



Priorities in the Evaluation of OAS Scholarship Applications*

1. Social Development and the Creation of Productive Employment

- To develop and to implement networks to share knowledge, experiences, and lessons learned in the areas of social development and labor.
- To support member states' efforts to strengthen the institutional capacity of their labor ministries to develop and implement policies aimed at the generation and promotion of decent work and to improve the design and implementation of integral social policies to significantly reduce inequality and poverty;
- To contribute to the promotion of initiatives in support of the development and enhanced productivity of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises, and other production units, particularly as a strategy for employment generation and poverty reduction;
- To promote and implement international cooperation strategies with other related entities, such as the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), in order to support national efforts aimed at complying with their social development programs and meeting the Millennium Development Goals.

2. Education

- To achieve and evaluate educational equity and quality at all levels of the education system, through the development of regional education indicators and by sharing consolidated experiences to improve educational outcomes for the less advantaged and most vulnerable groups, including strategies to combat school dropout and grade repetition;
- To strengthen the effectiveness of the teaching profession in member states, promoting cooperation and sharing with respect to successful policies and practices that help educational systems prepare, develop, recruit, and certify high-quality teachers;
- To foster the development of a democratic culture through education by implementing the Inter-American Program on Education for Democratic Values and Practices;
- To prepare people for work, including expanding and strengthening technical and professional training, and other means to provide greater opportunities for people to acquire the knowledge and skills that meet the demands of a constantly evolving labor market;
- To develop effective policies and practices in priority areas such as early childhood education, adult education, and lifelong learning, including the appropriate use and adaptation of new technologies, and online and distance courses and materials to support learning, as well as creating conditions to improve completion rates in secondary education;
- To reduce high levels of illiteracy so as to ensure a democratic citizenry, facilitate decent work, fight against poverty and achieve greater social inclusion for the entire population.

3. Economic Diversification and Integration, Trade liberalization, and Market Access

- To provide support to member states, particularly smaller economies, focusing on those trade capacity-building priorities identified by member states in their national strategy plans that fall within the areas of expertise of the OAS in order to build each member state's capacity to benefit from trade and promote economic growth, job creation, and poverty reduction;
- To provide support to the economic integration and trade processes at the hemispheric, regional, subregional and/or bilateral levels, as agreed upon among our respective authorities responsible for trade in the Hemisphere; and to strengthen horizontal and inter-institutional cooperation;
- To promote a dialogue with civil society on trade and economic integration;
- To promote cooperation on activities that enhance the competitiveness of member states, particularly those with smaller economies, including a multilateral policy dialogue on the issue of competitiveness and the promotion of public-private partnerships;
- To support actions to facilitate the participation of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises in domestic markets and international trade, and coordinating efforts in this direction, when OAS Department of Human Development pertinent, with the World Bank, the IDB, and other regional development banks; and supporting the SME Congress of the Americas and encouraging wider participation in this initiative, stressing the importance of opening new markets for the goods and services of small and medium-sized enterprises (SME);

4. Scientific Development and Exchange and Transfer of Technology

- To strengthen the development of scientific, technological, and innovation capacities in member states, particularly in connection with human capital development, in fields such as engineering, metrology, science education, information technologies, and communications;
- To support the efforts of member states to formulate and apply policies, programs, and projects aimed at advancing, strengthening, and using their scientific, technological, and innovation capacities, taking into account the gender perspective;
- To promote the development, research, and application of frontier science and technology in member states, *inter alia*, in the areas of biotechnology, material sciences, nanotechnology, spatial digital image processing, and advanced manufacturing processes;
- To support ongoing dialogue with civil society organizations involved in science, technology, engineering, and innovation, in order to facilitate their contribution for the advancement and understanding of these areas in the member states;
- To create and strengthen specialized networks on science and technology, in order to facilitate the generation and dissemination of new knowledge, technology transfer, and experience sharing, as well as hemispheric and global cooperation; and supporting the popularization of science in all its different aspects.

5. Strengthening of Democratic Institutions

- To promote the use of technology, cooperation, and the sharing of information, experiences, and best practices to facilitate public participation and transparency in governmental decision-making processes;
- To contribute to the development of educational programs on democracy and human rights, including the human rights of women;

- To promote cooperation among member states for the implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption, particularly through government officials responsible for ethics and representatives of civil society;
- To promote policies, processes, and mechanisms, such as statements of personal net worth by public officials, conducive to protecting the public interest.

6. Sustainable Development of Tourism

- To support member states in their efforts to develop a sustainable tourism sector, particularly as they relate to the design and implementation of strategies beneficial to the environment and to local communities, which emphasize quality, marketing, and the creation of an enabling environment for the growth of the tourism industry, particularly for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises and other production units;
- To strengthen tourism product development especially for targeting niche markets and adopting harmonized product standards which meet international market requirements;
- To support private and public human resource capacity-building through training, and encouraging the use of information and communication technologies in the development of the tourism industry;
- To promote the sustainable development of tourism in order to mitigate possible negative environmental impacts, increasing public awareness of the importance of maintaining the environmental balance of tourist sites, and fostering the development of OAS Department of Human Development linkages between tourism and other economic sectors; particularly through dialogue between the public and private sectors in supporting eco-tourism and sustainable tourism;
- To ensure that disaster planning is also extended to the area of tourism, as part of the Organization's multisectoral approach to reducing the impact of natural and manmade disasters on member states, by developing mechanisms to prepare for and recover from disasters affecting tourism infrastructure, particularly in small economies, as well as ensuring visitor safety and security.

7. Sustainable Development and the Environment

- To support member states in their efforts to integrate environmental protection within policies, regulations, and projects on natural resource management;
- To strengthen the capability of member states to identify and mitigate the risks of natural and man-made disasters, in order to mainstream planning of both areas within economic development policies, working at the sector-specific levels with the private sector and civil society;
- To support public-private collaboration in human resource capacity-building in the sharing of scientific information, best environmental management practices, regulatory standards, and enforcement issues, and encouraging the use of information and communication technologies in support of sustainable development;
- To promote the development of sustainable energy policies and projects, in cooperation with the private sector, in order to expand renewable energy, energy efficiency, and energy security in the region;
- To ensure that sustainable development policies and projects help reduce poverty, particularly in rural areas, to identify and support new competitive and investment opportunities, and to create and sustain jobs and livelihoods.

8. Culture

To support member states in their efforts to preserve, protect, manage, and promote cultural heritage through cooperation and capacity-building to combat pillaging, illicit trafficking, destruction, and unauthorized possession of cultural objects; promote educational public awareness campaigns; foster international partnerships among cultural heritage sites and agencies; and documenting and promoting research on cultural heritage, both tangible and intangible;

- To support member states in their efforts to strengthen the cultural content of their educational programs, particularly those directed at young people, to assist in developing cultural identity; promoting intercultural dialogue, creativity, and artistic expression; and enhancing awareness and respect for cultural and linguistic diversity;
- To promote job creation in the cultural sector through regional forums that address the challenges and opportunities of artists, artisans, and cultural industries; and horizontal cooperation pilot projects aimed at developing management and commercial skills in the culture sector;
- To support member states in their efforts to build capacity to measure the social and economic impact of cultural activity, and to gather, analyze and disseminate information on culture through the exchange of information and practices in cultural information systems;
- To foster respect for cultural diversity, as well as promoting and preserving ethnic and linguistic heritage and traditions.

*Excerpted from the STRATEGIC PLAN FOR PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT 2006-2009
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