaraguan authorities, we deployed a long-term mission to Nicaragua to provide comprehensive support for that country's electoral process, putting in place a high-level political and technical team and 185 international observers from more than 20 member states. For ten months, the OAS performed on-site monitoring of the political, legal, and technical aspects of the process for electing regional, legislative, and presidential elections.

Similarly, we have continued to lend support to the Government of Ecuador to help ensure the stability of the democratic system. We participated directly as the electoral process unfurled, observing and supporting the relevant actors in the quest for paths of understanding vis-à-vis the political and technical challenges posed by the process. This support was extended to include the newly elected Government authorities, even before they took up their posts, by means of post-electoral missions that placed at their disposal any support they might need from the General Secretariat on political issues. Today, we continue to monitor developments and remain available to act, in a spirit of cooperation and at the request of the Ecuadorian authorities, in any way that may be necessary to strengthen democratic institutions and processes in that country.

During the period covered by this report, we also monitored the Constituent Assembly process in Bolivia, as a result of the agreement signed on April 20, 2006 with the Minister of Foreign

Affairs of that nation. Under that agreement, the Special Mission to Support the Constituent Process and Autonomies was established to provide technical and political support to the Government. Likewise, we provided assistance to members of the Assembly with legislative skills and parliamentary dialogue and negotiation techniques.

During 2006, the OAS Mission to Support the Peace Process in Colombia participated in 14 demobilizations of the *Autodefensas Unidas de Colombia* (AUC, paramilitaries). Through the Fund for peace, the OAS also continued its international political facilitation work in the differendum between Belize and Guatemala. In the Adjacency Zone, we also carried out verification missions and support activities for institutions in both countries, including the armed forces.

In the course of the year we also continued implementation of the Central American Program for Strengthening Democratic Dialogue. Its primary purpose is to build institutional capacity and strengthen local, national and subregional strategies for facilitating political dialogue and establishing mechanisms to manage conflict within the Central American countries.

Our Organization's support to electoral processes in the region has been constant and consistent, with respect to both technical advisory services and direct observation of the processes themselves. And we can be proud of the results, not just because of the remarkable number and variety of democratic elections that have been held – all of them conducted, as I said, in completely normal conditions --, but also because of the respect our Organization has earned as the guarantor and authenticator of those processes.

The Organization of American States monitored 17 of the 22 electoral processes held in the region, mobilizing an extensive team of international observers and experts on the subject. In Central America, the OAS sent electoral observation missions to Honduras, Nicaragua, and El Salvador. In South America, it observed elections in Bolivia, Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, and Venezuela. In the Caribbean, it observed elections in the Dominican Republic, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Lucia, and Guyana. Of those elections, seven were presidential, three parliamentary, seven legislative, and four municipal or regional. In the period, two referendums were observed: one in Panama, on expansion of the Canal, and the other in Bolivia, on regional autonomies. In Bolivia, too, the OAS observed the election of members to the Constituent Assembly.

In all these processes, we lent our support and offered guarantees of transparency and impartiality. Today, we can say, without exaggeration, that for ordinary citizens and the most sophisticated analysts of our region alike, the presence of an OAS Observation Mission is a guarantee of the transparency and legitimacy of an electoral process.

One of the essential conditions for the consolidation of democracy, electoral transparency, and, in general, for the protection and security of citizens, is exercise of each one's right to identity. In order to promote the actual exercise of that right, the General Secretariat has designed a Right to Identity Program in Latin America. With that same goal in mind, it has continued to support strengthening the institutional capabilities of civil registries, achieving significant progress with digitalization of the civil registry in Dominica and the signing of two cooperation agreements

with Antigua and Barbuda. A comparative study of civil registries in the Caribbean region was also completed and studies have begun for the start of a civil registry modernization project in Haiti. A key achievement, in this field, was the inauguration of computerized civil registry system in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

In the same way, we have continued to promote access to public information both as a key instrument for democratic governance and as an effective mechanism for citizen participation. In this same general area of transparency in public affairs, the Technical Secretariat of the Mechanism for the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (MESICIC) has continued its excellent work. At the Ninth Regular Meeting of its Committee of Experts, five country reports corresponding to the First Round of Review (Guyana, Grenada, Suriname, Brazil, and Belize) were adopted, along with the Hemispheric Report. Likewise, participants at the Second Meeting of the Conference of States Parties to the Mechanism for the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption, held at OAS Headquarters, on November 20 and 21, 2006, agreed on the text of the Inter-American Program for Cooperation in the Fight against Corruption that is being submitted to this General Assembly, at its thirty-seventh regular session, for formal adoption.

The OAS and Development

Nor has the OAS been a stranger to development issues. Throughout 2006, we continued to design and execute initiatives that contribute to institution- and capacity-building, to the establishment of successful development policies, and to the mobilization of external resources to support them. In those endeavors, we have sought to base our activities on the fostering of horizontal cooperation among member states, on partnership with the private sector, and on human resource training.

Over the year, we lent support to regional, subregional, and bilateral economic and trade integration processes. To that end, the OAS continued to work in cooperation with the Inter-American Development Bank, ECLAC, the World Bank, and the secretariats of regional organizations, such as the Caribbean Community, Central American Economic Integration (SIECA), the Andean Community of Nations, and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States.

Panama, Colombia, and Peru recently concluded negotiations for trade agreements with the United States, following intense processes of preparations, dialogue, and consensus-building at the country level. It was incumbent on me, from within the OAS General Secretariat, to support the efforts of these countries during the treaty approval process in the U.S. Congress. I met several times with the congressional leadership to convey how important these agreements are to the signatory countries, and to point out the extremely negative consequences—including political consequences—of their not being approved.

Similarly, in the second half of 2006 I did everything in my power to explain to United States Government officials the importance of renewing the Andean Trade Partnership and Drug Eradication Agreement (ATPDEA)—considering its impact not only on the economies of the countries concerned but also on their political stability and the survival of their institutional frameworks. And that is what I truly believe. I believe in the potential that wider markets and

new investment opportunities offer for the growth of our countries. And I believe that in this way our democracies will become better able to fulfill their promise to improve life for our peoples.

The message was well received in the United States, as indicated by the approval of the treaties recently signed. I hope as well for the success of our efforts to secure renewal of the ATPDEA for Ecuador and Bolivia. And I reaffirm my pledge to continue supporting this proposal in every way.

Also in 2006, the OAS supported member states with designing, programming, and executing horizontal cooperation projects in the area of trade. This took the form of workshops and seminars aimed at sharing successful experiences with administering trade treaties, including such issues as dispute settlement, human and plant health safeguards, and intellectual property.

The Partnership for Development Activities Program for 2006 of the Special Multilateral Fund of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development included 92 projects – 52 multinational and 40 national – totaling more than US\$7.5 million. For the current, ongoing cycle, 110 projects proposals are being reviewed (49 multilateral and 61 national). They were submitted by 33 member countries and 52 of those proposals involve entirely new projects. The total amount required for said projects in the areas of trade, social development, education, culture, science and technology, democracy, tourism, sustainable development and the environment exceeds US\$12 million.

Special attention has been paid to the development of small island economies, especially in areas in which they have comparative advantages, which we have sought to promote. Thus, in 2006, the General Secretariat's Tourism Section continued to support the development of the individual and institutional capacities of small tourism enterprises, at the same time as it continued its work with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency, the Caribbean Hotel Association, and the Caribbean Tourism Organization to develop and improve the Multiple Risks Contingencies Planning Manual. In the same area, several training programs on income administration and high quality customer service in the Caribbean were conducted for small tourism enterprises, while in Latin America the OAS continued to assist small hotels and expanded and organized the Latin American network for the development of this sector.

The Organization's concern for the sustainability of the development it promotes is illustrated by the activities carried out by the General Secretariat's Department of Sustainable Development. Its external projects program involves overall project funding of US\$70 million, including counterpart funds, and its annual external projects budget is around US\$8 million. Among the projects being addressed by the OAS, special mention should be made of efforts to promote integrated and sustainable management of water resources by the member states, above all in cross-border basins and coastal zones. These include the Strategic Program of Action for the Bermejo River Binational Watershed; the Framework Project for Sustainable Management of the Trans-border Water Resources of the River Plate Basin; the Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development of the Guaraní Aquifer System; Integrated Actions for Planning the Sustainable Development of the Amazon Region; and Sustainable land management in the Trans-border Ecosystem of the *Gran Chaco Americano*.

Under the Renewable Energy in the Americas program, a bioenergy feasibility study has begun in Saint Kitts and Nevis to review the possibility of converting sugar cane and municipal garbage into energy. A study is also underway on the provision of solar energy electricity to rural schools in El Salvador and senior officials in the energy sector in Mexico, Guatemala, and Dominica have been contacted regarding the possibility of conducting studies on sustainable energy policies and of providing assistance with the implementation of policy and regulatory reforms. A regional feasibility study is also under way on geothermal energy in the Eastern Caribbean.

The General Secretariat's biodiversity program is intended to alleviate poverty by providing greater access to information for decision-making purposes. Two projects – the Inter-American Biodiversity Network and the Amazon-Andes Protected Areas Network – promote the creation and standardization of national and subnational databases on species and specimens, invasive species, ecosystems, protected and pollinating areas, encourage their interoperability, and create computerized products with value added. The Amazon-Andes Protected Areas Network also established an information system to feed an Internet database with data on the status of protected areas in the eight countries comprising the Andes-Amazon basin region.

The OAS and Multidimensional Security

Multidimensional security has become an area of increasing concern for the General Secretariat. As regards drug abuse control, the Secretariat has acted through the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) and that Commission's Permanent Secretariat. In 2006, CICAD approved the follow-up reports to the recommendations of the Third Evaluation Round of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) and set the Fourth Round in motion. During this thirty-seventh regular session of the General Assembly, you will receive a copy of the report prepared by CICAD, entitled "Achievements of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM): 1997-2007." Every year a report is submitted to the General Assembly on MEM activities; this year's report focuses on the continuity of the attempts CICAD has made for over a decade to measure the efforts of member states to combat the drugs problem.

As regards treatment, work began, in conjunction with the University of the West Indies, on a certification program in addiction studies for the English-speaking Caribbean, to complement the on-line international master's degree in drug addiction studies, already in its third academic year. Likewise, an agreement was reached with Chile's National Council for the Control of Narcotics (CONACE), which demonstrated the benefits of horizontal cooperation and enabled the OAS to learn from this institution's practical experience.

Fifteen regional training seminars on reducing the supply of illicit drugs were held for police and customs officers, and in the pilot phase of the Andean Countries Cocoa Export Support Opportunity (ACCESO) project funds were provided to train 55 field experts. The OAS also participated in a model consortium of seven Peruvian institutions to set up 48 local schools for Peruvian farmers, an experience that will be replicated for other countries. Training programs and mock money laundering trials have also been carried out and assistance has been provided to member states in administering goods confiscated in anti-drug trafficking and money laundering operations. Finally, it is worth noting that 2006 marked the graduation of the first set of students to complete the online training program on research into drug issues in the Americas, designed for health professionals.

For its part, the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) continued to foster cooperation among member states in its sphere of competence, by providing training and technical assistance in its ten programs: cybersecurity, airport security, port security, document security and fraud prevention, immigration and customs controls, legislative assistance and counseling, financing of terrorism, security in the tourist industry, exercises in crisis management, and policy formulation and international coordination. The Secretariat of CICTE is currently working on projects in partnership with more than 20 international or regional organizations, including, among others, various United Nations agencies, the International Maritime Organization, the International Civil Aviation organization, APEC's security and counter-terrorism task forces, and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe/ Council of Europe

Hemispheric efforts to combat terrorism were particularly boosted by the approach taken by the nine Caribbean countries hosting the 2007 World Cricket Cup, which orchestrated an impressive prevention program, and by Brazil's intention to mount a similar program for the XV Pan American Games it will be hosting. These gestures by member states of our Organization have helped show that dealing with this problem is not just a responsibility of governments and that it is necessary to foster and raise awareness among all citizens of the region that security is a matter that concerns us all and which we should all responsibly address.

In the area of public security, a three-year agenda is being prepared to address a series of issues that the General Secretariat has been confronted with for some time. Thus, with respect to gangs, an attempt is being made to join forces with all those organizations in the inter-American system that are facing the problem and nine projects have been designed, with execution to begin this year. With regard to firearms, ammunition, and explosives the Second Meeting of the CIFTA-CICAD Group of Experts completed model legislation on the marking and tracing of firearms. A seminar was also held in Santiago, Chile on the handling of arms in custody and destruction processes, and two initiatives materialized that were aimed at helping the governments of Nicaragua and Colombia destroy arms, ammunition, and explosive remnants of war.

The Program for Comprehensive Action against Antipersonnel Mines in Central America (AICMA) also continues to support demining activities in Colombia, Ecuador, Nicaragua, and Peru. In 2006, with technical advice from the Inter-American Defense Board, support was provided to help member states remove approximately 6,500 antipersonnel landmines, thereby clearing almost 400,000 square meters of land. Likewise, in collaboration with the National Technological Institute of Nicaragua, the OAS continued lending support to survivors of landmine explosions in that country. The OAS has also established a victims assistance program in Colombia, through that country's Integral Rehabilitation Center. Finally, as part of the preventive education component for populations affected by mines, AICMA supported awareness campaigns for over 225,000 people living in affected areas.

On October 2006, the OAS Permanent Council approved the Hemispheric Plan of Action against Transnational Organized Crime. To address this pressing matter, the General Secretariat played an active part, through its Department for the Prevention of Threats against Public Security, in a number of seminars and workshops held in the period under review.

The OAS and Human Rights

Respect for human rights has continued to be a priority concern of our Organization. In 2006, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) met on three occasions. During its 124th period of sessions, it held 61 hearings on individual cases and petitions, precautionary measures, and general and specific human rights situations in a number of states and regions. In the hearings of a general nature, the IACHR received information on the human rights situation in Bolivia, Colombia, Guatemala, Haiti, Mexico, Peru, and Venezuela, as well as on specific issues in the United States, Nicaragua, and Brazil. In the course of those hearings, the IACHR also received information on vulnerable groups, including indigenous peoples, women, persons deprived of their liberty, migrant workers, children, and adolescents.

In response to an invitation from the Government of Guatemala, the Commission held its 125th period of sessions in that country. Holding a period of sessions away from Headquarters turned out to be fundamental as a means of giving the Commission access to direct dialogue, on the territory of one of the member states, with government officials and key players in society. In addition, the Commission had the opportunity to conduct two hearings on individual cases and nine hearings of a general and/or thematic nature.

At its 126th period of sessions, the Commission held 48 hearings on individual cases and petitions being processed, as well as on overall human rights situations. It also adopted amendments to its regulations and rules of procedure for appointing special rapporteurs. During those hearings, the IACHR received general information on the human rights situation in Cuba, Chile, Haiti, and Venezuela. The Commission also received information regarding Colombia, Peru, Brazil, and Mexico and on the situation of people living near the border between Ecuador and Colombia. The Commission was also briefed on such topics as the situation of women and of persons deprived of their liberty, and the status of rights of the child.

In the course of the year, commissioners visited Colombia, Bolivia, Brazil, Argentina, and Peru, and the rapporteurships on specific subjects continued their activities devoted to protection and promotion of human rights and to advisory services for member states.

In 2006, the IACHR submitted 14 contentious cases and 13 applications for provisional measures for consideration by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. During that period, the Court adopted decisions that continue to contribute to the formation and consolidation of inter-American jurisprudence in this field. Among the most important jurisprudential contributions of the Court in 2006 were its rulings on: right to life, personal integrity (right to human treatment), personal liberty, decent life (*vida digna*), judicial guarantees (right to a fair trial), freedom of thought and expression, right to equal protection, obligation to make reparation, duty to adopt domestic legal provisions, private property, recognition of legal personality, rights of the child, freedom of movement and residence, freedom from slavery and involuntary servitude, protection of honor and dignity (right to privacy), detentions and forced disappearances, extrajudicial executions, prison conditions and situations, detention conditions, indigenous rights, ancestral lands of indigenous communities, torture and cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment, investigation of torture, liability of the State for acts by third parties, forced displacement of persons, hospitalization conditions, duty to prosecute and punish perpetrators, denial of justice,

access to public information, impunity, adapting of domestic legislation, amnesty laws, and women's rights.

Administration and finance

This presentation cannot fail to mention our administrative and financial situation. I should begin by saying we have also made great strides in this regard and are no longer prone to the fits and starts of previous years, when it was common to find huge gaps between what was desirable and what was feasible in terms of the budget and, what is more, between commitments undertaken and the financial capacity to meet them.

In 2006, the General Secretariat invested more than US\$140 million in the Organization's programs and services, of which approximately 45 percent came from specific and voluntary funds. Cooperation for development activities accounted for approximately 23 percent of the consolidated 2006 budget and roughly the same percentage was invested in activities aimed at strengthening democracy and good governance. A further 13 percent financed multidimensional security projects; 12 percent financed member state requirements (including national offices and the operating expenses of the Permanent Council and other political organs of the Organization); and approximately 5 percent was used to support human rights programs.

My personal pledge is to pursue these efforts and to continue striving to improve the work of our Organization. With that purpose in mind, I have presented to the General Assembly, through the Preparatory Committee, a proposed program-budget for the Regular Fund that envisages total nominal expenditure of US\$87.5 million, which is in real terms equivalent to the US\$81.5 million ceiling established at the thirty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly. A 3.6 percent nominal terms increase has been added to the US\$81.5 million to cover the cost of living (COLA) increase in 2007, together with an additional 3.7 percent designed to cover the estimated cost-of-living increase for 2008 (equivalent to US\$3.1 million). I also asked the Preparatory Committee to recommend that the General Assembly allocate US\$83.3 million in quotas and US\$4.2 million in other revenue to finance that budget.

The quota adjustment entailed in this proposal, vis-à-vis the 2006 budget, will signify a one-off adjustment of 7.4 percent to cover the cost-of-living increases for 2007 and 2008.

In order to ensure that both expenditure and revenue of the Organization are maintained in real terms on the basis of the balanced budget I have presented, I also requested the Preparatory Committee to propose that the General Assembly adopt, as of 2009, a semi-automatic mechanism for adjusting quotas in line with inflation.

This procedure for maintaining the real value of the budget reflects a need currently felt by all multilateral organizations and to which most of them are responding in a similar fashion. Thus, the United Nations adjusts its budget half way through its budgetary cycle to take account of such factors as the impact of inflation, exchange rate fluctuations, and adjustments in personnel costs resulting from implementation of the recommendations of the International Civil Service Commission.

This position is consistent with the opinion of the OAS Board of External Auditors expressed in its report on the results of the Audit of Accounts and Financial Statements presented to the Permanent Council during the first week of May. The Board, in addition to issuing an unqualified opinion and making a very positive assessment of the Organization's financial situation, recommended giving "prompt and due attention" to this proposal and requested that this Assembly establish the automatic process requested.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the delegates to the Permanent Council for their constant concern and their contributions regarding the sound political and administrative operations of our Organization. Likewise, I want to express appreciation to the General Secretariat staff as a whole for their selfless and loyal collaboration. In submitting this report on 2006 activities, I also wish to express the hope that in 2007 we will be successful in making the necessary political strides toward consolidating the moment of growth in democracy that our region is experiencing and in strengthening the positive administrative workings of the Organization, which should be a model of the efficiency, transparency, and good governance that it endeavors to promote in the Americas.

I. GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND COUNCILS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly is the supreme organ of the Organization of American States and is composed of the delegations of all the member states, which have the right to be represented and to vote. The mechanisms, policies, actions, and mandates of the Organization are determined by the General Assembly. Its functions are defined in Chapter IX of the Charter, which states, in Article 57, that the Assembly shall convene annually during the period determined by the Rules of Procedure and at a place selected in accordance with the principle of rotation. In special circumstances and with the approval of two thirds of the member states, the Permanent Council shall convoke a special session of the General Assembly. All member states have the right to be represented in the General Assembly. Each state has the right to one vote.

Thirty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly

The thirty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly took place from June 4 to 7, 2006, in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. The Assembly adopted six declarations and 101 resolutions. The outcome of the General Assembly session is published in the document Proceedings (OEA/Ser.P/XXXVI-O.2), which has two volumes. Volume I contains the certified texts of the declarations and resolutions adopted. Volume II contains the verbatim minutes of the plenary sessions, the summary minutes of the General Committee, and other documents pertaining to this session.

Declarations

During its thirty-sixth regular session, the General Assembly adopted the following declarations:

- *AG/DEC. 46 (XXXVI-O/06), Declaration of Santo Domingo: Good Governance and Development in the Knowledge-Based Society:* The Assembly emphasized the importance of information and communication technologies (ICTs) as a crosscutting tool for achieving equitable and sustainable development and strengthening good governance and the promotion and protection of human rights. It expressed the need to work intensely to ensure that every person in the Americas, in particular those in situations of vulnerability and with special needs, may participate in the benefits generated by the knowledge-based society.

The member states expressed their commitment, consistent with the spirit of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, to guarantee the liberty of every person to enjoy freedom of expression, including access to uncensored political debate and the free exchange of ideas through all forms of mass media, including the Internet.

- *AG/DEC. 47 (XXXVI-O/06), Congratulations to the Peruvian People on the Electoral Process:* The Assembly expressed its appreciation for the work of the electoral observation mission of the Organization of American States and its congratulations to the

Peruvian people for the electoral process, which was conducted with full respect for the will of the people and in accordance with Peru's Constitution and laws.

- *AG/DEC. 48 (XXXVI-O/06), Declaration on the Question of the Malvinas Islands:* The Assembly welcomed 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. It reaffirmed the need to begin, as soon as possible, negotiations on the sovereignty dispute, in order to find a peaceful solution to this protracted controversy. It decided, consequently, to continue to examine the question at its subsequent sessions.
- *AG/DEC. 49 (XXXVI-O/06), Declaration on the Centennial of the Inter-American Juridical Committee (CJI):* The Assembly declared 2006 as the year for commemoration of the centennial of the Inter-American Juridical Committee and invited the CJI to present to the OAS Permanent Council its points of view on the general principles of law that form the legal basis of the inter-American system.
- *AG/DEC. 50 (XXXVI-O/06), Declaration of the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities (2006-2016):* The Assembly expressed its concern over the persisting state of disadvantage, inequity, and discrimination in which most persons with disabilities are living. It pointed to the need to adopt urgent Hemisphere-wide and/or regional measures and strategies to promote the recognition and exercise of all basic human rights, including civil and political as well as economic, social, and cultural rights, as well as the fundamental freedoms of persons with disabilities.
- *AG/DEC. 51 (XXXVI-O/06) Declaration on Haiti:* The Assembly calls upon the international community, particularly the United Nations, member states of the OAS, and Haiti's international partners, to express their solidarity by working in cooperation with the new government in support of its efforts to achieve integral development in Haiti and to meet the immediate and longer-term reconstruction needs of the country. It reaffirms the continued engagement by the OAS and Haiti's international partners to strengthen the rule of law, respect for human rights, political stability, strengthening of democracy, and social and economic development in Haiti.

Resolutions

At its thirty-sixth regular session, the General Assembly made important decisions on matters such as democracy, human rights, legal development, social development, hemispheric security, terrorism, corruption, civil society, antipersonnel mine removal, natural disasters, trade, tourism, scholarships, women, children, and indigenous peoples. The Assembly also adopted resolutions on the topics entrusted to the organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization, as well as resolutions on matters of General Secretariat administration.

The following resolutions were adopted:

AG/RES. 2158 (XXXI-O/06)	Place and Date of the Thirty-seventh Regular Session of the General Assembly
AG/RES. 2159 (XXXVI-O/06)	Amendments to the Statute and Regulations of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission
AG/RES. 2160 (XXXVI-O/06)	Strengthening of the Activities of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission to Promote Telecommunications Development in the Region
AG/RES. 2161 (XXXVI-O/06)	Strengthening of the Inter-American Commission of Women
AG/RES. 2162 (XXXVI-O/06)	Mechanism to Follow Up on Implementation of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence Against Women, “Convention of Belém do Pará”
AG/RES. 2163 (XXXVI-O/06)	Tribute to His Excellency Alberto Lleras Camargo on the One Hundredth Anniversary of His Birth
AG/RES. 2164 (XXXVI-O/06)	Inter-American Program on Education for Democratic Values and Practices
AG/RES. 2165 (XXXVI-O/06)	Coordination of Volunteers in the Hemisphere in Response to Natural Disasters and the Fight against Hunger and Poverty – White Helmets Initiative
AG/RES. 2166 (XXXVI-O/06)	Public Presentation of Candidates for Membership on the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights
AG/RES. 2167 (XXXVI-O/06)	Establishment of the Committee Provided for in the Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities
AG/RES. 2168 (XXXVI-O/06)	Combating Racism and All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance and Consideration of the Draft Inter-American Convention against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance
AG/RES. 2169 (XXXVI-O/06)	Commemoration of the One Hundredth Anniversary of the Birth of Galo Plaza Lasso, Former Secretary General of the Organization of American States
AG/RES. 2170 (XXXVI-O/06)	Support for the Work of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism
AG/RES. 2171 (XXXVI-O/06)	Follow-up and Implementation of the Mandates of the Declaration of Mar del Plata and the Plan of Action of the Fourth Summit of the Americas
AG/RES. 2172 (XXXVI-O/06)	Increasing and Strengthening Civil Society Participation in the Activities of the Organization of American States and in the Summits of the Americas Process
AG/RES. 2173 (XXXVI-O/06)	The Declaration of Recife
AG/RES. 2174 (XXXVI-O/06)	Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law

AG/RES. 2175 (XXXVI-O/06)	Right to the Truth
AG/RES. 2176 (XXXVI-O/06)	Promotion of the International Criminal Court
AG/RES. 2177 (XXXVI-O/06)	Human Rights Defenders: Support for the Individuals, Groups, and Organizations of Civil Society Working to Promote and Protect Human Rights in the Americas
AG/RES. 2178 (XXXVI-O/06)	Standards for the Preparation of Periodic Reports Pursuant to the Protocol of San Salvador
AG/RES. 2179 (XXXVI-O/06)	Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials
AG/RES. 2180 (XXXVI-O/06)	The Americas as an Antipersonnel-Land-Mine-Free Zone
AG/RES. 2181 (XXXVI-O/06)	Support for Action against Antipersonnel Mines in Ecuador and Peru
AG/RES. 2182 (XXXVI-O/06)	Adoption of the Amended Statutes of the Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction
AG/RES. 2183 (XXXVI-O/06)	Adoption of the Amended Statutes of the Inter-American Emergency Aid Fund
AG/RES. 2184 (XXXVI-O/06)	Natural Disaster Reduction, Risk Management, and Assistance in Natural and Other Disaster Situations
AG/RES. 2185 (XXXVI-O/06)	Follow-up to the Special Conference on Security
AG/RES. 2186 (XXXVI-O/06)	Inter-American Support for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty
AG/RES. 2187 (XXXVI-O/06)	Special Security Concerns of the Small Island States of the Caribbean
AG/RES. 2188 (XXXVI-O/06)	Limitation of Military Spending and the Promotion of Greater Transparency in the Acquisition of Arms in the Americas
AG/RES. 2189 (XXXVI-O/06)	Fighting Transnational Organized Crime in the Hemisphere
AG/RES. 2190 (XXXVI-O/06)	Support for and Follow-up to the Summits of the Americas Process
AG/RES. 2191 (XXXVI-O/06)	Appointment of Women to Senior Management Positions at the Organization of American States
AG/RES. 2192 (XXXVI-O/06)	Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality
AG/RES. 2193 (XXXVI-O/06)	Creation of the Fund for Children of the Americas
AG/RES. 2194 (XXXVI-O/06)	Promotion of Corporate Social Responsibility in the Hemisphere
AG/RES. 2195 (XXXVI-O/06)	Strengthening Political Parties and Other Political Organizations for Democratic Governance
AG/RES. 2196 (XXXVI-O/06)	Cooperation between the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States and the Secretariat of the United Nations System, the General Secretariat of the Central American Integration System, the General Secretariat of the Caribbean Community, and the Secretariat of the Association of Caribbean States

AG/RES. 2197 (XXXVI-O/06)	Observations and Recommendations on the Annual Reports of the Organs, Agencies, and Entities of the Organization
AG/RES. 2198 (XXXVI-O/06)	Observations and Recommendations on the Annual Report of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission
AG/RES. 2199 (XXXVI-O/06)	Amendments to the Model Regulations of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission concerning Laundering Offenses Connected to Illicit Drug Trafficking and Other Serious Offenses
AG/RES. 2200 (XXXVI-O/06)	Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission
AG/RES. 2201 (XXXVI-O/06)	Strategic Plan for Partnership for Integral Development 2006-2009
AG/RES. 2202 (XXXVI-O/06)	Meetings of the Organization of American States Funding Criteria and Budgetary Guidelines
AG/RES. 2203 (XXXVI-O/06)	Reiteration and Renewal of Commitments and Mandates in the Framework of Inter-American Cooperation for Integral Development
AG/RES. 2204 (XXXVI-O/06)	Eradicating Illiteracy and Fighting Diseases That Affect Integral Development
AG/RES. 2205 (XXXVI-O/06)	Report of the XIV Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor
AG/RES. 2206 (XXXVI-O/06)	Report of the Fourth Meeting of Ministers of Education within the Framework of CIDI
AG/RES. 2207 (XXXVI-O/06)	Report of the Fourth Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Ports
AG/RES. 2208 (XXXVI-O/06)	Third Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Culture within the Framework of CIDI
AG/RES. 2209 (XXXVI-O/06)	First Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Social Development within the Framework of CIDI
AG/RES. 2210 (XXXVI-O/06)	Activity Report of the Inter-American Committee on Social Development
AG/RES. 2211 (XXXVI-O/06)	First Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development within the Framework of CIDI
AG/RES. 2212 (XXXVI-O/06)	Fostering the Development of Tourism
AG/RES. 2213 (XXXVI-O/06)	Modification of the Statutes of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development and of the Statutes of the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development
AG/RES. 2214 (XXXVI-O/06)	Continuing Participation in the Inter-American Council for Integral Development by Member States That Have Not Ratified the Protocol of Managua
AG/RES. 2215 (XXXVI-O/06)	Strengthening Democracy and Socioeconomic Development in Haiti
AG/RES. 2216 (XXXVI-O/06)	Meeting of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas: Strengthening the Activities of the Justice Studies Center of the Americas

AG/RES. 2217 (XXXVI-O/06)	Seventh Inter-American Specialized Conference on Private International Law
AG/RES. 2218 (XXXVI-O/06)	Observations and Recommendations on the Annual Report of the Inter-American Juridical Committee
AG/RES. 2219 (XXXVI-O/06)	Follow-up on the Inter-American Convention against Corruption and Its Program for Cooperation
AG/RES. 2220 (XXXVI-O/06)	Strengthening of Human Rights Systems pursuant to the Mandates Arising from the Fourth Summit of the Americas
AG/RES. 2221 (XXXVI-O/06)	Strengthening of the National Human Rights Systems of the Member States and Support for the Work of Defenders of the People, Defenders of the Population, and Human Rights Attorneys or Commissioners (Ombudsmen)
AG/RES. 2222 (XXXVI-O/06)	Cooperation among the Member States in the Fight against Corruption and Impunity
AG/RES. 2223 (XXXVI-O/06)	Observations and Recommendations on the Annual Report of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights
AG/RES. 2224 (XXXVI-O/06)	The Human Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families
AG/RES. 2225 (XXXVI-O/06)	Cooperation among the Member States of the Organization of American States to Ensure the Protection of Human Rights and Fight Impunity
AG/RES. 2226 (XXXVI-O/06)	Promotion of and Respect for International Humanitarian Law
AG/RES. 2227 (XXXVI-O/06)	Observations and Recommendations on the Annual Report of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
AG/RES. 2228 (XXXVI-O/06)	Meeting of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas
AG/RES. 2229 (XXXVI-O/06)	Internally Displaced Persons
AG/RES. 2230 (XXXVI-O/06)	Program of Action for the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities (2006-2016)
AG/RES. 2231 (XXXVI-O/06)	Persons Who Have Disappeared and Assistance to Members of Their Families
AG/RES. 2232 (XXXVI-O/06)	Protection of Asylum Seekers, Refugees, and Returnees in the Americas
AG/RES. 2233 (XXXVI-O/06)	Study of the Rights and the Care of Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment
AG/RES. 2234 (XXXVI-O/06)	American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
AG/RES. 2235 (XXXVI-O/06)	Place and Date of the Thirty-eighth Regular Session of the General Assembly
AG/RES. 2236 (XXXVI-O/06)	Place and Date of the Thirty-ninth Regular Session of the General Assembly
AG/RES. 2237 (XXXVI-O/06)	Right to Freedom of Thought and Expression and the Importance of the Media
AG/RES. 2238 (XXXVI-O/06)	Protecting Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms While Countering Terrorism
AG/RES. 2239 (XXXVI-O/06)	Free Trade and Investment in the Hemisphere

AG/RES. 2240 (XXXVI-O/06)	Combating the Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Smuggling of and Trafficking in Children in the Hemisphere
AG/RES. 2241 (XXXVI-O/06)	Social Charter of the Americas: Renewal of the Hemispheric Commitment to Fight Extreme Poverty in the Region
AG/RES. 2242 (XXXVI-O/06)	Avian Influenza: Inter-American Cooperation to Meet a Global Threat
AG/RES. 2243 (XXXVI-O/06)	Support for the Implementation of the Declaration of Santo Domingo
AG/RES. 2244 (XXXVI-O/06)	Promotion of Private-Sector Participation in Activities of the Organization of American States
AG/RES. 2245 (XXXVI-O/06)	Consolidation of the Regime Established in the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco)
AG/RES. 2246 (XXXVI-O/06)	Cooperation on Some Matters of Security in the Hemisphere
AG/RES. 2247 (XXXVI-O/06)	Promotion of Hemispheric Cooperation in Dealing with Gangs Involved in Criminal Activities
AG/RES. 2248 (XXXVI-O/06)	Migrant Populations and Migration Flows in the Americas
AG/RES. 2249 (XXXVI-O/06)	Extradition of and Denial of Safe Haven to Terrorists: Mechanisms for Cooperation in the Fight against Terrorism
AG/RES. 2250 (XXXVI-O/06)	Obligation of Member States to Respect the Rules and Principles of International Law Contained in the Charter of the Organization of American States, in order to Preserve and Strengthen Peace in the Hemisphere
AG/RES. 2251 (XXXVI-O/06)	Promotion of Regional Cooperation for Implementation of the Inter-American Democratic Charter on the Occasion of Its Fifth Anniversary
AG/RES. 2252 (XXXVI-O/06)	Access to Public Information: Strengthening Democracy
AG/RES. 2253 (XXXVI-O/06)	Support for the Use of New and Renewable Energy Sources
AG/RES. 2254 (XXXVI-O/06)	Modernization and Use of Electoral Technologies in the Hemisphere
AG/RES. 2255 (XXXVI-O/06)	The Use of Information Technologies in Government Procurement in order to Promote Transparency and the Participation of Micro, Small, and Medium-Sized Enterprises, and Other Productive Organizations
AG/RES. 2256 (XXXVI-O/06)	Hemispheric Efforts to Combat Trafficking in Persons: Conclusions and Recommendations of the First Meeting of National Authorities on Trafficking in Persons
AG/RES. 2257 (XXXVI-O/06)	Program-Budget of the Organization for 2007, Quotas and Contributions to FEMCIDI for 2007
AG/RES. 2258 (XXXVI-O/06)	Vote of Appreciation to the People and Government of the Dominican Republic

PERMANENT COUNCIL

The Permanent Council is one of the organs by means of which the Organization accomplishes its purposes (Art. 53 of the Charter). It reports directly to the General Assembly and is composed of one representative of each member state, especially appointed by the respective government, with the rank of ambassador. Its functions and authority are defined in Chapter XII of the Charter. The Permanent Council takes cognizance of any matter referred to it by the General Assembly or the Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs. It serves provisionally as the organ of consultation in conformity with the provisions of the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance (Rio Treaty). It keeps vigilance over the maintenance of friendly relations among the member states and assists them in the peaceful settlement of their disputes. It also acts as the Preparatory Committee of the General Assembly, unless the General Assembly should decide otherwise.

Chairs and vice chairs

The office of chair of the Permanent Council is held by each of the principal representatives in turn, following the Spanish alphabetical order of the names in Spanish of their respective states. The office of vice chair is filled in the same way, in reverse alphabetical order. The chair and vice-chair hold office for a term of three months. The terms begin automatically on the first day of each calendar quarter.

During the reporting period, the following ambassadors served as chairs of the Permanent Council:

- July-September 2006. Chair: Henry Illes, Permanent Representative of Suriname. Vice Chair: Ambassador Ellsworth I.A. John, Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.
- October-December 2006. Chair: Ambassador Marina Annette Valère, Permanent Representative of Trinidad and Tobago. Vice Chair: Ambassador Sonia Johnny, Permanent Representative of Saint Lucia.
- January-March 2007. Chair: Ambassador María del Luján Flores, Permanent Representative of Uruguay. Vice Chair: Ambassador Izben C. Williams, Permanent Representative of Saint Kitts and Nevis.
- April-June 2007. Chair: Ambassador Jorge Valero Briceño, Permanent Representative of Venezuela. Vice Chair: Ambassador Roberto Álvarez Gil, Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic.

Presentations

During this reporting period, the Secretary General and the Assistant Secretary General spoke to the Permanent Council on various occasions to report on facilitation efforts carried out in countries of the region. They also reported on the electoral observation missions carried out by the General Secretariat in OAS member states.

Visits to the Permanent Council

The Council was visited by the following figures: Her Excellency Michelle Bachelet Jeria, President of the Republic of Chile; His Excellency Gonzalo Gutiérrez Reinol, Vice Minister and Secretary General of Foreign Affairs of Peru; His Excellency Álvaro García Linera, Vice President of the Republic of Bolivia; His Excellency Patrick Manning, Primer Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago; His Excellency Dr. Denzil L. Douglas, Primer Minister of Saint Kitts and Nevis; His Excellency Enrique Bolaños Geyer, President of the Republic of Nicaragua; His Excellency Dr. Oscar Arias Sánchez, President of Costa Rica; and others.

Resolutions and declarations

To date the Permanent Council has adopted the following declarations and resolutions, the complete texts of which can be found on the Council's web page:

Declarations

CP/DEC. 31 (1567/06)	Declaration on the Referendum in Panama
CP/DEC. 32 (1568/06)	Congratulations to Brazil on Its Electoral Process
CP/DEC. 33 (1571/06)	Congratulations to Nicaragua on Its Electoral Process
CP/DEC. 34 (1573/06)	Congratulations to Ecuador on Its Electoral Process
CP/DEC. 35 (1573/06)	Congratulations to Venezuela on Its Electoral Process Held on December 3, 2006

Resolutions

CP/RES. 908 (1567/06)	Hemispheric Plan of Action against Transnational Organized Crime.
CP/RES. 909 (1567/06)	Promotion of Agriculture and Rural Development in the Hemisphere
CP/RES. 910 (1568/06)	Amendment to Article 23 of the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat
CP/RES. 911 (1573/06)	Adjustment to the 2007 Program-Budget
CP/RES. 912 (1574/06)	Temporary Lifting of the Pause in the Awarding of New Scholarships
CP/RES. 913 (1577/07)	Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities
CP/RES. 914 (1577/07)	Place and Date of the Special Meeting of the OAS/REMJA Working Group on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters and Extradition

THE INTER-AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT

The Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) is an organ of the Organization that is directly answerable to the General Assembly. It has decision-making authority in matters related to partnership for development and was established when the Protocol of Managua entered into force on January 29, 1996 (Chapter XIII). It has the following subsidiary bodies: Permanent Executive Committee (CEPCIDI), Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD), nonpermanent specialized committees (CENPES), and the inter-American committees.

Inter-American Council for Integral Development

The Eleventh Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) was held at OAS headquarters on May 22, 2006. The Permanent Representative of Jamaica, Ambassador Gordon V. Shirley, and Mrs. Margarita Riva-Geoghegan, Alternate Representative of the United States, were elected Chair and Vice Chair of the meeting, respectively. Furthermore, the delegations of Argentina, Canada, Brazil, and United States were elected as the members of the Style Committee for the meeting.

Pursuant to Article 117 of the OAS Charter, CIDI unanimously approved the Secretary General's nominee for the post of Executive Secretary for Integral Development. Ambassador Alfonso Quiñónez was elected Executive Secretary of SEDI and, at the recommendation of the Management Board of the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD), Director General of that body.

CIDI also considered and approved the Strategic Plan for Cooperation for Integral Development 2006-2009, CIDI/RES. 178 (XI-O/06), which serves as a guideline for OAS cooperation activities. This Strategic Plan seeks to strengthen the institutional and human capacity of states and to support their efforts to respond to the challenges posed by poverty, inequity, and social exclusion. CIDI underscored the important part played by Mr. Mario Aguzzi, Alternate Representative of Venezuela and Chair of CEPCIDI's Working Group on Partnership for Development Policies, in the building the consensus needed for this important document.

For the election of five new members of the Management Board of the IACD, CIDI chose El Salvador as one of them and instructed CEPCIDI to fill the other four vacancies. Likewise, and in view of the fact that the delegations were still conducting consultations, CEPCIDI was instructed to choose its own Chair and Vice Chair.

CIDI received offers of voluntary contributions to FEMCIDI from several member states and decided to extend its deadline for receiving offers to June 30, 2006.

The 11th Regular Meeting of CIDI went on to consider and approve in the framework of the Council and forwarded other for consideration by the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth regular session. The latter were considered and adopted by the General Assembly in June 2006. The resolutions covered the following topics, among others: Strategic Plan for Partnership for

Integral Development 2006-2009; reiteration and renewal of commitments and mandates in the framework of inter-American cooperation for integral development; eradicating illiteracy and fighting diseases that affect integral development; the Report of the XIV Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor; the Report on the Fourth Meeting of Ministers of Education within the Framework of CIDI; the report of the Fourth Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Ports; the Third Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Culture within the Framework of CIDI; the First Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Social Development within the Framework of CIDI; the Activity Report of the Inter-American Committee on Social Development; the preparatory work for the First Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development; the status of work on the draft Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development 2006-2009; modification of the statutes of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development and of the statutes of the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development; the nonpermanent specialized committees; and continuing participation in the Inter-American Council for Integral Development by member states that have not ratified the Protocol of Managua.

Nonpermanent Specialized Committees (CENPES)

The nonpermanent specialized committees are technical bodies that lend support to CIDI in dealing with specialized matters or in developing specific aspects of inter-American cooperation in the priority cooperation areas of the Strategic Plan. There are eight committees, one for each priority area of the Strategic Plan: Education, Economic Diversification, Trade Liberalization and Market Access, Social Development and Creation of Productive Employment, Scientific Development and Exchange and Transfer of Technology, Strengthening of Democratic Institutions, Sustainable Development and Environment, and Sustainable Tourism Development.

The meeting of the CENPES did not take place in 2006, due to the decision by CEPCIDI, exceptionally, to suspend the FEMCIDI 2005 programming cycle. CEPCIDI's decision was partly prompted by considerable delays in executing projects financed with FEMCIDI 2004 funds.

However, for the FEMCIDI 2006 programming cycle, CEPCIDI did convene the annual meeting of the CENPES corresponding to the FEMCIDI 2006 programming cycle for February 7 to 9, 2007. The members of the eight committees evaluated the projects and submitted to the Management Board of the IACD their recommendations as to which projects should be financed and the amount of financing for each project.

Following is a Table indicating by sectors the number of projects recommended by the CENPES:

Account	Number of projects recommended	Amounts recommended(US\$)
Education	25	2.238.403
Social Development	15	942.469
Sustainable Development	13	743.250
Science and Technology	13	1.237.370
Trade	10	1.042.758
Culture	2	33.319
Democracy	6	351.602
Tourism	9	992.406
Integral Development	0	0
TOTAL	93	7.581.577

On March 2, 2007, the Management Board of the IACD held its Twentieth Meeting and approved the 93 projects recommended by the CENPES, through document AICD/JD/doc.104/07 rev .1, "FEMCIDI 2006 Partnership for Development Activities Programming." The total amount approved for execution was US\$7.581.577.

II. GENERAL SECRETARIAT

THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT

Chapter XVI of the Charter describes the functions and attributes of the General Secretariat, the OAS' central and permanent organ headquartered in Washington, D.C. Elected by the General Assembly, the Secretary General directs the General Secretariat, serves as its legal representative and participates in all meetings of the Organization with voice but without vote. The Secretary General has the authority to bring to the attention of the General Assembly or the Permanent Council any matter that, in his judgment, could affect the peace and security of the Hemisphere or the development of the member states. It is the Secretary General's responsibility to establish whatever offices he deems necessary within the General Secretariat, to determine the number of staff members, appoint them, regulate their duties and functions, and fix their remuneration. The Assistant Secretary General, also elected by the General Assembly, is the Secretary of the Permanent Council and an advisory officer to the Secretary General, whose functions he performs during the latter's temporary absence or permanent disability. The Assistant Secretary General also acts as the Secretary General's representative in all matters which the latter entrusts to him.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

The Office of the Secretary General, under Article 111 of the OAS Charter and in accordance with the measures and policies determined by the General Assembly and the pertinent resolutions of the Councils, performs high-level management functions related to the promotion of economic, social, legal, educational, scientific, and cultural relations in the member states of the Organization.

Office of the Secretary General

In this reporting period, the Office of the Secretary General, within the purview of its assigned functions, supported and complemented the activities of the various organs, secretariats, departments, and units of the Organization. Its efforts focused on three principal areas. In the area of external affairs, it sought to support the Organization's activities to enhance its status as the principal inter-American multilateral political body and its image on the world stage. In terms of the Organization's substantive activities, it concentrated on building and strengthening democracy and governance; broadening and stepping up human rights protection activities; promoting development while ensuring inclusiveness and equity; and developing a multidimensional security policy to deal effectively with the major problems affecting the inhabitants of the Americas. As for the Organization's internal affairs, the Office's activities were aimed at strengthening and reinforcing administrative and communications mechanisms of the General Secretariat, so that it might meet its responsibilities with greater efficiency, transparency, and accountability.

The Office also conducted investigations, prepared drafts for speeches of the Secretary General, and acted as liaison with the permanent missions, government agencies, and civil society. It organized the Secretary General's attendance at presidential inaugurations in Peru, Colombia,

México, and Nicaragua; his participation in the Sixteenth Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government and in the South American Summit; his official visits to heads of member states; and his participation in ministerial conferences and other international conferences and events, including meetings at the United Nations headquarters in New York.

On the administrative front, the Office of the Secretary General designed the changes set forth in Executive Order 05–13 Rev. 3, notably the incorporation of Ambassador Alexandre Addor Neto as Assistant Secretary for Multidimensional Security, the formation of the Department of State Modernization and Governance in the Secretariat for Political Affairs, and the Program for Universal Civil Registry in the Americas within the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development.

Finally, the Office of the Secretary General, together with the Secretariat for Administration and Finance, prepared the proposed budget for 2008, which the Secretary General presented to the Preparatory Committee of the General Assembly.

Department of Planning, Control, and Evaluation

The Department of Planning, Control, and Evaluation (DPCE) was created to coordinate planning, control, and evaluation within the General Secretariat, including its secretariats, departments, and offices. Its specific functions are (a) to develop and administer instruments for the coordinated management of those processes and of project management; and (b) to develop the institutional statistics necessary for strategic decision-making. The Department also acts as Technical Secretariat of the Project Evaluation Committee.

The DPCE went into operation in January 2006 with an initial team of one director and five professionals. Later they were joined by three other professionals, in addition to another professional contracted by the Government of Spain to administer the Spanish Fund for the OAS.

Between March and December 2006, the DPCE developed and implemented the annual operational planning procedure, completing the prototype for its management. Initially this prototype was used to formulate the 2007 operating plan, which included identifying 964 operating goals and their costs and assigning responsibility for the tasks to organizational units. The Department also completed the prototype for management of the quarterly operational oversight process, which includes reporting the degree of fulfillment of operational goals and measuring the likelihood of their full execution during the budgetary period, as well as conceptual design, functional analysis, and operational testing of the first version of information systems to support operational planning management, which was developed by the Department of Information and Technology Services.

The Department organized and conducted five training workshops on project design instruments and developed and secured approval by the Project Evaluation Committee of the technical instruments (variables, qualification scales, and weighting factors) for evaluating the relevance of programs and projects. On that same basis the Department performed preliminary technical evaluations of 119 new project profiles, 91 FEMCIDI projects under way in 2005, and 51 projects of the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security under way in that same period.

In this period the Department also provided technical secretariat services for the implementation and administration of the Spanish Fund for the OAS, including technical assistance to OAS staff members in project profile design, coordination of preparations by the General Secretariat, the Spanish mission to the OAS, and the official Spanish agencies, and coordination of project profile design, evaluation, and selection.

Department of Legal Services

The Department of Legal Services (DLS) is a dependency of the Office of the Secretary General. Its mandate is set out in Annex A of Executive Order 05-13 Rev. 2.

During the period under review, the DLS responded in writing to 1.030 queries from divisions of the GS/OAS, from the political organs and from member state delegations. Of these queries, 457 involved legal opinions and 220 agreements were reviewed.

It also collaborated in drawing up regulatory instruments and in reviewing administrative memoranda. It participated in meetings held by the Assistant General Secretariat with respect to preparations for the General Assembly in the Dominican Republic and reviewed the corresponding agreement. It assisted the SEDI in preparing and negotiating agreements for project execution and represented its divisions before the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Within the General Secretariat, it advised the Chief of Staff of the Secretary General, the Department of Sustainable Development, the Executive Secretariat of the IACHR, the Secretariat for Administration and Finance, the Department of Human Resources, the Secretariat for Political Affairs, the Office of Procurement Services, the Office of General Services, the Executive Secretariat of CICAD, the Department for the Prevention of Threats against Public Security, the Trust for the Americas and the Young Americas Business Trust.

It cooperated with the Department of Human Development in editing a new Scholarship Manual and provided legal counsel at meetings of the CEPACIDI Subcommittee on Partnership for Development Policies regarding the manual. It also collaborated on reviewing agreements for project execution and on electoral observation and advised MAPP/OAS in Colombia on matters relating to contracts, labor, privileges, and immunities. It cooperated with the OAS Special Mission in Haiti and collaborated with the Office of the Inspector General on audits and investigations conducted at headquarters and GS/OAS Offices in the Member States.

It advised the General Assembly, the Permanent Council, and CAAP on administrative, budgetary, labor, and procedural matters. It prepared draft resolutions, submitted written opinions on regulatory and procedural matters, and provided assistance at the meetings of CIDI, CEPACIDI, and the Management Board of the IACD.

It followed and facilitated, as observer and advisor, the negotiations for granting fifteen-year contracts for mobile cellular telecommunications services, at the request of the Ecuadoran government and COM/CITEL. It also advised the General Directorate of IICA on institutional, administrative, and labor matters, and the Retirement and Pension Committee.

It represented the Secretary General before the Administrative Tribunal and advised the hearing officers and the Reconsideration Committee.

Department of External Relations

The mission of the Department of External Relations is to advise the various dependencies of the general secretariat and bodies of the organization on all activities related to external relations, while promoting and maintaining contacts with the permanent observers, the nongovernmental organizations, academic institutions, the organization's host country, the private sector, and nonprofit organizations, among others. Its two sections are public relations and institutional relations.

- The Public Relations Section

The public relations section of the department promoted the participation and collaboration of observer countries through resource mobilization, document and information exchange, informational meetings, visits by high-level government officials, and special events. It also acted as technical secretariat to the resource mobilization committee.

In 2006, the Lecture Series of the Americas, coordinated by the Department, had a number of prestigious speakers, including Prof. Jeffrey Sachs; former president of Brazil Fernando Henrique Cardoso; Spanish judge Baltasar Garzón; Mr. Nicholas Negroponte, founder of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Media Lab and chairman of One Laptop per Child; Mr. Jeffrey Puryear, Vice President for Social Policy at the Inter-American Dialogue; Mr. George Soros, Chairman of the Open Society Institute; and Ms. Huguette Labelle, Chair of Transparency International. These lectures were broadcast by EDUSAT, Venevisión, the Voice of the Americas, and HITN, among others. In 2006, the Lecture Series continued to receive support from the University of San Martín de Porres and from the Governments of Qatar and the Hellenic Republic. A book on the Lecture Series of the Americas was also published, in cooperation with the University of San Martín de Porres.

In March 2006, the Department held the 23rd Model OAS General Assembly (MOAS), for university students of the Hemisphere, in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, with support from the President of the Dominican Republic, Leonel Fernández, its Secretariat of State for Higher Education, Science, and Technology, the Global Foundation for Democracy and Development (FUNGLODE), and the United Nations Association of the Dominican Republic (ANU-RD). In April 2006, the Department cosponsored, with the Inter-American Institute of Diplomacy the Washington MOAS (WMOAS), for universities. In October 2006, it held the 24th MOAS, for university students, at the *Universidad del Norte* (UNINORTE) in Barranquilla, Colombia. Finally, in November, the 25th MOAS, for high school students, was held in Washington, D.C. Each of these model assemblies was attended by between 350 and 500 students from various high schools and universities in the Hemisphere. They were broadly covered by local media outlets.

In May 2006, together with the Baker Institute at Rice University in Houston, Texas, the seventh colloquium of the Americas Project was held; the topic was the status of freedom of expression in

the Americas. In this reporting period, the Department supported the Organized Crime and Gangs Section of the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security. It also published the report on the meeting of spokespersons of OAS member state governments that took place in 2005 in Santiago, Chile.

- The Institutional Relations Section

New channels of communication with members of the United States Congress were developed in this period. This led to meetings between the Secretary General and 31 Congressional representatives in 2006. The Department worked with other OAS bodies, and with the states involved, to achieve the extension of preferential tariffs for the Andean countries. Support was provided to the various areas of the Organization in their efforts to maintain substantive contacts with the Congress of the host country.

The Department implemented the OAS specialized briefing program, provided to 5,124 persons in 2006, including diplomats, government officials, members of the military, students, political analysts, and the general public. The briefings emphasize the work of the Organization, include tours of the historic building, and are an excellent outreach tool.

Staff of the Department maintained close relations with academic institutions, think tanks, and opinion leaders in the Washington area to promote OAS affairs. To that end, they organized events and participated in bilateral meetings and forums. The Department gave presentations to highly influential local and national groups, including the American University, the Women's Foreign Policy Group, the Women's Bar Association, and the Heritage Foundation.

Department of Press and Communications

The principal mission of the Department of Press and Communications is to publicize the political discourse of the General Secretariat of the OAS. Without changing its basic mission, the Department has been dedicating its efforts over the last two years to projecting an image of an organization that has an increasingly larger presence in the Hemisphere and whose opinion is heard and respected on the international scene. Distributing official releases reporting on the activities of the Offices of the Secretary General and the Assistant Secretary General, and on the meetings of the Permanent Council represents the central point around which the work of disseminating information revolves.

The Organization's strategic goals, which speak of democracy, development, human rights, legitimate electoral processes, and good and transparent governments, have been embodied in the information released to such an extent that in many countries in the Hemisphere the OAS is applauded or criticized because it is associated with the defense of those principles. The participation of the OAS in electoral processes that have occurred during the period under review has, in turn, become engraved in the memory of analysts and citizens and the Electoral Observation Missions of the OAS are directly associated with the legitimacy of those processes. The OAS is also associated with the defense of human rights and the resolution of political crisis, all of which is due to a great extent to adequate acceptance in public opinion of the message emanating from the Organization.

How can the final product of the task of dissemination be measured? It can be measured by quantifying the appearance of OAS/Press-generated information in the media. The results cannot be concealed: the news appears or does not appear in the press that is reviewed daily. The conclusion is that the information taken up by the media is quantitatively and qualitatively better than in earlier years. The daily information summary (Newsclips) prepared by the team of journalists, based on major news appearing in the most important newspapers of the 35 member states, reflects the quantity and quality of the information coming from the Department of Press and Communications.

To be noted at this point is the quality that the Department has been achieving in the production of information. Subjects are conceptualized, described, and developed with greater mastery and talent. The discourse of the General Secretariat on democratic sustainability, against drug trafficking or in favor of human rights is repeated in releases in a consistent and persistent way until it is embedded in the social consciousness.

The operating method has continued to improve until finding a daily method of operation (including weekends) according to the routine of a traditional communications medium. Journalistic production, which includes news development and photography, has been the basis of the press work that is provided daily to an increasing number of media outlets in the Hemisphere that demand high-quality and timely information.

In this type of interaction with the media, the mailing list used by the Department of Press and Communications grew by 200 percent between May 2006 and May 2007 in terms of print media alone. This phenomenon has to do not only with the quality of the information disseminated but also with the projection of the Organization's image. Newspapers and news agencies in the Hemisphere increasingly demand releases and information, which means continuous revision of the media list and connection data in order to achieve targeted distribution that is satisfactory to the users.

Similarly and as a result of the information generated by political actors of the OAS, the number of releases increased significantly. A self-sustaining cycle was produced: the more information appears in the media, the greater the interest in generating news; and the more news is generated, the more its presence is noted in the media. However, the market is selective and, unfortunately, information that is "sold" is the most polemical. Great efforts have been made to make room for all large projects developed by the Under-Secretariats of the General Secretariat, although the results are not always satisfactory. Similarly, the Department of Press provides balanced coverage of all activities that take place at the OAS and all of them are reported in releases distributed to the same recipients. However, not all releases are taken up by the media. "*Good news, no news,*" continues to be the prevailing rule in the media.

Photographic work done by professionals has increased by 300 percent. Images accompanied by explanatory text, a formula in use since 2005 to make the topics to which the media are most resistant attractive, continue to be widely accepted. The photographic spreads shown daily on the OAS website after each official activity are an increasing source of input for newspapers in North, Central, and South America.

The magazine *Américas* has gradually made room for political subjects. The opinions of prime ministers and presidents cover the pages of a publication that inspires affection among the OAS community and now draws the interest of a larger number of subscribers. Just as important newspapers reproduce the political information produced by our Organization, they now reproduce the international articles appearing in *Américas* as well.

Office of Protocol

The Office of Protocol plans and coordinates the official ceremonies of the political bodies of the Organization, the Permanent Council, the Secretary General, the Assistant Secretary General, and the departments of the General Secretariat. It serves as liaison between the U.S. Department of State and the permanent missions on matters related to registration and visas for staff of the missions and to the privileges and immunities of diplomats accredited to the Organization. It also organizes and coordinates the use of the Main Building for protocolary or social-cultural functions and prints and keeps current the Directory of Permanent Missions on the Organization's intranet.

During this reporting period, the Office organized protocolary meetings for visits by the presidents of Jamaica, Haiti (president-elect), Trinidad and Tobago, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica. It organized ceremonies and protocolary meetings for Pan American Day, for the birthday of Simón Bolívar, and to commemorate the Discovery of America - Encounter of Two Worlds. The Office coordinated the presentation of credentials by the Permanent Representatives of Colombia, Chile, Canada, Mexico, Uruguay, and Honduras, as well as courtesy visits by various permanent observers. Farewell receptions were organized for the ambassadors of Peru, Honduras, Chile, the Bahamas, Nicaragua, Bolivia, Canada, the United States, and Uruguay. Letters of congratulations were prepared and sent to the permanent representatives and observers recognizing their independence days.

The Office reviewed and processed some 4,000 applications from the permanent missions and their staff for accreditation; issuance, extension, renewal, and changes of visas; work permits and their renewal; importation and purchase of duty-free goods; and issuance and renewal of tax exemption cards and driver's licenses.

Summits Secretariat

The Summits Secretariat renders technical and logistical support to the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG); manages the Summit of the Americas Information Network; preserves the institutional memory of the Summit process; follows up on mandates issued by the Heads of State and Government; chairs the Joint Summits Working Group; and coordinates participation by civil society and indigenous peoples in OAS activities and in the Summits process.

The Secretariat supported the meetings of the SIRG in preparation for the Fourth Summit of the Americas. Specifically, it presented to member states the format for implementation of mandates of the Fourth Summit, coordinated participation by social groups in the Summits process, and facilitated the transfer of the SIRG chair to the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, host of the Fifth Summit of the Americas. It also provided secretariat services to the

Joint Summits Working Group, comprised of 12 bodies of the inter-American system and the United Nations, which met four times in 2006.

The Secretariat also supported the linkage of ministerial meetings and other sectoral meetings with the Summits process. It coordinated civil society participation in the Sixth Meeting of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA VI); the Seventh Conference of Ministers of Defense; the Third Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Culture; the First Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Sustainable Development; and the Thirty-third Assembly of Delegates of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), among others.

The Summits Secretariat provided technical support to meetings of the Permanent Council Committee on Inter-American Summits Management and Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities by preparing reports and the draft work plan and analyzing applications from nongovernmental organizations to be registered for OAS activities (presently 206 civil society organizations are registered with the Organization).

In the context of the thirty-sixth regular session of the OAS General Assembly, the Secretariat organized the dialogue among representatives of 220 nongovernmental organizations, the Secretary General and the foreign ministers on the various items on the inter-American agenda and supported the participation of civil society representatives in the ministerial meetings and specialized conferences held in the Permanent Council framework. The Summits Secretariat published and distributed to the member states, to civil society organizations registered with the Organization, and to government agencies that implement national development policies the document **“Recommendations of Civil Society, 2002–2006.”** It contains civil society views on regional challenges and the suggestions civil society organizations have presented over the past four years. With support from the Open Society Institute, the Summits Secretariat has been implementing, since 2004, a program entitled **“Inter-American Initiative for Cooperation with Civil Society, 2006-2007”**. Under this initiative, nine projects are being executed in the region, at a cost of US\$100.000,00, and civil society participation in the Summits process has been facilitated.

In order to disseminate information on the implementation of Summit mandates, to publicize the mandates of the Fourth Summit, and to promote their implementation, the Secretariat published the fourth volume in the series **“Official Documents of the Summits of the Americas Process”** and the **Summit Information Bulletins** and updated the web page www.cumbredelasamericas.org (or, in English, www.summitoftheamericas.org) on the mandates in each area of the inter-American agenda.

In terms of information, the Summits Secretariat has a database of nearly 4.600 civil society organizations, 700 indigenous organizations, and nearly 1.000 private sector trade associations, to which it periodically sends information on OAS and Summit-related activities. The database has made it possible to disseminate information to those organizations so as to generate feedback between the General Secretariat, the member states, and the civil society organizations in the implementation of Summit mandates.

The Secretariat also supported, technically and logistically, the OAS Permanent Council's Working Group to Prepare the Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Finally, in support of the tasks involved in the implementation and follow-up of Summit mandates, the Secretariat mobilized external funds from member states (Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, El Salvador, the United States, Mexico, Trinidad and Tobago, Nicaragua, and Guyana), members of the JSWG (IDB and CAF), governmental development agencies, and the Open Society Institute (OSI).

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL

In accordance with Article 115 of the OAS Charter and in keeping with measures and policy decided on by the General Assembly and the respective resolutions of the Councils, the Office of the Assistant Secretary General serves as Secretary of the Permanent Council, provides advisory services to the Secretary General, and is responsible for all activities the latter may entrust to him.

The Office of the Assistant Secretary General provided advisory services to the Secretary General, supported the activities of the various dependencies of the General Secretariat, and made efforts to assist the member states in the search for solutions to topics of critical importance to them.

In his capacity as Secretary of the General Assembly, the Assistant Secretary General coordinated technical and operational services for the thirty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly, held in Santo Domingo, the Dominican Republic, in June 2006. He also supervised the preparatory technical work for the thirty-seventh regular session of the General Assembly, to be held in Panama City, Panama, in June 2007.

The Office of the Secretariat of the General Assembly, the Meeting of Consultation, the Permanent Council, and Subsidiary Organs assisted the permanent representatives of the member states and permanent observers in the preparation and conduct of regular and special meetings of the Council, as well as protocolary meetings to welcome Heads of State and Government. It also provided support for joint meetings of the Council with the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CEPCIDI) as well as the meetings of the Joint Working Group of the Permanent Council and CEPCIDI on the Draft Social Charter of the Americas.

During the period covered by the report, the Office of the Assistant Secretary General coordinated a number of special and closed meetings of the Permanent Council, joint meetings of the Permanent Council and CEPCIDI to address the issue of scholarships, and periodic coordination meetings between the Council chairs and the regional coordinators.

Support and coordination of this type were also provided in other instances, such as meetings of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE); the Conference of the States Party to the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (CIFTA) and meetings of the Consultative Committee of the CIFTA; and meetings of the Special Committee against Transnational Organized Crime, the Working Group to Prepare the Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Working Group to Prepare a Draft Inter-American Convention against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance, and the Joint Consultative Organ of the Committee on Hemispheric Security and CEPCIDI on Natural Disaster Reduction and Risk Management.

As a result of the entry into force of Executive Order 05-13 rev. 1, the Office of the Assistant Secretary General—in addition to performing its statutory functions as Secretariat to the General Assembly, the Meeting of Consultation, the Permanent Council, and Subsidiary Organs—has

under it the Office of Conferences and Meetings, the Office of Cultural Services, which includes the Columbus Memorial Library and the Art Museum of the Americas; the Coordinating Office for the Offices and Units of the General Secretariat in the Member States; and the Coordinating Office for the Specialized Units, which includes the Permanent Secretariat of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), the Office of the Director General of the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN), the Secretariat of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL), and the Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee on Ports (CIP).

Since no operating budget funds were allocated for the Coordinating Office for the Offices and Units of the General Secretariat in the Member States and the Office of Cultural Services, these areas do not have a specific coordinator. Despite its limited human resources, the Office of the Assistant Secretary General has maintained a system of communication and consultation with the specialized entities, including periodic meetings between the Assistant Secretary General and the Directors of the units and the establishment of liaison arrangements and focal points within the Office of the Assistant Secretary General corresponding to each unit. Moreover, the Office has managed to reactivate the Group of Friends of the Art Museum of the Americas and, with the support of the member states, has established a similar support group for the Columbus Memorial Library. These groups, comprising permanent representatives of the member states and representatives of the private sector, have embarked on a joint effort to improve the way these two entities operate, integrate their programs and projects more closely with the new strategic plan of the Organization, and increase public awareness of the heritage of the countries and peoples of the Americas.

The Resource Mobilization Committee, chaired by the Assistant Secretary General and supported by the Department of External Relations, worked very closely with the Office of the Secretary General and the Secretariats for Administration and Finance, Political Affairs, and Multidimensional Security, and Integral Development. It formulated a policy for recovering indirect costs and focused on improving relations with existing donors, including the permanent observers, in addition to establishing new relations with potential donors, such as foundations, private entities, and intergovernmental agencies. The Resource Mobilization Committee also established a framework for supporting the work of the OAS Project Evaluation Committee and simplifying project approval and fundraising processes.

In addition to the topics covered by these areas, the Office of the Assistant Secretary General, on instructions from the Secretary General, has been coordinating the Secretariat's activities in the area of natural disasters. In this regard, it worked closely with the Department of Sustainable Development and the pertinent organs, agencies, and entities of the inter-American system. Special attention was paid to specific disasters in countries that had led to the convocation of meetings of the executive committee of the Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction. Likewise, measures were taken to obtain contributions from the Inter-American Emergency Aid Fund for countries affected by natural disasters.

The Assistant Secretary General continued to provide ongoing support to the Secretary General in the political affairs of the OAS member states and represented him in numerous meetings and forums. In 2006, the Assistant Secretary General chaired the Working Group on Haiti and represented the Secretary General at international meetings at which the subject of Haiti was

discussed. He reconstituted the Group of Friends of Haiti in Washington, D.C., and traveled to that country on several occasions to meet with government authorities and interested parties. In 2006, the Assistant Secretary General also headed the OAS electoral observation mission in Guyana and during the national referendum in Panama.

Office of Conferences and Meetings

The mission of the Office of Conferences and Meetings (OCM) is to identify, integrate, administer, and modernize the conference services that the General Secretariat must provide to the OAS governing bodies. The Office of Conferences and Meetings is composed of the Office of the Director and three sections, whose functions are to coordinate conference services, services in the official languages, and the production and distribution of documents and information.

- Planning, management, and supervisory services

The OCM continued to develop and integrate its equipment and services for meetings of the governing bodies and helped plan, organize, and provide logistical and other services for 670 OAS meetings. That entailed preparations, the negotiation of agreements, and the mobilization and moving of financial, human, and technological resources from OAS headquarters to the countries hosting the meetings in the order of US\$927,944. The semiannual and annual schedule of meetings was updated and more efficient use made of resources for conference services. In support of the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs (CAAP), the OCM successfully monitored and managed Subprogram 21-C of the Regular Fund for financing unscheduled OAS meetings, including the holding of the thirty-first special session of the General Assembly in January 2006.

The OCM worked with the Office of Information Technology Services on replacing the modernizing conference services equipment and facilities. The conference rooms of the General Secretariat use state-of-the-art equipment. The now completely renovated and functional Simón Bolívar conference room possesses first-class digital equipment capable of providing highly sophisticated multimedia audio and video services that are integrated and compatible with real-time videoconferencing services in four languages.

The OCM replaced all its document copying equipment with fast digital machines. The document storage and recovery system in the Documentation Center used to provide services to the Permanent Council in the Simón Bolívar conference room was also renovated.

The OCM and the Department of Budgetary and Financial Services completed implementation of the reform of administrative procedures in the OASES System for OAS meetings. With the help of the Office of Information Technology Services, the OCM maintained the computerized conference-services platform and access to those services via the Internet. All users can now check the schedule of meetings on line, as well as obtain official documents and information stored in a database of references.

- Conference Services

The Office coordinated at headquarters 670 meetings of the governing and technical bodies, the Permanent Council and its subsidiary organs, CIDI and its subsidiary organs, and the other specialized organizations and entities like the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL), the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), and the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN). Another 60 high-level meetings were held in the member states, such as the thirty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly, the thirty-seventh and thirty-eighth regular sessions of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), technical meetings of the IACHR, CITEL, CICAD, the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD), and others meetings. During this reporting period, the Office updated a semiannual schedule of the Organization's meetings, which it uses as a tool to make more efficient use of the resources needed for conference services.

- Language Services

The OCM provided translation and simultaneous interpretation services in the four official languages to all meetings of organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization, at headquarters and in the member states. The total number of events serviced came to 670. Over 44,000 pages were translated into the four official languages. The policy of modernizing equipment and programs for language services continued, in respect of TRADOS and the four-language glossary called MultiTerm. The Section continued to expand its roster of outside professional translators and interpreters living in the member states and an interpreter-administrator was added to the OCM staff. The Division also kept up inter-institutional contacts for sharing glossaries and terminology with other international organizations and expanded the e-library of OAS documents on the Internet. An extra effort has been made to add the names of more freelance translators and interpreters living in all the member states, which represents a significant savings for the host countries when meetings are held away from headquarters.

- Documents and Information Services

The OCM printed and distributed official documents of the Organization, including master copies and their photocopying, distribution, and storage. The OCM also helped the permanent missions of the member states and the permanent observers to find the information they needed. Following is a list of the main activities of the Section in the period under review:

- Printing and distribution of 5,345 separate documents: a print-run of 4,476,932 pages.
- Printing and distribution of 9,325 invitations for the Art Museum of the Americas and the Office of Protocol.
- Storage of information and processing of documents through the IDMS system
- In cooperation with the Department of Press and Communications, strengthening the possibility of providing access for a wider audience in member states to meetings of the governing bodies and other major events by using the transmission via the Internet methodology known as Webcast.

Office of Cultural Services

The Office of Cultural Services was established by Executive order 05-13 Rev. 1. It coordinates the activities of the Columbus Memorial Library and the Art Museum of the Americas.

- Columbus Memorial Library

The Columbus Memorial Library was created by the First International Conference of American States on April 18, 1890. The Library serves as an information and documentation center, providing essential information to the OAS General Secretariat, the permanent missions, the diplomatic community, and the general public interested in the Organization's work and the work of the inter-American system. The Library is the repository of the institutional memory of the OAS, the Pan American Union, and the inter-American system.

In the period under review, the Library continued its Preservation and Digitalization Project, which will provide digital images of a select group of Permanent Council resolutions and declarations and proceedings and documents of the General Assembly, which will be accessible online, via the Web.

The Columbus Memorial Library recently acquired the "Library Solution" software to facilitate the creation of an Integrated Library Automation System." This system will provide services that will automate all the functions of the library, including acquisitions, serials, circulation, OAS documents, and cataloguing. "The Library Corporation" also provided bar codes for 54,098 materials in the database of the library's On Line Public Access Catalogue (OPAC). These bar codes identify each individual article and are used to link materials, users, and administrative files. Four thousand of these bar codes have already been placed in the books.

The Library's stock has continued to grow, essentially thanks to donations which supplement its modest budget. The Acquisitions Unit received and processed 1,960 new books and periodicals and prepared 35 purchase orders from requisitions received from other departments of the OAS for the purchase of books and other materials. In addition, 5,243 United Nations documents were added to the collection.

The Reference Unit circulated 13,142 books and 1,121 periodicals and answered 6,001 requests for information. The Documents Control Unit also experienced an increase in requests, answering approximately 1,585 of them. For its part, the Archives Management Unit answered 290 queries.

The use of various databases has enabled Reference Services to provide better service. The Library subscribes to "First Search" and can have access to information in 70 databases covering a wide range of subject matters and providing access to thousands of libraries worldwide and to 5.9 million articles in electronic format, taken from 9,000 periodicals, including 3,500 e-zines. The search version of the "Hispanic American Periodicals Index" (HAPI) provides global data on Central America, South America, Mexico, and the Caribbean, the U.S.-Mexican border region, and Hispanics in the United States. The Library continues to have access to "WorldCat," the "United Nations Treaty Collection Database," and "Lexis-Nexis." It also subscribes to "The

Economic Intelligence Unit – Selected Country Profiles” and the “Official Document System of the United Nations On Line”.

In the period under review, 21,600 documents were received, processed, and circulated. Search aids had to be prepared to recover these documents. The Documents Collection comprises 320,370 historical archives in paper format from the years 1960 – 2006. Likewise, the Library processed and microfilmed the OAS Official Records Series 2000 and then sent it to university and specialized libraries. Proceeds from sales helped the Library fulfill its mandate of seeking external sources of funding. Those proceeds resulted in deposits totaling \$23,689 into the Hipólito Unanue account. Finally, the Library compiled, published, and distributed the Analytical Indices corresponding to the “Summary of decisions taken at meetings and texts of resolutions and declarations adopted” in 2002, 2003, and 2004.

In 2006, the Columbus Memorial Library mounted six exhibits: The Simón Bolívar Room, Alberto Lleras Camargo, Stamps and Medals, Rare Books – Spain (on the occasion of the visit by Agrupación Hidalga de España), Art Museum of the Americas, and Jewels from the Collection of Rare Books in the Columbus Memorial Library.

The Group of Friends of the Columbus Memorial Library was formed in 1994. It consists mainly of ambassadors of the permanent missions and permanent observer missions. The purpose of the Group is to assist the Columbus Memorial Library with some of its activities and to disseminate information about them. The Group met frequently in 2006 and various countries made donations through their ambassadors/representatives.

- Art Museum of the Americas

The Art Museum of the Americas was created in 1976 by a resolution of the Permanent Council. Its purpose is to promote artistic output, understanding, and cultural cooperation in the Hemisphere. The museum collects and preserves works of artistic and historical merit for the permanent collection as well as documentary material for the art archives. It organizes exhibits at headquarters and away from it, provides reference services, and engages in educational and cultural activities. Its principal users are the general public, students, researchers, and collectors with a special interest in the art of the member states.

In 2006, the Museum mounted seven art exhibits: *Geometry and Gesture in the Permanent Collection* (March-July, 62 works); *Contemporary Photography in the Permanent Collection* (May-June, 52 works); *New Possessions, Jamaican Artists in the United States* (August-October, 44 works); *Breaking Boundaries, Photography and Digital Art in the Salvadoran Community* (November-January, 54 works); *Documented: the Community Blackboard*, interactive installation on the subject of immigration, conceived by Muriel Hasbun of El Salvador (November-January); *Selections from the Collection: Artists of Central America* (November-January, 28 works), and *New Acquisitions 2006* (December-February, 10 works). The Museum also organized an itinerant exhibit called *The Art of Engraving*, a selection of graphic art from the permanent collection that traveled to the Latino Cultural Center in Dallas, Texas, in February 2007. Some of these exhibits were reviewed in articles in *The Washington Post* (June 10, August 13, and December 15, 2006), *The Washington Times* (September 17, 2006), *The Washington Post*

Express (August 3, 2006), *The Washington Examiner* (December 22, 2006), *The Jamaica Gleaner* (October 15, 2006), *Caribbean Net News* (August 7, 2006), and *The Miami Herald* (July 2, 2006).

External sources provided partial funding for some of the exhibits. *New Possessions* was supported by Jamaica National Group of Companies, Grace Financial Services, Limited National Investment Bank of Jamaica, Western Union, Air Jamaica, Grace Foods International, Inter-American Culture & Development Foundation (ICDF) , Inter-American Development Bank Cultural Center, Jamaica Tourist Board, Mayberry Investments, Red Stripe, Victoria Mutual Building Society, and The Friends of the Art Museum of the Americas; *Rompiendo Fronteras* received support from the DC Commission on the Arts and the Humanities, Bancomercio, Enterprise Database Corporation, HI Construction Company, Latin Travel Express, Mango y Mar, Martinez and Associates LLC- Remax, Restaurante El Tamarindo, and Vilchez and Associates Real Estate.

The Museum also lent 10 engravings from the permanent collection of Carlos Mérida to the Inter-American Development Bank for the *Guatemala: Past and Present* exhibit, and a painting by Humberto Calzada to the Lowe Art Museum in Miami, Florida, for the *Humberto Calzada: In Dreams Awake* exhibit. Works in the permanent collection were reproduced in several academic publications, including *Art History* by Marilyn Stokstad (Prentice Hall); *The Language of Objects in the Art of the Americas* by Edward J. Sullivan (Yale University Press) *Latin America: A Concise Interpretive History* by Burns-Charlip (Prentice Hall); *Mexico and Modern Printmaking: A Revolution in the Graphic Arts 1920-1950* (Philadelphia Museum of Art), and *World Masterpieces* (Penguin Literature). Within the framework of the “art in the office” project, 214 works from the collection are on loan to offices and public areas in the OAS headquarters buildings.

In 2006, the Museum added 16 donations to the permanent collection. Collector Lucille Espinosa donated two paintings by Roberto Matta of Chile and one painting by Enrique Grau of Colombia, while collector Bernice Weinstein donated three works by Marcelo Bonevardi of Argentina, one painting by Rogelio Polesello of Argentina, and two works by Pedro Friedeberg de Mexico.

During the period under review, the Museum organized several educational activities for the general public. Guided tours and briefing sessions were provided from 1,233 people from universities, high schools, colleges, and other educational and cultural associations. In addition, 310 people attended lectures, round table discussions, and art workshops organized by the Museum. Likewise, the Museum continued to provide didactic information on the exhibits and the collections in catalogues, brochures, videos, and via the Museum’s web site. In 2006, the Jamaica exhibit came with a 44-page full-color catalogue and a video of interviews with the participating artists; the El Salvador exhibit had a 45-page black and white catalogue. In 2006, the Museum published 10 videos documenting exhibits and workshops (three for the Museum’s web site) and one CD commemorating the Museum’s 30th anniversary.

The demand for reference services continues to grow and the Museum responded to requests for information from students, art researchers, and the general public, as well as from departments of the General Secretariat and the missions. In addition, the Museum distributed 3,000 digital

images related to exhibits and collections in response to requests from a number of sources. At the same time, in 2006, the Museum participated for the first time with a kiosk at the “D.C. Latino Festival” and continued to collaborate with the “Neighbors to the President” Consortium, which, in 2006, published a “walking tour script” on the historical architecture of each museum.

Similarly, in connection with the “art weeks” exhibits, the Museum provided technical support to the Canadian mission for its crafts exhibit *All About Alberta* (44 works), and to the mission of Panama. The Museum also provided technical support to the Department of Sustainable Development, which organized a logo design competition for the “First Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development; to the Inter-American Commission of Women for the creation and installation of a mobile mural created by girls on the subject “Women and Peace”; to the Staff Association for its “VIII Annual Art Exhibit”; and to ARAOS for a photography competition.

In 2006, visitors to the Museum and participants in its programs in other places totaled 12,000 people. Sales of videos, slides, catalogues, copyright, and rental of the Museum building led to deposits totaling US\$10,539.

During the period under review, the Museum continued to benefit from the support of the Group of Ambassador Friends of the Museum, whose Chair gave a presentation to the Permanent Council on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Museum in December 2006.

Coordinating Office for the Offices and Units of the General Secretariat in the Member States

In 2006, the Office of the Assistant Secretary General, through the Coordinating Office, visited and consulted with the Offices and Units of the OAS in the member states. This activity afforded greater insight into the work and circumstances of those offices, helped build confidence, and established closer working ties between them and OAS headquarters. Likewise the Coordinating Office strove to improve the cost structures and ensure the proper functioning of the Offices, while at the same time assessing their implementation of the new strategies and management guidelines aimed at enhancing their efficiency and productivity.

With a view to optimizing on-site representation, and in coordination with the Department of Human Resources, the functions and responsibilities of the OAS representatives in the member states have been updated to reflect more active team work that more closely corresponds to OAS priorities and mandates. The Coordinating Office and the Department of Human Resources are also preparing a manual on protocol, responsibilities, and rights to assist OAS representatives in the performance of their work in the field.

The Coordinating Office has set up a special web site for the Offices and Units of the OAS in the member states, which will provide a database for the annual reports of each country for 2005-2006. This site will provide access to all administrative and financial regulations and memorandums. It will also include information on the activities of the Offices, the management strategies of the Coordinating Office, and other related information.

During the period under review, obsolete vehicles in the Offices were replaced and they were issued 21 computers and 17 new scanners. This equipment, and the installation of an Internet telephony (VoIP) system significantly boosted the Offices' communication capacity and operational efficiency

SECRETARIAT FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS

Established by Executive Order 05-13 Rev. 1, the Secretariat for Political Affairs has three departments: the Department of Crisis Prevention and Special Missions, the Department for the Promotion of Governance, the Department for the Promotion of Democracy.

Department of Crisis Prevention and Special Missions

The main function of the Department of Crisis Prevention and Special Missions (DPCME) is to assist the Secretary General in preventing and responding to any political-institutional crisis that may or could arise in the region. To that end, the Department endeavors to combine the institution's capacity for political analysis with its capacity for preventing, defusing, and ultimately, resolving crises and conflicts. As part of that effort, it is developing a method for analyzing multiple scenarios. It is intended to serve as a tool enabling the DPCME to do a political assessment of a variety of situations, using quantitative and qualitative indicators. The ultimate objective is to be able to recommend courses of action to the Secretary General.

The DPCME organized two seminars in the area of institution building: the first in the Dominican Republic and the second in Santiago, Chile. The purpose of these events was to present and examine the lessons that the OAS and its member states have learned from their experiences, with a view to preserving and strengthening democratic institutions and promoting dialogue about the opportunities, challenges, and future prospects that await the Organization with regard to crisis prevention, management, and resolution.

In response to a request from the Nicaraguan authorities and in keeping with the provisions of the Inter-American Democratic Charter and the OAS Charter, in 2006 the OAS Secretary General deployed a lengthy mission to monitor the development of the election process in that country. The Secretary General's Special Envoy, Mr. Gustavo Fernández, headed up a Mission composed of a high-level political and technical team and 185 international observers from more than 20 OAS member states. This comprehensive electoral observation mission came in the aftermath of the political-institutional crisis that struck the country one year earlier. For ten months, the OAS followed, *in situ*, the political, juridical, and technical aspects of the process to elect regional, legislative, and executive authorities. It also facilitated dialogue across a broad spectrum of society by accompanying the national authorities and the Nicaraguan people in their quest to build understanding in the face of the political and technical challenges inherent in the process.

The OAS Secretary General also continued to provide his support to the Ecuadorian Government so as to ensure the stability of the democratic system of government and an orderly electoral process. The Secretary General responded to an invitation received from officials at the Supreme Court to commemorate the one-year anniversary of its re-establishment in 2005, following the political-institutional crisis that Ecuador experienced. Mrs. Sonia Picado, the OAS Secretary General's Special Envoy, participated in activities that examined the progress made toward strengthening the judicial system as one of the pillars of a democratic system and the challenges that lie ahead. OAS stewardship of the electoral process was enhanced with the appointment of Mr. José Antonio Viera-Gallo as the OAS Secretary General's Special Envoy to assist in the

electoral observation efforts and to help the actors involved with their efforts to find mutual understanding in the face of the political and technical challenges that the process posed. The OAS' assistance extended to the authorities-elect of the newly elected Government, even before they took office. This was done through post-election (or exploratory) missions to make available the OAS General Secretariat's assistance on political matters.

During this period the Department followed the proceedings of Bolivia's Constituents Assembly, under the terms of an agreement that the OAS Secretary General and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bolivia signed on April 20, 2006. That agreement established the Special Mission of Support to the Constitutional and Autonomies Process, whose objective was to provide technical and policy-related assistance to the Bolivian Government. The OAS provided assistance on techniques of legislating and techniques of parliamentary dialogue and negotiation for Assembly members.

In 2006, the OAS Mission to Support the Peace Process in Colombia (MAPP/OEA) participated in 14 demobilizations of the *Autodefensas Unidas de Colombia* (AUC). During the period covered in this report, the MAPP/OEA: (i) confirmed the dismantlement of the AUCs' military structure; (ii) followed the law-and-order situation in various regions of the country where the AUC were a presence prior to their demobilization; and (iii) verified the reinsertion of over 30,000 former AUC combatants. The Mission also began to monitor enforcement of Law 975 (Justice and Peace Act), the legal framework applicable to the former AUC combatants demobilized in the Peace Process that the Colombian Government is spearheading with this group of armed irregulars. Finally, in 2006 the MAPP/OEA completed implementation of its pilot project in the municipality of Tierralta, Córdoba, in which it trained over 50 community leaders as "conciliators in equity," to enable them to be instrumental in finding peaceful solutions to conflicts within their respective communities.

Through the Peace Fund, the Department of Crisis Prevention and Special Missions also continued its international political facilitation, particularly in relation to the territorial differendum between Belize and Guatemala. Through the Secretary General's Special Envoy for Belize and Guatemala, the GS/OAS has been facilitating the negotiations being conducted under the "Agreement on a framework of negotiation and confidence-building measures" that the governments of Belize and Guatemala signed on September 5, 2005.

The Office of the OAS General Secretariat in the Adjacency Zone is conducting a series of verifications and activities to provide assistance to a number of institutions in Belize and Guatemala, including the armed forces. Projects are being conducted that serve to promote the integration of the communities within the Adjacency Zone. Community-resettlement projects are also underway.

The Central American Program for Strengthening Democratic Dialogue (PCA) continued to be implemented during this reporting period. Its primary purpose is to build institutional capacity and strengthen local, national, and subregional strategies to facilitate political dialogue and establish mechanisms to manage conflict within the Central American countries. The PCA's chief focus of attention was on cultivating institutional venues to deal with security-related threats to governance, and on fostering national and regional vehicles enabling cooperation

between the authorities and the organized citizenry. This was the backdrop of the forum on “Democratic Governance, Citizen Security and State-Civil Society Collaboration,” held in Panama from April 19 through 21, 2006. This forum brought together ministers of public security and safety, lawmakers from the region charged with security-related issues, PARLACEN and the SICA’s consultative committee, as well as recognized experts of prestigious civil organizations.

The program on Rural Judicial Facilitators in Nicaragua completed its first phase in 2006 and is now being expanded to include other Central American countries. The program’s goal is to make access to justice more readily available to citizens living in Nicaragua’s remotest rural areas. The initial phase of the program involved 68 municipalities in central Nicaragua and along its Atlantic coast, home to over 345,000 people. The Rural Judicial Facilitators program, being carried out in coordination with Nicaragua’s Supreme Court, has put into place a network of nearly 50 duly trained judicial facilitators.

Department for the Promotion of Governance

The Secretary General created the Department for the Promotion of Governance in 2006 to strengthen governance by cultivating a democratic citizenry. With this goal in mind, a work plan was approved, as were a number of products that will be produced under four general projects. The following is a summary of the progress made on these projects in 2006 and of other activities that the Department carried out.

- **Right to Identity and Citizenship Building**

One of the goals that the Department set was to “begin a hemispheric dialogue among experts and policy-makers to promote the right to identity as one of the elements essential to the exercise of other rights and to put this topic on the policy agenda of the member countries.” Accordingly, a program was devised on the right to identity in Latin America; a working relationship was established with the Latin American Council on Civil Registration, Identity and Vital Statistics [Consejo Latinoamericano de Registros Civiles y Estadísticas Vitales] (CLARCIEV); working missions were sent to Bolivia, Colombia, Brazil, and Peru; meetings were held with permanent representatives of 13 member states, and preparation of projects and activities about identity and citizen participation got underway.

The most important achievement for this issue in 2006 was that the OAS, the IDB, and UNICEF signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Universal Civil Registration. The MoU establishes the terms of cooperation among the three organizations and the bases for conducting joint activities.

In the English-speaking Caribbean, the Department continued to build up institutional capacities in the area of civil records, including the introduction of a computerized civil registration system in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in March. Significant headway was made on the program to computerize vital records in Dominica, and two cooperation agreements were concluded with Antigua and Barbuda. A study was also completed that compares the civil records systems in the

region. In June, Department personnel traveled to Haiti to see firsthand the civil registration system in that country, with a view to launching a project to modernize it.

- Citizen Participation and Transparency: Access to Public Information

The Department promoted analysis of the issue of access to public information as one of the key elements of democratic governance, as well as a mechanism for citizen participation. Over the course of the year, meetings were held with experts and organizations active in this area. The Department also participated in the special meeting of the Permanent Council on access to public information, where it gave a presentation on how vital access to public information is for democratic governance. Finally, in November, the Department had an opportunity to co-sponsor two events on this issue: one in Chile and one in Dominica. It gave presentations at both.

- The Challenges That Decentralization Poses for Democratic Governance: Current Situation and Prospects

This program serves as technical secretariat of the Inter-American Network on Decentralization, Local Government and Citizen Participation (RIAD), established to help achieve the commitments made at the Summits. In that capacity, it has worked with the Chair of the Network, held by Brazil, and with the four vice chairs, held by Chile, Costa Rica, Jamaica, and Mexico. The emphasis has been on sharing information and coordinating with other offices of the General Secretariat that are conducting programs in local governance, such as the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development. Internal coordination continues to combine this issue with others that the Department addresses.

The decentralization program has also started to examine the relationship between decentralization and governance. It has devoted special emphasis to strengthening relations with the actors instrumental in the decentralization process by participating in key events on the issue and circulating information on the OAS' role in it. It also provided assistance for the June 2006 signing of a framework agreement for cooperation between the General Secretariat and the *Federación Latinoamericana de Ciudades, Municipios y Asociaciones* [Latin American Federation of Cities, Municipalities and Associations] (FLACMA).

- Access to Justice and the Inter-American Program on Education for Democratic Values and Practices

During this reporting period, the Department did the *travaux préparatoire* to put together a document on the status of access to justice in the countries of the region. Working in partnership with the Department of Education and Culture, it supported execution of the Inter-American Program on Education for Democratic Values and Practices. It also formed a steering group of ministerial representatives, held the first meeting of the Inter-American Program's Advisory Board, in Bogotá, April 17 – 19, 2006; created a Web site for the Program and launched it in June 2006; organized an International Seminar on Best Practices in Citizenship Education, held in Mexico City in July 2006; and produced two issues of the Program's e-bulletin.

Department for the Promotion of Democracy

The election-related activities that the Department for the Promotion of Democracy (DPD) conducts are in response to a combination of various mandates, all calculated to make elections in the Hemisphere more transparent, effective, and efficient, and to ensure that all citizens' political rights are respected in those elections. Accordingly, the Department has specialized in promoting and supporting stronger electoral systems and institutions. It also helps ensure that the elections held are transparent and credible. It does this through its Electoral Observation Missions (MOE) in the Organization's member countries.

What made the year 2006 remarkable in the Hemisphere was the number of electoral processes staged. The OAS was a presence in many of these elections, as an observer and/or supplier of advisory services and technical assistance. In 2006, the OAS deployed 13 electoral observation missions to 11 of its member states. These missions involved a large team of international observers and election specialists. The following are the Electoral Observation Missions conducted between March and December 2006:

- Bolivia: Elections for the Constituents Assembly (July 2, 2006)
- Nicaragua: Elections in the northern and southern Atlantic coastal regions (March 5, 2006)
- Colombia: Legislative elections (March 12, 2006) and presidential elections (May 28, 2006)
- El Salvador: Municipal and congressional elections (March 12, 2006)
- Peru: Presidential and legislative elections (April 9, 2006 and June 4, 2006)
- Dominican Republic: Legislative and municipal elections (May 16, 2006)
- Guyana: Presidential and legislative elections (August 28, 2006)
- Ecuador: Presidential and legislative elections (October 15, 2006 and November 26, 2006)
- Panama Referendum on the expansion of the Panama Canal (October 22, 2006)
- Peru: Regional and municipal elections (November 19, 2006)
- Venezuela: Presidential elections (December 3, 2006)
- Saint Lucia: General elections (December 11, 2006)

In the area of technical assistance, the DPD continued to develop and support initiatives aimed at enhancing the transparency, efficiency, and credibility of the electoral processes. To accomplish that objective, the electoral area provided electoral authorities in various member countries with assistance in the following areas:

- Institution building
- Modernization of electoral systems
- Automation of electoral processes
- Modernization of civil registers
- Civic education and encouragement of citizen participation
- Analysis and investigation
- Promotion of horizontal cooperation

- Colombia

In 2006, the program of Technical Assistance to the National Registry of Vital Statistics of Colombia, in cooperation with Colombia's National Data Processing Management Office [*Gerencia Nacional de Informática*], did follow-up and monitoring work that equipped the National Registry with a tool for constant evaluation of procedures, installed infrastructure and other important processes employed during the practice exercises and the elections in 2006.

- Ecuador

The support provided to Ecuador's Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE), which began in 2006 and continued into 2007, features products and services intended to enable the TSE's internal procedures to function to maximum effect and to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the electoral procedures. They include development of software to standardize the data processing platform, support to implement the program enabling Ecuadorians abroad to vote, application of programs that relay voting results at higher speeds, and training of the TSE's data processing staff.

- Guatemala

The OAS and the IIDH/CAPEL have partnered with Guatemala's TSE since 2005, working on the introduction of the approved election reforms, institution building for the TSE, and coordination with international cooperation. The activities conducted in 2006 focused on strengthening the TSE in the area of data processing systems for the voter roll and for purging the voter roll, informative campaigns, updating the electoral map, a contact plan and plan for heightening awareness of the second-generation electoral reforms, a plan for publicizing the 2007 election process, a plan for selecting and training the persons who will man the polling stations, support with election planning and logistics, advisory services on the vote tabulation system, transmission of results, and assistance during the post-election activities.

- Haiti

In 2006, the OAS Electoral Technical Assistance Program in Haiti (ETAPH) continued to provide assistance to electoral authorities and helped mount the presidential, legislative, municipal, and local elections held at various times during the year, mainly by assisting the Provisional Electoral Council (CEP) with data processing and by helping with the tabulation, transmission, and announcement of the election results.

- Honduras

In 2006, the Program to Assist the Honduran Electoral System conducted, among other activities, study workshops, a review and analysis of the Law on Elections and Political Organizations, within the framework of the primaries and presidential elections in 2005. It also provided input for the administrative restructuring of the TSE, which gave it a new organizational structure, reshuffled staff into new positions, and produced a list of training needs.

- Paraguay

Through the Program to Modernize the Civil Registry of Paraguay (MORECIV), the OAS is helping Paraguay's Ministry of Justice and Labor to standardize civil registration practices using cutting edge records-management software.

- Other regional activities

One of the activities that the DPD conducted with election authorities in the Hemisphere was the IV Inter-American Meeting of Electoral Authorities, held in San Salvador, El Salvador, September 12 and 13, 2006. The themes of the meeting were “The Goals and Challenges of Electoral Observation Initiatives” and “Speed, Quality and Reliability in the Systems Used to Relay Election Results.” During that meeting, the reactivated Web site for the OAS-administered *Red Interamericana de Procesos Electorales* [Inter-American Network of Electoral Processes] (*RIPE*) was introduced. It features relevant information on electoral processes and bodies in the region.

As part of the process of consolidating the theory, method, and practice of electoral observation, significant progress was made in 2006 on an initiative titled “Systematization and Standardization of an Electoral Observation Method for the OAS.” This effort seeks to develop a rigorous and objective methodological framework for electoral observation that will allow the Organization to improve and professionalize the procedures and practices it employs in observing electoral processes in the Hemisphere and systematizing the follow-up to the recommendations that the OAS makes as part of every Electoral Observation Mission.

As part of its effort to consolidate and improve the practice of election observation, in 2006 the DPD also collaborated and interacted with counterpart agencies in the United Nations, the European Union, and with the Carter Center, and participated in events such as the meeting on Principles of International Election Observation, sponsored by the Commonwealth Secretariat in May, and a workshop that the Carter Center organized in November 2006 on the subject of “Developing a Methodology for Observing Electronic Voting Technologies.”

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT FOR INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT

The mission of the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI), comprising the Office of the Executive Secretary and the Departments of “Follow-up, Policies and Programs,” “Education and Culture,” “Social Development and Employment,” “Science, and Technology,” “Trade, Tourism, and Competitiveness,” and “Sustainable Development,” is to assist the member states with their efforts to reduce poverty and achieve greater economic and social development. It does this by supporting dialogue at the highest levels where policies in the areas of social development, employment, education, culture, science and technology, trade, tourism, competitiveness and sustainable development and environment are crafted and the priorities set. It also promotes, coordinates, and facilitates execution of programs, projects, and activities in these areas, focusing on institutional strengthening, capacity building, and implementation of effective public policy.

Office of the Executive Secretary (OSE)

Through the Office of its Executive Secretary, in 2006 SEDI provided assistance to the CIDI policy-making bodies, while also orchestrating its activities with various offices of the Secretariat, a number of which organized ministerial meetings during the course of the year. It also continued to design and execute development initiatives that serve to strengthen institutions, build capacities, establish successful development policies and mobilize external resources to support this cause. In the process, it has endeavored to base its activities on promoting horizontal cooperation among the member states, collaboration with the private sector and the development of human resources.

In 2006, the cooperative relationship with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) was consolidated. Through its New Programming Approaches (NPA) program, CIDA is supporting four initiatives implemented by the OSE. The relationship with the Institute for Connectivity in the Americas (ICA) was also further cemented with the agreement signed for a new cooperation project that guarantees a two-year plan of activities for the RED GEALC (Network of e-Government Leaders of Latin America and the Caribbean). The Inter-American Development Bank also joined the group of promoters of the RED GEALC through its Regional Public Goods initiative.

Under the aegis of RED GEALC, three hemispheric workshops were held in the area of e-government: Canada (March), the Dominican Republic (August), and Colombia (October). These workshops provided an opportunity for the e-government authorities of the member countries of the RED GEALC to assemble in order to examine, respectively, the following: “Sharing Canadian e-Government Experiences,” “Modernizing Customs Administration through Information and Communications Technologies,” and “Governmental Interoperability and Intranet.” Similarly, through the FOCOH (Horizontal Cooperation Fund) of the RED GEALC, ten e-government experts from Latin America and the Caribbean were mobilized to exchange experiences. During the course of the year, SEDI became chair of the *eGe* (E-government Effectiveness Inter-Agency Task Force), a vehicle enabling its member institutions to coordinate

and collaborate: the World Bank, the IDB, the OAS, UNDESA, ECLAC, the ICA, and the Development Gateway Foundation.

Kingston (Jamaica) was the venue for an OSE-organized workshop on modernizing customs through information and communication technologies (ICTs), as a result of which two projects were prepared to share Jamaica's customs solution, CASE (Customs Automated Services), with Grenada and Antigua and Barbuda. The formalities necessary for the two projects to get underway are in process. In 2006, the OSE issued the 17th edition of its online e-government course. Thus far, some 2,000 officials from 32 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean have graduated from the course. The latter has been given in Spanish, English, and Portuguese and its graduates have been incorporated into a virtual mechanism of collaboration and exchange, called the OAS e-Government Forum.

In 2006, the MuNet program (Municipal Efficiency and Transparency) embarked upon its most activity-intensive period. In the area of e-government, a total of 186 public officials received training, 21 e-government strategies were introduced to the 21 participating municipal governments in 11 Latin American countries, and implementation of the technological support tools was launched: MuniPortal, MuniCompra and MuniServi. In the area of cadastre, the cooperative relationship with the four participating municipalities was formalized. Training got underway in those municipalities and the initial financial disbursements were released to support those municipal cadastre initiatives.

As for cooperation with the private sector, the OSE continued to implement the agreement with Steward Title International, following culmination of the cadastre and property registry project conducted in Antigua and Barbuda. In the final quarter of 2006, the OSE and Steward Title International teamed up for a joint mission to St. Kitts and Nevis to assess the possibility of replicating the successful experience in Antigua and Barbuda. Similarly, under the agreement with Microsoft, a municipal e-government portal was donated to the La Paz (Bolivia) Municipality. Arrangements for this initiative are being finalized. The OSE signed an agreement with the firm **ESRI** for over one million dollars in cooperation in the area of geographic information systems (GIS).

The Computers for Communities program being conducted with the support of CIDA, the ICA, and Industry Canada, issued a call for project proposals in 2006. Six countries (El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Jamaica, Paraguay, and Venezuela) were selected and will receive start-up capital to set up a computer refurbishment program.

In the area of Corporate Social Responsibility, the OAS, with the support of CIDA and the MIF-IDB, continued to support the training and awareness activities that FORO EMPRESA conducts in the region. A program was designed and set in motion to promote corporate social responsibility among small- and medium-sized enterprises in the Caribbean.

During this reporting period, the "Best Practices Forum of the Americas" focused on the important role that ICTs play in running elections. This online forum, staged in cooperation with the OAS' Secretariat for Political Affairs, was able to put into circulation 300 copies of the English-Spanish bilingual publication on introducing new technologies into electoral processes,

which examines the Paraguayan, Panamanian, and Colombian experiences. An agreement was also concluded with CIDA to hold a forum in 2007 on the role that ICTs play in mitigating natural disasters, in cooperation with SEDI's Department of Sustainable Development.

During the first half of 2006, the OSE provided technical support and advisory services to the Working Group charged with negotiating and drafting the "Declaration of Santo Domingo" and the resolution of support for the Declaration's implementation [AG/RES. 2243 (XXXVI-O/06), both approved by the OAS General Assembly at its thirty-sixth regular session. The Declaration and the resolution contain a number of mandates that SEDI's Executive Office has been implementing.

Department of Follow-up, Policies and Programs

This Department coordinates and provides support to the process whereby decisions in the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) are either arrived at or implemented, as the case may be. The Department's principal activities are geared toward enabling decision-making on the part of the political bodies and following up on their mandates. The Department is also responsible for promoting, supporting, coordinating, and facilitating the design and execution of programs, projects and activities in partnership for development, particularly through the Special Multilateral Fund of CIDI (FEMCIDI). To perform these functions, the Department has grouped its activities into two sections: a) Ministerial Meetings Follow-up, which serves as Secretariat of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI), and b) Program and Project Evaluation, responsible for administering and evaluating the Special Multilateral Fund of CIDI (FEMCIDI) and other projects and activities in partnership for development.

The Ministerial Meetings Follow-up Section provides technical, substantive, and logistical support, coordinating preparation, staging, and follow-up of ministerial and technical meetings held within the CIDI framework and meetings of the Permanent Executive Committee of CIDI (CEPCIDI), its subsidiary bodies, and the Management Board of the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD). It also assists the Agency's Executive Secretary/Director with the Agency's relations with the permanent missions, international organizations, and offices of the General Secretariat. It is also responsible for preparing (or, where appropriate, coordinating preparation of) the draft resolutions, declarations, statutes, rules of procedure, and reports that it submits to the corresponding political bodies, and for advising their authorities and the representatives of the member states in general.

Among the partnership for development activities that the Program and Project Evaluation Section administers are partnership funds created with contributions received from countries to implement specific projects. The bulk of the Section's business centers on administering FEMCIDI. Every year, FEMCIDI has around 100 projects in progress. The projects are in all the member states, in the areas of education, science and technology, culture, social development, democracy, tourism, sustainable development and environment, and trade. The countries themselves present the project proposals, which can be either national or multinational (regional or hemispheric) and can last for up to four years. The Fund is made up of voluntary contributions from the member states, which as a rule total 8 million dollars annually. In order for a country to qualify to receive cooperation from this fund, it must be a contributor.

- Secretariat of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development and Its Subsidiary Bodies

During this reporting period, the Department coordinated the activities conducted in furtherance of the mandates emanating from the General Assembly, the Eleventh Regular Meeting of CIDI, and those adopted at the various sectoral ministerials and meetings of the inter-American committees.

In a collaborative effort with other offices of the General Secretariat, the Secretariat of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development planned, coordinated and assisted with the preparatory work for and holding of the following sectoral meetings: the Third Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Education; the Third Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities; the First Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Science and Technology, and the First Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development. A more detailed account of the decisions that the member states adopted at each meeting appears at the pages corresponding to each area of SEDI.

As Secretariat of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI), the Department planned and coordinated the Eleventh Regular Meeting of CIDI. In preparation for this meeting, the Department organized the meetings of the various bodies; reports and technical documents were prepared on issues within its competence. It also made its contribution to the exchange of specialized information relating to cooperation policies in those priority areas of the Strategic Plan that were included on the CIDI agenda.

It is also worth noting that in resolution AG/RES. 2257 (XXXVI-O/06) the General Assembly resolved to establish an immediate and temporary pause in the awarding of new 2006 graduate (PRA) and undergraduate (SPECRAF) scholarships and that the pause was to remain in effect until the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) and the Permanent Council approved, in a joint meeting, the new scholarship mechanism. It also instructed the General Secretariat through the Secretariat of the Human Development Fund Committee to submit to the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CEPCIDI) for its consideration a proposal for management of the scholarship program in strict observance of rules on competitiveness, transparency, and ethics. The General Assembly recommended to CEPCIDI that it consider and approve the changes that need to be made to the Manual of Procedures of Scholarships and Training Programs of the OAS, including the establishment of a cap on individual yearly tuition scholarships. The Department of Follow-up, Policies, and Programs has assisted the Subcommittee on Partnership for Development Policies in the process of negotiating that new Manual.

Finally, the Department was responsible for assisting the work of the Management Board of the IACD, processing e-mail inquiries and organizing meetings on management of technical cooperation projects financed with funds from the Special Multilateral Fund of CIDI (FEMCIDI).

- Program and Project Evaluation
 - Programming of the Special Multilateral Fund of CIDI (FEMCIDI) 2006

Based on the findings and recommendations from the first three rounds held to evaluate FEMCIDI-funded projects, SEDI designed, as a pilot experiment, new formats for presenting new project proposals and the work plan for continuing projects. At the end of the 2006 FEMCIDI programming cycle, the Secretariat will analyze the successes and/or problems observed and will make the necessary adjustments.

SEDI prepared the document titled “FEMCIDI 2006 Preliminary Partnership for Development Activities Programming Proposal,” which featured 110 project proposals presented by 33 member states. Of those 110 proposals, 58 were proposals for project continuation and 52 were new project proposals; 49 were multilateral and 61 were national. The amount that the proposals represented was US\$12,205,172. The total funds available for FEMCIDI 2006 programming came to US \$8,195,402.43 (this amount included the net contributions to FEMCIDI 2005 and to FEMCIDI 2006, as well as accrued interest, non-programmed funds, funds not executed and funds returned).

The Programming Proposal document and the documentation pertaining to the projects included (the complete proposals, progress reports, work plans, etc.) were sent to the members of the nonpermanent specialized committees (CENPES). The meeting of the CENPES for the 2006 FEMCIDI programming cycle was from February 7 through 9, 2007. The members of the eight committees evaluated the projects and presented the IACD Management Board with their recommendations on which projects should be funded and the funding level suggested for each.

The following is the number of projects included in the Programming Proposal by account, and the distribution of the requested resources:

Trade:	10 projects for US\$1.187.206
Social Development:	17 projects for US\$1.475.104
Education:	26 projects for US\$ 3.142.064
Culture:	4 projects for US\$353.319
Science and Technology:	15 projects for US\$1.522.374
Democracy:	7 projects for US\$667.046
Tourism:	10 projects for US\$1.333.359
Sustainable Development and Environment:	21 projects for US\$ 2.524.700

As part of the FEMCIDI 2006 Programming process, SEDI had to do a detailed analysis of the project profiles presented by the member states. SEDI chose a certain number of profiles that met the selection criteria in effect and that reflected a proper thematic and regional balance.

In the next phase, SEDI provided meticulous technical and administrative support to the institutions that would be conducting the profiled projects, so as to ensure proper, on-time

execution of the final project. Final proposals that were either incomplete or unsatisfactory were withdrawn from the Preliminary Programming Proposal.

- Execution of FEMCIDI 2004

In 2006, SEDI, with the cooperation of the General Secretariat's Offices in the Member States, monitored project execution and did analyses of the project progress reports. It also provided assistance to executing agencies when coordination difficulties arose, particularly in the case of the multinational projects.

The FEMCIDI 2004 Partnership for Development Activities Programming included ninety-two projects—52 multinational and 40 national—totaling US \$7,598,967.52. A decision of the Management Board lengthened the period of execution for projects funded under FEMCIDI 2004 to make it 17 months, rather than the usual 12.

- Evaluation of FEMCIDI funded projects

The third round of evaluations of FEMCIDI-funded projects ended in October 2006. The sample selected for this third round included 27 projects funded under FEMCIDI 2001, 2002, and 2003. The project sample included some one-year projects, and other multi-annual projects. Of those 27 projects selected for evaluation by independent consultants, 18 were multinationals and nine were nationals. Twenty-four of them received funding of US\$ 100,000 or more.

The evaluations revealed that 96% of the projects evaluated were very much in keeping with the policies and priorities of the governments, and with the policies that the member states set within the OAS framework. A significant percentage of the projects (74%) achieved the anticipated results, although by varying degrees; 26% of the evaluated projects achieved the expected results, but to a much more limited extent. In large part (74%) the projects used the resources provided properly and the costs/results ratio was reasonable. Sustainability continues to be the weakest factor of all those evaluated, and the sustainability results in this third round of evaluations were no better than they were in the second round (in only 63% of cases was it found that the benefits and impact would outlive the project).

The cumulative result of the first, second, and third evaluation rounds was that SEDI identified outcomes and three categories of factors: 1) factors contributing to a project's success; 2) factors hindering optimal project performance; and 3) lessons learned (considerations that should be taken into account to improve project planning and execution). These factors make it easier for coordinating institutions, executing institutions, those presenting new project proposals and the Secretariat to use the evaluation findings to improve project design and execution and future prospects of project sustainability. In early 2007 the information was sent to the IACD's Management Board, to the National Liaison Agencies (ONEs), to the Offices of the General Secretariat in the Member States, and to the institutions coordinating/participating in projects.

Department of Education and Culture

The mission of the Department of Education and Culture (DEC) is to support the member states' efforts to ensure a quality education for everyone and to protect and use their rich cultural heritage as a vital contribution toward achieving their economic, social, and human development. The Department discharges this mission by promoting dialogue on policy, knowledge sharing, and technical cooperation. In 2006, it furthered the dialogue on policy by organizing the Third Meeting of Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities and the Third Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Education. It also helped to promote technical cooperation in order to share knowledge and establish new networks of policy makers, researchers, and specialists in education and culture. Through its alliances with the member states and other organizations, the DEC mobilized US\$737,400 in 2006 and is on its way to mobilizing some US\$1.3 million in 2007 from external sources, in support of OAS initiatives in education and culture.

- Education

One of the Department's most important functions is to serve as Technical Secretariat of the meetings of ministers and of the Inter-American Committee on Education (CIE). The inter-American committees, composed of one representative for each member state, transforms the commitments made at the ministerial meetings into concrete measures. The DEC assisted the Third Meeting of the CIE (October 2006) with its evaluation of the progress made on the programs and projects in the 2005-2007 Work Plan approved by the ministers of education. It also supported the two meetings of the authorities of the CIE and the Executive Committee (November 2005, April 2006) to consider the progress made on existing initiatives and to evaluate 12 project proposals, three of which were approved to be partially financed with funds approved through CP/RES. 831 (1842/02).

In 2005, the Ministers of Education recommended execution of the Inter-American Program on Education for Democratic Values and Practices. As Technical Secretariat, the DEC convened the Advisory Group (Bogotá, April 19-21) to review the program's work plan; it began a survey of the member states' policies and programs in this area. It helped organized the "Inter-American Seminar on Good Practices in Education for Citizenship" (Mexico City, July 6-8) and launched an online bulletin and web portal (www.educadem.oas.org).

The DEC and the Ministry of Education of Trinidad and Tobago launched the Inter-American Teacher Educator Network at a seminar on policies and practices held from September 26 to 29. One hundred delegates, including university rectors, teacher educators, policy makers, researchers, and officials of international organizations in the Hemisphere examined common challenges and how best to tackle them.

In 2006, the DEC and experts from the member states designed the hemispheric project on "Policies and strategies for a successful transition of small children toward socialization and school," whose purpose is to complement the member states' efforts to design, improve, and evaluate policies so as to thereby improve coverage, quality, and equity in early childhood development (ECD) from birth to eight years.

The DEC continued to serve on the advisory group of the Regional Project on Educational Indicators (PRIE), whose purpose is capacity building in the statistics offices or units in the ministries of education; promoting more and better use of data when mapping policy; and compiling and publishing data on the progress that the 34 member states have made toward achieving the educational goals set by the Summits of the Americas. It also designed the Web site www.prie.oas.org to circulate the project's results.

- Culture

As Technical Secretariat of the CIC, the DEC helped stage the Special Meeting of the CIC (Washington, March 27-28), the Preparatory Meeting for the Third Meeting of Ministers of Culture (Washington, August 17-18), and the Third Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities (Montreal, Quebec). The purpose of the March meeting was to decide the format for the Ministerial and approve the CIC Work Plan 2006-2007, devised by the authorities of the CIC and the DEC. To help the states decide on and then evaluate the activities and improve their quality, a DEC-designed form for project presentation began to be used.

The Special Meeting of the CIC decided that the theme of the ministerial dialogue at the Third Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Culture would be drawn from the principles spelled out in the Declaration of Mar del Plata, with a view to facilitating an exchange of experiences among the states. The lead presentations for each of the four ministerial themes were presented by the United States, Brazil, Jamaica, and Guatemala, although other member states introduced papers on those themes as well, as did civil society organizations. At the close of the meeting, the ministers approved the Final Report and a List of Priority Activities.

Three subregional workshops held in 2006 figure prominently among the horizontal cooperation activities in the Work Plan, intended to enable knowledge-sharing and institution-building (the Caribbean – Trinidad and Tobago, March; Central America – Mexico, July; and South America – Chile, September). Their purpose was to show the progress that the member states have made with their cultural information systems and the challenges they face; to share the Canadian, Mexican, and Chilean experiences with cultural information systems; and to learn about the work that subregional and international organizations are doing in this area. In April 2007, a meeting will be held in Colombia for synthesis, orchestration, and planning, with international experts, member states from each subregion, and international and subregional organizations participating. The idea was to come up with proposed lines of action and concrete activities that will then be submitted to the Third Meeting of the CIC, slated for the second half of 2007.

The Third Ministerial updated the Permanent Portfolio of Exemplary Programs in Culture, featuring the programs that the ministries and authorities of culture want to share with their counterparts. In December, Honduras was the site of a workshop to share the experience gained from the Rescue Program for Indigenous and Traditional Handicraft Production (PROPAITH). Ten member states were represented, and as many national representatives participated. The DEC is endeavoring to upgrade the means used to share these experiences and strengthen subsequent follow-up in order to be able to gauge the impact of these activities.

Department of Science and Technology (DCT)

The Department of Science and Technology (DCT) was reorganized during the second half of 2006, with a view to conducting concrete measures more efficiently and effectively, in keeping with the Organization's mandates.

Given the situation, the priority of the Engineering for the Americas (*EftA*) initiative was recognized. In 2006, the deans of the schools of engineering, high-ranking government officials, representatives of industry, and the DCT established a plan of action to set the objectives and the means to achieve quality assurance in engineering education. With the participation of four countries—the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Panama, and Trinidad and Tobago—a pilot project was presented to the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) to seek financing.

- Metrology

Through its Metrology program, the DST is supporting National Metrology Institutes (NMIs) in the 34 member states of the OAS and has prepared an expansion plan for 2007.

- Energy

The Department of Sustainable Development and the Department of Science and Technology are working together on alternative renewable energy sources, which will be the challenge of the decades to come. At the thirty-seventh regular session of the General Assembly, to be held in Panama, concrete actions will be proposed to promote energy policies and environmental improvements and to mitigate the effects of climate change.

- Gender issues

Internationally, the Department of Science and Technology continues to promote the integration of a gender equality and equity perspective in the creation of knowledge. The objective is to build up science and technology policies and programs in the region, which the First Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Science and Technology listed as one of the priorities. Taking this into consideration and in coordination with the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), the UNCST Gender Advisory Board, and the UNESCO Sub-Regional Chair: Women, Science and Technology in Latin America, the DCT prepared a program proposal for donors that support implementation of the hemispheric initiative on this topic.

- Popularization of science

In 2006, the DCT prepared a preliminary document that recognizes scientific journalists as essential to building national capacity in the sciences, technology, and innovation that promote social and economic development.

- Civil society participation

The DCT prepared and organized the Virtual Forum with Civil Society “Good Governance and Development in the Knowledge-Based Society” as part of the OAS’ effort to promote and facilitate the participation and contribution of civil society organizations within the framework of the next session of the General Assembly. The recommendations that this forum made were presented to the ministers of foreign affairs, the heads of delegation of the member states and the Secretary General during the dialogue with civil society on the occasion of the thirty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly, held in Santo Domingo, the Dominican Republic.

Department of Social Development and Employment

The main mission of the Department of Social Development and Employment (DDSE) is to assist member states with their efforts to further development with equity, by promoting policies and programs to reduce poverty, create decent jobs, and generate employment. It achieves these objectives through integrated activities in the following areas: i) promotion of inter-American dialogue on social development, labor and employment; ii) promotion of partnership for development, and iii) coordination of activities with other international organizations, academics, the private sector, and civil society.

- Social Development

The DDSE continued to assist with negotiations on the Social Charter of the Americas and its plan of action. To that end, it provided technical secretariat services to the Permanent Council/CEPCIDI Joint Working Group responsible for this topic. As technical secretariat of the Social Network for Latin America and the Caribbean, the DDSE was also instrumental in coordinating the Network’s XIII Annual Conference, held in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. The Department also continued to administer the Network’s voluntary fund. In furtherance of the agreements reached, the DDSE worked closely with the Office of the President of the Social Network, currently held by Chile’s FOSIS, in order to program the cooperation activities that will be carried out in 2007.

As part of a World Bank initiative, the DDSE, the IDB, and ECLAC teamed up to begin drafting an inter-agency document on the impact of a rights-driven approach when designing and implementing social policy. Four countries in the region were selected for case studies: Chile, Guatemala, Peru, and Uruguay.

- Employment

The DDSE concluded the project on “Development of micro and small enterprise as a strategy for creating jobs and fighting poverty in the Americas,” conducted under the auspices of the Spanish International Cooperation Agency. The project focused on analyzing and identifying strategies for social development and job creation achieved by promoting micro and small enterprise. In that framework, and in order to examine the implications of the specific mandates on this subject that emanated from the Fourth Summit of the Americas, a working meeting was held with the Steering Committee of the SME Congress of the Americas. A document was

prepared titled “*Microempresas, pobreza y empleo en América Latina y el Caribe. Una propuesta de trabajo*” [Micro-enterprise, poverty and employment in Latin America and the Caribbean. A Work Proposal] and then presented at a technical meeting that brought together the ministries of labor and economics and members of the Social Network. Two programs were added to the DDSE during the year that will have a strong impact on employment creation: the Government Procurement Program and the E-MSME Development Program.

With the support of the United States Mission to the OAS and the Canadian International Development Agency, the Government Procurement Program coordinated five seminars-workshops and one Inter-American Conference in which high-ranking offices in charge of national government procurement offices in the OAS member states participated: 1) “Competitive Participation of MSME in Government Procurement,” Mexico, May 2006, 34 participants from 14 countries; 2) “Standardization of Government Procurement Practices,” Costa Rica, July 2006, 15 participants from 11 countries; 3) “Professional Development and Training in Government Procurement,” Ecuador, September 2006, 11 participants from 6 countries; 4) “Strategies for Development of Government e-Procurement,” Brazil, September 2006, 15 participants from 12 countries; and 5) “Integrating Government Procurement into Financial Systems,” Paraguay, 23 participants from 14 countries. The Third Government Procurement Conference of the Americas was held in Peru in November 2006 with 35 participants from 18 countries in attendance.

At the Network’s website, the Program publicized the progress made in modernizing government procurement systems in the Hemisphere and was instrumental in developing initiatives to institutionalize technical cooperation on the subject of government procurement.

During this reporting period, the Second Phase of the E-MSME Project in Central America and Panama was completed with the support of FEMCIDI and the CIDA. Pilot learn-by-doing activities were conducted with 120 businesses in Central America and Panama, and six national meetings were staged to announce the results of these pilot activities. Participating were 600 representatives of MSMEs, business associations, technical support organizations, and entities responsible for promoting MSMEs in the region. At the end of this phase, a meeting was held in Costa Rica in November 2006 to share results and findings.

With support from the Permanent Mission of the United States to the OAS, the following activities were also carried out under the same project: 1) participation of the national directors responsible for promoting MSME in Central America and Panama in the SME Congress of the Americas, held in Mexico, in May 2006; 2) Inter-American Seminar on Competitive Participation of the MSME in Government Procurement, held in Mexico in May; 3) the Inter-American Seminar on E-MSME Development Strategies, Panama, October 2006. The Inter-American Network for Development of E-MSMEs was formed at this last event.

- Labor

As Technical Secretariat of the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor (CIMT), the DDSE worked with Conference authorities on implementing the Plan of Action approved by the XIV CIMT. To that end, the DDSE orchestrated a meeting of the Conference’s Working Groups, held in Mexico City in April 2006. This was an opportunity for further discussion of the CIMT’s

priority issues and to make headway on preparations for the XIV CIMT, slated for Trinidad and Tobago in 2007. Against the backdrop of the renewed commitment between the OAS and the ILO to strengthen the CIMT, as agreed in a memorandum signed by the highest authorities of the two organizations in August 2005, the DDSE participated in the XVI American Regional Meeting of the ILO, held in Brasilia, and in the ILO Tripartite Caribbean Employment Forum, held in Barbados in October 2006.

With financial assistance from the Government of Canada, in 2006 the DDSE launched the Inter-American Network for Labor Administration (RIAL), a mechanism for cooperating and sharing relevant knowledge and experience in order to build up the human and institutional capacities of the Ministries of Labor in the Hemisphere. As part of the RIAL initiative, three hemispheric workshops were held on topics that the CIMT had singled out as priorities: 1) the Second Workshop on Occupational Health and Safety, San Salvador, El Salvador, May 16 and 17, inaugurated by President Elías Antonio Saca, with representatives of the Ministries of Labor in 23 member states in attendance. This workshop was organized by the DDSE, in partnership with the ILO, PAHO, and Fundaceresso; 2) the Workshop on Labor Mediation and Labor Market Observatories, Cocoyoc, Mexico, November 7, with specialists from the CIMT and representatives of COSATE and CEATAL present; 3) the Workshop on Migrant Workers: Protection of Labor Rights and Labor Markets Programs, Ottawa, Canada, November 28 and 29. Participants included representatives of 28 member states of COSATE and CEATAL, and representatives of the ILO, the IACHR, the OECS, and others.

Department of Sustainable Development

The Department of Sustainable Development is the SEDI department responsible for promoting sustainable development and rational environmental management.

In 2006 it played a role in the preparations for the First Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development by organizing workshops for technical preparation. In conjunction with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the Department held a workshop on sustainable agriculture, forestry, and tourism in Costa Rica, immediately prior to the OECD-OAS Global Trade Forum, on trade and sustainable development. In Jamaica, the Department organized a technical workshop on Natural Hazards Risk Management. A number of experts from the Hemisphere gathered in Ecuador to promote integrated water resources management. The Department also encouraged the public's participation prior to the meeting, by holding consultations with civil society in Panama, Argentina, Bolivia, Trinidad and Tobago, and the United States, via a virtual forum operated in collaboration with the Development Gateway Foundation. Again in preparation for the meeting and in keeping with the mandates contained in General Assembly resolution AG/RES. 2244 (XXXVI-O/06), the Department of Sustainable Development partnered with the Department of Trade, Tourism, and Competitiveness for consultations with the private sector that produced invaluable information on the relevant issues on the ministerial agenda. The ministerial meeting held in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, December 4 and 5, approved a ministerial declaration on sustainable development ("Declaration of Santa Cruz +10") and the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development (PIDS).

The Department's website was redesigned in 2006, and the series on policies and other forms of communication continued.

The sum total of the Department's program of external projects is approximately US\$70 million of full support for projects, including matching funds, with an annual program of external projects of some US\$8 million. The major activities of the program are the following:

- Integrated Water Resource Management

The Department continued to support the promotion of integrated and sustainable water resource management by the member states, mainly focusing on transboundary watersheds and coastal areas. The principal projects are: the Strategic Action Programme for the Binational Basin of the Bermejo River; a Framework for the Sustainable Management of the Transboundary Water Resources of the La Plata Basin; the Project for the Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development of the Guarani Aquifer System; Integrated and Sustainable Management of Transboundary Water Resources in the Amazon River Basin, and Sustainable Management of Lands in the Transboundary Ecosystem of the American Gran Chaco.

The Department played an active role in the preparations for and holding of the Fourth World Water Forum in Mexico City in March 2006. In the lead-up to the Forum, the Department chaired the Operative Committee for the Americas for two terms, assisting in dialogue among various organizations that work for sustainable management of water resources. It also contributed to the regional evaluation of water resources in the Hemisphere and sponsored and participated in various sessions held during the Forum.

During this reporting period, the Department continued to collaborate with UNESCO-IHP on preparing the first volume of UNESCO/OAS ISARM Americas Programme "Transboundary Aquifers of the Americas – Preliminary Evaluation." The book is the first attempt to synthesize what is currently known about transboundary aquifers in this Hemisphere. It is mainly geared to those who have decision-making responsibilities and to regional and international organizations that work for the region's sustainable development.

- Renewable energy

One of the Department's objectives is to encourage greater use of renewable energy and energy-efficient technologies and systems. Through its program Renewable Energy in the Americas (REIA), it assists the member states in crafting policy and regulatory reforms, creating a human and institutional capacity, technical assistance and resource assessment, knowledge management, and financial support. The program operates through world and regional associations and acts as technical secretariat for Latin America and the Caribbean in the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP) and the Global Village Energy Partnership (GVEP).

The REIA program has set in motion a bio-energy feasibility study in St. Kitts and Nevis which looks at the possibility of transforming sugar cane and trash into energy (electric power and/or ethanol). It is also conducting a study to power rural schools in El Salvador with solar energy, and has contacted high-ranking officials in the energy sector in Mexico, Guatemala and

Dominica to implement studies on sustainable energy policies and regulatory reforms. It is also working on a regional feasibility study on geothermal energy in the Eastern Caribbean. The Department has worked with Dominica, Saint Lucia, and St. Kitts and Nevis, with resources from the Global Environment Facility, trying to promote commercial development of this resource.

- Natural Hazards Risk Management

The Department's mission in this area is to develop projects to reduce vulnerability to natural hazards. During the first half of 2006, it provided technical support to the Joint Consultative Organ on Natural Disaster Reduction and Risk Management (JCO) of the Committee on Hemispheric Security and to the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development. The Joint Consultative Organ was created to work on implementation of the recommendations made by the OAS General Assembly on natural disasters and to propose amendments to the Statutes of the Inter-American Emergency Aid Fund (FONDEM) and to the Statutes of the Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction (CIRDN).

Similarly, with the support of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the Department launched the Inter-American Network for Disaster Mitigation and held the first meeting of national focal points in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia on December 3, on the occasion of the First Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development.

- Environmental law, policy, and economics

In the area of environmental law, environmental policy, and economics, the Department has worked at both the regional and hemispheric levels to strengthen economic, social, and environmental policies, to ensure that they are all mutually reinforcing and contribute to sustainable development. It also focused on building up capacity in the area of environmental management under the umbrella of economic integration and liberalization of trade in the region.

In 2006, the Department maintained two databases on environmental legislation in the region and published the findings of an analysis of the discrepancies in the institutional priorities of the trade and environmental sectors in El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua. The Department is planning to prepare a cooperation program that focuses mainly on the new challenges that the region is facing as a result of the new economic and trade reforms. It also completed its work in the Andean region, where it provided support to Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru to prepare national environmental assessments of free trade; similar assessments were done for the Dominican Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, and Panama. In partnership with participants from three MERCOSUR countries, the Department also worked on a study of the impact of soy production on that region's sustainability.

- Biodiversity

The biodiversity program's goal is to help relieve poverty by making more information available for decision-making. Two projects—the Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network (IABIN) and the Amazon-Andes Protected Area Metadata Database (AAPAD)—focus on creating

and standardizing national and subnational databases on species/specimens, invasive species, ecosystems, protected areas, and pollinators, promote interoperability, and create value added computerized products. IABIN awarded 10 grants for data content creation intended for multilingual training sessions on tools to create databases, to improve the countries' capacity in producing data that can be accessed within the IABIN network. The Amazon-Andes Protected Metadata Database created an information system to maintain an Internet database containing information on the situation of the protected areas in the eight countries that make up the Andean-Amazon Basin region.

- Rational management of chemical products and other initiatives

In mid 2006, the Department created two new areas of activity. The first involves efforts at the country-specific and regional levels to improve rational management of chemical products. This includes a better command of the main chemical products within the countries in order to determine whether the chemicals they contain are toxic and pose serious threats to human health and the environment. This initiative will also create opportunities to improve subregional cooperation in this field. The second area has to do with the quest for innovative ways to finance sustainable development, to support member states' activities. The work in this area got underway in late 2006, as the Department compiled data and case studies of innovating financing, especially payment for ecological services.

Department of Trade, Tourism, and Competitiveness

The Department of Trade, Tourism, and Competitiveness (DTTC) is composed of the Trade Section, Competitiveness Section, the Tourism Section, and the Foreign Trade Information System (SICE).

- Trade

The Trade area helps the member states—particularly the smaller economies—build up their human and institutional capacities to enable them to participate in the implementation and administration of bilateral and subregional trade agreements and take advantage of the benefits that accrue from expanded markets and increased investment.

To that end, in 2006 the Trade Section helped sharpen the member states' institutional capacities through a series of seminars, workshops, and courses that target government officials and representatives of the private sector and that deal with the principal issues on the trade agenda, including those associated with tapping into the benefits that trade and integration in such areas as services and investment can yield.

It also supported regional, subregional, and bilateral economic and trade integration processes. Accordingly, it continued to work in cooperation with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the World Bank, and the secretariats of regional organizations like CARICOM, SIECA, the Andean Community and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS). It also helped the member states design, program, and execute horizontal cooperation projects in the trade area. It

organized workshops and seminars to share successful experiences in administering trade agreements, including such issues as settlement of disputes, sanitary, and phytosanitary measures and intellectual property issues.

It also prepared analyses and studies on trade policy and other matters related to trade and integration agreements in the Hemisphere, for a better understanding of these topics and to be used in crafting development-conducive public policy. It also provided support to the member states' efforts at increased transparency and at encouraging sectors of civil society to participate in the dialogue on trade and economic integration.

In the competitiveness area, the initial steps were taken to promote hemispheric dialogue and cooperation on crafting and introducing policies and programs on this issue. One basic objective is to encourage an exchange of best practices, experiences, and innovative approaches, and to help member states analyze and adopt those practices and then adapt them to their particular development needs (with special emphasis on micro, small, and medium-size enterprises).

The DTTC promotes association with the private sector by providing support to the Private Sector Forum of the Americas, which meets every year prior to the regular sessions of the OAS General Assembly and the Summits of the Americas. In 2006, the DCTC actively supported the Private Sector Forum that met in Santo Domingo, the Dominican Republic, on the occasion of the thirty-sixth regular session of the OAS General Assembly and then again on the occasion of the Conference on the "Competitiveness Agenda for the Americas: Contributions of the Private Sector to the Development of the Hemisphere," held in Miami, December 5, 2006.

- Tourism

In 2006, the Tourism section continued to support individual and institutional capacity building among small tourism businesses, in keeping with the mandates set out in the Strategic Plan for Integral Development (2006-2009). Another essential mission of the Tourism section is to facilitate the holding of the Inter-American Travel Congress, where it can exchange ideas and confer with the member states, Peru in particular, to determine the dates of the next Congress and the topics on its agenda.

At the same time, the section also continued to work on the "Multi-Hazard Contingency Planning Manual", in conjunction with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA), the Caribbean Hotel Association (CHA), and the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO).

During this reporting period, various training programs were carried out for small tourism businesses in the Caribbean, focusing on revenue management and quality client services. In Latin America, assistance to small hotels continued and the Latin American Network for tourism development was expanded and institutionalized among the member states. Also, the job of expanding and updating the virtual resource center for small tourism businesses was an important part of the section's work in 2006.

With a view to expanding and strengthening the partnerships between the public and private sectors, agreements were signed with the Caribbean Tourism Organization and the Caribbean

Hotel Association to continue to develop small tourism businesses, training, and the business of harmonizing the Caribbean tourism industry's operating standards in the areas of health, environmental quality and services.

To help ensure that the member states take full advantage of the advances and benefits that the new technologies offer, research was done on technology use and application in the tourism business. The findings of the research were presented and discussed at the Symposium "Bringing Destinations into the Future: A Special Report on the Application of Technology in Tourism," held in Miami.

In 2006, a mission to Haiti was conducted to gather information on the tourism sector and explore its needs and its potential as a tool for economic development. Following up on that mission, project proposals were presented to obtain funds and implement programs to cultivate tourism capacities in Haiti.

- Foreign Trade Information System (SICE)

The purpose of the Foreign Trade Information System (SICE) is to compile and disseminate information on trade and economic integration at the SICE Website (www.sice.oas.org). SICE provides complete, up-to-date information on trade in the Hemisphere, in the four official languages of the OAS.

SICE has documents on the following: bilateral trade agreements and investment agreements between member states of the OAS; the FTAA process; commercial arbitration; e-commerce; competition policy; intellectual property; technical obstacles to trade; services; trade-related institutions; general information about the countries; businesses and chambers of commerce; and quantitative data, including trade flows, tariffs, and prices.

In the period 2006-2007, SICE has developed a section on novelties in trade policy, which features announcements of new developments in trade policy in the Americas. This section contains information on negotiations in progress and agreements to which countries of this Hemisphere are party. SICE also continued to update the databases in the Caribbean Trade Reference Centre, which serves the entire Caribbean. The CTRC was developed to make information available on the issues being discussed in trade negotiations, so that the Caribbean public may be better apprised of trade matters.

SECRETARIAT FOR MULTIDIMENSIONAL SECURITY

The Secretariat for Multidimensional Security was created by Executive Order 05-13 Rev. 1 and is composed of the following areas: the Executive Secretariat of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), the Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE), and the Department for the Prevention of Threats against Public Security.

Executive Secretariat of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD)

CICAD celebrated its twentieth anniversary at a meeting held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, in November 2006. The OAS General Assembly created CICAD back in 1986, as part of the Inter-American Program of Action of Rio de Janeiro against the Illicit Use and Production of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and Traffic Therein. Ten years later, in December 1996, the General Assembly adopted the Anti-Drug Strategy in the Hemisphere and made the principle of shared responsibility an axiom of anti-drug policy in the region.

At the Santa Cruz meeting, the delegates re-confirmed those two texts as the frame of reference for hemispheric policy. The principles the two documents articulate enabled CICAD to become the political instrument of a sweeping and enduring consensus in favor of controlling the production, trafficking and use of illicit drugs in the region. The delegates opted to refrain from considering any changes to the text until an assessment of the situation worldwide, being done under United Nations auspices, is completed in 2008.

CICAD has partnerships with the Inter-American Development Bank, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Pan American Health Organization, the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), Spain's National Drug Plan and other organizations. CICAD's programs of action are divided into the following areas: the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM); Demand Reduction; Supply Reduction; Alternative Development; Money Laundering; Institutional Development; Educational Development and Research, and the Inter-American Observatory on Drugs.

- **Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM)**

The MEM is an instrument designed to gauge the progress of the anti-drug activities that the 34 member states of the OAS carry out. The evaluation is done by preparing national and hemispheric reports on the progress made in the area of drug control. In 2006, CICAD approved reports on the follow up to the recommendations from the Third Evaluation Round (2003-2004).

Before each evaluation round begins, the Inter-Governmental Working Group (IWG), composed of one representative per member state, does a thorough review of the Mechanism with a view to improving and strengthening the MEM process, its tools, and the evaluation cycle. After discussing the experience gained from the three evaluation rounds, the IWG reduced the number of indicators from 86 to 51 in an effort to streamline the process and sharpen its focus. The Commission approved the updated MEM guidelines, procedures, and indicators for the Fourth

Evaluation Round (2005-2006), and with that consolidated the member states' political commitment to CICAD's mission and goals.

The Fourth Round got underway in July and started with three regional training workshops to instruct the national coordinating entities in how to complete the online indicators questionnaire and to apprise them of their role in the MEM process and cycle. The workshops, held in Jamaica, El Salvador, and Colombia, also provided general information about the indicators and how the MEM process operates. A total of 33 member states were represented.

- Demand Reduction

This section continued to pursue its two lines of action: prevention and treatment. To keep the prevention programs effective, the Group of Experts assessed the existing evaluation tools and prepared a set of standards that could be used in the programs that the member states conduct. On the issue of treatment, a workshop attended by specialists from Central America and the Dominican Republic and international experts, was held to evaluate the function of drug abuse treatment and counseling in prisons.

CICAD and the University of the West Indies began working on a certification program in drug-addiction studies for the English-speaking Caribbean, which will be the counterpart of the International Online M.A. Degree in Addiction Studies for Spanish speakers, already in its third academic cycle.

With implementation of the agreement between CICAD and Chile's National Council for Narcotic Drug Control [*Consejo Nacional para el Control de Estupefacientes*] (CONACE), the advantages of horizontal cooperation materialized when CONACE's practical experience in drug-abuse prevention and treatment and rehabilitation were shared. Two training internships were carried out, as were three on-site visits (to Uruguay, Colombia, and Costa Rica). The participation of the CONACE experts in international seminars was fostered.

- Supply Reduction

The Supply Reduction and Control Program conducted 14 regional training seminars for police and customs officials on such topics as control of chemical substances, security of officers and officials, maritime cooperation, profiles of suspicious containers and passengers, inspection of cargo, and private sector participation in port and airport security. The seminars were conducted in Argentina, the British Virgin Islands, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, the United States, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

- Alternative Development

During the pilot phase of project ACCESO (Andean Countries Cocoa Export Support Opportunity) in 2006, CICAD funded the training of 55 field technicians and participated in a model consortium of seven Peruvian institutions for implementation of 48 in-field schools targeting Peruvian farmers, covering a total of 2,412 hectares. The beneficiaries were some

1,229 farmers from 145 communities. This experiment will soon be expanded into the other participating countries: Bolivia, Ecuador, and Colombia.

Based on the recommendations made in the study on the effects of aerial spraying of glyphosate herbicides for coca eradication in Colombia, a team of scientific experts and field and laboratory personnel were selected to determine the components and scientific protocol for a second phase of the study. That second phase began in November 2006 and will last two years.

- Anti Money Laundering

The money-laundering control training programs were targeted at judges, prosecutors, police officials, customs agents, and data processing specialists attached to the financial intelligence units (FIUs), as well as officials with the financial regulatory agencies in the Dominican Republic, Honduras, Panama, Guatemala, and Nicaragua. Mock money-laundering trials were staged in the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Costa Rica, and Chile. Law enforcement agents (police officers, customs agents, and prosecutors) in Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Panama, the Dominican Republic, and Brazil received instruction under the “train the trainers” program.

CICAD resolved to assist the member states in the work of managing property forfeited as a result of drug trafficking and money laundering. The Group of Experts is examining the issue with a view to preparing a handbook of best practices for establishing national systems or programs for administering seized assets (to include forfeiture, confiscation, handling). It also proposed that a number of pilot programs be conducted to gain practical experience in implementing a program of this type.

- Institutional Development

CICAD recognizes that it is only as effective as the member states’ national anti-drug commissions are. Given their importance, CICAD is conducting a program to train the staff of these commissions and upgrade their skills.

- Educational Development and Research

The first class, composed of 32 students, graduated from the on-line training program on research into the drug problem in the Americas, which targeted health professionals. CICAD has broadened its partnership with universities to include schools of public health, education, and medicine. As a result, a number of networks of academic centers have formed, creating greater awareness of the drug problem.

- Inter-American Observatory on Drugs

In conjunction with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Inter-American Observatory on Drugs (OID) published a study comparing drug use among secondary-school students in nine South American countries. A similar study will be done in Nicaragua, El

Salvador, and Guatemala, comparing drug use in households. In the Caribbean, work is already underway to do a study on drug use among secondary-school students.

The project on decentralization of anti-drug policies in the Andean countries is receiving technical and financial assistance from the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation [*Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional*] (AECI) and from the Government Delegation for the National Plan on Drugs (GDNPD) under the responsibility of Spain's Ministry of Health and Consumer Affairs. The project continues to work with the national anti-drug commissions in the participating countries in order to strengthen the process of decentralizing national anti-drug policies.

Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE)

The Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) was established by Executive Order 05-13, Rev. 1. Its mission is to support the member states at CICTE's regular sessions and preparatory meetings, to offer technical assistance and training programs, and to promote coordination and cooperation among the member states and with multilateral and international organizations so as to prevent, combat, and eliminate terrorism. The Secretariat's program is divided into the following areas: Border Controls, Financial Controls, Critical Infrastructure Protection, Counterterrorism Policy Engagement Exercises, and partnerships with other international, multilateral, and international organizations. From 2002 to September 2006, the Secretariat was under Mr. Steven Monblatt. Dr. Carol Fuller currently heads the CICTE Secretariat.

- **Border Controls**

Under the Port Security Program, assessments were done of the vulnerabilities of port facilities and of the training that port security personnel in Belize, Antigua and Barbuda, and Saint Kitts and Nevis require. The needed training that Belize's assessment findings indicated was provided to 98 officials in that country, to help raise security at Belize's port facilities to the international standards set in the International Code for the Security of Ships and of Port Facilities (ISPS), approved by the International Maritime Organization (IMO). During the training in Belize, authorities discovered narcotics in the forward hold of a ship; three members of the crew were arrested, convicted, and sentenced to prison. The contractor has been selected to do an assessment of port security at five major ports in the Dominican Republic and then provide the necessary training in 2007. The Secretariat also participated in a seminar on Port Management and Security, organized by the Government of Spain and held in Cartagena, Colombia.

The Aviation Security Program grew considerably over the course of the year. Some 30 courses were given in which 500 participants from 19 countries were instructed in the essentials of the ICAO security standards. The 2005 agreement with the United States' Transportation Security Administration (TSA) was fully implemented and funding was provided to enable personnel to attend various ICAO training courses and two training workshops on airport security that the ICAO offered in Jamaica and Nicaragua. The Secretariat introduced its airport security program at a regional aviation seminar held at the training center that the Spanish Government runs in Santa Cruz, Bolivia.

Under the Fraudulent Documents program, the Secretariat organized a regional seminar on Passports, International Travel Documents and Issuance Systems, held in Miami in July 2006 in collaboration with the International Organization for Migrations (IOM). In attendance were 24 participants from English-speaking OAS member states. The purpose was to build capacity in the detection of fraudulent travel documents and thereby enhance border security and build better institutional ties between immigration and border security agencies, with a view to promoting international cooperation in combating and controlling fraud.

No training courses were conducted under the Customs and Immigration program due to a lack of funding in 2006. However, a new project was launched in November in cooperation with Customs and Border Protection, an agency of the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS). In December 2006, three assessments were completed of the customs and immigration facilities in Jamaica, Saint Lucia, and Grenada, where four training programs will be conducted in early 2007.

- Financial Controls

Under the Terrorist Financing Program, the Secretariat produced a Spanish-language manual on terrorist financing in CD ROM format, and then distributed it to financial intelligence units and to other multilateral and international organizations. It is a pioneering effort that introduces the reader to terrorist-financing legislation and examines various methods of terrorist financing, early warning indicators, case studies, and best practices. The manual is being used in CICAD training courses on money laundering. The Secretariats of CICTE and of CICAD have partnered to offer a course on the specific issue of terrorist financing in 2007. The CD is being translated into English so that courses can be offered in the English-speaking member states in the Caribbean.

The Secretariat was represented among the panelists and experts at a seminar hosted by Argentina's Central Bank on the subject of terrorist financing.

- Legislation and legal assistance

The legislative and legal advisory service operated jointly with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has continued to provide technical assistance to member states that are reviewing their counter-terrorism legislation to bring those laws in line with the States' obligations under international instruments and the requirements provided for in the resolutions passed by the United Nations Security Council. As of the close of 2006, 22 member states had ratified the 13 international conventions against terrorism.

CICTE and UNODC jointly organized a Ministerial Conference held in Panama City in April 2006 and a workshop in the Dominican Republic in July 2006. Costa Rica, Mexico, and Uruguay also received technical assistance. In coordination with the Government of Spain and UNODC, a seminar was held to train judges and prosecutors on the legal tools and methods used to prosecute terrorism cases. This was also the first time that a CICTE event was held at Spain's training center in Cartagena, Colombia.

- Critical Infrastructure Protection

Under the *Cyber Security* program and in cooperation with the U.S Secret Service, in April 2006 the Secretariat organized a seminar on cyber crime and terrorism for 32 intelligence, police, and military officials from 14 OAS member states. This training complements the combined efforts of the Meeting of Ministers of Justice or Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA) and the Inter-American Telecommunications Commission (CITEL) to implement the Inter-American Strategy to Combat Threats to Cyber-Security. All member states received a DVD of the training event, with simultaneous interpretation in English and Spanish. The Secretariat established a partnership with the Asia Pacific Computer Emergency Response Team (APCERT) and was a speaker at a regional forum in March. The Secretariat also spoke at two international seminars on critical infrastructure, one a conference of experts on cyber crime (III ICCyber) and the other a conference on government security (SecGov 2006). Both conferences were in Brazil in November 2006. At the end of the year, a new CICTE training program was approved to help the member states set up a National Computer Cyber-Security Incident Response Team (CSIRT) and to train the personnel officially designated by the governments. Thus far, there are eight government-appointed CSIRT teams in the Hemisphere.

At its Sixth Regular Session, held in March 2006, CICTE approved the Inter-American Tourism and Recreational Facilities Security Program (ITRS), which was launched as a pilot project in August. The program is unique in its field and has already filled an important gap in hemispheric security and had a positive impact on the preparations being made by the countries hosting the Cricket World Cup 2007. A total of 167 front-line security officers, managers and supervisors from 10 English-speaking countries in the Caribbean have received training in four courses. As part of the training, participants learned how to assess security vulnerabilities in the tourism sector (hotels, transportation, cruise ships, playing fields and recreational sites, etc.).

- Other initiatives

One of the top priorities for the Secretariat continues to be to help the Caribbean member states prepare for the Cricket World Cup 2007. The Secretariat also continued to play an active role in international anti-terrorism efforts being spearheaded by the United Nations and other bodies. It participated in a policy exercise based on a bioterrorism scenario, organized by INTERPOL and staged in Santiago, Chile in July 2006. A new partnership was forged with the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UN-LiREC) to support the member states' efforts to meet their obligations under United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (with regard to weapons of mass destruction).

A partnership was also started with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) to promote technical assistance to countries in the area of major event security. The Secretariat participated in a UNICRI conference held at United Nations headquarters in December 2006, where it explained the training programs that CICTE is conducting to bolster security in the countries hosting the Cricket World Cup.

The Secretariat provided assistance to 28 participants from 13 countries for the training course on "Early Indicators of Terrorist Activity," held in Buenos Aires in April.

Department for the Prevention of Threats against Public Security

- **Public Security Policies**

The Department for the Prevention of Threats against Public Security has done preliminary research to ascertain the scale of the security problems in the Americas and to pinpoint areas of intervention and potential partners for such intervention. That research revealed a dearth of timely and accurate information and the lack of composite statistics, which makes an analysis comparing the situation in the countries difficult and only gives glimpses of the overall trends in security. Furthermore, private security firms appear to be playing an ever larger role in the region and many member states do not have the necessary management and control capability.

The research also found that no political forum exists within the region where these issues are analyzed and discussed, and no security-related horizontal cooperation mechanisms are in place. The Department for the Prevention of Threats against Public Security is trying to put together a three-year agenda that covers a series of issues that the General Secretariat has been addressing for some years now. Its goal is to be responsive to the commitments undertaken and to take a comprehensive approach to dealing with those issues.

- **Gangs**

A different approach is being taken to this issue, given the scale it has achieved, its impact and the threat it poses to the stability and security of our countries. This is why the Department for the Prevention of Threats against Public Security has opted to take an all-encompassing approach, coordinating with all those organizations in the inter-American system that address this problem from different angles. The section of the Department that deals with the gangs issue has developed nine projects, which will be launched starting in 2007. These nine projects will cover such matters as the definition and conceptual classification of gangs, prevention strategies, public policy, modernization of the legal standards, information systems, and communication strategies. Different areas of the Organization will participate as these programs are being carried out. For the first time, the gangs issue is focused in one area of the General Secretariat, which will undoubtedly improve the response capability and highlight the singularity of the gangs issue as a concept.

- **Firearms, Explosives, and Ammunition**

The second meeting of the CIFTA-CICAD Group of Experts was held at OAS headquarters on October 11 and 12, 2006. The meeting was an opportunity to finalize the model legislation on the marking and tracing of firearms and ammunition, and to begin the dialogue on the draft model legislation on strengthening controls at export points. The Department for the Prevention of Threats against Public Security organized a seminar on weapons stockpile management, security, and destruction. The event, planned in cooperation with the Latin American School of Social Sciences [*Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales*] (FLACSO), UN-LiREC and the Office of Chile's Director General of National Mobilization, was attended by over 40 representatives of the government and nongovernment agencies, who exchanged views on and

experiences with stockpile management, security levels, and subsequent destruction. Expectations are that this event will be replicated in other regions of the Hemisphere in 2007.

Two initiatives also materialized to help the Governments of Nicaragua and Colombia destroy remaining war materiel, weapons, ammunition, and explosives. The initiative in Nicaragua is expected to destroy between 900 and 1.000 tons of munitions, while the Colombian initiative will ultimately destroy 18.000 firearms and 2.7 million rounds of ammunition confiscated upon demobilization of the paramilitary in Colombia. Destruction of the weapons and ammunition in each country will begin in early 2007.

- Comprehensive Action against Antipersonnel Mines (AICMA)

As part of the mandate to support the OAS member states with national reconciliation, peace building, and fulfillment of the commitments they have undertaken as States Parties to the Ottawa Convention, this program continues to support anti-mine activities in Colombia, Ecuador, Nicaragua, and Peru. The goals are still to raise funds from the international community, administer and manage resources, and coordinate the program from a diplomatic and political standpoint. The Portfolio of Projects was circulated and includes the profiles of the national anti-landmine action programs and the financing required to implement them in 2007. OAS leadership in support of the Ottawa Convention was evident by its active participation in the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention, held in September 2006, and by the program's accomplishments as presented to the donor community at this and other international forums.

With technical advisory assistance from the Inter-American Defense Board, in 2006 the program helped the member states with removal of approximately 6,500 antipersonnel mines, in the process clearing nearly 400,000 square meters of land in the affected countries. These successes include efforts being made by Nicaragua, which expects to complete its National Demining Plan by the end of 2007. Upon completion of the operations in Nicaragua, Central America will be the first region in the world to rid itself of antipersonnel mines. The activities in Colombia also need to be highlighted, where the humanitarian demining of two additional mine fields of the original 34 under the Colombian State's jurisdiction has been completed. Furthermore, a capacity to respond to humanitarian emergencies caused by mines has been established within the Colombian Armed Forces and will be put into operation in 2007.

To provide care to survivors of accidents caused by unexploded landmines and devices, as of the end of 2006 the AICMA program had assisted with the physical and psychological rehabilitation of some one thousand victims. In 2006, the program continued to assist survivors of landmines through a post-rehabilitation job training program run in cooperation with Nicaragua's National Institute of Technology [*Instituto Nacional Tecnológico*]. The program has succeeded in training over 219 people. With the close of 2006 and starting in 2007, the comprehensive program of assistance to victims will become a regional program in Central America, thanks to the support of various national and international organizations. Through Colombia's Comprehensive Rehabilitation Center [*Centro Integral de Rehabilitación*], the OAS has also established a program to provide assistance to landmine victims to aid in the physical and psychological rehabilitation of some 3,000 or more survivors of landmines in that country. As part of the

preventive education component targeting communities affected by landmines, the AICMA supported the awareness campaigns that brought the message of the dangers of landmines to over 225,000 people living in the affected areas.

The AICMA program received some 6.7 million dollars in financial contributions in 2006. It will need some 6 million dollars in 2007, which will go toward ensuring that the antipersonnel landmine programs in Ecuador, Peru, and Colombia continue, wrapping up activities in Nicaragua, expanding the victims assistance program, and assisting efforts to destroy ammunition and firearms stockpiles.

- Trafficking in Persons

The First Meeting of National Authorities on Trafficking in Persons, held on Margarita Island, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, was in March 2006. In La Paz, Bolivia at the end of that same month, the Department for the Prevention of Threats against Public Security presented the Government-elect and civil society with the results, recommendations, and future activities planned to combat trafficking in persons, with the cooperation and under the joint auspices of the member states, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Save the Children-Sweden, and others. Similarly, in June 2006 a seminar-workshop was held in Port-au-Prince for security agents. The topic was the scourge that trafficking in persons and violation of their human rights represents, best practices and legal frameworks to combat the problem. A seminar for trainers was held in Belize City in August, intended to combat the trafficking in persons by using Web portals featuring the disappeared. The seminar trained over 140 security agents. In November, the Department organized a training seminar to enable security forces posted along the Adjacency Zone between Belize and Guatemala to share ideas and information. Around 85 participants identified cooperation mechanisms to combat the trafficking in persons in both countries.

The Department for the Prevention of Threats against Public Security participated in various events and was tasked with addressing topics pertinent to trafficking in persons in the Americas, the successes achieved and the challenges that remain. The events included an international meeting held in Cascais, Portugal in May 2006, one held in Madrid, May 2006; another on St. Marteen, June 2006; a Stockholm meeting in June 2006; a meeting in Puerto Rico, August 2006; another in Buenos Aires in November 2006; and a meeting in Bilbao, Spain, in December 2006.

- Transnational Organized Crime

Between April and December 2006, the Department for the Prevention of Threats against Public Security assisted the Permanent Council's Special Committee on Transnational Organized Crime (CEDOT) at meetings where the content and wording of the Hemispheric Plan of Action against Transnational Organized Crime were examined and discussed, culminating in the Permanent Council's approval of the Plan on October 24, 2006. The Department also participated in a number of seminars, workshops, and meetings, such as the seminar of experts on "Organized Crime and Its Impact on Democratic Societies," held in San José, Costa Rica, May 15 and 16, 2006; the Experts Meeting to Draft a Model Law on Witness Protection for Latin America, organized by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and held in Santiago,

Chile, June 22 through 25, 2006, and the First Latin American Regional Conference of the International Association of Prosecutors (IAP), also held in Santiago, July 25 to 27, 2006, to take a comparative approach to the issue of victim and witness protection.

The Department was in charge of various matters in preparation for the First Ibero-American Conference of Public Ministries and Police “An Alliance Serving the Cause of Justice: Shared Challenges,” held in Santiago, Chile, November 7 through 9, 2006. It also participated in the Conference. The Department assisted the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) with organization of the subregional workshop on “Use of undercover operations and electronic surveillance in combating organized crime and corruption,” held in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, November 16 and 17, 2006. The event was presented as a United Nations and OAS collaborative effort.

SECRETARIAT FOR ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

Established by Executive Order 05-13 Rev. 1, the SAF is composed of the Office of the Assistant Secretary; the Department of Human Resources; the Department of Budgetary and Financial Services; the Office of Information and Technology Services; the Office of Procurement Services, and the Office of General Services.

Office of the Assistant Secretary

During this reporting period, the Office of the Assistant Secretary continued to provide support to the political organs of the Organization, principally the Permanent Council's Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs (CAAP), serving as one of that Committee's chief links with the General Secretariat. The Office of the Assistant Secretary also coordinated with the various areas of the General Secretariat to assist them with their programs' administrative and financial affairs. Finally, the Office spearheaded a number of reforms aimed at modernizing the General Secretariat and making it more transparent.

Department of Budgetary and Financial Services (DBFS)

- Budgetary matters

Important events transpired in 2006 having to do with budgetary services. Early in the year, the DBFS and the other offices in the Secretariat for Administration and Finance, undertook steps to reconcile the accounting structure, financial statements and reports, personnel and other records, to ensure that all the information comported with Executive Order 05-13 issued in December 2005 and to enable compliance with the required periodic reporting on the status of execution of the 2006 budget of the Regular Fund and Specific Funds.

At its thirty-first special session in January 2006, the General Assembly adopted a new transitional scale of Regular Fund quota assessments to fund the 2007 and 2008 program-budgets, something that had not been done for many years. It also instructed the Permanent Council to present to the General Assembly, at its thirty-seventh regular session, recommendations for the adoption of a revised, definitive scale of quota assessments for 2009 and subsequent years. At this special session, the General Assembly instructed the Secretary General to submit to the Preparatory Committee a proposed program-budget for the Regular Fund for 2007, with a fixed ceiling of US\$81.5 million.

On April 12, 2006, the Proposed Program-Budget for 2007 was presented, with a ceiling of \$81.5 million, which did not make allowance for the statutory salary adjustments or increases in the General Secretariat's operating expenses resulting from inflationary losses in purchasing power. When the General Secretariat indicated that the budget approved for 2006 did not include the additional resources needed to cover special, unanticipated costs (such as maintenance work to the buildings, upgrading of the OASES system, conversion of the CPRs in the area of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and regularization of under-budgeted posts), the Permanent Council adopted resolution CP/RES 903 (1542/06) in April, in which it approved a \$5.2 million adjustment to the Program-Budget approved for 2006. Under Article 72 of the

General Standards, the Reserve Subfund would have to be used to cover this additional appropriation.

Finally, in resolution CP/RES. 911 (1573/06), adopted in December, the Permanent Council approved a special appropriation to the 2007 Program-Budget in the amount of \$2.9 million to finance salary costs mandated under Article 40 of the General Standards and resolution AG/RES. 1319 (XXV-O/95). The special appropriation will also offset inflationary losses in the purchasing power of the budgetary resources allocated for non-personnel expenditures in 2007.

- Financial matters

The combined financial statements that appear at the end of this report in Annex E reflect the financial situation of the OAS, and include the following:

- a. The Operating and Reserve Subfunds of the Regular Fund, whose budgets are approved by the General Assembly;
- b. The Specific Funds and the Special Multilateral Fund of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (FEMCIDI), which are funded by unilateral or multinational contributions to finance activities approved by the governing bodies; and
- c. The Service Funds to manage the internal administrative business necessary for the Organization to function properly. Those funds appear as a separate line item in the financial statements to show what their impact is. The following are among the Service Funds: the Tax Reimbursement Fund, Parking Services, and the Fund for Conferences Abroad.

In 2006, total collections of Regular Fund quotas, including quotas in arrears from previous years, was \$79.9 million, which was a \$3.6 million increase—or 4.7%—over total collections in 2005 (\$76.3). The financial situation of the Regular Fund was better than it was in 2005, largely due to collections of the 2006 quotas (\$65.6 million) and quotas in arrears (\$14.3 million).

The balance of the Regular Fund as of December 31, 2006 rose to \$13.8^{1/} million, which was \$3.8 million more than the previous year's balance of \$10.1^{2/} million. However, when the set-asides for the fellowship programs and the supplementals earmarked for the Capital Fund for OAS Fellowship, Scholarship, and Training Programs are excluded, the net for the Regular Fund's operations was \$2.2 million. This increased the balance in the Reserve Subfund to \$10.8 million, as compared to \$8.6 million in 2005.

Department of Human Resources (DHR)

A number of major changes—both structural and procedural—were introduced in the Department of Human Resources in 2006. The thrust of these changes was along three main lines: efficiency, processing of personnel-related documents, and growth and development.

^{1.} This includes \$3 million in set-asides for execution of 2007 fellowship programs.

^{2.} This includes \$1.5 million in supplementals earmarked for the Capital Fund for OAS fellowship and training programs, pursuant to resolution CP/RES. 894 (1516/05).

- Efficiency

One of the most important changes made to the Department's internal structure was the transition from a system of specialist technicians to a service-oriented process in which "account executives," providing efficient, personalized attention on all matters relating to Human Resources, are serving the staff in the areas within their respective "portfolios."

To standardize the rules in force and make them understandable, and to lend greater transparency to the procedures followed in paying staff member benefits, handbooks were written on: 1) home leave, 2) tuition reimbursement, 3) maternity leave, 4) education allowance, 5) G-5 visas for domestics, 6) severance, and 7) procedures for the Disciplinary Committee. Work got underway to update the Staff Rules with a view to fashioning a document that comports with the Organization's specific needs and the new trends in personnel policy and management.

In order to be able to computerize each and every procedure used by the Department, the latter partnered with the Office of Information and Technology Services to purge and update the database so as to accommodate the new human resources management model to be operated through the OASES system. This will pave the way for a reporting system that facilitates personnel management and strategic decision-making within the General Secretariat.

The Department worked continually with various areas of the Organization to re-engineer their internal processes, to make their operating structures more efficient.

- Processing of personnel-related documents

Performance contracts (CPRs) and personnel action requests (PARs) were computerized in 2006. In all, over 1,400 personnel actions and 800 performance contracts were processed.

A total of 48 vacancies that, for one reason or another, had been pending for the last three years, were announced. Similarly, to make the process of classifying posts more transparent, a committee was formed composed of a number of professionals from the Department of Human Resources who are specialists in the United Nations classification system. These specialists review every request in a timely manner and then process it so that a final decision can be made. A total of 53 posts were classified in 2006.

In cooperation with the United States Department of State, the paperwork associated with visas and work permits are being computerized. During this transition period, the process was simplified and automated, with the result that 1,250 visa applications were processed in 2006. Another development is that for the first time, the Department is now helping interns apply for G4 visas, so that the applications the interns file with the U.S. consulates in their respective countries can be expedited.

The Internship Program has been redesigned and computerized with a view to making the program competitive with those of other international organizations. An agreement was concluded with George Washington University to house the Organization's interns in the University's facilities during their stay in the city. An agreement was also concluded with the

Inter-American University Organization [*Organización Universitaria Interamericana*] (OIU), which will publicize and promote the OAS Internship Program to an audience of more than four million students across the Hemisphere. The goal here is to recruit and provide opportunities to young talent from all the member states. In 2006, the OAS welcomed 205 interns.

The Department undertook an analysis to compare the administration of the benefits systems in the United Nations and the Organization of American States.

- Growth and Development

The Organizational Development section was created with the idea of changing the culture and enhancing organizational performance through a series of programs aimed at encouraging the personal and professional development of staff members. These programs will also help identify the most promising professionals.

To that end, an effort was launched to detect the training needs in all areas of the Organization so as to then create and offer high-caliber training programs. In 2006, the planning was completed and a program of 11 training courses was launched, which will be implemented in the first half of 2007. The first courses given have been on “Effective Communication and Negotiation” and “Executive Coaching.” Of the 30 staff members who participated in these two courses, seven were certified as in-house instructors.

The Department reviewed and updated the process for competing for continuing contracts, which give Organization employees stability and permanence. This process is a matter of interest to 109 employees.

For non-professional employees who for one reason or another were unable to complete their studies, a plan was devised to help them pursue their university degree.

To enable a constant give-and-take of ideas between the Organization and its staff, the Department and the OITS teamed up to design an intranet portal called “OAS Connect.” This was the first vehicle of the Internal Communications Plan. All the DRH information and the principal administrative management procedures were updated at this portal, in order to facilitate dealings with this Department.

The Performance Evaluation Program was redesigned in order to make it an effective tool for cultivating quality, in every sense of the word, and for encouraging effectiveness and efficiency among staff of the Organization. The new program will be introduced in early 2007.

In the health area, various vaccination campaigns were conducted, as were an AIDS prevention and detection campaign and a Health Fair.

The goals of the Department of Human Resources for 2007 are as follows:

1. Continue and enhance the automation and computerization of procedures, payment of benefits and payroll.
2. Introduce the Performance Evaluation System.
3. Computerize the process for bringing new staff on board.
4. Publish and implement the procedural handbooks.
5. Introduce a competitive selection process for continuing contracts.
6. Develop an online training program for the National Offices.
7. Improve the process of recruitment, selection, and promotion of staff.
8. Issue a monthly online in-house bulletin that serves as one more tool enabling communication and promoting the Organization's activities and achievements in the Human Resources area.
9. Attract the Hemisphere's most talented youth to participate in our internship program.
10. Bring organization in line with the General Secretariat's strategic plans.

Office of Information and Technology Services (OITS)

A total of 27 OAS Offices in the Member States are now integrated into a secure system of communications with headquarters, through a virtual private network (VPN) enabling direct connection to all IT services offered (OASES, e-mail, OAS Connect, and others).

A telephone system using IP telephony – VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) was successfully introduced for all the OAS Offices in the Member States. At headquarters, 65 extensions were configured to use this system.

The 375% increase in the use of mobile communications equipment and the 700% increase in the use of PDAs (personal digital assistants) were due to the new technologies available and to the need to have a workforce in constant communication. The OITS reorganized the administration and control of these devices and, working with the Department of Legal Services, issued Administrative Memorandum No. 115 spelling out the policies and procedures for the acquisition, use, and payment of cellular telephones and mobile communication devices and the selection and use of service providers in accordance with the rules of the General Secretariat. The OITS also did a marketing study on these services providers to select those that can best meet the General Secretariat's needs.

A study was done and the necessary equipment purchased for implementation of the NAC ("Network Admission Control"), the system that allows network access only to connected PDAs.

A new version of our intranet –OAS Connect–was developed and introduced so as to be able to offer a more dedicated approach to the services of the General Secretariat and a secure and more user-friendly connection for all users. This Intranet also features all news related to the OAS Offices in the Member States.

To make the General Secretariat's network more secure, various devices were installed that can detect attempts to breach the network intrusion detection system (NIDS). Antivirus and antispyware programs are constantly updated to better defend the data systems from virus attacks and other threats to data security.

New network monitoring tools were installed -"Winventory" and "Cacto"- and security scripts were created for servers and the "Active Directory."

The "HelpDesk" received a total of 16,200 requests: 10,500 were about OASES, and 5,700 concerned equipment, programs, installation, and user support in general.

With the proliferation of servers in the Organization, a strategy for consolidation was devised and implemented. It included study, analysis, and measurement of the entire network infrastructure to determine how the servers and their resources were being used and then how to use them to maximum effect so that some servers could be freed up for use in the Emergency/Catastrophe Recovery and Continuity Plan (Business Continuity Plan - BCP). In addition to the consolidation strategy, a massive data storage system – an SAN or Storage Area Network – was acquired to house all the Organization's corporate production databases. Installation and configuration is set for 2007. In addition to the strategy, virtual servers will be introduced that use next-generation software technology.

As Phase I of the Emergency/Catastrophe Recovery and Continuity Plan (BCP), the equipment needed to set up a recovery site for the Organization's mission critical systems was moved to the Administrative Building. This system will be operational in January 2007. Bids were taken for the contract for complete recabing of the Main Building, to standardize the type of technology within the Organization. That work will be done in 2007. In advance of the recabing work, the necessary infrastructure was installed in the Main Building and the GSB to equip them for wireless connectivity.

New applications were developed to help various areas achieve their goals and to help simplify procedures:

- Systems were developed for the Department of Human Resources involving electronic processing of personnel action requests (PARs) and simplified processing of performance contracts (CPRs). With both systems, the information on the PARs and CPRs can be verified and validated and the corresponding approvals obtained, thereby minimizing e-mail traffic. The new systems retain information which can then be used to produce a variety of reports and statistics. An internship applications and selection database system was also developed for the Department of Human Resources to reduce the cost and time spent processing applications.
- Phase I of the fellowships management system (FMS) was completed for the Department of Human Resources in December, which was ahead of schedule. With the FMS, the Department is able to monitor and manage the costs of active OAS fellows, both individually and by program, and check and verify information between the OAS and the suppliers of the various services involved. This system, too, generates reports and

statistics and features a security module. It will shortly have an interface enabling this system to be connected through OASConnect. Phase II, which is already in progress, will allow new fellowships to be managed and will include the application and selection process.

- A system was developed for the Department of Planning, Control and Evaluation, (DPCE) to computerize project planning based on the structure used by that Department. The system computerizes the process from the time the project's operational planning is presented up through the DPCE's approval or rejection of it. This system also generates the reports that the DPCE requires.

As for managing the OAS enterprise system—OASES—, the roles and profiles of the various users that access the system have been re-evaluated and a division-of-labor plan was prepared and is now being implemented. Working in collaboration with Oracle technical personnel, the quality and types of service that the Secretariat receives have been redefined with a view to getting the maximum return on investment (ROI) from the contract between the General Secretariat and Oracle Corporation. Drastic technical and administrative measures were taken to improve the operation of OASES. With the improvements, service continued uninterrupted during the closing of the 2006 books. A system was also introduced that monitors changes in OASES. Planning is underway to expand this system to all those under OITS management.

OITS, working with the Department of Human Resources, completed the remodeling of the training room, equipping it with the latest in computer technology.

OITS continued to provide technical support for such applications as Documents Control, Events Calendar and the Telephone Directory, developed for the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, Conferences and Meetings, the Columbus Library, and other areas. Similarly, OITS continued to help expand the secure e-mail system for the Working Group on Mutual Legal Assistance. This technology gives the authorities in the member states rapid, confidential, and secure communication with respect to extradition and criminal matters.

Having already completed modernization of the support systems for the meetings of the Organization's various political bodies in the recently renovated Simón Bolívar Conference Room, OITS continued to provide support and guidance to the Office of Conferences and Meetings, the Office of General Services, the Office of the Assistant Secretary General and the Department of Press and Communications so that the installed technologies are used to maximum effect.

Office of Procurement Services (OPS)

- Activities related to the Inventory Area

The Inventory Area completed the activities involved in receiving products sent to the Organization by several hundred suppliers. It then dispatched those products to their users. During this reporting period, the Inventory area delivered 580 new items each valued at over \$500. The total cost was over \$1.7 million. More than 14,000 new fields were generated to enter

these procurements into the inventory database. A physical inventory was done of over 5,000 articles and more than 35,000 fields in the inventory database were updated.

During the period covered in this report, 511 obsolete or damaged items were removed from the inventory and over 1,300 deliveries were made to various users in all the buildings at headquarters, involving over 3,000 boxes or envelopes. The area also gave out around 2,000 new barcode tickets to Special Missions whose inventories began to be updated in early 2007. The information on over 2,000 items in the OAS Offices in the Member States was brought up to date.

- Activities related to the Procurement Area

Oracle Enterprise System (OASES)

In 2006, the workload and processing of purchase orders were approximately 30% higher than in 2005 and over 1,600 requests filed with the Helpdesk were answered. Likewise, procurement transactions continued to be reviewed periodically; over 14,000 requisition and purchase orders were purged from the system.

More than 15 regular and special training sessions were given on how to prepare, review, receive, and approve purchase orders. Special courses were given on how to process transactions relating to consultant contracts (CPRs); advanced courses were offered on special topics related to the procurement system. Certification of the OAS Offices in the Member States continued. Using OASES, the area processed 39,463 purchase-order lines. Telephone and personal technical support was provided to users of the online office supplies procurement system; more than 700 requests were authorized after checking the balances on the purchase orders.

- Contracts, Insurance, and Bid Solicitations

OPS coordinated and solicited bids on procurement contracts. It then selected the suppliers and executed the purchase contracts. A total of 22 solicitations were conducted. It also conducted two bid solicitations involving travel services.

OPS continues to administer the GS/OAS business insurance policies, both at headquarters and at the OAS Offices in the Member States. It also looked into the possibility and the cost of getting insurance coverage against kidnapping and for the rescue of members of OAS special missions, such as those in Haiti and Colombia.

- Activities related to the Travel Area

The travel area made reservations and issued over 2,000 e-tickets and/or physical tickets for the trips made by Organization staff or persons representing the Organization. It also arranged more than 500 visas with the consulates of over 20 countries.

In October 2006, the OPS solicited proposals from specialized travel agencies to provide off-site travel services. After fully examining and evaluating the four proposals received it made its recommendations to the Contract Awards Committee (CAC). In December the Secretary

General approved the CAC's recommendation that the contract for travel services be awarded to Omega World Travel (Omega). He signed the corresponding contract in January 2007. The following are among the benefits that Omega Travel is offering to the OAS: prices and fares that Omega negotiates with the airlines; 24/7 emergency availability; 24/7 VIP services and dedicated phone lines; access to available upgrades at no cost to passengers who meet the necessary conditions; better and more precise travel statistics for reporting purposes; an online reservations system especially tailored to the OAS. The new off-site travel service was fully implemented in February 2007.

In 2007, the OPS plans to centralize invoicing in the area as part of the costs management program; consolidate and control all OAS travel-related procurement, and present reliable reports that identify and properly quantify all the travel expenses and compliance with travel policies; achieve the SG/OED goal of best practices and more transparent business transactions.

- Other business

The OPS continued to respond to the Permanent Council's requests for biannual reporting on performance contracts (CPRs). That reporting demands constant and continuous attention and changes according to the Permanent Council's needs.

Office of General Services (OGS)

The Office of General Services focused its efforts on continuing capital investment projects, renovation and maintenance of the General Secretariat's buildings, and other matters such as renting out office space, physical security, documents copying, the fleet of vehicles and parking areas.

The maintenance and capital investments in the buildings of the General Secretariat were implemented at a cost of approximately \$7.2 million, which includes the mortgage payment on the "F" Street Building (\$2,028,299) and payment of the buildings' insurance coverage (\$171,194). The maintenance costs mainly involved utility services, maintenance contracts, repairs, and purchase of supplies. The increase in the cost of the utility services^{3/} and in the cost of the maintenance contracts^{4/} and the contracted cleaning and security services necessitated approval of an addition to the budget, in the amount of \$634,800 (CP/CAAP/SA-538/06).

The capital investments completed total \$841,151. Repairs were made to the roof of the Main Building, the staircases leading up to the Hall of the Americas, repair and painting of the ceilings and interior walls, and replacement of the elevator and two major pieces of air-conditioning equipment (chillers). A protective film was applied to all the windows on the "F" Street Building and the cooling tower was replaced. The condenser in the Museum was also replaced. These capital investments were done as a result of special authorizations by the Permanent Council's Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs (CP/CAAP/SA-538/06 and CP/CAAP/SA-525/05). Included in the first authorization were funds to prepare a report on the existing

^{3.} Water, electricity, steam, gas, and sanitation.

^{4.} Electromechanical equipment, elevators, security equipment, fire prevention systems, fumigation, trash collection and gasoline.

condition of the Main Building, Administrative Building, the Museum, and the Casita. The report will provide the General Secretariat with a Master Renovation Plan.

The heavy rains in June 2006, which flooded the Washington metropolitan area, also affected the Organization's Main and Administrative buildings. The machine room in the Main Building, which houses the electrical equipment that provides electric power, air conditioning, and heating, was put out of commission. As a result, the building had to be closed for a week for replacement of the electrical panels, energy control systems, water pumps, flash dryers, and other equipment. The damage came to a total of \$179,401; the insurance company covered \$169,582.

Some 49,475 square feet were leased out, 1,254 square feet more than the previous year. The leased office and storage space in the "F" Street building brought in revenues totaling US\$1,697,756. The space on the third floor is being leased by the Inter-American Institute of Cooperation for Agriculture (IICA) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO); the space on the second floor is being leased by the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF), the Albert Sabin Institute, and the Development Gateway Foundation; the OAS Staff Federal Credit Union and the Juan Valdez coffee shop lease space in the lobby.

The security equipment continued to be modernized to improve access and surveillance controls. The General Secretariat acquired a security communications system to network the Main Building with the "F" Street Building. A DVR was also purchased for the Main Building, as was a remote-control color camera to keep the Aztec Patio behind the Main Building under surveillance. Access controls were installed in the Simón Bolívar Conference Room, as were alarms on the glass windows. At the "F" Street Building, access controls were installed in the Mail Section and in the computer laboratory. A camera and intercom were installed at the residence. The total for these investments was US\$34,775.

Seven new photocopiers were purchased, for a total of US\$67,000. Maintenance services were contracted, which included repairs, paper, and supplies for all 44 photocopiers in the General Secretariat, for a total of some US\$103,000.

To keep an efficient fleet of vehicles, the General Secretariat leased four new vehicles, at a total of US\$1,161 a month. The vehicles that were replaced were over eleven years old and were in constant need of costly maintenance. The vehicles for the Secretary General and Assistant Secretary General were also renewed, at a total of US\$745 a month.

Since all staff members of the General Secretariat are entitled to a parking space and the number of spaces available within the General Secretariat is not sufficient, additional spaces have to be leased from private parking garages. Management of the parking areas does not create a direct administrative cost to the General Secretariat since it is covered by the fees that the users of the parking areas pay. So management of the parking areas also subsidizes the purchase of *Metrocheck* passes for staff members who, although entitled to park, use the Metro system instead. The operating cost of the parking areas was some US\$693,000, which included a number of improvements. Revenues were in excess of US\$612,000, and the balance in the Parking Fund as of December 31, 2006, was over US\$366,000.

DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL LEGAL AFFAIRS

The Department of International Legal Affairs supports the organs of the OAS in preparing and developing public and private international law, in follow-up mechanisms on compliance with the various inter-American conventions, in legal and judicial cooperation activities, and in matters related to training, information, and dissemination of inter-American law. The department collaborates with member states in the preparation of treaties, declarations, and other international instruments by preparing studies, expert legal opinions, and documents. It is also in charge of ratification and deposit procedures. It provides technical and secretariat services to the Inter-American Juridical Committee.

Office of the Director of the Department

The Office of the Director directed and planned the programs, activities, and actions of the Department, as well as coordination with the other dependencies of the General Secretariat. In particular, in its support functions for the bodies charged with the development of inter-American law, it participated in advisory services for the General Assembly and the Permanent Council, as well as at Inter-American Juridical Committee sessions, at the meeting of ministers of justice of the Americas, and at the Conference of States Parties to the Inter-American Convention against Corruption.

In 2006, the Director of the Department represented the Secretary General at the Ibero-American Meeting of Ministers of Justice (Las Palmas, September) and took part in the ceremonies commemorating the centennial of the Inter-American Juridical Committee (Rio de Janeiro, August). It also participated in the Anti-Corruption Workshop (Managua, June) and at the Meeting of Experts on the next Inter-American Specialized Conference on Private International Law, on the subject of consumer protection (Porto Alegre, December).

As for dissemination of the inter-American system, the Director of the Department gave lectures at the University of Sherbrooke (Canada, April), during the Course on International Law in Rio de Janeiro (August), and during the Workshops on International Law (Buenos Aires, November). He was also a guest speaker at the International Congress on International Human Rights Law, organized by UNAM (Mexico, May). He also wrote the prologue to Mauricio Alice's book: "*El sistema jurídico interamericano*" [the Inter-American Juridical System] (Buenos Aires, 2006), as well as articles on inter-American law in books and specialized journals.

Office of International Law

In 2006, the ODI rendered legal services in the area of international law to the General Assembly and to the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP) and its working groups, drafting resolutions, organizing special meetings and meetings of experts on such subjects as the International Criminal Court, migrants, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, international humanitarian law, and the principles contained in the Charter of the Organization of American States. It also wrote final reports and advised delegations. In addition, it coordinated the virtual forum, which yielded contributions to the instruments that may possibly be adopted at

CIDIP-VII, on electronic records and consumer protection. The ODI was also appointed Technical Secretariat of the Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against persons with Disabilities and, as such, assisted with the drafting of the instruments needed to facilitate that Committee's work.

As the Secretariat of 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 33rd Course on International Law. The Course was held from July 31 to August 25, 2006, and attended by 26 teachers from different countries in the Americas and Europe, 30 OAS scholars chosen from among more than 100 candidates, and 11 paying students. The central theme of the Course was: "International Law in the Americas: 100 Years of the Inter-American Juridical Committee." From November 14-17, 2006, the ODI organized the Workshops on International Law in Buenos Aires, Argentina, together with the Faculty of Law of the Universidad Austral and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Argentina; 32 professors of international law attended. The ODI also published the 32nd Course on International Law, the topic being "The Contribution of International Organizations to Current International Law," and the Workshops on International Law held in Ottawa in 2005. It also re-published the pocket-sized edition of the OAS Charter.

The ODI has been preparing the 1st Course on International Humanitarian Law for the permanent missions and the staff of the General Secretariat. Since 1994, the ODI has also operated an on-line store, with a catalogue of 21 publications. The ODI also updated the content, design, administration, and control of its Web page and that of the Inter-American Juridical Committee, and it created a database on diplomatic academies in the Hemisphere. It provided support services to three Model Assemblies, and its attorneys participated in various forums to report on activities carried out in the OAS framework and on major items on the Organization's legal agenda.

In 2006, the ODI participated in three signature processes, 16 deposits of instruments of ratification and accession, and four designations of central authorities. It also received Peru's withdrawal of reservations to the Pact of Bogotá and Nicaragua's recognition of the jurisdiction of the IACHR. It also prepared certificates and provided complete and updated information on those treaties. As for bilateral agreements, it recorded 76 cooperation agreements in various areas and published the complete texts on-line, in PDF format. Up-to-date information regarding inter-American treaties and bilateral cooperation agreements can be accessed on the ODI website.

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:

- *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)
 - *Meeting held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, in the framework of the Working Group on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters and Extradition*, on April 5 and 6, 2006 (private section: www.oas.org/juridico/MLA/sp/index.html).
 - *Sixth Meeting of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA-VI)*, held on April 24-26, 2006 in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. Final report: www.oas.org/juridico/spanish/moj_vi_report_sp.pdf.
- 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 its Ninth Regular Meeting at OAS headquarters, from March 27 to April 1, 2006. On that occasion, 5 country reports corresponding to the First Round of Review (Guyana, Grenada, Suriname, Brazil, and Belize) were adopted, along with the Hemispheric Report. The Committee also agreed on the methodology, questionnaire, structure of reports, schedule, sequence to be followed in the review, and membership of the review subgroups for the Second Round.

Pursuant to provision 5 of the Document of Buenos Aires and the Rules of Procedure, the Second Meeting of the Conference of States Parties to the Mechanism for the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (MESICIC) was held at OAS headquarters, in Washington, D.C., on November 20 and 21, 2006.

At the meeting, agreement was reached on the text of the *Inter-American Program for Cooperation in the Fight Against Corruption* (MESICIC/CEP-II/doc.5/06 rev. 2), and, pursuant to operative paragraph 8 of resolution AG/RES. 2219 (XXXVI-O/06), the President of the Conference was instructed to present it, through the Permanent Council, to the OAS General Assembly for formal adoption at its thirty-seventh regular session.

The recommendations made at the Second Meeting of the Conference of States Parties to the Mechanism for the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (MESICIC) can be found at the following Internet address:

http://www.oas.org/juridico/spanish/mesicic_conf_est_parte_II_acta_sp.pdf

It is worth noting, also, that the Committee of Experts held its Tenth Regular Meeting at OAS headquarters, thereby initiating the Second Round of Review. The country reports of the first six

states reviewed (Argentina, Paraguay, Nicaragua, Honduras, Uruguay, and Ecuador) were adopted at that meeting.

As a result of its efforts to attract external funding for its activities, the OCJ completed the pilot project financed by the Canadian Government's Cooperation Agency, aimed at supporting implementation of the MESICIC Committee's recommendations in Argentina, Paraguay, Nicaragua, and Colombia.

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.

III. SPECIALIZED ORGANIZATIONS

SPECIALIZED ORGANIZATIONS

Chapter XVIII of the Charter defines the specialized organizations as intergovernmental organizations established by multilateral agreements and having specific functions with respect to technical 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.

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

Pan American Health Organization

Established in 1902 by the Second International Conference of American States, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) is the inter-American system's specialized organization in health matters and the World Health Organization's Regional Office for the Americas (AMRO/WHO). Its mission is to "lead strategic collaborative efforts among member states and other partners to promote equity in health, to combat disease, and to improve the quality of and lengthen the lives of the peoples of the Americas."

Reducing health inequities

The search for equity in health is one of the main objectives that guide PAHO's actions. To help narrow the health gap, the following initiatives were conducted:

The Caribbean Commission on Health and Development presented a report on the health situation in the Caribbean and possible solutions to be pursued.

The Survey of Risk Factors for Chronic Non-communicable Diseases, which was conducted in Argentina in 2005, was designed to analyze inequalities by population groups. Results will make it possible to quantify health differences in vulnerable groups and target activities in the health sector.

In the area of epidemiological surveillance, PAHO continues to monitor weekly the progress that the countries of the region have made toward eradicating polio and eliminating measles and rubella.

In Chile, coordination between PAHO, the government and civil society has made it possible to focus the social agenda on health determinants. Also, efforts continued to be made to place public health prominently on the regional political agenda, while providing support to the subregional meetings of the ministries of health.

The adoption of the International Health Regulation in 2005 was an important milestone. This powerful global instrument presents opportunities for PAHO and its member states. The state of alert regarding the avian flu and the influenza pandemic continues to be addressed, while networks of laboratories, epidemiological surveillance, and response to outbreaks have become part of the Regulation's work.

The public health campaign to prevent obesity in the region "*A comer sano y a moverse América!*", ("America: Eat Healthy and Move!") was launched in partnership with UNIVISION, the Spanish language network, as part of the Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity, and Health in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Virtual Health Library (VHL), adopted by all PAHO member countries, has put the information generated in the countries on health issues within reach of all interested parties.

Reaching disadvantaged groups

PAHO has been very active in areas such as extending social protection to the maternal-neonatal population; strengthening primary care and broadening access to health and nutrition; child and adolescent health protection; preventing juvenile violence; strengthening gender equality; health care for senior citizens and protection of the disabled.

To help fight HIV/AIDS, PAHO set a number of initiatives in motion. The "3x5" goal in the Region of the Americas was to have 600,000 persons in treatment by the end of 2005. That initial goal was far exceeded: by the end of that year, 680,000 persons were receiving antiretroviral treatment. Proposals for additional funding also were submitted to donors, in particular to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. The Regional HIV Plan for the Health Sector 2006-2015 was launched.

During the Second Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on HIV/AIDS (UNGASS), held in June 2006, member states adopted a new political declaration on HIV. During the session, the Organization's delegation stated that the existing political will and joint work of all the countries should focus on the equity, gender, and equality approach as a way to reduce the troubling stigma and discrimination that remain.

As for Health Care for Indigenous Peoples, the First National Health Forum for Indigenous Peoples was held in Costa Rica, with some 250 delegates from indigenous communities from various countries of the region participating.

PAHO's work in communities living in high-risk areas included activities by the Governments of Ecuador and Colombia, which agreed to structure a Binational Border Integration Development Plan, which includes projects to monitor and prevent public health events, as well as strengthen quality assessment of the water in the systems within the border corridor. Along the U.S.-Mexico border, work is under way to advance the program "Healthy Border 2010", which seeks to improve immunization coverage in children under age 4.

Prominent among the activities associated with communities at high risk of infectious diseases are the Regional Malaria Program, which developed a strategic malaria control plan for 2006-2010, and the "Regional Strategic Plan for Tuberculosis Control 2006-2015" whose goal is achieving a tuberculosis-free region.

Institutional development

Progress has been made on the objectives of the Strategic Plan 2003-2007. Various teams examined the Organization from various perspectives.

The Working Group on PAHO in the 21st Century looked at the Organization in light of strategic public health challenges in the Americas; the United Nations Joint Inspection Unit examined the application of results-based management. The shared goal has focused on strengthening PAHO's work as an instrument for national health development, improving country support to the countries. The Executive Committee formed a Working Group on the Rationalization of

Governance Mechanisms. It also reviewed the selection process for the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau and improvements to internal rules and procedures of the governing bodies.

Alliances and associations

Many activities were carried out to strengthen coordination of PAHO activities with those of other agencies in the United Nations system and the inter-American system. Prominent among these is the forging of a strategic alliance involving health, education, labor, and environment, in which the following are partnered: a) social protection and healthy environments; b) the mandates of the Summit of the Americas and the Millennium objectives; and c) the coordination activities associated with the influenza pandemic and avian flu.

PAHO works closely with the OAS to link health priorities in the region with its political agenda. PAHO is a member of the Joint Summit Working Group and of the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG). It has also participated in inter-American meetings of ministers of various sectors, such as the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor in Mexico and the Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Education, in Trinidad and Tobago.

PAHO has also joined with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) to promote and protect the right to achieve higher standards of physical and mental health; with the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), with the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), and with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) on activities to prevent bird flu. It also teamed up with the Inter-American Coalition for the Prevention of Violence (IACPV), and with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) on preparation of reports on the countries' preparations for bird flu and its possible impact on health and the economy in the region.

On the Inter-American Committee for National Disaster Reduction, PAHO worked with the OAS Permanent Council and the Inter-American Council for Integral Development on crafting agendas, sharing regional perspectives on preparations for and responses to disasters and distributing critical technical materials.

The countries of the Americas are putting together the Health Agenda for the Americas. This Working Group is composed of Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Canada, Chile, Cuba, Panama, and the United States, which is its Chair. The following eight areas have been singled out: Strengthening the national health authority; tackling health determinants; harnessing knowledge, science and technology; strengthening solidarity and health security; diminishing health inequities among and within countries; reducing the risk and burden of disease; increasing social protection and access to quality health services; strengthening the management and development of people working for health. The health agenda will be launched in mid 2007, at a hemispheric meeting.

Inter-American Children's Institute

The Inter-American Children's Institute is a specialized organization that helps create public policy on children in the Americas, promote the partnership between the State and civil society, and cultivate a critical awareness of the problems affecting children and adolescents in the Hemisphere.

Until late August 2006, the Secretariat of the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN) was headed by Dr. Piero Solari Zerpa, who left in late August 2006. The OAS Secretary General designated Ambassador John Biehl del Río, Representative of the OAS Office in Uruguay, as Interim Director General of the IIN.

The IIN's main activities during this reporting period centered on the promotion of democracy and governance within the framework of its Strategic Plan 2005-2008. It therefore enhanced its outreach and joint work, both within the OAS and elsewhere, especially in those instances where it is partnering, on children's behalf, with civil society organizations, governments of the member states and various regional and international organizations.

The policy of institutional outreach and joint work resulted in the following partnerships and concrete activities:

- General Cooperation Agreement between the Inter-American Children's Institute and The Hague Conference on Private International Law settling on specific activities to launch the Inter-American Program of Cooperation to Prevent and Remedy Cases of International Abduction of Children by One of Their Parents (AG/RES. 2028/XXXIV-O/04). Thanks to this Agreement, an Inter-American Expert Meeting on International Child Abduction was held at The Hague, November 10. The experts recommended that a model law be crafted and encouraged amicable settlement of disputes, the establishment of a database and the necessary training, and creation of liaison mechanisms for coordination between central authorities and judges between countries of the region, on issues of international child abduction.
- Cooperation Agreement between Save the Children Sweden and the Inter-American Children's Institute for the projects on "Integral Study on Legislation and Public Policies against Children's Commercial Sexual Exploitation in the Americas" and "Strategic Communication Plan." In December 2006, the preliminary findings of the Integral Study were presented at the VI Meeting of High-ranking Human Rights Authorities and Foreign Ministries of MERCOSUR - Niñ@sur Working Group.
- Agreement between the *Consejo Nacional de Atención y Protección Integral a la Niñez y la Adolescencia (CONAPINA)* of Nicaragua, and the Inter-American Children's Institute. Thanks to a grant from the Government of Korea, the Institute delivered computers, including the instructive kit developed by the IIN to promote the rights of children and adolescents.

- Cooperation Agreements with the *Centro Interamericano contra la Desaparición, Explotación, Trata y Tráfico* (CIDETT) and with *Defensa de las Niñas y Niños Internacional* (DNI) for joint activities to promote and defend children's rights.

At the Eighty-First Regular Meeting of the Directing Council, held in Montevideo on November 7 and 8, Soc. Sara Oviedo, of Ecuador, was elected, by acclamation, President of the Directing Council for 2006-2008. It was also the occasion of the election of Ms. Sra. Kirsys Fernández de Valenzuela, of the Dominican Republic, as Vice President of the IIN's Directing Council. Also approved by acclamation and presented to the OAS Secretary General was a slate of candidates for the Office of Director General of the IIN. The candidates on the slate were Dr. Sonia Eljach Polo (Colombia); Dr. Justo Vinicio Solórzano León (Guatemala) and Dr. María de los Dolores Aguilar Marmolejo (Mexico).

At this meeting, Mr. Enrique Iglesias, Secretary-General of the Ibero-American Secretariat, expressed his special interest in channeling the Ibero-American Secretariat's institutional efforts on behalf of children through the Inter-American Children's Institute, thereby avoiding duplication of resources and realizing the coordination between and among international organizations that is needed if the Millennium Goals are to be achieved. Therefore, the IIN's Directing Council approved a resolution requesting the OAS Secretary General to negotiate an inter-institutional alliance whereby the IIN would be the institutional conduit through which the SEGIB's projects on behalf of children and adolescents are carried out.

At that same meeting, the Government of the Dominican Republic announced its readiness to establish, in Santo Domingo, a regional IIN office serving Central America and the Caribbean. That led to approval of resolution CD/RES. 12 (81-R/06) in which the IIN's Directing Council asks the Secretary General of the OAS to examine the proposal and determine its feasibility.

In compliance with the mandates received, the IIN continued to provide the member states with services and products in the form of technical assistance, training, research, organization of meetings, dissemination of information, project formulation, preparation of reports and other activities, among them the following:

- Preparation of the following documents: a) *Seventh Report to the OAS Secretary General on Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in the Americas*; b) *"Migration: Childhood and Rights,"* presented at the 3rd Childwatch International Latin American and the Caribbean Conference; c) *"Promotion and Strengthening of the Family as the Core of Integral Development: Plans, Programs and Policies"* and *"Inter-American Project to Strengthen the Family,"* presented at the VI Meeting of First Ladies of Central America, Belize, Panama, and the Dominican Republic; d) *"Migrations: from solidarity to insensitivity: a debate deferred but still current,"* presented at the VIII Ibero-American Conference of Ministers and High-ranking Authorities responsible for child and adolescent affairs; *"Migration and Its Effects on the Rights of Children and Adolescents,"* circulated at the Eighty-first Regular Meeting.

- Production of two new videos advocating the rights of children and adolescents, who talk about caring for the environment, “*Queremos el agua*” [We Want Water] and a video for small children “*Cerca/lejos*” [Near/Far].
- Establishment of two new Children’s Rights Information Centers in the Inter-American Child Information Network (RIIN) in Mexico.
- Technical assistance to the National System for the Integral Development of the Family (DIF) in Mexico, with installation of the new National System for Monitoring and Supervision of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Presentation and negotiation of the project “Strengthening Governance in the Inter-American System for the Protection and Promotion of the Human Rights of Children and Adolescents” with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). The negotiations resulted in an agreement to reformulate the project, for a sum of USD 1,500,000, to be carried out in three years in four countries of the region.
- Completion of Phase I of the development of the IIN Integrated Planning System, an essential tool enabling resources to be used to maximum advantage and to set the Strategic Plan 2005-2008 in motion.
- Inter-agency meeting with Save the Children Sweden and End Child Prostitution, Pornography and Trafficking of Children with Sexual Purpose (ECPAT), laying the groundwork for and starting the feasibility studies to establish an Observatory on Child Sexual Exploitation (ESCNA).
- Participation, in an advisory capacity, on the Child Labor Eradication Committee and the National Committee for the Eradication of Commercial and Non-Commercial Exploitation of Children and Adolescents. These two committees are drawing up Uruguay’s National Plans on the subject.

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 issues related to women in the Hemisphere and the principal forum generating hemispheric policy to promote the rights of women and gender equality and equity. Its objective is to work to have the gender perspective mainstreamed into the Organization's projects, programs and policies and to lobby governments to craft public policies and programs with a gender perspective so that men and women may enjoy equal opportunity in every realm of society.

During this reporting period, CIM's activities were geared toward fulfilling the mandates received from the Thirty-third Assembly of Delegates of the CIM, especially the Biennial Work Plan for 2004-2006; the mandates received from the OAS General Assembly at its thirty-sixth regular session, and those from the Summits of the Americas. As CIM is the specialized organization for women in the area of human rights, its programs, activities, and guidelines are specifically geared to achieve gender equality and equity and unqualified respect for women's human rights.

Women's Human Rights – Elimination of Violence against Women

- Follow up Mechanism to the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, 'Convention of Belém do Pará' (MESECVI).

As Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI, CIM's Permanent Secretariat continued to support the Follow-up Mechanism to the Convention of Belém do Pará (MESECVI). During this reporting period, replies were received from the countries to the questionnaire to assess the Convention's implementation. Those replies were sent to the experts so that they might prepare their preliminary reports. The Committee of Experts (CEVI) met at CIM headquarters on July 24 and 25, 2006. During the course of its meeting, it decided to request additional information from the countries.

- Gender Aspects of HIV-AIDS

The 2004-2006 Executive Committee made this a priority topic for the 2006-2008 biennium. To begin dealing with this issue, two research studies were prepared on women and HIV-AIDS in the region. Meetings were held with the Pan American Health Organization to explore possible joint activities. In the Dialogue of Heads of Delegation at the thirty-third Assembly of Delegates of the CIM, the research studies were distributed to provide the basis for the dialogue, which addressed the prevalence of HIV among women, and its link to gender-based violence and aspects of multi-dimensional security. This set the stage for the Delegates to share information on the subject, take the discussion to a deeper level, and hear about the best practices presented by the countries. Those best practices can be viewed at CIM's Website.

- Combating the Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women, Adolescents, and Children

In March 2006, the OAS held a Meeting of National Authorities on Trafficking in Persons. The venue of the meeting was Isla Margarita, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. The purpose of the meeting was to begin the process of crafting a hemispheric plan to combat this scourge. The CIM provided technical support for this meeting. By a decision of the General Secretariat, this topic will be coordinated by the Ministers of Justice (REMJA) as a security issue. The CIM is committed to continuing to work with the Anti-Trafficking Unit, so as to keep the gender perspective in the activities related to this issue.

Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women’s Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality (PIA)

- Training Project on Gender, Conflict, and Peace-Building

Following through with the training project launched in 2005 in the Andean Region, the CIM, in partnership with the Department of Crisis Prevention and Special Missions and the Hunt Alternative Fund’s Inclusive Security program, conducted the “Second Training Course on Gender, Conflict and Peace-Building: Central American Region.” The course was held in Antigua, Guatemala, and trained 30 women and men representing government, civil society, the academic sector, the justice system and the security forces of Guatemala, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua, to factor the gender perspective into the work of preventing and settling conflicts and building peace. As a result of the project, the participants from the two regions where the course was held have established a virtual network to share information and best practices on the subject. Hunt Alternatives Fund and the People’s Republic of China funded the project.

- Project on Mainstreaming the Gender Perspective within the OAS

The Government of Canada offered the CIM financial support to continue the Project on Mainstreaming the Gender Perspective within the OAS. The second phase of the project was conducted in 2006. It began in March, with a special informative session for directors and unit chiefs. Four training sessions were held in the months that followed, dealing with gender analysis. Each session was specifically tailored to the needs of the various sectors. A gender-mainstreaming manual was developed for the staff. By area, the workshops were as follows: “Mainstreaming gender into performance-based management,” “Applying the gender approach when compiling data,” “Mainstreaming gender in risk management in the area of disaster management,” “Mainstreaming gender into human resource development,” “Mainstreaming gender into electoral reform,” and “Good Governance and Democratic Development.” A total of 125 staff members were trained.

Assembly of Delegates

The thirty-third Assembly of Delegates of the CIM was held in San Salvador, El Salvador, November 13 through 15, 2006. In attendance were delegates from 31 member states, agencies and entities of the inter-American system and the United Nations system, and nongovernmental organizations. The Assembly elected the Executive Committee for the 2006-2008 period and adopted resolutions on preventing and eradicating violence against women; implementation of the Follow-up Mechanism to the Convention of Belém do Pará; strategies for follow-up of the IV Summit of the Americas; parity and women's participation in decision making, and implementation of the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality. The Assembly also approved the CIM Work Program for the 2006-2008 Biennium: Program Guidelines. As previously noted, the topic of the Dialogue of Heads of Delegation was the prevalence of HIV among women and its link to gender-based violence and aspects of multidimensional security.

Other Activities

CIM and the OAS General Secretariat's Department of Public Information produced a 30-minute video "*Women and Political Leadership: A Century of Struggle.*" The video, done in both English and Spanish, will be distributed throughout the region.

Pan American Institute of Geography and History

Established by the Sixth International Conference of American States (Havana, 1928), the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) offers technical cooperation, provides training at research centers, issues publications, and organizes technical meetings in the fields of cartography, geography, history, and geophysics.

With the first phase of the re-engineering of the PAIGH (2004-2005) complete, in 2006 the Institute focused on measures to consolidate itself as the inter-American system's entity for helping the member states interpret their territory through geographic analysis, historical study, and an authentic hemispheric perspective.

Understanding the Hemisphere through its geography and history, assisting the member states and their institutions as they steer themselves through the changes they are undergoing, responding rapidly to the growing demands from the international scientific community, and developing effective vehicles enabling the specialists to communicate with one another: these are some of the factors shaping the PAIGH's current agenda.

With that in mind, in 2006 the PAIGH stepped up efforts at modernization and to make the Institute's National Sections more relevant. Paralleling this endeavor has been an effort to improve the quality of the PAIGH's scientific activities, projects, and publications.

Fundamental principles of innovation and technical and scientific relevance have been introduced, as dictated by the need to contribute to a better understanding of the peoples of the Americas and to further their development. These include:

- Increasing regional participation from a multidisciplinary perspective;
- Supporting the activities that organizations producing basic geographic data in the member states are making to modernize;
- Establishing decentralization as the PAIGH's operational and functional model;
- Establishing more effective ties between the Institute and similar international organizations;
- Consolidating the Pan American Professional Network (RPP) to attract professionals in the relevant areas, particularly the new generations of scientists in the member states.

Technical Cooperation and Assistance Program 2006

The XVIII Assembly of the PAIGH approved a Technical Assistance Program composed of 27 projects, totaling US\$163,580. The program, which came under the 2006 Regular Fund budget, was very successful, having achieved a level of execution of 98%.

The progress made by the *Cartography* Commission included headway on the following projects: "Global Map of the Americas," "Support to assist development of Haiti's geodesic network," "Tactile Cartography, with emphasis on the hearing and visually challenged in Latin America," and "Expansion of the Geocentric Reference System of the Americas –SIRGAS– to include Central America."

The *Geography* Commission moved forward on territorial planning, based on a study done of current trends in geography, guidelines for environmental and technological land management, and studies associated with knowledge of Latin America's biological corridors, including policy recommendations to establish alternative ways to protect and use the land in those corridors. The Commission also continued to assist the Office of the OAS General Secretariat in the Adjacency Zone between Belize and Guatemala.

In the case of the *Geophysics* Commission, particularly in relation to the issue of natural disasters, the projects on physical modeling and simulation of eruptions of Lascar Volcano (Chile) produced impressive findings in the area of seismology and vulcanology. Studies of the dynamics and deformation of active faults have had significant implications for surface geodynamics and mitigation of seismic risks. Important studies have been done in this field, comparing recent eruption events so as to better understand and monitor dynamic processes by observing the Popocatépetl (Mexico) and Lascar (Chile) volcanoes, and developing a map of volcanic hazards and risk scenarios for the San Salvador Volcano. In the area of environmental geophysics, geophysical and archaeological studies have made important contributions, as in the case of the study of pre-Hispanic habitation sites in Cotzumalguapa, Guatemala.

The *History* Commission, for its part, helped develop new insights into the ancient history of the Americas and the historical studies done of the Andean indigenous culture. The work in historiography has focused on building visions of time and space in the Hemisphere. Studies have also been done on economic and social history, focusing on current features and trends of Latin American migration and where it is going in the twenty-first century.

The academic and training activities increased significantly in 2006, as evidenced by the multiple international activities in cooperation and technical-capacity building, in which more than 207 delegates from the various member states participated. Prominent among these were the following:

- V Course on Digital Processing of Satellite Images AECI-PAIGH (Bolivia)
- XVIII Course on Geographic Place Names (Chile)
- III Course on Spatial Data Infrastructures IGAC- PAIGH (Colombia)
- SIRGAS International Workshop, Working Group 1 (Brazil)
- XXXIV International Course in Applied Geography "Globalization and the Local Impact", CEPEIGE-OAS-PAIGH (Ecuador)

While the PAIGH's financial limitations are affecting the Technical Assistance Program, the resources available are stretched to make every annual call for proposals of ever greater consequence. The topic "natural disasters," for example, can be addressed differently if approached within a framework of multidisciplinary activities; the history project titled *America "Contact and Independence"* can pool and better coordinate the efforts of specialists in the region, within one year's time, and generate a product whose release in 2008 will coincide with the 80th anniversary of the PAIGH and the OAS' 60th anniversary.

The 2007 call for proposals resulted in approval of assistance to a total of 31 projects presented by 9 national sections. Most of the PAIGH's member states benefit from these projects, which

have a total assigned budget of US\$180.760. The goal is to support Pan American initiatives on the following subjects: (i) spatial data infrastructures; (2) territorial planning; (3) a new global history as applied to the Americas, and (4) response to emergencies caused by natural disasters.

Occasional and Periodical Publications in 2006

One of the PAIGH's basic functions is dissemination. In 2006, the PAIGH General Secretariat continued its publications program, to very good effect. It reduced the backlog that had built up over previous years using the new technological tools introduced into the process. A total of 12 periodical publications were printed, which were issues of the Institute's own journals: *Cartográfica*, *Geofísica*, *Antropología y Arqueología Americana*, *Historia* and *Geografía*. The exchange work being done through Mexico's *Escuela Nacional de Antropología e Historia* (ENAH) increased the holdings in the PAIGH's "José Toribio Medina" Library, which the ENAH administers. New issues of periodicals and occasional publications, on specialized topics and from every corner of the world, were added to the collection, which now has over 226,289 titles.

The 2001-2005 "Ricardo Caillet Bois" Prize and the 2003-2004 "Leopoldo Zea" Thought of the Americas Award were awarded and the winning works published on the occasion of the thirty-ninth session of the Directing Council. Their titles were, respectively: *De colonial a nacional: la carrera eclesiástica del clero secular chileno 1650-1810*, written by Lucrecia Raquel Enríquez Agrazar (Chile), and "*Las nuevas referencias del pensamiento crítico en América Latina. Ética y ampliación de la sociedad civil*", written by Yamandú Acosta (Uruguay).

Statutory Meetings

In 2006, the planned statutory meetings were held:

- Sixty-fifth Meeting of Authorities (Mexico, June 29 and 30).
- Sixty-fifth Meeting of Authorities (Viña del Mar, Chile, November 12).
- Thirty-ninth Meeting of the Directing Council (Viña del Mar, Chile, November 13-16).

Subsequent to these meetings and as necessary, the General Secretariat strictly complied with the provisions contained in the 43 resolutions that the XVIII General Assembly of the PAIGH (Venezuela, 2005) approved.

The jury for the "Silvio Zavala" Colonial History prize, 2004-2005, unanimously awarded the prize to the work titled "*Historia Naval del Reino de Chile 1520-1826*" by Isidoro Vázquez de Acuña (Chile).

In 2007, the resolutions of the thirty-ninth Directing Council (Chile, 2006) will be carried out, calling for (i) decentralization as one way to discharge the PAIGH's mission, necessitating modernization of the national sections; and (ii) improving the quality and effectiveness of the projects, training activities, and publications through which the PAIGH's vision materializes.

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 by and training of persons dedicated to indigenous communities' development.

Activities carried out

Library. - A total of 51,469 periodicals have been catalogued, as have 51,538 journal articles in the collection, 6,510 book articles, and 8,261 books.

Historic Archives. - The physical organization of those documents in the archives that predate 1980 was completed.

Research. - The Institute completed its research study titled "*Cantos del pueblo Wirráika en su peregrinación a Wirikuta*" [Songs of the Wirráika People on Their Pilgrimage to Wirikuta] funded by a grant from Elizabeth Córdova MacArthur, received in December 2004. It completed a research paper on the "*Historia del proceso de reforma constitucional mexicana de 1993 en material indígena. Testimonio de uno de los negociadores*" [History of the 1992 amendment of Mexico's Constitution as it pertains to indigenous matters. Testimony of one of the negotiators], done in collaboration with the Institute of History of the *Universidad de Michoacán*, Mexico. The Institute continues to collaborate with Dr. Laura Giraudo of the Center for Political and Constitutional Studies, Ministry of the Presidency, Spain, on the history of the Inter-American Indian Institute.

Internet page. - In 2006, space was purchased on an independent server. The number of hits continued to increase.

Social Service. - During this reporting period, a student from the School of History at the *Universidad Metropolitana de México* assisted with the work at the Library and the Historic Archives.

Presence at events. - With financial support from private parties, in November the III's Director attended the organizers' training workshop given by the Industrial Areas Foundation in Chicago, Illinois.

Publications. - By December 31, 2006, two issues from the 2005 series of the journal *América Indígena* and one from its 2006 series had been issued.

The following works were also released on CD format:

América Indígena Vol. XXXII Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 (1972), Oscar Juárez Arellano; Mexico, 2006.
América Indígena Vol. XXXVIII Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 (1978), Sergio Orrala Barajas; Mexico, 2006.

América Indígena Vol. XXXIX Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 (1979), Sergio Orrala Barajas; Mexico, 2006.
América Indígena Vol. XL Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 (1980), Sergio Orrala Barajas; Mexico, 2006.
América Indígena Vol. XLII Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 (1982), Sergio Orrala Barajas; Mexico, 2006.
América Indígena Vol. XLIII Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 (1983), Sergio Orrala Barajas; Mexico, 2006.
América Indígena Vol. XLIV Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 (1984), Sergio Orrala Barajas; Mexico, 2006.
América Indígena Vol. XLV Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 (1985), Sergio Orrala Barajas; Mexico, 2006.
América Indígena Vol. XLVI Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 (1986), Sergio Orrala Barajas; Mexico, 2006.
América Indígena Vol. XLVII Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 (1987), Sergio Orrala Barajas; Mexico, 2006.
América Indígena Vol. XLVIII Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 (1988), Sergio Orrala Barajas; Mexico, 2006.
América Indígena Vol. XLIX Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 (1989), Sergio Orrala Barajas; Mexico, 2006.
América Indígena Vol. L Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 (1990), Sergio Orrala Barajas; Mexico, 2006.
América Indígena Vol. LI Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 (1991), Sergio Orrala Barajas; Mexico, 2006.
América Indígena Vol. LII Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 (1992), Sergio Orrala Barajas; Mexico, 2006.
América Indígena Vol. LIII Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 (1993), Sergio Orrala Barajas; Mexico, 2006.
América Indígena Vol. LIV Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 (1994), Sergio Orrala Barajas; Mexico, 2006.
América Indígena Vol. LV Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 (1995), Sergio Orrala Barajas; Mexico, 2006.
América Indígena Vol. LVI Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 (1996), Sergio Orrala Barajas; Mexico, 2006.
América Indígena Vol. LVII Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 (1997), Sergio Orrala Barajas; Mexico, 2006.
América Indígena Vol. LVIII Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 (1998), Sergio Orrala Barajas; Mexico, 2006.
Bilingüismo Nacional en el Paraguay. Joan Rubin, Oscar Juárez Arellano; Mexico, 2006.
El Uso de la Chicha y la Sociedad Kuna. Arnulfo Prestan Simon, Oscar Juárez Arellano.; Mexico 2006.
Boletín Indigenista Vol. 3 Nos. 1, 2, 3 Y 4 (1943), Sergio Orrala Barajas; Mexico, 2006.
Boletín Indigenista Vol. 4 Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 (1944), Sergio Orrala Barajas; Mexico, 2006.
Boletín Indigenista Vol. 5 Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 (1945), Sergio Orrala Barajas; Mexico, 2006.
Boletín Indigenista Vol. 6 Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 (1946), Sergio Orrala Barajas; Mexico, 2006.
Boletín Indigenista Vol. 7 Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 (1947), Sergio Orrala Barajas; Mexico, 2006.
Boletín Indigenista Vol. 8 Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 (1948), Sergio Orrala Barajas; Mexico, 2006.
Boletín Indigenista Vol. 9 Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 (1949), Sergio Orrala Barajas; Mexico, 2006.
Boletín Indigenista Vol. 10 Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 (1950), Sergio Orrala Barajas; Mexico, 2006.
Boletín Indigenista Vol. 11 Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 (1951), Sergio Orrala Barajas; Mexico, 2006.
Boletín Indigenista Vol. 12 Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 (1952), Sergio Orrala Barajas; Mexico, 2006.
Boletín Indigenista Vol. 13 Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 (1953), Sergio Orrala Barajas; Mexico, 2006.
Boletín Indigenista Vol. 14 Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 (1954), Guillermo Espinosa Velasco; Mexico, 2006.
Boletín Indigenista Vol. 15 Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 (1955), Guillermo Espinosa Velasco; Mexico, 2006.
Boletín Indigenista Vol. 16 Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 (1956), Guillermo Espinosa Velasco; Mexico, 2006.
Boletín Indigenista Vol. 17 Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 (1957), Guillermo Espinosa Velasco; Mexico, 2006.
Boletín Indigenista Vol. 18 Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 (1958), Guillermo Espinosa Velasco; Mexico, 2006.
Boletín Indigenista Vol. 19 Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 (1959), Guillermo Espinosa Velasco; Mexico, 2006.
Comentarios I. Juan De Matienzo, Guillermo Espinosa Velasco; Mexico 2006.

Comentaria II. Juan De Matienzo, Guillermo Espinosa Velasco.; Mexico 2006.
Comentaria III. Juan De Matienzo, Guillermo Espinosa Velasco.; Mexico 2006.
Comentaria IV. Juan De Matienzo, Guillermo Espinosa Velasco.; Mexico 2006.
Cantos del Pueblo Wixárika en su Peregrinación a Wirikuta [Songs of the Wixárika People on Their Pilgrimage to Wirikuta], Eusebio López Carrillo; in collaboration with Ari Rajsbaum Gorodezky and Julio Ramírez De la Cruz; and the edition of Lilia Cruz González y Guillermo Espinosa Velasco; Mexico 2006

Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture

Founded in 1942, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) is the inter-American system's organization specializing in the agricultural sector and rural territories. As such, it stimulates, promotes, and supports the member States' efforts to achieve sustainable development of agriculture and to enable rural communities to prosper.

In 2006, IICA approved a new Medium-Term Plan 2006-2010, adapted its annual programming and its budgets and updated the national and regional cooperation agendas to bring them in line with its mission of providing innovative technical cooperation to the member states for the sake of promoting sustainable development that for the peoples of the Americas.

IICA continued to promote the AGRO Plan 2003-2015, a hemispheric agreement on the objectives and strategic activities for agriculture and rural life for that period. It also focused on the three areas of activity decided at the Ministerial Meeting in Guayaquil (2005): advocating a national policy on agriculture and rural life; developing a data system to monitor and evaluate the AGRO Plan in 2003-2007, and adjusting regional strategies for the Plan's implementation. As Secretariat of the ministerial process and of the Ministerial Meeting, the Secretariat put the accent on the continuity of the process, regional integration within the framework of the hemispheric ministerial process, and articulation of this process with that of the Summits of the Americas.

In 2006, IICA focused on six strategic priorities in hemispheric technical cooperation: i) repositioning agriculture and transforming and modernizing rural life; ii) promoting trade and the competitiveness of agri-businesses; iii) improving agricultural health and food safety systems; iv) promoting sustainable management of natural resources and the environment; v) strengthening rural communities using a territorial approach, and vi) promoting technology and innovation to modernize agriculture and rural life.

Of these priorities, one of the most salient has been the institutional effort to reposition agriculture through studies that examine the real contribution that agriculture makes to the economy and the technical forums and international events that were held, which included "IICA Day at the OAS."

Another prominent effort was the strengthening of the business capacity and competitiveness of the small- and medium-sized producers in Ecuador, Mexico, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Haiti, Guatemala, Panama, and Barbados, accomplished through seminars, workshops, and studies; the use of the export-platform method; publication of technical documents targeting present and potential exporters, and other measures.

With IICA's support, the member states defended their interests on the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures of the World Trade Organization to better effect, and made this one of the priority issues on their agenda. The Institute was also instrumental in modernizing the agricultural health services employing the "Performance, Vision, and Strategy" (PVS) method. In addition to building up the countries' capacities in sanitary and phytosanitary measures, IICA

put into practice a coordinated emergency-response to the threat of transboundary diseases like bird flu.

IICA's work in the rural areas of the Americas focused on institution-building and on cultivating technical capacities and skills in formulating rural development policy from a territorial perspective, mainly in Mexico, Brazil and Colombia. In Costa Rica, Honduras, Guatemala, and Chile, the territories where the approach will be used were selected, while studies were done in Chile, Paraguay, Argentina, and Uruguay on family farming.

Technology and innovation is such a relevant issue today. With that in mind, IICA was instrumental in launching the global project "International Evaluation of the Role of Science and Technology in Development." Through the Technical Secretariat of the Forum for the Americas on Agricultural Research and Technology Development (FORAGRO), IICA promoted hemispheric dialogue on crafting technology policies. It also supported the creation of FONTAGRO as a means to finance regional research. Through the technological innovation cooperation programs (PROCI), IICA continued to bolster mutual cooperation among countries of the five regions.

The Institute has set in motion two new hemispheric initiatives: one on agro-energy and bio-fuels, and the other on the Hemispheric Biotechnology and Biosecurity Program. In the case of the agro-energy and bio-fuels initiative, IICA's Executive Committee approved the Strategy for Building a Horizontal Cooperation Platform on Agro-energy and Bio-fuels. As for the second initiative, significant progress was made toward establishing biotechnology needs, crafting regional initiatives, coordinating networks and systems, and determining what lines of activity could be pursued with specialized organizations.

In the information area, the countries today have much greater access to relevant and up-to-date sources and share their experiences through the INFOAGRO information system (www.infoagro.net), which features a number of modules (trade, agri-business, technology biotechnology, health, rural development, and agro-industry), and the Agricultural Information and Documentation System of the Americas-SIDALC- (www.sidalc.net), in which 21 countries and 141 institutions participate.

In the Andean region, the priority in regional technical cooperation was to strengthen systems and institutions that promote agricultural health and food safety (AHFS) and biotechnology. Accordingly IICA's agenda put emphasis on building human and institutional capacities so as to bolster national AHFS systems and put into operation a virtual tracing network in that region. Initiatives were also carried out to implement measures to prevent, control, and eradicate diseases and plagues that have significant economic and social implications. Regional activities were conducted on such topics as bird flu, food-and-mouth disease, and the fruit fly.

In the Caribbean region, the Institute continued to play a leadership role in the activities of the Secretariat of the Alliance for Sustainable Development of Agriculture and the Rural Milieu (the Alliance), the Caribbean AgriBusiness Association (CABA) and other organizations. It also continued to provide support to the Jagdeo Initiative, geared to promoting measures to overcome the factors limiting agricultural development and diversification in the Caribbean. Also, in

anticipation of the possible appearance of bird flu, the Institute conducted two simulations in the Dominican Republic and Jamaica, with help from the FAO and the USDA/APHIS. It also played an important role in introducing the strategy for combating invasive species.

In the Central Region, under the Plan of Action for Agricultural and Rural Development that the presidents of Central America and Mexico signed, the Third International Forum of Tropical Fruit Agribusinesses was held thanks to a public-private collaborative effort and cooperation from regional and international organizations. In the area of agricultural health and food safety (AHFS), an assessment was done of the Central American countries' preparedness for the possibility of an outbreak of bird flu, in conjunction with the Regional International Organization for Agricultural Health (OIRSA) and the Central American Federation of Poultry Producers (FEDAVICAC). IICA also partnered with these regional organizations to support preparation of the Central American Poultry Sector Safety Program. As for development of agricultural technology, through the Central American Agricultural Technology Integration System (SICTA) IICA helped to strengthen and coordinate national agricultural research institutes and agricultural technology-transfer and research systems.

The focus in IICA's Northern Region was on sharing the experience that Mexico has accrued in negotiating and managing the agricultural component of trade agreements. That information was shared with the countries of Central America, the Caribbean, and other regions. As it did in other regions, in the Northern Region the Institute played a key role in the cooperative efforts to tackle the threat posed by the possible outbreak of bird flu. It was also a constant source of support to the countries in reducing or eliminating the threat of the fruit fly, foot-and-mouth disease, and BSE (bovine spongiform encephalopathy). A memorandum of understanding was signed with the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO), opening up an important vehicle for dialogue and cooperation on an issue of enormous global relevance.

In the Southern Region, IICA continued to support the Southern Agricultural Council [*Consejo Agropecuario del Sur*] (CAS), by way of the Technical Secretariat, and through cooperative measures with CAS' advisory bodies like REDPA, GINA-Sur, PROCISUR and the secretariats of the Permanent Animal Health Committee [*Comité Veterinario Permanente*] and the Plant Health Council [*Consejo de Sanidad Vegetal*]. It also promoted the materialization of a regional strategy to prepare for the threat of bird flu. With the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center, it provided its collaboration in identifying the training needed to diagnose the disease in the region. The Institute also provided support to Expanded MERCOSUR's Regional Forum of Agronomy Schools. It also continued to provide assistance to adjust curriculums in higher education to match the needs in the agricultural sector. It continued to provide advice on self-evaluation procedures for professionals in agronomy and veterinary medicine, strategic planning, and curriculum design in various countries of the region. Lastly, IICA was instrumental in designing the CAS support projects and presenting them to international financial institutions.

With implementation of the national cooperation agendas, the Institute made significant contributions to the countries in the areas mentioned earlier, especially in capacity building, project formulation, institutional modernization, strengthening of dialogue, and regional and hemispheric integration.

Recognizing the importance of coordinating with other organizations, IICA stepped up the strategy of partnerships with the FAO, the OAS, the IDB, PAHO, COSUDE, the OIE, the Biotechnology Industry Organization, the Public Association of Intellectual Property Rights, the U.S. Grain Council, Florida International University, the Rural Policy Research Institute (RUPRI), American Agri-Women, AIBDA, and others.

IV. OTHER INTER-AMERICAN BODIES

Inter-American Juridical Committee

The Inter-American Juridical Committee is one of the organs through which the Organization of American States (OAS) accomplishes its purposes (Article 53 of the Charter). Under Chapter XIV of the Charter, its composition, powers, and functions are as follows: it serves as an advisory body to the Organization on juridical matters, promotes the progressive development and codification of international law, and studies juridical problems related to the integration of the developing countries of the Hemisphere.

In 2006, the Inter-American Juridical Committee held two regular sessions: the first was at OAS headquarters in Washington, D.C., March 20 through 31, 2006; the second was at Committee headquarters in Rio de Janeiro, August 7 through 25. At both meetings, the Committee's agenda was as follows: the International Criminal Court; legal aspects of the interdependence between democracy and economic and social development; preparation for the commemoration of the centennial of the Inter-American Juridical Committee; Seventh Inter-American Specialized Conference on Private International Law (CIDIP-VII); considerations on the task of codifying and harmonizing international law in the Americas; right to information: access to and protection of information and personal data; principles of judicial ethics; legal aspects of inter-American security; joint efforts of the Americas in the struggle against corruption and impunity; follow-up to the implementation of the Inter-American Democratic Charter; preparation of a Draft Inter-American Convention against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance; and thoughts on the challenges of the Inter-American Juridical Committee. The Inter-American Juridical Committee approved reports and adopted resolutions on all these topics.

The membership of the Committee in 2006 was as follows: Jaime Aparicio (Bolivia), José Manuel Delgado (Venezuela), Alonso Gómez-Robledo (Mexico), Mauricio Herdocia (Nicaragua), Jean-Paul Hubert (Canada), Galo Leoro (Ecuador), Luis Marchand (Peru), Antonio Pérez (United States), João Grandino Rodas (Brazil), Ana Elizabeth Villalta (El Salvador), and Eduardo Vio (Chile). With the resignation of Dr. José Manuel Delgado on October 12, 2006, the Permanent Council of the OAS elected Dr. Freddy Castillo Castellanos (Venezuela) to serve out Dr. Manuel Delgado's term. At its thirty-sixth regular session (Santo Domingo, June 2006), the OAS General Assembly elected the following persons to membership on the Juridical Committee: Dr. Hyacinth Evadne Lindsay (Jamaica); Dr. Jorge Palacios Treviño (Mexico); and Dr. Ricardo Seitenfus (Brazil). The four-year terms of these three members of the Committee began on January 1, 2007. The outgoing members of the Committee, whose terms ended on December 31, 2006, were Dr. Alonso Gómez-Robledo, Dr. Luis Marchand, and Dr. João Grandino Rodas.

At the regular session of the OAS General Assembly, the President of the Inter-American Juridical Committee, Dr. Mauricio Herdocia, presented the Annual Report on the work the Committee accomplished in 2005. The following staff of the OAS General Secretariat provided technical and administrative support to the Inter-American Juridical Committee: Jean-Michel Arrighi, Director of the Department of International Legal Affairs, Dante M. Negro, Director of the Office of International Law, and Manoel Tolomei Moletta, Principal Legal Officer with that office.

2006 was the 100th anniversary of the Inter-American Juridical Committee. Various activities were held to commemorate the occasion, salient among them the solemn meeting that the Permanent Council held in March 2006, with members of the Juridical Committee in attendance, and the commemorative ceremonies staged at the Committee's headquarters in Rio de Janeiro in August.

Lastly, in coordination with the Office of International Law of the Department of International Legal Affairs, the Inter-American Juridical Committee organized the thirty-third Course on International Law from July 31 to August 25, 2006. Participating were 26 professors from various countries in the Americas and Europe, 30 OAS scholarship recipients, selected from over 100 applicants, and 11 students who paid their own tuition. The central theme of the course was: "International Law in the Americas: 100 Years of the Inter-American Juridical Committee."

Inter-American Commission on Human Rights

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) was created by a resolution of the Fifth Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs in Santiago Chile, in 1959. It was formally established in 1960 when the Council of the Organization approved its Statute. Its Rules of Procedure, first adopted in 1980, were amended several times thereafter, most recently in 2000.

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights is one of the two organs of the inter-American system charged with promoting and protecting human rights. Its seven members are elected by the General Assembly and serve in an individual capacity. They have four-year terms and may be re-elected one time only.

Sessions

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights met three times in 2006. It held its 124th regular session from February 27 through March 17, 2006; the 125th special session, held in Guatemala, was from July 17 through 21, 2006, and the 126th regular session was from October 16 through 27, 2006.

- 124th regular session

At the 124th regular session, the Commission's officers were: Evelio Fernández Arévalos, Chair; Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro, First Vice Chair; and Florentin Meléndez, Second Vice Chair. The other members were Commissioners Clare K. Roberts, Freddy Gutiérrez Trejo, Víctor Abramovich and Paolo Carozza. The IACHR also selected Dr. Ignacio Álvarez, a Venezuelan national, to be Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression.

In connection with the individual case system, the following were among the reports that the Commission approved: 27 admissibility reports, 3 inadmissibility reports, 15 reports on the merits, 8 reports on friendly settlement, and 16 reports on case closings. The Inter-American Commission also discussed and approved a Report on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders in the Americas. It held 61 hearings on individual cases and petitions, precautionary measures and general and specific human rights situations in various States and regions. General hearings were held where the Commission received information on the situation in Bolivia, Colombia, Guatemala, Haiti, Mexico, Peru, and Venezuela. Hearings were also held on specific situations in the United States, Nicaragua, and Brazil.

Over 40 working meetings were held involving a number of countries. The meetings addressed various cases and petitions, mainly those in the friendly settlement or follow-up phase, or cases involving precautionary measures. The issues addressed in this context were with regard to Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, and Venezuela.

The issues about which the Commission received reports during this session concerned vulnerable groups, such as indigenous peoples, women, persons deprived of their freedom, migrant workers, children, and adolescents.

- 125th special session

Responding to an invitation from the Government of Guatemala, the Inter-American Commission held its 125th special session in Guatemala, July 17 through 21, 2006. During this session, the IACHR held protocol events with high-ranking State dignitaries. It also held ten hearings on important issues and situations on the human rights agenda in Central America, and spent two days conducting internal meetings. The members of the Commission also participated in a number of activities calculated to promote the inter-American human rights system.

Holding a session away from headquarters was essential, as it afforded the Commission an opportunity for direct *in situ* dialogue with government officials and major civil society actors of an OAS member state. It also enabled the Commission to further its role of promoting and teaching human rights. The Commission held two hearings on individual cases and nine general and/or thematic hearings.

During its internal meetings, held in Antigua, the Commission approved 18 draft reports on individual cases: one on publication, three Article 50 reports, seven admissibility reports, and seven reports on case closings.

- 126th regular session

The work program of the 126th regular session, which lasted two weeks, was mainly devoted to study and review of petitions and cases involving various States of the Hemisphere. The Commission approved the following reports at this session: 17 merits reports, 23 admissibility reports, 11 inadmissibility reports, 2 friendly settlement reports, and 4 reports on case closings. The Commission held 48 hearings on pending individual cases and petitions and on general human rights situations in various States of the Hemisphere. It also approved amendments to its Rules of Procedure to make provision for designation of Special Rapporteurs.

During the hearings, the Commission received general information on the situation in Cuba, Chile, Haiti, and Venezuela. Hearings were also held on specific situations or issues in member states of the Organization. The Commission received information regarding Colombia, Peru, Brazil, and Mexico, and on the situation of people living along the border between Ecuador and Colombia. The thematic issues about which the Commission received reports during this session concerned various aspects of the situation of women, persons deprived of their freedom, and the situation as regards the rights of children.

A total of 23 working meetings were held during the week devoted to hearings involving a number of countries. The questions addressed at those hearings concerned Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico, Paraguay, and Peru.

Lastly, during this session, OAS Secretary General José Miguel Insulza presented the report titled “Report on the situation of human rights defenders in the Americas.”

Visits

During the first half of 2006, four visits were made to Colombia, to follow-up on the demobilization in that country, pursuant to the provisions of OAS Permanent Council resolution CP/RES. 859 (1397/04) where the IACHR is invited to advise the Mission to Support the Peace Process in Colombia (MAPP/OEA). As part of that advisory role, staff of the Executive Secretariat visited Colombia on two occasions.

At the Bolivian Government’s invitation, the Commission visited that country November 12 through 17, 2006, to observe the general human rights situation there. During the visit, the Commission met with high-ranking State officials and with numerous civil society organizations. It also visited Chonchocorro, San Pedro, and *Orientación Femenina Obrajes* prisons.

A visit was made to the Dominican Republic, August 7 through 13, headed by Commissioner Florentín Meléndez in his capacity as Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons Deprived of Freedom. Later, from September 20 to 22, Rapporteur Meléndez visited São Paulo, Brazil, to look into the situation of persons deprived of their freedom and on whose behalf provisional measures had been ordered by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. Then, from December 1 through 9, Commissioner Meléndez visited Argentina, where he met with high-ranking officials and with members of civil society organizations.

Finally, Commissioner Paolo Carozza, Rapporteur for Peru, conducted a mission to Lima, December 11 through 14, 2007, holding talks with high ranking officials of the Peruvian State and a wide range of civil society organizations, organizations of Afro-descendants and indigenous organizations and communities. He also spoke with academics and former members of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Other Activities

In 2006, the thematic Rapporteurships of the IACHR carried on their work to protect and promote human rights. They also advised the member states on issues related to human rights. Through its Special Rapporteurships on these topics, the IACHR continued to advise both the Working Group in charge of preparing the draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Working Group on the draft Inter-American Convention against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance. The IACHR approved two reports prepared by the Rapporteurship on the Rights of Women, concerning women’s access to justice, especially when they have been the victims of violence and discrimination: *Access to Justice for Women Victims of Violence in the Americas* and *Violence and Discrimination against Women in the Armed Conflict in Colombia*.

**V. OTHER AUTONOMOUS AND DECENTRALIZED ORGANS, AGENCIES,
ENTITIES AND DEPENDENCIES**

Inter-American Committee for Natural Disaster Reduction

The Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction (IACNDR) was created by the General Assembly in resolution AG/RES. 1682 (XXIX-O/99) to address problems related to natural disasters and to serve as the leading forum at the Organization of American States (OAS) for discussion of this topic, in coordination with the competent national organizations.

Resolution AG/RES. 2114 (XXXV-O/05), “Natural Disaster Reduction and Risk Management,” instructed the Permanent Council and the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) to set up a joint consultative body of the Committee on Hemispheric Security (CSH) and the Permanent Executive Committee of CIDI (CEPCIDI) whose principal tasks would be:

- a. To work on the immediate implementation of the recommendations of the Permanent Council established in the “Recommendations of the Committee on Hemispheric Security on Natural Disaster Reduction and Risk Management” (CP/CSH-718/05);
- b. To review the Statutes of the Inter-American Emergency Aid Fund (FONDEM) and of the IACNDR and propose the amendments necessary to create a single permanent inter-American committee to address natural and other disasters;
- c. To convene a meeting of the disaster preparedness agencies, with the participation of governmental experts, subregional sector institutions, and international experts to share experiences and methods of analysis of vulnerability and risk and of the cost and benefit of investing in natural hazards mitigation; and
- d. To develop a methodology for funding specially geared towards prevention of and reconstruction and recovery in the event of natural disasters.

Inter-American Emergency Aid Fund

FONDEM was created by the General Assembly in resolution AG/RES. 1327 (XXV-O/95) to provide available social, humanitarian, material, technical, and financial aid to any member state of the Organization that is threatened by, has suffered from, or is in an emergency situation caused by natural disasters.

In the period covered by this report, and in response to different natural disasters in the region, the OAS General Secretariat made the following contributions in United States dollars from said Fund:

2006

Bolivia	US\$30,000
Suriname	US\$10,000
Ecuador	US\$10,000
	US\$50,000

Justice Studies Center of the Americas

The Justice Studies Center of the Americas was established by the General Assembly as an intergovernmental entity with technical and operational autonomy. Its objectives are to help strengthen human resources, facilitate the exchange of information and other forms of technical cooperation, and support reform and modernization of the justice systems in the region.

Justice Reform in the Americas

- Promoting judicial reform in the region

Inter-American Seminar on Judicial Government: The objective of this seminar was to begin an organized regional discussion of aspects of the governance and administration of judicial institutions and the most suitable institutional alternatives for these functions. Experiences both within the region and elsewhere were examined.

IV Inter-American Seminar on Judicial Management: The purpose of this Seminar was to examine the theoretical progress and innovative experiences in the countries of the region with formulating the judiciary's budgets as strategic management tools, management of human resources, and the generation of information and its use to support decision-making in judicial systems.

- Studies

Report on Fulfillment of the Mandates of the Summits of the Americas. This study was done in order to examine the mandates from the Summits of the Americas related to legislative reform for the development and modernization of the justice sector and the degree to which they have been fulfilled by the countries of the region.

Comparative Study of Judicial Reforms in Latin America: The purpose of this study was to explore the results of the efforts made in countries that are representative of the region to reform judicial systems, in order to draw useful lessons that can be used to support the political process behind the reforms and the actions of international cooperation agencies.

- Other activities

Technical Assistance for the Judicial System in Haiti: The objective was to develop technical assistance for the Haitian government in order to improve its legal and/or judicial system. In that context, and based on the information that a JSCA representative gathered while on a visit to Haiti in December 2006, the main lines that this technical assistance will follow to carry out the technical support will be set in 2007.

Advisory services to Panama's State Commission on the Justice System: Its purpose was to come up with recommendations on how best to apply the 27 proposals contained in the report on the "State Compact for Justice" which the Commission prepared in 2005.

Specific Support for Reforms in the Criminal Justice System

- Pilot projects to improve implementation of reforms in criminal procedure

The purpose of these pilot projects is to strengthen the adversarial system by introducing oral proceedings in the preliminary phase. They are being conducted in Mar del Plata, Buenos Aires, and Córdoba.

- Empirical Research on Reforms in Criminal Procedure

Updating Project Follow-Up Study: Research, Publication, and Distribution: The objective here was to assess the implementation of reforms to criminal procedure in countries not previously covered in similar studies done in the past (Argentina, Bolivia, Nicaragua, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, the Dominican Republic, and Guatemala), and well as subsequent innovations in some countries where reforms that were examined have since undergone relevant changes.

Report on the Implementation of the Adversarial System in the State of Nuevo León: The purpose of this report was to identify the strengths and weaknesses of procedural reform in Nuevo León, to document it and then disseminate it throughout Mexico.

Study on “Management Models in the Public Prosecutor’s Office for First Efforts to Coordinate with the Police in the Context of the Criminal Procedure Reform. Study of Four Experiences in Santiago de Chile”: The purpose of this study was to analyze management models used in the Regional Prosecutor’s Offices of the Metropolitan Region –Santiago, Chile (Central-North, Southern, Eastern and Western), which were implemented with the first instructions from the prosecutor offices to coordinate with the police when the new Criminal Procedure Code entered into force.

Study on Gender-based Violence and Criminal Procedure Reform in Córdoba (Argentina): The goal is to complete an empirical study that evaluates any progress made in prosecuting gender-related crime and the challenges that remain.

Criminal Procedure Reform and Indigenous Communities: The purpose of this study was to determine the extent to which reforms in criminal procedure have been “sensitive” to the problem that cultural diversity poses in the realm of criminal justice.

Roundtable Discussion on Citizen Security and Reforms in Criminal Procedure: This event was an opportunity to analyze and discuss crucial questions about the role that reforms in criminal procedure have played in enhancing citizen security and the extent to which they have helped cut crime. It was also an opportunity to present proposals to sharpen the focus of and further develop such reform in Chile and other countries of the region, drawing on positive experiences globally.

- Training

Inter-American Program for Training Trainers for Criminal Procedure Reform (Third Version): The purpose of the program was to improve the results of criminal justice reform in the region by

training a sizeable group of leaders and duplicating the training activities in those leaders' respective countries.

Managing Chile's New Criminal Justice System: Analysis and Practical Observation: The purpose of this activity was to allow delegations of visitors from abroad to experience the development of the reform to Chile's system of criminal procedure, understand its underlying judicial and administrative logic and its operation and management.

Course: Managing Chile's New Criminal Justice System. Analysis and Practical Observation. Visit by the Delegation from Durango, Mexico: The purpose here was to convey the knowledge and skills essential to those persons who have the potential to play important roles in implementing procedural reforms in the criminal justice system in Latin America.

Course: "The State of Justice in the Americas: Challenges and Opportunities for Granting Access to the Majority": The purpose of the course was to depict the status of justice in the region and draw a connection with the view of the Inter-American Development Bank and its hands-on experience in the design, administration, and execution of justice programs.

Specific Support of Civil Justice Reforms

- Studies

The purpose of these studies is to identify methods and tools to assess the situation in countries where major legislative measures taken in the area of paternity and child support have had unsatisfactory results because of failings in the justice system.

- Activities and Training

Seminar on Oral Proceedings and Civil Justice: The objective of this Seminar is to share theories and practices in civil litigation.

Exchange of EUROsociAL Experiences: The objective of this activity is to share the experiences that Spain, France, and England have had with reforms to civil justice.

Seminar on International Experiences with Civil Justice Reform: The purpose of this seminar is to present, analyze, and debate the lessons to be learned from the Spanish, French, and British experience and that are most relevant to the discussion of reform to the Chilean civil justice system.

Strengthening Information Systems and Justice Administration Management

The JSCA continued to conduct activities to improve the quality of the judicial systems and promote the use of information in decision-making processes in this sector. Proof of the progress made in this area is the Supreme Court of Costa Rica's adaptation of its statistical information system to reflect the parameters set out in JSCA's Coding and Decoding Manuals. The Supreme

Court of Costa Rica is publishing its first full set of judicial indicators using this methodology, which will contain data current through 2005.

- Development of Judicial Information Systems

Index of Online Access to Judicial Information, Second Version: The purpose of this activity was to gauge the quality and quantity of information that the judicial branches and public prosecutors offices in the 34 OAS member states publish at their websites, and then rank them.

Judicial Statistics in Criminal Justice in Guatemala, Part One: The objective of this activity was to establish a baseline to measure the impact that the USAID program to improve criminal justice administration will have in Guatemala using 2004 as the base year.

- Development of management systems

Study Comparing Budgetary Management and Administrative Management of Courts and Tribunals and Statistical Treatment of the Information on the Performance of the Judicial System. The study was done for Brazil's Secretariat for Judicial Reform to bolster the efforts that Brazil's National Justice Council (CNJ) is making to strengthen the institution and define its agenda via a global analysis of how the decisions it is called upon to make affect the performance of the courts. This will involve describing how these decisions are made in Spain, Portugal, Mexico, Argentina, Colombia, and Chile.

Exchange of Experiences "Methods and Tools for Improving the Procedures Used to Compile, Process, Analyze and Publish Statistical Data": The purpose here was to study methods and tools for better production and use of statistics in the judicial system, using the experiences of Spain and England as references.

Advisory Services for Designing a Comprehensive Criminal Justice Model for Cuenca, Ecuador: The objective was to design a comprehensive criminal justice model, encompassing the various projects conducted thus far.

Other Activities

- Summary of other courses and workshops delivered by the JSCA

The JSCA organized a number of courses and workshops at the request of justice sector organizations from around the region. It was heavily involved in seminars or conferences –either events organized by the Center or events where experts from the Center participated as lecturers or panelists. In all, the JSCA participated in over 1.4 events per week during the first 11 months of the year.

- Participation in Lectures, Seminars, and Similar Events

Professionals from the JSCA presented papers at a number of other events, both local and regional. With the emphasis on the design of a virtual forum, these events were an opportunity to

publicize the JSCA's activities and discuss the Center's ideas. Members of our staff presented papers at many other local or regional events that served as opportunities to publicize the Center's activities, debate the ideas that it has been generating, and strengthen the network of contacts.

- JSCA Virtual Information Center and Virtual Library

The JSCA's Virtual Information Center (VIC): The VIC is the virtual platform through which the Center makes available to the regional community the information that it generates and/or collects on the judicial systems.

The JSCA's Virtual Library: The Virtual Library provides the interested community in this Hemisphere with information on the reforms and modernization of justice systems both globally and regionally and provides a vehicle for circulating and sharing information.

- Periodicals and special publications

Nexus Newsletter: This periodical summarizes the current reforms and modernization of the justice systems in the countries of America; it reports relevant events and provides information useful to the people and institutions involved or interested in these topics.

Judicial Systems Journal: The Journal's purpose is to further discussion, share information, and exchange experience with the operation of the justice systems in the countries of the Americas. It is also a medium for publicizing the JSCA's activities and the networks and systems with which it works.

- JSCA Publications

The purpose of these publications is to reach people who may not have an Internet system sufficient to download the studies available online. The JSCA makes available limited paper editions of some studies, which are distributed within the region *gratis*, once shipping costs are paid. This year's publications were the following:

"Manual de Defensoría Penal Pública para América Latina y el Caribe"

"Arbitraje y Mediación en las Américas"

"Desafíos del Ministerio Público Fiscal en América Latina"

"Seguridad Ciudadana Y Reforma Procesal Penal"

"JSCA at a Glance"

"Índice de Accesibilidad a Información Judicial en Internet".

Administrative Tribunal

The Administrative Tribunal was established on April 22, 1971, by resolution AG/RES. 35 (I-O/71), adopted by the General Assembly at the ninth plenary session of its first regular session. Its function is to settle any disputes that may arise with staff members by reason of administrative decisions, including those relating to the Retirement and Pension Plan of the General Secretariat.

The Administrative Tribunal was represented at the thirty-sixth regular session of the OAS General Assembly by its Secretary, Reinaldo Rodríguez Gallad. There, Dr. Héctor Enrique Arce Zaconeta was, by acclamation, elected to the bench of the Administrative Tribunal until 2012.

In March 2006, the President of the Tribunal held a series of meetings with representatives of the Staff Association and the OAS Department of Legal Services on the draft amendments to the Tribunal's Statute and Rules of Procedure. The Secretariat prepared a new document about the possible amendments to the Tribunal's Statute and Rules of Procedure, which it circulated among the Tribunal's members for their analysis, together with a series of additional reports.

In June, Judge Andre Surena presided over the hearings with the witnesses in Complaint No. 284 "Consuelo Fleming v. Secretary General of the OAS." A copy of the transcripts of those hearings was later sent to the members of the Tribunal.

In August, the Tribunal held its fifty-fourth regular session. As all the members had been convened, the members of Tribunal present for the session were Judges Agustín Gordillo (President), Albert Matthew (Vice President), Alma Montenegro de Fletcher and Andre Surena. Once the session was in progress, judges Albert Matthew and Andre Surena took their places on the bench. The oral proceedings in Complaint 284 were held during this session, with the judges present for this session in attendance, along with staff of the Tribunal Secretariat, the complainant and the legal representatives of the interested parties.

The following topics were also taken up at that session: decisions adopted by the GA/OAS at its thirty-sixth regular session; Complaint No. 284 "Consuelo Fleming v. Secretary General of the OAS;" the presence of all Tribunal members for its sessions; celebration of the Tribunal's thirty-fifth anniversary; and amendments to the Statute and Rules of Procedure of the Tribunal. The Secretary reported on the figures in the Tribunal's budget for 2006 and note was made of the 2007 budget as reflected in resolution n AG/RES. 2157 (XXXV)-O/05).

The judges also discussed and decided Complaint No. 286 "Consuelo Fleming v. Secretary General of the OAS" concerning the request for correction of a material error in the judgment that decided Complaint No. 284 "Consuelo Fleming v. Secretary General of the OAS."

The following decisions were approved in 2006:

- Judgment 152 adopted on Complaint No. 284 "Consuelo Fleming v. Secretary General of the OAS" (OEA/Ser.R, TRIBAD/SEN.152)

- Resolution 355 (LIV-O/06): Attendance of the Six Judges at the Sessions of the Administrative Tribunal
- Resolution 356 (OAS/Ser.R, TRIBAD/RES.356): Request to Correct a Material Error in Judgment 152.

On the occasion of the Tribunal's thirty-fifth anniversary, a seminar was held titled "Current Issues in the Law and Practice of International Administrative Tribunals." Present for the event were representatives of the Administrative Tribunals of the International Labour Organisation, the European Council, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the Inter-American Development Bank. Representatives of the Staff Association and of the GS/OAS Department of Legal Services were also invited to attend. The event was also used as an occasion to introduce Volume I of the book "Current Issues in the Law and Practice of International Administrative Tribunals," which featured contributions by a number of those present for the seminar.

The Secretariat worked with the OAS' Office of Information and Technology Services on the plan for reorganizing and updating the Tribunal's Web page so that it provides a more efficient and effective documents-search system than the one now at the site.

At the request of the Tribunal members, the Secretariat prepared the following reports:

- Mechanisms for exhausting administrative remedies within the GS/OAS;
- Jurisprudence of international administrative tribunals on requests to correct material errors;
- Current situation of the Tribunal with the GS/OAS after Executive Order 05-13 Rev. 2.

In addition to performing his functions under the Statute and Rules of Procedure of the Tribunal, the Secretary of the Tribunal also served as a Principal Committee Secretary in the Office of the Assistant Secretary General.

Pan American Development Foundation

Established in 1962, the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF) is a private, nonprofit, nongovernmental institution that operates under a cooperation agreement concluded with the OAS to support development programs and assistance to victims of natural disasters and humanitarian crises. The Secretary General is President of the PADF's Board of Directors, whose members include 25 leaders from the private sector from throughout the hemisphere. The President of the Foundation is Ambassador Alexander F. Watson, and its Executive Director is John Sanbrailo. All the members of the Board of Directors work on a volunteer basis, serve as a support group to the OAS, and make monetary contributions and contributions in kind to the Foundation's programs.

The PADF's mission is to promote integral development among the most disadvantaged in Latin America and the Caribbean, in order to create "a hemisphere of opportunity for all." This mission is accomplished by forming innovative partnerships with private, public, and nonprofit organizations, in furtherance of the OAS' priorities. One of the Foundation's most important objectives is to strengthen civil society in the region and raise donations from businesses, corporations, civic groups, international agencies and organizations like USAID, the World Bank, and the Inter-American Development Bank, among others. It also accepts contributions from government agencies in the region.

The period from March to December 2006 stood out because of the many activities carried out under the leadership of Secretary General José Miguel Insulza and Assistant Secretary General Albert Ramdin. To respond to the great humanitarian crisis in the Hemisphere, the PADF continued to provide jobs, technical training and other services to the thousands displaced by the violence in Colombia and to coca farmers who have opted to stop cultivating that illegal crop in that country. In the last five years, PADF programs have benefited over 500,000 Colombians, especially Afro-Colombians, as well as displaced women and children. This year, the PADF expanded its assistance program to the displaced in Colombia, and also its alternative development program in the coca-growing regions of that country, in support of the policies of the Colombian Government and the OAS and further consolidation of Colombian democracy through its peace process. With those ends in mind, the PADF opened nine regional offices in conflict zones like Chocó, so as to better serve the needs of the Afro-Colombian population and other vulnerable groups.

The PADF extended its financing in Haiti for agricultural and rural development programs, programs to create jobs, to help victims of natural disasters and to rebuild infrastructure, to strengthen community organizations, and to combat trafficking in persons. A waste management and street cleanup program was launched to create jobs in a number of troubled neighborhoods in Port-au-Prince and in support of the electoral process and democratic stabilization counseled by the OAS. New USAID-contributed resources were used for this activity. Work was done with the Yélé Haiti Foundation created by the famous Haitian singer Wyclef Jean. Another donation was secured to support a Haitian model of community-driven development financed by the World Bank.

Other PADF initiatives in Haiti include encouragement of cooperative ties between nongovernmental organizations along the border between Haiti and the Dominican Republic, as a way to ease tension, protect human rights, and foster dialogue and peace. The PADF's Director in Haiti assisted the Secretary General on development-related issues discussed at the International Donors Meeting in Madrid, Spain. The Assistant Secretary General visited the PADF program on the border between Haiti and the Dominican Republic, to check on projects.

In Bolivia, with financing from the Bolivian Government's Social Productive Fund [Fondo Productivo Social] (FPS) and the World Bank, the PADF provided funding to over 190 rural townships for institution-building and development projects. Community development activities in troubled areas have been expanded to strengthen the democratic process in the country.

In 2006, the PADF donated more than US\$4.0 million in medical-dental equipment and tools for technical training centers in Colombia, Costa Rica, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela, and elsewhere. These donations helped community organizations expand the services they provide to low-income patients, who have no access to basic services. The Foundation continued to negotiate for new donations of medical-dental equipment, tools for development, school buses, fire trucks, machinery and equipment for various municipalities in the region.

The PADF received US\$1,460,000 from the World Bank to implement a disaster emergency management project, mainly to benefit the victims of the floods in Gonaives, Haiti. The PADF also expanded and extended the Disaster Management Alliance funded by OFDA/USAID, with US\$440,000 to be executed before January 2008 in El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, and the Dominican Republic. The Foundation raised some US\$85,711 for humanitarian aid and reconstruction in the wake of the cyclonic and volcanic activity in countries such as Bolivia, Ecuador, Guatemala, and Suriname, with the support of the OAS, the Inter-American Network for Disaster Mitigation and private donors.

In support of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, the Foundation also broadened its efforts to strengthen civil society institutions throughout the region, creating ties with private and governmental donors in order to strengthen democratic values and practices in the Americas. It is worth noting here that the PADF raised private donations for NGOs in Argentina, Brazil, Honduras, Peru, and elsewhere.

Cooperation with Hispanic and Caribbean groups living in the United States was also expanded, to help them channel their community remittances into development projects, especially in the areas of education and agriculture. To that end, the PADF worked with 30 Latin and Caribbean groups in the United States, in particular Salvadorans and Haitians. In partnership with them, some US\$2 million dollars in contributions were raised from those groups and from other donors for projects in their countries. Based on the successful projects ALCANCE and Manos Unidas, an alliance was established with the *Banco Agrícola* of El Salvador to broaden development projects in that country.

Board of External Auditors

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution AG/RES. 123 (III-O/73), adopted on April 14, 1973, and Permanent Council resolution CP/RES. 124 (164/75), of June 10, 1975, the Board of External Auditors is responsible for the external auditing of the General Secretariat's accounts.

The Board held its annual meeting from March 27 through 31, 2006, to prepare its report on the external audit of the accounts and the financial statements of the OAS for the years ending December 31, 2005 and 2004, in keeping with Article 129 of the General Standards.

On May 10, 2006, the Board presented its observations in the document titled *Report to the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States: Audit of Accounts and Financial Statements, December 31, 2005 and 2004* (OEA/Ser. S JAE/doc.36/06). The report had five sections: a) Comments and recommendations to improve the operating procedures and internal accounting controls; b) Financial statements of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States; c) Financial Statements of the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development and the Trust for the Americas; d) Financial Statements of Other Agencies and Entities Associated with the Organization of American States; e) Financial Statements of the Retirement and Pension Fund (audited by the firm of Ernst and Young, LLP).

SB and Company, LLC, a firm of independent auditors, found that the financial statements of the audited entities tallied with the books, documents, and vouchers of the General Secretariat.

The Board met with the Secretary General and advised him of the findings of the audit and its recommendations, so that those recommendations might be made known to the General Assembly and the Permanent Council.

The following were the most important recommendations:

To the Permanent Council:

- Assign high priority to collecting quotas and identify more effective ways to encourage prompt payment of quotas in arrears, helping to reduce the arrearage, and to consider possible changes to the requirements that member states must meet to encourage them to make their payments early in the fiscal year.
- Reaffirm the recommendation to start a planning process aimed at pinpointing the OAS' priorities and objectives, so that it is able to assign budgetary resources to meet the most relevant priorities.
- As a budgetary initiative, establish a visible and systematic mechanism that helps generate savings.
- Consider the use of other sources of income, including the decision to maximize the potential of the property of the Inter-American Defense Board on 16th Street in Washington, D.C.

To the General Secretariat:

- Do a general cost analysis that identifies all administrative and supervision costs incurred in executing the specific funds. The resulting mechanism should be able to compute the cost that attends every proposed grant or donation to the specific funds.
- Provide suitable financing to ensure that staff away from headquarters are properly trained. Prepare an appropriate method to monitor and improve the internal controls at the National Offices.
- Ensure that the internal control policies and procedures associated with the use of scholarships are the most appropriate. The OAS should also develop and introduce a process that ensures that all internal policies associated with the fellowship selection and approval process are strictly observed and duly documented.

Following the summary of the financial situation of the Regular Fund, the Specific Funds and the special contributions to the OAS, the Board considered what the Administration of the General Secretariat had done to put into practice the recommendations the Board had made in the previous year's report and other matters of interest to it.

The Board emphasized the fact that the firm of independent auditors had issued unqualified ("clean") reports—the best possible outcome of an audit—on the following financial statements for 2005:

- Regular Fund of the OAS and Specific Funds
- Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development
- Trust for the Americas
- Leo S. Rowe Pan American Fund
- Rowe Commemorative Fund
- Department for Democracy and Political Affairs
- Inter-American Defense Board
- Medical Benefits Trust Fund
- Retirement and Pension Fund

Inter-American Defense Board

The Inter-American Defense Board (IADB) was established in 1942 to study and recommend measures for the defense of the Hemisphere. It is the oldest multilateral military organization in the world. On March 15, 2006, during its XXXII special session, the OAS General Assembly approved the new Statutes of the Inter-American Defense Board, which provide that the Board is an entity of the OAS. The IADB provides the OAS and its member states with advice and consultancy services on their programs, promotes hemispheric peace and security, builds confidence among the parties through ties of military cooperation and strengthens relations between civilians and military. It also supervises a senior-level academic program in security and defense studies at the Inter-American Defense College.

IADB Council of Delegates

In keeping with the Board's new Statutes, the Council of Delegates approved the regulations for the transition and the new rules of procedure of the IADB's Council. It also held elections for the Chair (Brazil), Vice-Chair (Guatemala), Director General (Trinidad and Tobago), Vice-Director of the Inter-American Defense College (Ecuador) and Director of the Sub-Secretariat of Advisory Services (Chile).

On September 14, the Republic of Haiti reinstated its delegation to the IADB. In August and September, respectively, the Kingdom of Spain and the People's Republic of China formally became permanent observers to the Board.

The Chair represented the IADB at the Seventh Conference of Ministers of Defense of the Americas, held in Managua, Nicaragua. The event was an occasion for talks with the Ministers of Defense, to inform them of the steps taken to modernize the Board and of its readiness to cooperate with the member states and the OAS, under the terms of the new Statutes. At the Conference, a proposal was approved to study the creation of a permanent body to follow up on the Conference's initiatives and a motion of appreciation to the OAS and to the IADB for the successful humanitarian demining work they are conducting.

At the invitation of the Committee on Hemispheric Security, at the Committee's October 16 meeting, the Chair of the IADB Council of Delegates presented his first report on the Board's modernization (CP/CSH/INF. 50/06), underscoring the successes and progress that the IADB has made (CP/CSH/SA.112/06).

Sub-Secretariat for Advisory Services

On March 1, 2006, a Group of Inter-American Monitors was organized and established in Colombia, to support the AICMA/OAS program. The Group has already certified the clearing of two mine fields, in keeping with General Assembly resolution AG/RES. 2180 (XXXVI-O/06).

The Board continues to provide its assistance to the Assistance Mission for Mine Clearance in Central America (MARMINCA). Now that Costa Rica, Honduras, and Guatemala have been declared mine-free countries, the program will continue in Nicaragua in 2007, in keeping with resolution AG/RES. 2180 (XXXVI-O/06).

The IADB is continuing its assistance to Humanitarian Demining in Ecuador and Peru with the Assistance Mission for Mine Clearance in South America (MARMINAS), headquartered in Quito. It is also doing training and monitoring work in the clearing operations in the Cordillera del Cónдор, under resolution AG/RES. 2181 (XXXVI-O/06).

The IADB organized training and monitoring missions to support the OAS Humanitarian Demining have sent in 30 officers and noncommissioned officers who are experts in engineering or explosives. The services of these officers are a voluntary contribution made by the Armed Forces of Brazil, Chile, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Venezuela.

As provided in resolution AG/RES. 2246 (XXXVI-O/06), document JID/S-2903 was presented to the OAS General Secretariat at the II Forum for Confidence- and Security-Building Measures. That document updated the inventory of confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs) applied in 2005 in the Hemisphere and elsewhere in the world. A study was also presented comparing the CSBMs established under the Declarations of Santiago, San Salvador, and the Miami Consensus, with a view to proposing to the OAS that the CSBMs be unified and simplified (JID S-2908).

The IADB was present for the Meeting of the States Party to the Inter-American Convention on Transparency in Conventional Weapons Acquisitions, held on November 30, 2006, in preparation for the Conference of States Parties, to be held in 2008, in keeping with Permanent Council resolution CP/RES. 904 (1550/06).

The Board also participated in the meeting on Limitation of Military Spending and the Promotion of Greater Transparency in the Acquisition of Arms in the Americas, held on December 1, 2006, pursuant to General Assembly resolution AG/RES. 2188 (XXXVI-O/06) and Permanent Council resolution CP/RES. 905 (1550/06). There it presented the study titled “Limitation of Military Spending and the Promotion of Greater Transparency in Conventional Arms Acquisition – Summary of documents in the possession of the OAS, UN and other organizations. Suggestions,” presented to the OAS General Secretariat (JID S-2911).

The IADB participated in the OAS/UN-LIREC meeting to coordinate the hemispheric program in the area of destruction of firearms, ammunition, and explosives. The delegations from the IADB were asked to state what assistance they would like to receive from the OAS for the destruction work and their willingness to effectively collaborate in the program, with financial support and/or by other means. Work is also being done on the program’s Pilot Plan, the first stage of which will be carried out in Nicaragua, as provided in General Assembly resolution AG/RES. 2179 (XXXVI-O/06).

In the area of man-portable air defense systems (MANPADS), in keeping with resolution AG/RES. 2246 (XXXVI-O/06), a presentation was given to the Council of Delegates on the

threat that these systems pose. The Board continued to provide support to the CSH in order to address the topic “Strategies for mitigating the threat from non-state actors/man-portable air defense systems (MANPADS),” at the next meeting scheduled for March 2007.

The Board gave a presentation at the “Seminar on managing weapons stockpiles and destroying arsenals,” organized by the OAS and the Latin American School of Social Sciences, and held in Santiago, Chile. The topic of its lecture was: “Weapons stockpiles storage and arsenals destruction: contribution from the IADB,” pursuant to General Assembly resolution AG/RES. 2179 (XXXVI-O/06).

In keeping with General Assembly resolution AG/RES. 2179 (XXXVI-O/06), the OAS Mission to Colombia was formed to support the work of the MAPP and to plan the destruction of 18,000 weapons and 2,500,000 munitions, as part of the peace process that the Government is conducting with the self-defense groups that surrendered those weapons.

The Board was rapporteur of the panel on “Preparation, contingency planning and humanitarian assistance,” staged during the meeting of the Inter-American Network for Disaster Mitigation, held in Bolivia. At that panel, it was suggested that the Board should be part of the panel, given its ability to coordinate with the armed forces in the countries, thereby fulfilling the provisions of General Assembly resolutions AG/RES. 2184 (XXXVI-O/06) and AG/RES. 2187 (XXXVI-O/06).

Inter-American Defense College

The College conducted its fifteenth course of graduate-level studies in hemispheric security and defense for civilian officials and high-ranking military and security officers. This is a high-level, non-operational political-strategic course that teaches international relations, the inter-American system, international instruments and institutional leadership, civilian-military relations, the media and the armed forces, an assessment of the global and hemispheric situations, peace-keeping operations, complex disasters and emergencies, the art of negotiation, crisis management and conflict resolution, transformation of the defense sector, defense and security policies, techniques of scientific research, strategic information, and threats, and security-related concerns and challenges in the Hemisphere.

As of the end of this reporting period, 2,174 persons from 23 countries have graduated from the program. Over 500 have risen to the highest ranks in the military; some have even become ministers of defense. The civilian graduates of the College have risen to high office in government, including the Presidency in the cases of Ecuador and Chile.

More students participated in the optional Masters programs. To date, 20 graduates have obtained a Masters in International Service from American University, while 59 have received the Masters in Hemispheric Security and Defense from the *Universidad del Salvador*, Argentina.

The diplomatic missions of various OAS member states have welcomed the evolution of the College’s curriculum. An opportunity presented itself to design a special two-day course on the inter-American system for the diplomats of the Permanent Mission of El Salvador to the OAS.

This course, which was staged as a pilot project, mirrors the College's desire to respond in a proactive way to educational requests received from the member states and other OAS entities, in keeping with the mission and legal functions of the Inter-American Defense Board.

The College's Curriculum addresses the issue of the threats, concerns, and challenges to security in the Hemisphere, which the OAS General Assembly identified at its session in Mexico in 2003. Working from the general to the particular, the course begins by examining the global situation and then moves on to the hemispheric situation. Information has also been compiled into four seminars tailored for countries that are unable to send students to the annual course. The College has also added seminars on specific topics during study trips.

The number of civilians and security officials participating in the course is also on the rise. The 46th Class is composed of 53 students from 17 countries: 12 are civilians, 4 are high ranking national police officers, and 37 are military.

Certification of the College's curriculum was also renewed by the American Council on Education, an organization that reviews institutions of higher learning in the United States. With that, course graduates receive credit for 12 semester hours of graduate level studies in: international relations, comparative politics, and intercultural communication/negotiation and leadership studies, respectively.

Two new distance-learning projects were introduced, one on inter-agency processes and another on national security strategy. These were additions to the already-established courses on the inter-American system and crisis management/conflict resolution.

Inter-American Court of Human Rights

The Inter-American Court of Human Rights is an autonomous judicial body of the OAS whose purpose is to apply and interpret the American Convention on Human Rights. The Court has both contentious and advisory jurisdiction. It is made up of seven judges, elected in a personal capacity by the General Assembly of the Organization of American States.

During this reporting period, the judges on the Court were, in order of precedence, as follows: Sergio García Ramírez (Mexico), President; Alirio Abreu Burelli (Venezuela), Vice President; Oliver Jackman (Barbados); Antônio A. Cançado Trindade (Brazil); Cecilia Medina Quiroga (Chile); Manuel E. Ventura Robles (Costa Rica); and Diego García Sayán (Peru). The Secretary of the Court was Pablo Saavedra Alessandri (Chile) and the Assistant Secretary was Emilia Segares Rodríguez (Costa Rica).

Business of the Court

- Contentious cases and requests for provisional measures submitted to the Court for consideration

In 2006, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights filed 14 contentious cases with the Court and 13 requests seeking provisional measures.

- Sessions

At its seventieth regular session, January 30 through February 9, 2006, the Court issued 6 judgments on the following cases: *Pueblo Bello Massacre v. Colombia* (merits, reparations, and costs); *López Álvarez v. Honduras* (merits, reparations, and costs); *Yakye Axa Indigenous Community v. Paraguay* (interpretation of judgment), *Raxcacó Reyes v. Guatemala* (interpretation of judgment); *Acevedo Jaramillo et al.* (preliminary objections, merits, reparations, and costs), and *Moiwana Community* (interpretation of judgment). The Court also issued decisions on requests seeking provisional measures in the following cases: *Paz de San José de Apartadó Community v. Colombia*, *Haitians and Dominicans of Haitian Origin in the Dominican Republic* regarding the Dominican Republic; *García Uribe* regarding Mexico; *Communities of the Jiguamiandó and the Curbaradó* regarding Colombia; *Juan Humberto Sánchez* regarding Honduras; *Ramírez Hinestroza* regarding Peru, and *Monagas Judicial Detention Center (“La Pica”)* regarding Venezuela. The Court also held two public hearings in the following cases: *Nogueira de Carvalho* against Brazil (Preliminary objections, merits, reparations, and costs) and the *Monagas Judicial Detention Center (“La Pica”)* with respect to Venezuela (provisional measures). It issued three orders for compliance with the following judgments: *Constitutional Court* (Peru), *19 Tradesmen* (Colombia), and *Ricardo Canese* (Paraguay).

At its twenty-seventh special session, held March 28 through 31, 2006, in Brasilia, Brazil, the Court issued a judgment in the case of the *Sawhoyamaxa Indigenous Community v. Paraguay*.

Two orders were issued on provisional measures in the *Mendoza Penitentiaries* case regarding Argentina and the *Yare I and Yare II Capital Region Penitentiary Center (Yare Prison)* regarding Venezuela. The Court also held three public hearings in the following cases: *Almonacid Arellano v. Chile* (preliminary objections, merits, reparations, and costs), *Vargas Areco v. Paraguay* (merits, reparations, and costs), and *Mendoza Penitentiary* regarding Argentina (provisional measures).

During its twenty-eighth special session, held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, April 3 through 6, 2006, the Court delivered a judgment in the case of *Baldeón García v. Peru*. An order on provisional measures was also issued in the case of the *Serrano Cruz Sisters* regarding El Salvador. The Court also held two public hearings on the following cases: *Claude Reyes et al. v. Chile* (merits, reparations, and costs), and *Montero Aranguren et al. v. Venezuela* (preliminary objections, merits, reparations, and costs).

During its twenty-ninth special session, held in San Salvador, El Salvador, June 26 to 28, 2006, the Court held two public hearings on the following cases: *Miguel Castro Castro Prison v. Peru* (merits, reparations, and costs) and *Discharged Congressional Staffers v. Peru* (preliminary objections, merits, reparations, and costs).

During its seventy-first regular session, from June 29 to July 6, 2006, the Court issued three judgments: *Ituango Masscres v. Colombia* (preliminary objections, merits, reparations, and costs), *Ximenes Lopes v. Brazil* (merits, reparations, and costs), and *Montero Aranguren et al. v. Venezuela*. The Court also issued 10 orders on requests seeking provisional measures in the following cases: *Raxcacó Reyes* regarding Guatemala; *Guerrero Gallucci and Martínez Barrios* regarding Venezuela; *Children and Adolescents confined in the FEBEM “Tataupé Complex”* regarding Brazil; *19 Tradesmen (Sandra Belinda Montero Fuentes and family members, Salomón Flórez and family members, Luis José Pundor Quintero and family members, Ana Diva Quintero Quintero de Pundor and family members)* regarding Colombia; *Ramírez Hinostroza et al.* regarding Peru; *Marta Colomina and Liliana Velásquez* regarding Venezuela; *Caballero Delgado y Santana* regarding Colombia; *Guatemalan Forensic Anthropology Foundation* regarding Guatemala; *Mery Naranjo et al.* regarding Colombia; and *María Leontina Millacura Llaipén et al.* regarding Argentina. The Court held a public hearing in the case of *María Leontina Millacura Llaipén et al.* regarding Argentina (provisional measures). Lastly, the Court issued orders to comply with the judgments delivered in the following four cases: *El Amparo* (Venezuela), *Bámaca Velásquez* (Guatemala), *“The Juvenile Reeducation Institute”* (Paraguay), and *“Five Pensioners”* (Peru).

At its seventy-second regular session, September 19 through 30, 2006, the Court issued five judgments: *Claude Reyes v. Chile* (merits, reparations, and costs); *Servellón García v. Honduras* (merits, reparations, and costs); *Goiburú et al. v. Paraguay* (merits, reparations, and costs); *Vargas Areco v. Paraguay* (merits, reparations and costs), and *Almonacid Arellano v. Chile* (preliminary objections, merits, reparations, and costs). The Court also issued orders on provisional measures in the following cases: *Mery Naranjo* regarding Colombia; *Gloria Giralte de García Prieto* regarding El Salvador; *Persons Imprisoned in “Dr. Sebastião Martins Silveira” Penitentiary in Araraquara in São Paulo* regarding Brazil; *Urso Branco Prison* regarding Brazil; *Ramírez Hinostroza et al.* regarding Peru, and *Eloisa Barrios et al.* regarding Venezuela. At this

same session, the Court held two public hearings in the Case of *Persons Imprisoned in “Dr. Sebastião Martins Silveira” Penitentiary in Araraquara in São Paulo* regarding Brazil (provisional measures) and *“La Cantuta” v. Peru* (merits, reparations, and costs). Lastly, during this regular session, the Court issued ten orders for compliance with the judgments delivered in the following cases: *Herrera Ulloa* (Costa Rica); *Lori Berenson Mejía* (Peru); *Huilca Tecse* (Peru); *Gómez Paquiyauri Brothers* (Peru); *Ricardo Canese* (Paraguay); *Cesti Hurtado* (Peru); *Loayza Tamayo* (Peru); *Serrano Cruz Sisters* (El Salvador); *Tibi* (Ecuador), and *Fermín Ramírez* (Guatemala). It also issued two orders for compliance with the provisional measures ordered in the following cases: *Gómez Paquiyauri Brothers* (Peru) and *Carlos Nieto Palma et al.* (Venezuela).

At its seventy-third regular session, November 20 through December 1, 2006, the Court delivered seven judgments: *Miguel Castro Castro Prison v. Peru* (merits, reparations, and costs); *Discharged Congressional Staffers v. Peru* (preliminary objections, merits, reparations, and costs); *Acevedo Jaramillo et al. v. Peru* (interpretation of judgment); *Pueblo Bello Massacre v. Colombia* (interpretation of judgment); *The Girls Yean and Bosico v. the Dominican Republic* (interpretation of judgment); *Nogueira Carvalho v. Brazil* (preliminary objections, merits, reparations, and costs), and *La Cantuta v. Peru* (merits, reparations, and costs). Two orders were issued on provisional measures requested in the *Giraldo Cardona* case regarding Colombia and the *Case of Members of the Community Studies and Psychosocial Action Team (“ECAP”) (Case of the Plan de Sánchez Massacre)* regarding Guatemala.

In this reporting period, the Court adopted decisions that continue to help build and establish inter-American jurisprudence on the subject of human rights. Among the rights and abuses that figured most prominently in the Court’s case law in 2006 are the following: the right to life, the right to humane treatment, the right to personal liberty, the right to a decent life, the right to judicial guarantees, the right to judicial protection, freedom of thought and expression, the right to equality before the law, the obligation to make reparations, the duty to adopt domestic legal measures, the right to private property, the right to recognition of legal personality, the rights of the child, freedom of movement and residence, prohibition of slavery and involuntary servitude, protection of honor and dignity, detentions and forced disappearances; extrajudicial executions; prison situations and conditions; detention conditions; indigenous rights; ancestral lands of indigenous communities; prohibition of torture and cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment; investigation of torture; the State’s responsibility for acts of third parties; forced displacement of persons; hospitalization conditions; the duty to investigate and punish responsible parties; denial of justice; access to public information; impunity; adaptation of domestic law; amnesty laws; and women’s rights.

During these seven sessions, the Court also studied various issues associated with pending matters and examined the various reports presented by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the beneficiaries or their representatives and the States involved in those cases in which provisional measures had been ordered. The Court also studied a number of reports presented by the States involved and the observations submitted by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the victims or their representatives in the cases where the Court was overseeing compliance with the judgment. The Court also looked at a number of administrative matters.

Office of the Inspector General

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) operates under the provisions of the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat (GS)– Chapter IX on Advisory Services, Auditing and Fiscal Control–the Budgetary and Financial Rules, and Executive Order 95-05. Those provisions establish the internal audit function, which helps the Secretary General and the governing bodies monitor fulfillment of the responsibilities of the various levels of management vis-à-vis the programs and resources of the General Secretariat. The OIG’s purpose is to ensure a systematic review of the operating procedures and financial transactions at headquarters and at the offices of the OAS General Secretariat in the member states. The OIG also checks to ensure that the established policies, regulations, and practices are instituted and followed properly, effectively, and economically.

Audits

During the period between March 1 and December 31, 2006, the Office of the Inspector General conducted five audits of units and programs, 14 project audits, an evaluation and investigation to assess operations, ensure compliance with OAS directives and procedures and to conduct a systematic review of the internal accounts and administrative systems. In carrying out its activities, the OIG focused on the higher-risk operations and on those with the most potential for improving efficiency, efficacy and economy in the General Secretariat. In conducting its activities, the Office operated with ample discretion and autonomy and had full access to all the functions, activities, operations, properties and staff of the General Secretariat, both at headquarters and in the Offices of the OAS General Secretariat in the Member States.

During this reporting period, operational audits were conducted at headquarters to evaluate internal and administrative controls and to check for compliance with OAS directives and procedures. The OIG reviewed the Educational Portal of the Americas, the latter’s strategic risk assessment, and the education allowance for staff dependents. Also reviewed were the activities of the Offices of the General Secretariat in Barbados and Antigua and Barbuda, to determine whether their activities were carried out in accordance with the OAS’ rules and procedures. The OIG also did an evaluation to determine the staffing requirements of the Leo S. Rowe Pan American Fund. It also looked into the expenses that the Fellowships Program involved in 2005.

The Office of the Inspector General evaluated fourteen projects carried out at headquarters and in member states to ensure that they were in compliance with the respective agreements and to determine whether the objectives were accomplished. The audited projects were the following: (1) CARANA/USAID Trade Project; (2) Foreign Trade Information System (SICE); (3) Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA); (4) Contributions for Management and Supervision of Projects of the Department of Trade, Tourism, and Competitiveness; (5) Project for Conservation of the Coastline on Antigua and Barbuda; (6) Trade Facilitation for Selected Crop and Livestock Commodities; (7) Linkages between Agriculture and Tourism and Agri-tourism; (8) Women’s Participation in Politics; (9) Dyslexia Awareness Program; (10) Strengthening the Tourism Sector by Building Up Linkages with the Agriculture Sector in the Caribbean; (11) Beach and

Coastal Zone Management, Barbados; (12) Saltwater Intrusion in Coastal Aquifers; (13) CDERA- Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Program, and (14) UWI- Masters Degree in International Trade Policies.

Other Activities

The Office of the Inspector General continued to evaluate responses and followed up on the corrective measures taken in order to ensure that the recommendations that the OIG made were in fact implemented. The Office continued to provide advice and technical assistance in the form of its analyses, evaluations, research, and recommendations and served as an observer on various committees of the General Secretariat.

Human Development Fund Committee

The Human Development Fund Committee was established by Executive Order 05-13 rev. 1. It has a Secretariat at the department level and is responsible for administration of the OAS Scholarships Program for Academic Studies and Professional Development, the Leo S. Rowe Pan American Fund, and the Educational Portal of the Americas

OAS Scholarships Program for Academic Studies and Professional Development

In 2006 the Human Development Fund Committee, through the Department of Human Development, acted on the General Assembly mandate to redesign the OAS Scholarships Program. Much of the year was therefore devoted to examining these procedures in order to suggest new terminology and different guarantees for the Manual of Procedures for the OAS Scholarship and Training Programs, an invaluable instrument for achieving the program's objectives. This analysis resulted in other innovations: 1) reorganization of the Department's structure so that it is better able to manage the anticipated changes in the Scholarship and Training Program; (2) an in-depth financial review to determine the status of the accounts and propose guidelines and procedures for centralizing the responsibility for financial control; and 3) development of a computerized financial control system to better monitor accounts and produce reports.

As an initial step in developing a completely automated data system for the OAS Fellowship and Training Program, the Department of Human Development, with assistance from the Office of Information and Technology Services, has developed and implemented the Scholarship Management System, which is used to control the financial condition of the scholarships program, reconcile its accounts and monitor execution of its budget. With the system, costs per scholarship recipient and per program can be tracked and managed. The system also gives the Department the capacity to monitor, update and adjust the estimated costs, compare them with third-party estimates, and reconcile cost estimates with expenditures.

The Scholarships Program continued to administer the active scholarship recipients from previous years, including those students with scholarships awarded in 2005, for a total of US\$3,409,175 executed against budgeted fiscal year 2006 for those in undergraduate and graduate programs.

Professional Development Scholarships Program

The Professional Development Scholarships Program offers scholarship opportunities to citizens of the OAS member states, to expand and/or refresh participants' professional expertise in areas of specialization related to the priority development areas established in CIDI's Strategic Plan for Partnership for Integral Development 2006-2009. In 2006, 771 professional development scholarships were granted. That year, the following countries offered professional development scholarships: Argentina, Barbados, Brazil, Colombia, Honduras, Mexico, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, Venezuela, Spain, Korea, and China. In addition to the aforementioned scholarships, the Inter-American Telecommunications Commission (CITEL), the Department of Trade, Tourism,

and Competitiveness, the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE), the International Center for Advanced Studies in Communications for Latin America (CIESPAL), the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, and the Inter-American Juridical Committee, in cooperation with the OAS' Department of International Legal Affairs, offered professional development courses in telecommunications, trade, combating terrorism and transnational organized crime, journalism, human rights, and international law, respectively.

Leo S. Rowe Pan American Fund

The Leo S. Rowe Pan American Fund is a revolving student loan fund, unique among international organizations. Its main purpose is to help students from Latin American and Caribbean member States of the OAS who are interested in pursuing studies in the United States. It also makes loans to staff of the GS/OAS. The Fund is administered by a committee composed of the Secretary General and representatives of four member States. The Department of Human Development serves as Technical Secretariat of the Fund.

As of December 31, 2006, a total of 6,060 loans had been granted since the Fund's establishment in 1948, for a total of US\$13.2 million. These loans have gone to citizens of Latin American and Caribbean countries. In addition, the Fund granted 1,426 loans totaling US\$3.6 million to staff members for their own studies, for their dependents' education or for emergencies. Through prudent investments in a portfolio of mutual funds (which the Committee selected at the recommendation of a firm of investment advisors, which also monitors these funds), the Rowe Fund has grown from an initial contribution of US\$623,605, received in May 1952, to US\$13.9 million in net assets as of the end of December 2006, with a portfolio of US\$1.679. 318.

The Technical Secretariat engaged in the following activities in 2006:

- A massive promotional campaign to increase the number of loan applications received.
- Implementation of a strategic plan for the Rowe Fund under the new Department of Human Development.
- Dissemination of information about the Fund to student-loan institutions, universities and academic institutions in the region; contacts were established with various partners of APICE and NAFSA.

The financial viability of the Rowe Fund program depends mainly on the return from its financial investments and the repayment of the loans awarded. One area continues to improve: the percentage of arrearage and bad loans is on the decline. The Rowe Fund's financial investment has had good years and bad years as the market has fluctuated. On balance, however, the value of the portfolio has increased. As a result the student loan program is expected to be able to grow.

Educational Portal of the Americas

The main purpose of the Educational Portal is to promote the development and training of human resources in the Americas through the use of new information and communications technologies.

Using information technologies to provide training greatly reduces costs and clears away time and space barriers.

In 2006, the Portal conducted activities through the Virtual Classroom, its technical educational platform used as a vehicle for offering opportunities for individualized, interactive, high-quality, low-cost professional development. In the course of a year, this learning environment has helped train over 1600 professionals in the region.

The principal activities during this period were as follows: i) 19 distance courses given through the Virtual Classroom, in English, Spanish, and Portuguese, on topics such as basic education, e-government, science and technology, ethics and strategies for teaching mathematics; ii) preparation and development of new distance courses on topics like solar energy, quality in small- and medium-size enterprise, scarcity of safe water and metrology; iii) partnerships with governmental institutions, universities, centers of excellence, and specialized units of the OAS to offer distance basic training courses; iv) circulation of information on 4,500 programs and courses at some 1,500 accredited universities across the region, using a database that allows an information search; v) distribution of some 100 journals and monographs free of charge by way of the virtual library, which include La Educ@ción, the INTERAMER collection, the Inter-American Review of Bibliography (RIB) and the series “Trends for a Common Future”; vi) development and maintenance of the infrastructure needed to promote virtual meetings, chat rooms, and forums; and vii) preparation and dissemination of editorial sections and monthly bulletins.

Under the mandates established by the governing bodies on human resource training through the Portal, the services provided are at a minimal fee, designed to cover a portion of the expenses. In 2006, the Portal has helped provide introductory, more advanced, and refresher training to 1,662 professionals from the region (see Annex F, table 4). Since it was launched in September 2001, the Portal has received 380 million hits from over 200 countries. In 2006, it averaged 3.3 million hits a month and an average of 1,005 new users registered every month (Annex F, table 5).

Inter-American Telecommunication Commission

Established by the General Assembly in 1994, the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL) has technical autonomy in the performance of its functions, within the limits set by the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), the CITEL statutes and the mandates of the General Assembly. Its mission is to facilitate and promote sustained development of telecommunications in the Hemisphere.

Many changes have occurred in the realm of information and communications technologies (ICTs), all of which have major repercussions for the members of CITEL. One of the most striking developments has been the convergence of telecommunications, the Internet, and audio-visual content distributors; the explosive increase in the use of the Internet, the rapid development of wireless communications systems, fixed and mobile; and progressive liberalization of the markets, especially in the developing countries, with the attendant policy and regulatory requirements.

The Fourth Assembly of CITEL, held in San José, Costa Rica, in February 2006, was an opportunity to review its structure to make it more responsive to the changing environment in the sector. It also elected the Chairs of the permanent consultative committees and the member states that will serve on the Permanent Executive Committee. By establishing a dynamic and effective strategic plan, CITEL will continue to promote a constant exchange of experience, information, and knowledge between the governments and the private sector, with a view to achieving harmonious growth of telecommunications in the region.

Telecommunications, and especially connectivity, play a strategic and vital role in the political, economic, social, and cultural development of society. Furthermore, up-to-date information on the ICTs, their impact and regulation, is essential. With these considerations in mind, in 2006 CITEL prepared a first Report on the situation of Connectivity in the Americas. This report revealed the enormous strides that have been made in recent years to narrow the digital divide between the developed and developing world in terms of access to basic telecommunications and internet services. However, it also found that another digital divide is opening up in the case of access to the more advanced services like high-speed internet and third-generation and beyond mobile services. Given this finding, priority has been assigned to the work of the second phase of the Agenda for Connectivity in the Americas, establishing a detailed plan which then gets feedback from the work done in the permanent consultative committees.

Given the rapid technological innovation, CITEL's ever-present challenge is to create personnel trained in telecommunications. Accordingly, in 2006, 22 courses were given (16 distance courses and 6 classroom courses) on telecommunications policy, regulation, management, and technology. A total of 265 fellowships were given for these courses, to participants from 28 countries of the region. CITEL has 17 regional training centers and coordinates its work with the Americas Centre of Excellence of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU).

In the area of telecommunications technologies, recommendations were approved on: very high speed digital subscriber line transceivers 2 (VDSL2), second-generation transmission systems for

interactive cable television services – IP cable modems, and Internet Protocol Version 6 specification (IPV6). Studies are in progress for the transition to next-generation networks (NGNs), which includes analysis of the standards and network infrastructures required to support delivery of voice, data, and multimedia services to end users over secure and high yield systems, irrespective of time and place; development and implementation of IP-based services; interoperability of traditional and evolving telecommunications systems, and forms of fraud and unauthorized access to services.

As for policy and regulatory considerations, a number of studies have been undertaken, including the following: government policy and experience in country-coded top level domains (ccTLD) and IP address block management; costs and tariffs in the telecommunications sector; common regulatory principles of accounting for (fixed and mobile) telecommunications services; economic aspects of using planar lightwave circuits (PLC) to provide telecommunications services; delivery of telecommunications services to disabled persons; a study on SPAM; portability of numbers; broadband technology; cost models for telecommunications services; security consideration in developing networks and systems, to settle upon common issues and approaches; and a study of the regional models for scaling networks in a convergence environment.

In the area of radiocommunications, CITEC continues to work on identifying the current state of the use of radio frequencies with a view to harmonization. In that area, in 2006 recommendations were approved on the following: use of the 4940-4990 MHz band for public protection and aid in the event of disasters; use of wireless systems and their frequency bands in commercial operation, for universal access in rural, sparsely populated areas; alternative use of the 698-806 MHz band in the Americas for advanced wireless systems and public protection and catastrophe assistance; and a radio frequency identification (RFID) system. Studies are in progress on measuring interference from the AM-IBOC on AM analog signals, radio local-area network (RLAN) on the 5 GHz band aboard aircraft; re-location of the 700 MHz band; broadband wireless access systems (BWA) and very low power devices.

To facilitate the deployment of satellite services, general guidelines were approved for licensing global mobile personal communications systems (GMPCS), procedures to be used to license earth stations on board vessels (ESV) and methods of locating harmful interference from unauthorized transmissions on satellite communication systems.

A CD was distributed with information compiled from various agencies, administrations in the region and other regions on technical and regulatory aspects related to the effects of electromagnetic non-ionizing emissions. A DVD is being prepared that will include up-to-date information and the results of the Workshop held on this topic in Peru on June 19. A second workshop is slated for El Salvador on April 16, 2007.

The following have been updated: Technical Files on Next Generation Systems and Economic Aspects of Universal Service; Implementation Guides for Digital Terrestrial Television; database on the current regulation of satellite systems in the region, and the status of implementation of the Agenda for Connectivity.

One of the essential activities of CITELE during this reporting period was presentation of 61 common proposals agreed by consensus at the World Telecommunications Development Conference (Qatar, March 2006) and the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (Turkey, November 2006). In preparing for these meetings, the regional position in the overall international context was bolstered; also, the interests of the Americas were taken into consideration in the development programs, strategies, and future direction of the ITU.

Preparation of the 30 points on the order of business of the ITU's 2007 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC) is in its final stages. Various inter-American proposals have been approved. The number will increase in the next two meetings of Permanent Consultative Committee II. The WRC-07 will consider basic aspects of new techniques of modulation and spectrum sharing.

In 2006, the constant exchange of experience, best practices, and information was reinforced to accomplish the objectives of access to telecommunications. Particular mention should be made of the workshops on: interconnection and next-generation networks; IPv6 address assignment policies and technical and regulatory aspects related to the effects of electromagnetic non-ionizing emissions. CITELE continued to circulate the monthly e-bulletin info@CITELE. As of December 2006, 241 articles and 197 country news reports had been published. Coordination and cooperation with other organizations was strengthened and 16 cooperation agreements on issues of mutual concern to increase the efficiency of the parties are in effect.

The significant differences within and among the member states, both with regard to the deployment of telecommunications infrastructure/ICTs and the capacity to use them to access information, make it imperative that the Commission's business move forward rapidly.

Inter-American Committee on Ports

The purpose of the Inter-American Committee on Ports (CIP) is to serve as the permanent inter-American forum of the member states of the Organization for strengthening cooperation in the development of the port sector, with the active participation and collaboration of the private sector. Its principal objectives are to strengthen inter-American dialogue, provide training and technical cooperation, and promote the ports of this Hemisphere.

Strengthening the inter-American dialogue on ports

The CIP is the only forum for dialogue among the highest ranking national government port authorities in the Americas, which is essential to ensuring compliance with the mandates from the General Assembly, the Summit of the Americas, and other hemispheric forums. To that end, the Secretariat organized and facilitated the First Special Meeting of the CIP (Algeciras, Spain, May 2006), to work together to strengthen port and trade relations between the Americas and Spain and generate a dialogue on ports and provide opportunities to explore businesses and investments in the port sector in those countries.

The VIII Meeting of the Executive Board of the Inter-American Committee on Ports (CECIP) (Guayaquil, June 2006) was held. It was an occasion to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the OAS' involvement in port matters of the Hemisphere. The VIII Meeting of the Executive Board provided an opportunity for its four current Technical Advisory Groups (TAGs) to meet: Port Operations, Port Security, Environmental Protection, and Navigation Safety.

The First Special Meeting of the Executive Board of the CIP was in Puerto La Cruz, October 2006, its main objective being to evaluate performance of the work plans of the Executive Board's subcommittees: Policy and Coordination; Planning and Port Management; Statistics, Costs, and Tariffs; Port Development for Cruise Tourism; River and Lake Port Development; Training; Regional Port Development, and Participation of Women in the Port Affairs of the Hemisphere.

Puerto La Cruz was also the site of the Second Hemispheric Conference on Port Protection (October 2006), held to enable participants to share experiences in port protection and to encourage training plans for the execution of programs on this subject.

Training, technical assistance and regional and international cooperation

The following activities were carried out to facilitate modernization and development of ports in the Hemisphere:

- Training

This is the CIP's priority activity in cooperation. The Secretariat helped organize and conduct the following training activities: International Seminar on Port Planning and Development: European Vision (Guatemala, March 2006); Railport Seminar: Ports and Railways (Cartagena,

July 2006); Course on Port Cruise Management (Barbados, September, 2006); VII Ibero-American Course on Port Operations, Technology and Environmental Management (Santander, September 2006); Seminar on the Port System and National Development (Lima, October 2006); XI Ibero-American Course on Port Management (Madrid, October 2006); Seminar on Expansion of the Panama Canal: the Economic Impact on the Countries of the Region (Santiago, November 2006).

Two grants were also awarded for Masters Degree Studies in Port Management and Intermodal Transport 2006-2007, organized by the Universidad Comillas in Madrid and sponsored by the Port Foundation of Valencia, Spain (Feports). Finally, 10 grants were awarded to port applicants seeking to obtain the certificate from the Port Management Program “PPM Latino”, organized by the American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA). During this reporting period close to 500 port officials and executives from the member countries received instruction through the training activities promoted by the CIP Secretariat.

- Specialized technical assistance

Technical assistance was provided to conduct the project on ports, customs, and trade in the Dominican Republic. Advisory assistance was provided for organization and the CIP participated in port-related events in Argentina, Guatemala, Peru, and Venezuela.

- Cooperation for development

Cooperation for development was provided in three ways: (i) promoting the “Agreement of cooperation and mutual assistance among the inter-American port authorities,” which the Secretariat continued to disseminate and advocate. As of the present, 19 member countries have signed the Agreement, while four have also ratified it (Argentina, Ecuador, Mexico, and Peru); (ii) Enhancing bilateral cooperative relations with other international agencies involved in port activities in order to pool efforts and conduct joint activities at less cost and with a greater impact. Accordingly, work programs for the year were established with those organizations with which agreements and memoranda of understanding have been signed, all of which were fully executed. Prominent among these was the American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA), the International Navigation Association (PIANC) - National Section United States, and the *Organismo Público Puertos del Estado de España* [Spain’s State Public Ports Agency]. A memorandum of understanding was also signed on cooperation with the Association for the Collaboration between Ports and Cities (RETE), in Algeciras in May 2006; (iii) Collaborating on activities and projects of mutual interest with national and international port and maritime organizations in order to cover more of the port agenda. Particular mention should be made of the collaboration with the International Association of Cities and Ports (IACP), the World Bank, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Central American Commission on Maritime Transport [*Comisión Centroamericana de Transporte Marítimo*] (COCATRAM), the Andean Community of Nations [*Comunidad Andina de Naciones*] (CAN), the Ibero-American Institute on Maritime Law (IIDM), the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the World Customs Organization (WCO) and the United Nations Conference for Trade and Development (UNCTAD), among others.

Disseminating and promoting the ports of the Americas

The Secretariat has published and circulated information on the major ports in the member states and on the CIP's activities through the following means: (i) three issues of the *Revista CIP* were published and distributed globally, as a means of reporting on and promoting the ports of this Hemisphere, their policies and development; (ii) the ports in this Hemisphere were promoted at the CIP's Web portal (www.oas.org/cip), where e-bulletins, news, and other print media (reports, studies, documents, pamphlets, etc.) are available; (iii) finally, the 50th anniversary of the OAS' involvement in the issue of ports in the Americas was celebrated and publicized through commemorative ceremonies at the various events held during the year, publication of brochures, and recognitions.

VI. PERMANENT OBSERVERS

PERMANENT OBSERVERS

Permanent observer status in the Organization of American States was established by the General Assembly at its first regular session, held in San José, Costa Rica, in 1971 [AG/RES. 50 (I-O/71)]. The permanent observers participate in the Organization's activities and contribute to its programs.

The Department of External Relations (DER) advises the various dependencies of the General Secretariat and the political bodies in all activities associated with OAS relations with permanent observers, including fundraising for priority programs and projects on the inter-American agenda.

To that end, the Department promotes the active participation and cooperation of the 60 permanent observers, by involving them in the life of the Organization through visits to senior government officials in capitals to negotiate support for specific activities, briefing sessions (noteworthy among them the meeting between the representatives of the permanent observer countries at the General Assembly and the foreign ministers of member states), exchanges of documents and information, and special events.

In 2006 the Organization received cash and in-kind contributions from permanent observers totaling about US\$18 million. Similarly, in 2006 the Spanish Cooperation Fund was established, through which Spain is channeling its contributions to the Organization. Spain also signed a cooperation agreement with the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

During the period covered by this report, the OAS received high-level visits from the Americas Directors of the ministries of foreign affairs and the ministries of cooperation and development of permanent observer countries, as well as from other representatives of permanent observer governments. Among them were the visits by the Spanish Minister of Defense, José Antonio Alonso, accompanied by a delegation of distinguished Spanish senators; by the Assistant Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Italy, Donato Di Santo; and by senior officials in the European Commission.

For his part, the Secretary General visited Germany, Italy, Spain, Sweden, and the European Union. At OAS headquarters, the Secretary General also welcomed Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, who addressed the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs. Likewise, the Secretary General held meetings with senior officials from permanent observer countries in the framework of the United Nations General Assembly, including a meeting with the European Commissioner for External Relations, Benita Ferrero Waldner.

**VII. ACTIVITIES OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL AND THE ASSISTANT
SECRETARY GENERAL AWAY FROM HEADQUARTERS**

Activities of the Secretary General away from headquarters

March

- Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 5-6
- Inauguration of the XXIII Model OAS; meeting with Mr. Andrés Bautista, President of the Senate, and Mr. Alfredo Pacheco, President of the Chamber of Deputies
 - Inauguration of the Forum of Central American Political Parties
 - Participation as a panel member in the lecture on the OAS: the Hemisphere today and tomorrow
- Santiago, Chile, 11-12
- Induction into office of President of Chile
- Brussels, Belgium, 27-28
- Conference: “Promoting Social Cohesion: the EU and Latin-American and Caribbean Experiences”

April

- Belo Horizonte, Brazil, 2-3
- Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
- Brasilia, Brazil, 4
- Meeting with Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brazil, Mr. Celso Amorim
 - Meeting with the Minister Nilcéa Freire, of the Special Secretariat for Women's Policies, and President of the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM)
- Sao Paulo, Brazil, 5-6
- World Economic Forum on Latin America 2006
- La Paz/Santa Cruz, Bolivia, 19-21
- Meeting with President Evo Morales. Signature of the Constitutional Assembly agreement

May

- San José, Costa Rica, 8
- New York, United States of America, 15-16
- Induction into office of President of Costa Rica
 - Invitation to be main speaker at the annual dinner of the Chilean-North American Chamber of Commerce
 - Invitation to Council on Foreign Relations talk.

Brasilia, Brazil, 21-24

June

Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 4-6

Stockholm, Sweden, 13

Saint Kitts and Nevis, 20-22

- Donors' Meeting (Haiti)
- OAS General Assembly
- Invitation-Meeting with Director General of the Swedish International Development and Cooperation Agency (SIDA)
- Visit to Saint Kitts and Nevis. Conference 25th Anniversary of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)

July

Quito, Ecuador, 10-11

Medellin, Colombia, 12

Bogotá, Colombia, 13

Cartagena, Colombia, 14

Madrid, Spain, 16-17

Lima, Peru, 27-28

- Participation as speaker in the event "Latin America's International Agenda through 2020," held in the context of the formulation of the National Foreign Policy Plan, and promoted by Francisco Carrión Mena, Minister of Foreign Affairs
- Official visit to Medellin City Hall – meeting with Mayor Sergio Fajardo Valderrama
- Meeting with Peace and Reconciliation Program
- Meeting with representatives of different city sectors
- Official visit, meeting with the Mission to Support the Peace Process in Colombia (MAPP/OEA)
- Seminar on transparency against corruption, organized by the Office of the Comptroller General of the Republic
- Order of Alberto Lleras Camargo awarded to the OAS
- Participation in the "Ibero-American Meeting on Migration," organized by the Iberoamerican General Secretariat
- Meeting with Donato Di Santo, Italian Deputy Foreign Minister,
- Visit to the King of Spain
- Official visit and induction into office of the

President of Peru

August

Buenos Aires, Argentina, 4

Bogotá, Colombia, 7-8

Mexico City, Mexico, 28-29

- Meeting of the "2x7 on Haiti" mechanism
- Induction into office of President Uribe
- Inauguration of the Model UN of the Autonomous Technological Institute of Mexico (ITAMMUN)
- Inauguration and seminar lecture on multilateralism: Mexico's challenges in the UN and OAS

September

New York, United States of America, 20-22

Managua, Nicaragua, September 29 –
October 1

October

New York, United States of America, 16

Austin, Texas, United States of America,
23

Caracas, Venezuela, 24-26

Michigan, United States of America, 29

Chicago, United States of America, 30-31

- United Nations General Assembly
- VII Conference of Ministers of Defense of the Americas
- Talk at Merrill Lynch financial management company
- Invitation from St. Edward's University – Lecture series on the roles of regional organizations in the United Nations
- Official preelectoral mission
- Invitation from the University of Michigan – talk on "The Real Challenges of Latin America"
- Invitation to the sixth annual Augustin S. Hart, Jr. lecture on Latin American affairs" --Chicago Council on Global Affairs

November

Montevideo, Uruguay, 3-5

Santiago, Chile, 6-9

- XVI Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government
- Inauguration of the First Ibero-American Meeting of Attorney General's Offices and Policies – An Alliance in the Service of Justice: Shared Challenges"

San Salvador, El Salvador, 13

- Meeting of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM)

Guatemala City, Guatemala, 14-15

- XII International Anti-Corruption Conference of Transparency International

Madrid, Spain, 27-30

- Interview with Mr. José Antonio Alonso, Minister of Defense of Spain
- Donors' Meeting (Haiti)

December

Mexico City, Mexico, 1-3

- Induction into office of the President of Mexico

Miami, Florida, United States of America, 4
Sao Paulo, Brazil, 8

- 30th Miami Conference on the Caribbean Basin
- XXII Regular Assembly Meeting of the Latin American Parliament

Cochabamba, Bolivia, 9

- II Summit of the South American Community of Nations

Activities of the Assistant Secretary General away from headquarters

March

Bridgetown, Barbados, 2

- Official visit

Isla Margarita, Venezuela, 15

- First Meeting of National Authorities on Trafficking in Persons

Brasilia, Brazil, 19-22

- Working Group to Prepare the Draft American Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- Seventh Meeting of Negotiations in the Quest for Points of Consensus

New York, United States of America, 27

- Meeting of the United Nations Security Council regarding the situation in Haiti

April

Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, Suriname, Guyana, 6-11

- Official visit

June

Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 1-6

- OAS General Assembly

Saint Kitts and Nevis, 20-22

- Visit to Saint Kitts and Nevis. Conference. 25th Anniversary of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)

Beijing, Shanghai, and Chongqing, China, 25

- Mission to China

July

Saint Kitts and Nevis, Suriname, 2

- Meeting of CARICOM, Saint Kitts and Nevis
- Visit to Suriname

Port-au-Prince, Haiti, 12-13

- Haitian Diaspora Reconnection Forum

Port-au-Prince, Haiti, 25

- Donors' Meeting (Haiti)

August

Georgetown, Guyana, 2-8

- Electoral Observation Mission in Guyana

September

Belmopan, Belize, 19-22

- Commemoration of the 25th anniversary of independence

Port-au-Prince, Haiti, 25-26

- Visit to Haiti

October

Nassau, Bahamas, 3-5

- Sixth Caribbean Agriculture Week, IICA.

New York, United States of America 5-7

Meeting in New York with Angela Kaine

Panama City, Panama, 18-23

- Preparations for the OAS General Assembly and referendum

Paramaribo, Suriname, 24-30

- Official visit

Antigua and Barbuda, 30

- Official visit and commemoration of 25th anniversary of independence

November

Kingston, Jamaica, 7-8

- World Congress of Consuls – Sustainable Development through Trade

New York, United States of America, 10

- Minority Rights Group International, Seminar on “Minority Rights and Conflict Prevention”

Montreal, Canada, 13-15

- Third Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Culture

Ottawa, Canada, 15-18

- Official visit

Port-au-Prince, Haiti and Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 19-21

- Visit by the Working Group on Haiti and visit to Santo Domingo

Paramaribo, Suriname, 24-29

- Commemoration of the independence of Suriname
- Inauguration of the trade reference center
- Inauguration of seminar on Youth and Democracy

La Paz and Santa Cruz, Bolivia, November 27 – December 1

- Official visit and meeting of CICAD.

December

Miami, Florida, United States of America, 5-7

- Caribbean-Central American Action (CCAA) - 30th Miami Conference on the Caribbean Basin. Conference on marketing and tourism strategies

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Inter-American Councils, Committees, and Commissions

INTER-AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT (CIDI)

Chair of the Eleventh Regular Meeting: Ambassador Gordon V. Shirley (Jamaica)
Vice Chair of the Eleventh Regular Meeting: Margarita Riva-Geoghegan (United States)

PERMANENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT (CEPCIDI)

Chair: Ambassador Ellsworth I.A. John (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines)
Vice Chair: Carmen Luisa Velásquez de Visbal (Venezuela)

INTER-AMERICAN JURIDICAL COMMITTEE

Jean-Paul Hubert – Chair (Canada)
Jaime Aparicio Otero – Vice Chair (Bolivia)
Mauricio Herdocia Sacasa – Nicaragua
Eduardo Vío Grossi – Chile
Galo Leoro Franco – Ecuador
Antonio Fidel Pérez – United States
Ana Elizabeth Villalta Vizcarra – El Salvador
Freddy Castillo Castellanos* – Venezuela
Hyacinth Evadne Lindsay – Jamaica
Jorge Palacios Treviño – Mexico
Ricardo Antonio Silva Seitenfus – Brazil

INTER-AMERICAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

President: Sergio García Ramírez (Mexico)
Vice President: Alirio Abreu Burelli (Venezuela)
Oliver Jackman (Barbados)
Antônio Augusto Cançado Trindade (Brazil)
Cecilia Medina Quiroga (Chile)
Manuel E. Ventura Robles (Costa Rica)
Diego García-Sayán (Peru)

INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Evelio Fernández Arévalos (Paraguay)
Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro (Brazil)
Florentín Meléndez (El Salvador)
Clare Kamau Roberts (Antigua and Barbuda)
Freddy Gutiérrez Trejo (Venezuela)
Paolo G. Carozza (United States)
Víctor E. Abramovich (Argentina)

ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL

President: Albert Matthew (Dominica)
Vice President: Alma Montenegro de Fletcher (Panama)
Lionel Alain Dupuis (Canada)
André Surena (United States)
Héctor Enrique Arce Zaconeta (Bolivia)
Agustín Gordillo (Argentina)

INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN

President: the Honorable Jacqui Quinn Leandro – Antigua and Barbuda
Vice President: Marta Lucia Vazquez Zawadzky, Colombia

Nilcea Freire, Brazil
Maria Gabriela Núñez Pérez, Guatemala
Marie Laurence Jocelyn Lassegue, Haiti
Virginia Borra Toleda, Peru
Carmen Berramendi, Uruguay

INTER-AMERICAN TELECOMMUNICATION COMMISSION

Chair of COM/CITEL: Pedro Pablo Quirós Cortés (Costa Rica)
Alternate Chair of COM/CITEL: Claudio Bermúdez Aquart (Costa Rica)
Vice Chair of COM/CITEL: Carlos A. Merchán Escalante (Mexico)
Chair of PCC.I: Carlos Lisandro Salas (Argentina)
Alternate Chair of PCC.I: Sergio Scarabino (Argentina)
Chair of PCC.II: Jesse Chacon (Venezuela)
Alternate Chair of PCC.II: Mikhail Marsiglia (Venezuela)

INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE CONTROL COMMISSION

Chair: Ambassador Mauricio Dorfler Ocampo (Bolivia)
Vice Chair: General Paulo Roberto Yog de Miranda Uchôa (Brazil)

Appendix B: Conferences and Meetings of the Organization of American States

(March 1, 2006, to December 30, 2006)

March 1-3	Washington, D.C.	IV Meeting of the Group of Government Experts on Crime (CICAD)
March 14-17	Isla Margarita, Venezuela	Fighting the Crime of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women, Adolescents, and Children
March 15	Washington, D.C.	Thirty-second special session of the General Assembly (OCM)
March 16-22	Mexico City, Mexico	IV World Water Forum (OSDE)
March 17-26	Washington, D.C.	Meeting of the Group of Experts of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) – (CICAD)
March 20-31	Washington, D.C.	LXVIII Regular Session of the Inter-American Juridical Committee (DASJ)
March 21-25	Brasilia, Brazil	Working Group to Prepare the Proposed American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (VII Meeting of Negotiations in the Quest for Points of Consensus)
March 22-24	Washington, D.C.	Meeting of the Review Subgroups of the Committee of Experts on the Follow-Up Mechanism for the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (MESICIC)
March 22-24	Bogotá, Colombia	VI Regular Session of the Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism (CICTE)
March 27 – April 1	Washington, D.C.	IX Meeting of Experts of the Follow-Up Mechanism for the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (MESICIC)
March 28	Washington, D.C.	Special Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Culture (CIC)
March 30	Washington, D.C.	Regular Meeting of the Management Board of the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD)
April 3-7	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	Meeting of the Group of Experts on Maritime Drug Trafficking (CICAD)
April 4-7	Panama City, Panama	Ministerial Conference on International Cooperation against Terrorism and Transnational Organized Crime (CICTE)
April 5-6	Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago	Meeting of the Working Group of Experts on Mutual Legal Assistance on Criminal Matters (DILA)

April 6	Washington, D.C.	VII Regular Meeting of the Consultative Committee of the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (CIFTA)
April 17	Washington, D.C.	XLIV Meeting of the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG)
April 18-19	Kingston, Jamaica	Workshop on Natural Disaster Management, related to the First Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High Level Authorities on Sustainable Development (DSD)
April 24-26	Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic	VI Meeting of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA VI)
April 24-26	Buenos Aires, Argentina	Seminar on Early Indicators of Terrorist Activity (CICTE)
April 24-28	Miami, Florida	Workshop on Security and Cyber-Crime (CICTE)
April 25-27	Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic	Seminar on the Participation of Women in the Ports Sector (SCIP)
April 27 – May 16	Washington, D.C.	XXXIX Regular Session of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD)
May 2-3	Washington, D.C.	Special Session of the Committee on Inter-American Summits Management and Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities (CISC)
May 8-12	Cartagena de Indias, Colombia	Seminar on Terrorism and Human Rights for Prosecutors (CICTE)
May 15-16	Washington, D.C.	Third Regular Session of the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM)
May 15	Washington, D.C.	XII Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI)
May 17-19	Puerto Bahía de Algeciras, Spain	First Special Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Ports (SCIP)
May 19-27	Washington, D.C.	Meeting of the Group of Experts to Control Money Laundering (CICAD)
May 23-26	Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic	VIII Meeting of Permanent Consultative Committee I: Public Telecommunications Services (CITEL)
June 4-6	Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic	Thirty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly (OCM)
June 5	Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic	XLV Meeting of the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG)
June 12-16	Washington, D.C.	Meeting of the Inter-American Biodiversity Network Project (DSD)

June 12-16	Guatemala	Seminar on Port Security and the Private Sector, with emphasis on the Colombian experience, for officials and representatives of the private sector in Central America. Organized with NAS Colombia (CICAD)
June 19-23	Montevideo, Uruguay	CICAD/BASC Regional Seminar on Port Security (CICAD)
June 20-23	Lima, Peru.	VII Meeting of Permanent Consultative Committee II: Radiocommunications and Broadcasting (CITEL)
June 26-27 (tentative)	Geneva, Switzerland	International Meeting of the Ottawa Treaty States Parties (OHMA)
June 26-28	Washington, D.C.	CICAD Working Group on the Evaluation of Drug Abuse Prevention Projects (CICAD)
June 26-30	Guayaquil, Ecuador	VIII Meeting of the Executive Board of the Inter-American Committee on Ports (SCIP)
June 27	Washington, D.C.	Planning Meeting of the Authorities of the Inter-American Committee on Culture (DECCT)
June 28-30	Washington, D.C.	Project Formulation Workshop (DPCE)
July 10-12	San José, Costa Rica.	XI Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL)
July 10-12	San José, Costa Rica.	XI Meeting of the Conference Preparatory Working Group (CITEL)
July 11-12	Montego Bay, Jamaica	Training Workshop for Caribbean National Coordinating Entities (NCEs) on the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) – (CICAD)
July 17-19	San Salvador, El Salvador	Training Workshop for Central American National Coordinating Entities (NCEs) on the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) – (CICAD)
July 24-25	Washington, D.C.	Meeting of the MESECVI Committee of Experts (CIM)
July 24-28	Buenos Aires, Argentina	ERCAIAD Course on Chemical Controls (CICAD)
July 26-28	Guatemala City, Guatemala	II Regional Maritime Ports Congress (CIP)
July 26-28	Washington, D.C.	Project Formulation Workshop (DPCE)
July 27-28	Bogotá, Colombia	Training Workshop for South American National Coordinating Entities (NCEs) on the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) – (CICAD)
August 2-4	Washington, D.C.	LIV Regular Session of the Administrative Tribunal (TRIBAD)
August 7-11	Nicaragua	Seminar on Container Inspections for Officials (CICAD)
August 14	To be decided	IV International Institute on Nursing Leadership and the

		Drugs Phenomenon in Latin America (CICAD)
August 16	Washington, D.C.	Planning Meeting of CIC Authorities (DECCT)
August 17-18	Washington, D.C.	Preparatory Meeting of the CIC for the Third Ministerial Culture Meeting (DECCT)
August 21-23	Buenos Aires, Argentina	Meeting of the Group of Experts on Chemicals (CICAD)
August 23-25	Buenos Aires, Argentina	Meeting of the Group of Experts on Pharmaceuticals (CICAD)
September 12	Washington, D.C.	XLVI Meeting of the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG) – (DCA)
September 12-15	Buenos Aires, Argentina	IX Meeting of Permanent Consultative Committee I: Public Telecommunications Services (CITEL)
September 17-22	Antigua, Guatemala	Second Training Course on Gender, Conflict, and Peacemaking (CIM)
September 17 – October 13	Santander, Spain	Ibero-American Course on Port Operations, Technology, and Environmental Protection (CIP)
September 18-22	Geneva, Switzerland	VII Meeting of the Ottawa Treaty States Parties (OHMA)
September 19	Washington, D.C.	Workshop on Gender Mainstreaming (DPD)
September 22	Washington, D.C.	Preparatory Meeting for the Second Meeting of the Conference of States Parties of MESICIC
October 1-28	Madrid, Spain	XI Ibero-American Course on Ports Management at Puertos del Estado (CIP)
October 9-13	Cartagena de Indias, Colombia	Meeting of Ibero-American Observatories (CICAD)
October 11-12	Washington, D.C.	II Meeting of CIFTA-CICAD Group of Experts (DSP)
October 16	Washington, D.C.	Preparatory Meeting for the Second Meeting of the Conference of States Parties of MESICIC (DAJI)
October 16-27	Washington, D.C.	126th Regular Session of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR)
October 17-20	San Salvador, El Salvador	VIII Meeting of Permanent Consultative Committee II: Radiocommunications and Broadcasting (CITEL)
October 20-23	Washington, D.C.	Working Group of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM)
October 23-24	Puerto La Cruz, Venezuela	I Special Meeting of the Executive Board of the Inter-American Committee on Ports (CIP)
October 23-27	Santiago, Chile	ERCAIAD Specialized Course on Operational Intelligence (CICAD)
October 26-27	Washington, D.C.	Third Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on

		Education (CIE) – (DECCT)
October 25-27	Puerto La Cruz, Venezuela	Second Hemispheric Conference on Port Security (CIP)
October 27	Washington, D.C.	First Preparatory Meeting for the VII Regular Session of the Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism (CICTE)
November 5-24	Antalya, Turkey	XII Meeting of the Conference Preparatory Working Group (GTPC) – (CITEL)
November 7-8	Montevideo, Uruguay	LXXXI Meeting of the Directing Council of the Inter-American Children’s Institute (IIN)
November 7-13	Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic	XI Congress on Maritime Transport, Security, Ports, and Arbitration, Ibero-American Maritime Law Institute (CIP)
November 9	Washington, D.C.	Consultation with the private sector in the Preparatory Process for the First Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High Level Authorities on Sustainable Development (SEDI)
November 10	Washington, D.C.	Preparatory Meeting for the First Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High Level Authorities on Sustainable Development within the Framework of CIDI (DSD)
November 13-15	Montreal, Quebec, Canada	III Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities within the framework of CIDI – (DECCT)
November 13-15	San Salvador, El Salvador	XXXIII Assembly of Delegates of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM)
November 16	Washington, D.C.	Indigenous Governance and Preservation of Tropical Rain Forests (SEDI/DSD)
November 20	Washington, D.C.	Preparatory Meeting for the First Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High Level Authorities on Sustainable Development within the framework of CIDI (DSD)
November 20-21	Washington, D.C.	II Meeting of the Conference of States Parties of MESICIC (DILA)
November 21	Washington, D.C.	Regular Meeting of the Management Board of the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (SEDI)
November 29	Washington, D.C.	II Forum on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures (SCP)
November 29 –	Washington, D.C.	XL Regular Session of the Inter-American Drug Abuse

December 1		Control Commission (CICAD)
November 29 – December 2	Washington, D.C.	XXV Model OAS General Assembly for Universities (MOAS)
December 4-5	Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia	First Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High Level Authorities on Sustainable Development within the framework of CIDI (DSD)
December 4-8	Washington, D.C.	Caucus of the Indigenous Peoples of the Americas (SCP)
December 4-8	Washington, D.C.	Working Group to Prepare the Proposed American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (VIII Meeting of Negotiations in the Quest for Points of Consensus) – (SCP)
December 5-8	San José, Costa Rica	XVIII Meeting of the Permanent Executive Committee of COM/CITEL (CITEL)
December 6-8	Washington, D.C.	Meeting of the Review Subgroups of the Committee of Experts on the Follow-Up Mechanism for the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (MESICIC) – (DAJI)
December 11	Washington, D.C.	Combating the Proliferation of Nuclear, Chemical, and Biological Weapons, their Delivery Systems and Related Materials (SCP)
December 11-16	Washington, D.C.	X Meeting of Experts of the Mechanism for Follow-up on Implementation of the Inter-American Convention Against Corruption (MESICIC) – (DAJI)
December 15	Washington, D.C.	Second Preparatory Meeting for the VII Regular Session of the Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism (CICTE)

Appendix C: Inter-American Treaties and Conventions

On December 21, 2006, Ecuador deposited its instrument of ratification of the Inter-American Convention on the Serving of Criminal Sentences Abroad.

On December 14, 2006, Brazil deposited its instrument of ratification of the Inter-American Convention on Transparency in Conventional Weapons Acquisitions.

On December 14, 2006, Bolivia deposited its instrument of accession to the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters.

On December 12, 2006, Argentina signed the Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights to abolish the death penalty.

On December 12, 2006, Argentina deposited its instrument of accession to the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters.

On November 21, 2006, Bolivia deposited its instrument of ratification of the Inter-American Convention to Prevent and Punish Torture.

On November 21, 2006, Paraguay deposited its instrument of accession to the Inter-American Convention on an International Amateur Radio Permit.

On November 21, 2006, Paraguay deposited its instrument of ratification of the Convention on the Protection of the Archeological, Historical, and Artistic Heritage of the American Nations (Convention of San Salvador).

On November 21, 2006, Panama signed subject to ratification the Protocol of Amendment to the Inter-American Convention on an International Amateur Radio Permit.

On November 10, 2006, Honduras deposited its instrument of accession to the Optional Protocol related to the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters.

On November 10, 2006, Honduras deposited its instrument of accession to the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters.

On October 5, 2006, Bolivia deposited its instrument of ratification of the Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the Area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Protocol of San Salvador).

On September 28, 2006, Venezuela deposited its instrument of ratification of the Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities.

On September 26, 2006, Bolivia deposited its instrument of ratification of the Inter-American Convention on Letters Rogatory.

On September 15, 2006, Costa Rica deposited its instrument of ratification of the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism, with interpretative declarations.

On September 7, 2006, Mexico informed the change of address of the central authority previously appointed in accordance with Article 3 of the Inter-American Convention for Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters.

On August 10, 2006, the Dominican Republic deposited its instrument of ratification of the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism.

On July 27, 2006, Ecuador deposited its instrument of ratification of the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism.

On July 27, 2006, Ecuador deposited its instrument of ratification of the Inter-American Convention on the Forced Disappearance of Persons.

On June 21, 2006, Costa Rica appointed the *Procuraduría de la Ética Pública* as the central authority provided for in Article XVIII of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption for the purposes of international assistance and cooperation under the treaty.

On June 8, 2006, Ecuador deposited its instrument of ratification of the Convention to Prevent and Punish the Acts of Terrorism Taking the Form of Crimes Against Persons and Related Extortion that are of International Significance.

On May 26, 2006, Grenada deposited its instrument of ratification of the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism.

On March 1, 2006, Guatemala deposited its instrument of ratification of the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism, with a declaration.

On March 1, 2006, Guatemala appointed the *Corte Suprema de Justicia de la República* de Guatemala as the central authority to perform the actions and duties arising out of the Inter-American Convention on Serving Criminal Sentences Abroad.

On March 1, 2006, Guatemala deposited its instrument of ratification of the Inter-American Convention on Serving Criminal Sentences Abroad, with declarations.

On April 21, 2006, Brazil designated the *Ministério da Justiça do Brasil* as the central authority for the purposes of assistance and international cooperation pursuant to Article XVIII of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption.

On February 28, 2006, Guyana signed the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters.

On February 27, 2006, Peru notified the OAS General Secretariat of the withdrawal of its reservations made to Articles V, XXXIII, XXXIV, XXXV, and XLV of the American Treaty on Pacific Settlement (Pact of Bogotá).

On February 6, 2006, Nicaragua delivered a note to the General Secretariat recognizing the competence of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to receive and examine communications in which a State Party alleges that another State Party has committed a violation of a human right set forth in the Convention.

On January 30, 2006, Chile deposited its instrument of ratification of the Inter-American Convention on Transparency in Conventional Weapons Acquisitions.

Appendix D: Human Resources

The following tables contain data on the staff of the General Secretariat from January 1 to December 31, 2006. Personnel are classified by type of appointment and the fund that finances their posts; their category and nationality; years of service; the grade of their posts; their sex; their duty station; and by whether they are Career Service or not.

TABLE 1

**BREAKDOWN OF STAFF BY TYPE OF APPOINTMENT AND FUND,
JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 2006
(Includes all sources of financing)**

	Career Service	Continuing Contract	Long Term	Short Term	Other Types of Appointments	Total
Regular Fund ^{a/}	139 ^{a/}	40 ^{b/}	213 ^{c/}	117	0	509
Other	3	1	47	68	43	162
TOTAL	142	41	260	185	43*	671

a/ Includes 3 persons in positions of trust who are Career Service.

b/ Includes 1 person in a position of trust.

c/ Includes persons in positions of trust.

** Includes associate personnel, temporary support personnel, local professionals, and special observers.*

TABLE 2

**CHANGE IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF STAFF, BY FUND,
FROM DECEMBER 31, 2005, TO DECEMBER 31, 2006
(Includes all sources of financing)**

	December 2005	December 2006	Change	
			Number	%
Regular Fund	482	509	27	5.6
Other	123	162	39	24.1
TOTAL	605	671*	66	10.9

** Includes associate personnel, temporary support personnel, local professionals, and special observers.*

TABLE 3
CHANGE IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF STAFF, BY TYPE OF APPOINTMENT,
FROM DECEMBER 31, 2005, TO DECEMBER 31, 2006
(Includes all sources of financing)

Type of Appointments	December 2005	December 2006	Change	
			Number	%
Career Service	169	139	30	- 17.6
Career Service in positions of trust	5	3	- 2	- 40.0
Continuing Contract	44	41	- 3	- 6.8
Trust personnel not members of the Career Service	43	55	12	27.9
Long Term	220	205	- 15	- 6.8
Short Term	111	185	74	66.7
Other Types of Appointments*	13	43	30	230.8
TOTAL	605	671	66	10.9

**Includes associate personnel, temporary support personnel, local professionals, and local observers.*

TABLE 4
DISTRIBUTION OF STAFF BY CATEGORY AND NATIONALITY
(Includes all sources of financing)

Countries	December 31, 2005			December 31, 2006		
	Professionals	General Services	Total	Professionals	General Services	Total
Antigua and Barbuda	1	2	3	2	2	4
Argentina	29	5	34	37	9	46
Bahamas	–	1	1	–	2	2
Barbados	5	3	8	4	3	7
Belize	1	1	2	–	1	1
Bolivia	8	10	18	14	10	24
Brazil	15	6	21	15	6	21
Canada	16	–	16	17	–	17
Chile	21	11	32	23	12	35
Colombia	33	20	53	38	18	56
Costa Rica	5	3	8	3	4	7
Cuba	–	–	–	–	–	–
Dominica	1	3	4	1	2	3
Ecuador	4	11	15	8	11	19
El Salvador	3	15	18	4	14	18
United States	92	43	135	94	49	143
Grenada	3	2	5	3	2	5
Guatemala	5	10	15	8	9	17
Guyana	1	1	2	2	1	3
Haiti	2	3	5	3	3	6
Honduras	2	1	3	2	2	4
Jamaica	4	3	7	4	3	7
Mexico	13	3	16	16	5	21
Nicaragua	2	7	9	5	7	12
Panama	6	2	8	6	1	7
Paraguay	5	1	6	6	1	7
Peru	22	27	49	28	28	56
Dominican Republic	2	5	7	3	5	8
St. Kitts and Nevis	3	2	5	3	2	5
Saint Lucia	2	2	4	3	2	5
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	3	3	6	4	3	7
Suriname	4	2	6	4	2	6
Trinidad and Tobago	11	4	15	12	5	17
Uruguay	23	10	33	22	11	33
Venezuela	21	10	31	24	8	32
Non-member countries of the OAS	3	–	3	10	–	10
TOTAL	373	232	605	428	373	671*

* Includes associate personnel, support personnel, local professionals, and special observers.

TABLE 5

**DISTRIBUTION OF THE STAFF OF THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT,
JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 2006
BY YEARS OF SERVICE
(Includes all sources of financing)**

Years of Service	Members of the Career Service	Non-members of the Career Service	Total Staff	Percentage Career Service Personnel
Less than 3	0	228	228	0
3 but less than 5	0	61	61	0
5 but less than 10	0	133	133	0
10 but less than 15	3	89	92	3
15 but less than 25	68	18	86	79
25 or more	71	–	71	100
TOTAL	142	529	671*	21

** Includes associate personnel and support personnel, local professionals, and special observers.*

TABLE 6

**DISTRIBUTION OF THE STAFF OF THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT,
JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 2006
BY NATIONALITY
(Career Service vs. Non-Career Service) (Includes all sources of financing)**

Country	Members of the Career Service	Non- members of the Career Service	Total Staff	Percentage who are Career Service
Antigua and Barbuda	0	4	4	0
Argentina	6	40	46	13
Bahamas	0	2	2	0
Barbados	2	5	7	29
Belize	0	1	1	0
Bolivia	8	16	24	33
Brazil	5	16	21	24
Canada	0	17	17	0
Chile	5	30	35	14
Colombia	6	50	56	11
Costa Rica	1	6	7	14
Dominica	0	3	3	0
Ecuador	8	11	19	42
El Salvador	7	11	18	39
United States	38	105	143	27
Grenada	0	5	5	0
Guatemala	6	11	17	35
Guyana	0	3	3	0
Haiti	1	5	6	17
Honduras	1	3	4	25
Jamaica	3	4	7	43
Mexico	5	16	21	23
Nicaragua	3	9	12	25
Panama	3	4	7	43
Paraguay	1	6	7	14
Peru	14	42	56	25
Dominican Republic	2	6	8	25
St. Kitts and Nevis	1	4	5	20
Saint Lucia	1	4	5	20
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	1	6	7	14
Suriname	1	5	6	17
Trinidad and Tobago	1	16	17	6
Uruguay	11	22	33	33
Venezuela	1	31	32	3
Non-member countries of the OAS	0	10	10	0
TOTAL	142	529	671*	21

* Includes associate personnel, support personnel, local professionals, and special observers.

TABLE 7
DISTRIBUTION OF THE STAFF OF THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT,
JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 2006
BY GRADE
(Includes all sources of financing)

Staff member's grade	Members of the Career Service	Non-members of the Career Service	Total Staff	Percentage who are Career Service
Unclassified posts*	0	2	2	0
D-1	0	14	14	0
P-5	25	57	82	30
P-4	15	62	77	19
P-3	15	74	89	17
P-2	16	78	94	17
P-1	2	58	60	3
G-7	2	5	7	29
G-6	32	50	82	39
G-5	19	52	71	27
G-4	7	36	43	16
G-3	8	24	32	25
G-2	1	3	4	25
G-1	0	2	2	0
<i>Other posts**</i>	0	12	12	0
TOTAL	142	529	671	21

* *Secretary General and Assistant Secretary General.*

** *Associate personnel, support personnel, local professionals, and special observers.*

TABLE 8

**DISTRIBUTION OF THE STAFF OF THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT,
JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 2006
(MEN–WOMEN)
(Includes all sources of financing)**

Sex	Members of the Career Service	Non-members of the Career Service	Total Staff	Percentage who are Career Service
Women	79	282	361	22
Men	63	247	310	20
TOTAL	142	529	671*	21

* Includes associate personnel, support personnel, local professionals, and special observers.

TABLE 9

**COMPOSITION OF THE STAFF OF THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT,
JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 2006
BY DUTY STATION
(Includes all sources of financing)**

Duty Station	Members of the Career Service	Non-members of the Career Service	Total Staff	Percentage Members of the Career Service
Headquarters	120	421	541	22
Away from headquarters	22	108	130	17
Total	142	529	671*	21

* Includes associate personnel, support personnel, local professionals, and special observers.

TABLE 10

DISTRIBUTION OF STAFF BY CATEGORY AND NATIONALITY
(Includes all sources of financing)

Country	December 2005			December 2006		
	Career Service	Non-Career Service	Total	Career Service	Non-Career Service	Total
Antigua and Barbuda	0	3	3	0	4	4
Argentina	10	24	34	6	40	46
Bahamas	0	1	1	0	2	2
Barbados	2	6	8	2	5	7
Belize	0	2	2	0	1	1
Bolivia	9	9	18	8	16	24
Brazil	6	15	21	5	16	21
Canada	0	16	16	0	17	17
Chile	7	25	32	5	30	35
Colombia	10	43	53	6	50	56
Costa Rica	2	6	8	1	6	7
Dominica	0	4	4	0	3	3
Ecuador	9	6	15	8	11	19
El Salvador	8	10	18	7	11	18
United States	39	97	136	38	105	143
Grenada	0	5	5	0	5	5
Guatemala	7	8	15	6	11	17
Guyana	0	2	2	0	3	3
Haiti	1	4	5	1	5	6
Honduras	1	2	3	1	3	4
Jamaica	3	4	7	3	4	7
Mexico	5	11	16	5	16	21
Nicaragua	4	5	9	3	9	12
Panama	3	6	9	3	4	7
Paraguay	1	5	6	1	6	7
Peru	15	34	49	14	42	56
Dominican Republic	3	4	7	2	6	8
St. Kitts and Nevis	1	4	5	1	4	5
Saint Lucia	1	3	4	1	4	5
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	1	5	6	1	6	7
Suriname	1	5	6	1	5	6
Trinidad and Tobago	1	14	15	1	16	17
Uruguay	16	17	33	11	22	33
Venezuela	3	28	31	1	31	32
Non-member countries of the OAS	0	3	3	0	10	10
TOTAL	165	440	605*	142	529	671*

Category	December 2004	December 2005	Change	
			Absolute	%
Professionals	373	428	55	15
General Services	232	243	11	5
TOTAL	605	671*	66	11

* Includes associate personnel and support personnel, local professionals, and special observers.

Appendix E: Financial Situation of the OAS

TABLE 1
COMBINED STATEMENTS OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES, AND BALANCES
 As of December 31, 2006 (in thousands)

	Regular Fund	FEMCIDI	Specific Funds	Service Fund	Combined 2006	Combined 2005
Assets						
Cash and deposits with the OAS Treasury Fund	US\$ 16,706	US\$ 11,328	US\$ 80,275	US\$ 11,580	US\$ 119,889	US\$ 104,249
Current value of annual payments	6,893	–	–	–	6,893	7,201
Advance payments to employees and accounts receivable	468	28	268	17	781	4,970
Equity in fixed assets fund	57,816	–	–	12	57,828	59,282
Total Assets	US\$ 81,883	US\$ 11,356	US\$ 80,543	US\$ 11,609	US\$ 185,391	US\$ 175,702
Liabilities and balances						
Obligations outstanding	US\$ 1,792	US\$ 17	US\$ 11,199	US\$ 4,189	US\$ 17,197	US\$ 19,385
Quotas/pledges collected in advance	–	246	–	–	246	120
Appropriations to charge in future years	6,893	–	–	–	6,893	7,201
Accounts payable and other liabilities	1,566	78	3,906	1,217	6,768	8,992
Refunds of taxes payable in future years	–	–	–	2,810	2,810	–
Mortgage	23,890	–	–	–	23,890	24,235
Total Liabilities	34,141	341	15,105	8,216	57,803	59,933
Fund Balances						
Set aside for fellowships	3,000	–	–	–	3,000	1,552
Reserve subfund	10,816	236	–	–	11,052	8,646
Fund balance	–	–	65,438	3,300	68,738	51,653
Tax reimbursement fund	–	–	–	–	–	(4,353)
Non-appropriated operations fund	–	10,779	–	93	10,872	23,236
Total Fund Balances	13,816	11,015	65,438	3,393	93,662	80,734
Equity in fixed assets	33,926	–	–	–	33,926	35,035
Total liabilities and fund balances	US\$ 81,883	US\$ 11,356	US\$ 80,543	US\$ 11,609	US\$ 185,391	US\$ 175,702

TABLE 2
COMBINED STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN BALANCE OF FUNDS
For the year ending December 31, 2006 (in thousands)

	Regular Fund	FEMCIDI	Specific Funds	Service Funds	Combined 2006	Combined 2005
Increases						
Collection quotas/pledges	US\$79,855	US\$ 1,121	US\$ –	US\$ –	US\$ 80,976	US\$ 77,548
Less: credits for prompt payment	(226)	–	–	–	(226)	(309)
Contributions	–	–	65,246	1,750	66,468 ^(d)	65,770
Contributions for tax refunds	–	–	–	11,295	11,295	9,205
Transfers	–	5,007	–	5,917	741 ^(d)	1,322
Interest	522	337	1,450	1,428	3,737	3,447
Contributions for administrative and technical support	214	–	–	–	– ^(d)	–
Administrative support, specific funds	700	–	–	–	– ^(d)	–
Leases	500	–	–	–	500	500
Subscriptions, <i>Américas</i> magazine	279	–	–	–	279	300
Other income and refunds	2,131	226	604	3,696	6,657	9,380
Total Increases	US\$83,975	US\$ 6,691	US\$ 67,300	US\$ 24,086	US\$ 170,427	US\$167,163
Decreases						
Expenses and obligations	US\$78,417	US\$ 3,415	US\$ 57,727	US\$ 12,611	US\$146,349 ^(d)	US\$ 162,134
Expenses and obligations, tax refunds	–	–	–	6,960	6,960	7,265
Transfers and refunds to donors	1,494	446	8,047	59	4,242 ^(d)	5,207
Additional appropriation	59	–	–	–	59	1,692
<i>Américas</i> magazine	349	–	–	–	349	332
Administrative and technical support for GS/OAS	–	248	–	–	248	1,206
Total Decreases	US\$80,319^(a)	US\$ 4,109	US\$ 65,774	US\$19,630	US\$158,207	US\$ 177,836
Net increase (decrease) during the year	3,656	2,582	1,526	4,456	12,220	(10,673)
Fund balance at start of year	10,160	8,433 ^(b)	63,912	(1,063) ^(c)	81,442	91,407
Fund balance at end of year	US\$ 13,816	US\$11,015	US\$ 65,438	US\$ 3,393	US\$ 93,662	US\$ 80,734

(a) See breakdown by chapters in Table III

(b) Balance reflects modified 2005 statements (previous balance was US\$7,756)

(c) Balance reflects modified 2005 statements (previous balance was US\$118)

(d) Combined total excludes internal transactions between funds

TABLE 3
BREAKDOWN OF REGULAR FUND SPENDING AND OBLIGATIONS BY CHAPTER
For the year ending December 31, 2006
(in thousands)

	2006	2005
Secretary General	7,521	6,441
Assistant Secretary General	18,664	19,315
Autonomous and/or Decentralized Organs	13,042	15,124
Department of International Legal Affairs	2,124	2,306
Secretariat for Multidimensional Security	2,536	2,225
Secretariat for Political Affairs	3,691	2,719
Executive Secretariat for Integral Development	7,543	9,284
Secretariat for Administration and Finance	10,237	11,485
Basic infrastructure and common costs	13,467	8,297
Special activities (fellowships)	1,494	–
	80,319	77,196

Appendix F: Selection of Scholarship Recipients

Table 1. Professional Development Scholarships Awarded in 2006

Country	Program with Observer Countries		Program with Member States		Financing from other areas of the GS/OAS		Total No. of Scholarships
	On-campus	E-scholarships	On-campus	E-scholarships	On-campus	E-scholarships	
Antigua and Barbuda	1	–	1	–	1	1	4
Argentina	5	–	3	–	3	8	19
Bahamas	2	–	1	–	–	–	3
Barbados	1	–	1	–	2	3	7
Belize	2	–	–	–	2	–	4
Bolivia	7	4	2	–	2	5	20
Brazil	–	1	1	–	2	–	4
Canada	–	–	–	–	2	–	2
Chile	5	4	3	–	2	2	16
Colombia	7	7	4	–	2	5	25
Costa Rica	7	1	1	–	3	5	17
Dominica	2	–	1	–	–	–	3
Ecuador	9	6	5	–	1	6	27
El Salvador	7	9	3	–	3	4	26
United States	3	–	1	–	–	–	4
Grenada	3	–	1	–	1	–	5
Guatemala	5	7	1	–	1	3	17
Guyana	1	–	–	–	1	1	3
Haiti	2	4	3	–	1	1	11
Honduras	14	8	5	–	5	8	40
Jamaica	4	–	1	–	4	1	10
Mexico	5	–	4	–	3	3	15
Nicaragua	5	8	4	–	4	14	35
Panama	5	5	6	–	–	6	22
Paraguay	4	7	4	–	4	10	29
Peru	6	7	5	–	1	8	27
Dominican Republic	2	–	4	–	–	10	16
St. Kitts and Nevis	1	–	–	–	1	–	2
St. Lucia	1	–	1	–	1	1	4
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	1	–	1	–	1	1	4
Suriname	–	–	1	–	1	1	3
Trinidad and Tobago	1	–	–	–	–	–	1
Uruguay	8	5	2	–	2	3	20
Venezuela	3	5	4	–	2	4	18
TOTALS	129	88	74	–	58	114	463

**Table 2. On-line Courses of the Educational Portal of the Americas
Persons Trained in 2006
(From January 1 to December 31, 2006)**

Country	Participants Trained
Antigua and Barbuda	0
Argentina	116
Bahamas	0
Barbados	0
Belize	0
Bolivia	32
Brazil	364
Canada	0
Chile	58
Colombia	74
Costa Rica	105
Cuba (*)	0
Dominica	1
Ecuador	76
El Salvador	21
United States	7
Grenada	0
Guatemala	22
Guyana	0
Haiti	1
Honduras	28
Jamaica	0
Mexico	171
Nicaragua	2
Panama	20
Paraguay	9
Peru	158
Dominican Rep.	300
Saint Lucia	0
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	0
St. Kitts and Nevis	0
Suriname	0
Trinidad and Tobago	0
Uruguay	17
Venezuela	77
Other	3
TOTAL	1,662

**Table 3. Educational Portal of the Americas
Website Statistics (January – December 2006)**

Summary

- 39.5 million hits per year. An average of 3.3 million per month
- 1.9 million visits per year. An average of 158,000 per month
- 12,065 registered users. An average of 1,005 per month

1. Traffic Summary

Month	Hits	Visits	Page Views
January 06	2,680,273	126,913	698,825
February 06	2,551,980	132,595	635,643
March 06	4,141,148	202,104	991,145
April 06	3,784,920	163,897	869,329
May 06	4,446,783	189,133	1,003,072
June 06	3,495,968	169,982	867,871
July 06	3,168,855	150,917	717,022
August 06	3,266,101	133,967	676,581
September 06	2,941,844	142,336	661,028
October 06	2,397,882	156,241	544,216
November 06	4,040,561	176,159	763,188
December 06	2,539,547	149,063	600,950
TOTAL	39,455,862	1,893,307	9,028,870

Source: OAS/OITS Statistics System

2. Registered Users (Average of 1,005 per month)

Month	Registered Users
January 06	1,091
February 06	1,217
March 06	1,654
April 06	981
May 06	1,026
June 06	790
July 06	794
August 06	1,052
September 06	1,125
October 06	1,065
November 06	662
December 06	608
TOTAL	12,065

Source: Educational Portal of the Americas / Statistics System

Appendix G: Cash Contributions Received from Permanent Observers, 2006

COUNTRY	RECIPIENT AREA/PROJECT	CASH	TOTAL
SWEDEN	PA – MAPP Colombia	US\$1,243,556	US\$6,766,383
	PA – Promotion of Democracy, Honduras	US\$767,998	
	PA – Promotion of Democracy, Guatemala	US\$536,317	
	PA – Promotion of Democracy, Guatemala	US\$668,470	
	PA – Promotion of Democracy, Guatemala	US\$394,229	
	PA – Promotion of Democracy, Nicaragua	US\$1,240,189	
	PA – Promotion of Democracy, 2006 EOM, Nicaragua	US\$410,773	
	IACHR – Support for human rights activities related to MAPP	US\$198,483	
	MS – Department for the prevention of threats against public security. Demining programs.	US\$1,306,368	
NORWAY	AP – MAPP Colombia	US\$301,643	US\$1,765,092
	PA – Crisis Prevention and Special Missions	US\$267,320	
	PA – Promotion of Democracy, Guatemala	US\$504,771	
	PA – Promotion of Democracy, 2006 EOM, Nicaragua	US\$30,460	
	PA – Promotion of Democracy, 2006 EOM, Peru	US\$18,602	
	PA – Promotion of Democracy, 2006 Regional EOM, Peru	US\$3,398	
	MS – Department for the prevention of threats against public security. Demining programs.	US\$638,898	
NETHERLANDS	SEDI – Support for the Ministerial Meeting on Sustainable Development	US\$150,511	US\$318,577
	PA – Promotion of Democracy, 2006 EOM, Nicaragua	US\$98,066	
	CIM – Participation and gender equality in Nicaragua	US\$70,000	
EUROPEAN UNION	MS – Department for the prevention of threats against public security. Demining programs.	US\$942,400	US\$1,003,730
	PA – Promotion of democracy, 2006 EOM, Dominican Republic	US\$61,330	
SPAIN	MS – CICAD Decentralization of drugs policies	US\$256,340	US\$7,264,076
	MS – Department for the prevention of threats against public security. Demining programs.	US\$750,220	
	MS – CICTE	US\$89,418	
	PA – MAPP Colombia	US\$2,399,608	
	PA – Promotion of Democracy	US\$361,830	

	PA – 2006 EOM, Venezuela	US\$127,180	
	AP – Identity, registration, and citizen participation	US\$542,700	
	PA – Program for institutional strengthening in electoral matters.	US\$453,960	
	PA – State of democracy in Latin America and proposals for universal democracy	US\$50,000	
	PA – Implementation of a methodological plan for analyzing different political scenarios	US\$294,687	
	IACHR – Strengthening the protection and promotion capabilities of the IACHR	US\$733,900	
	IACHR – Strengthening the IACHR’s jurisdictional action	US\$300,000	
	IACHR – Itinerant court	US\$190,000	
	OSG – OAS Working Group – Promoting participation and human rights for indigenous people	US\$472,956	
	OSG – Consolidation of the exchange network for strengthening access to justice and its effectiveness	US\$100,000	
	Funds pending programming	US\$ 141,277	
UNITED KINGDOM	PA – Crisis Prevention and Special Missions, Belize–Guatemala	US\$137,800	US\$241,900
	PA – Promotion of Democracy, 2006 EOM, Guyana	US\$94,600	
	PA – Promotion of Democracy, 2006 EOM, Saint Lucia	US\$9,500	
ITALY	MS – Demining programs	US\$293,735	US\$432,707
	IACHR – Promotion of human rights in the Andean and Central American regions	US\$86,388	
	SPF – Drafting the American Declaration on the human rights of indigenous peoples	US\$52,584	
THAILAND	AP – MAPP Colombia	US\$10,000	US\$10,000
CHINA	SEDI – Promoting trade and competitiveness	US\$40,000	US\$200,000
	SEDI – Natural disaster reduction	US\$40,000	
	CIM – Training course on gender, conflict, and peace	US\$20,000	
	PA – Panama Canal referendum EOM	US\$20,000	
	MS – Reduction of violence: definition and classification of gangs	US\$30,000	
	DER – II Meeting of Government Spokesmen	US\$50,000	
DENMARK	PA – Promotion of Democracy, 2006 EOM, Nicaragua	US\$50,000	US\$50,000
KOREA	PA – Inter-American Forum of Political Parties	US\$50,000	US\$130,000
	PA – Promotion of Democracy, 2006 Presidential EOM, Peru	US\$11,513	
	PA – Promotion of Democracy, 2006 Regional EOM, Peru	US\$28,487	

	PA – Promotion of Democracy, 2006 EOM, Ecuador	US\$20,000	
	PA – Panama Canal referendum EOM	US\$20,000	
FRANCE	IACHR – Support for human rights activities in Haiti	US\$171,304	US\$275,538
	DER – Lecture Series of the Americas	US\$11,994	
	SPF – American Declaration on the human rights of indigenous peoples	US\$20,000	
	MS – CICAD	US\$52,240	
	PA – Department of Crisis Prevention Seminar for Experts	US\$10,000	
	PA – Department of Crisis Prevention General Fund	US\$10,000	
GREECE	MS – Study of Gangs Involved in Human Trafficking	US\$10,000	US\$20,000
	DER – Lecture Series of the Americas	US\$10,000	
TURKEY	MS – CICTE	US\$4,000	US\$16,000
	MS – CICAD	US\$4,000	
	Art Museum of the Americas	US\$4,000	
	<i>Américas</i> magazine	US\$4,000	
QATAR	DER – Lecture Series of the Americas	US\$10,000	US\$10,000
JAPAN	PA – Promotion of Democracy, 2006 EOM, Nicaragua	US\$100,000	US\$212,250
	PA – Promotion of Democracy, 2006 EOM, Peru	US\$92,250	
	PA – Promotion of Democracy, 2006 EOM, Ecuador	US\$20,000	
FINLAND	IACHR – Support for the Rapporteur on the rights of women	US\$282,337	US\$332,337
	PA – Promotion of Democracy, 2006 EOM, Venezuela	US\$50,000	
GERMANY	SEDI – Project for disaster prevention management	US\$31,880	US\$31,880
TOTAL:			US\$19,080,470

IACHR: Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
 PA: Political Affairs
 MS: Multidimensional Security
 SPF: Summits Process Follow-up
 SEDI: Executive Secretariat for Integral Development
 OEST: Office of Education, Science, and Technology
 DER: Department of External Relations
 CIM: Inter-American Commission of Women
 MAPP: Mission to Support the Peace Process
 OSG: Office of the Secretary General

In-Kind Contributions from Permanent Observers, 2006

COUNTRY	RECIPIENT AREA/PROJECT	EQUIVALENT AMOUNT IN US\$	TOTAL
SPAIN	Eight short-duration training courses	US\$ 485,171	US\$ 485,171
KOREA	Computers for schools in Panama and Nicaragua, through the Inter-American Children's Institute	US\$ 100,000	US\$ 150,000
	E-commerce and export promotion for the OAS member countries	US\$ 50,000	
ISRAEL	Training workshops with YABT	US\$ 100,000	US\$ 100,000
FRANCE	Course on International Law, Rio, Brazil	US\$ 3,000	US\$ 3,000
CHINA	Language and Culture (Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China)	US\$ 5,460	US\$ 5,460
TOTAL:			US\$ 743,631

Appendix H: Program-Budget: Levels of Execution

