



**ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES**  
Inter-American Council for Integral Development  
(CIDI)



FIRST MEETING OF THE  
INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON CULTURE  
September 4 and 5, 2003  
Mexico City, Mexico

OEA/Ser.W/XIII.5.1  
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**FINAL REPORT**

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## **FINAL REPORT**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This paper contains the Final Report of the First Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Culture, which was held on September 4 and 5, 2003, in Mexico City. The report includes a summary of the discussions during the first meeting, the documentation circulated, and the resolutions adopted at the meeting.

#### **I. BACKGROUND**

The First Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Culture, held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, on July 12-13, 2002, under the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI), adopted a plan of action that called for creating the Inter-American Committee on Culture (CIC), and a feasibility report on establishment of an Inter-American Cultural Policy Observatory.

On November 14, 2002, the 86th Meeting of the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CEPCIDI) received the Final Report from the First Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Culture. Subsequently, this report was submitted to CIDI at its eighth regular session on April 25, 2003, with a proposal for the establishment of the CIC. The CIDI, by means of resolution CIDI/RES. 136 (VIII-O/03) established the CIC on a provisional basis, and approved its rules of procedure. The General Assembly by means of resolution AG/RES. 1912 (XXXIII-/03) created the CIC as a Committee of the CIDI.

Subsequently, through resolution CEPCIDI/RES. 93 (XCIV-O-03) of July 10, 2003, the CEPCIDI convened the First Meeting of the CIC. The government of Mexico offered Mexico City as the site for holding the meeting, and this was accepted by the CEPCIDI.

#### **II. LEGAL FRAMEWORK**

The CIC is a Committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI), established pursuant to Article 17 of the CIDI Statutes and Article 77 of the OAS Charter.

The CIC's purpose is to coordinate implementation of the inter-American ministerial dialogue on culture, in follow-up to the mandates of the Summits of the Americas and the agreements at the Inter-American Meetings of Ministers and High Authorities of Culture. As well, it serves as a forum for inter-American cooperation in cultural matters, and is responsible for the design and implementation of the OAS Inter-American Culture Program.

#### **III. PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING**

##### **A. PREPARATORY SESSION**

###### **1. Installation of the Committee**

Pursuant to article 24 of the CIDI rules of procedure, the Inter-American Committee on Culture was instituted with membership consisting of one representative of each member State, and held its preliminary session, after the formal opening of the First Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Culture. The session was chaired provisionally by the Delegate from Colombia, as representative of the country that had hosted the First Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Culture in 2002. Pursuant to article 25, the following agreements were adopted:

## **2. Election of the Chair and Vice Chairs**

At the proposal of the United States delegation, seconded by the delegation of Chile, Jaime Nualart, Head of the Delegation of Mexico, was elected Chair of the Inter-American Committee on Culture.

At the proposal of the Costa Rican delegation, seconded by the delegation of Argentina, Mr. Denny Gélinas, Head of the Canadian delegation, was elected First Vice Chair of the Committee. Finally, the Head of the Chilean delegation, Mrs. Pilar Entrala, was elected by acclamation as Second Vice Chair, at the proposal of the delegation of Colombia, seconded by the delegation of Brazil.

By agreement among the member countries of MERCOSUR, the Second Vice Chair proposed, and it was agreed, the Chile should provide the Vice Chair during the first year, and that the head of Argentina's delegation, Mrs. Magdalena Faillace, should be Vice Chair during the second year of the mandate.

According to the rules of procedure, elected mandates are for a period of two years.

## **3. Consideration of the agenda**

The Committee considered the draft agenda presented by the CEPCIDI, which was approved (Appendix I).

## **4. Duration of the meeting**

It was agreed that the meeting would run for two days, ending at 5 p.m. on September 5.

## **B. INAUGURAL SESSION**

The Chairman of the Committee formally declared open the First Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Culture, and ratified the agreements adopted provisionally in the preliminary session.

The Director the Unit of Social Development, Education and Culture, Mrs. Sofialeticia Morales, gave a presentation on the role of culture in the Summits of the Americas process, and the importance of the CIC in this context. In her statement, she referred to cultural diversity as a horizontal factor that cuts across all dimensions of reality and stressed the intrinsic relationship between culture and development. She noted the great challenges facing the CIC and its objectives, which include follow-up to the commitments of the Cartagena ministerial meeting, the preparation of its work plan, and preparations for the Second Ministerial Meeting on Culture (Annex VI).

Statements were then heard from the Head of the Cultural Affairs Unit of the Ministry of Foreign Relations of Mexico, Minister Porfirio Thierry Muñoz Ledo, representing the Secretary of Foreign Relations of that country (Annex VII).

Finally, the Chair of the National Council for Culture and the Arts (CONACULTA), Mrs. Sari Bermudez, declared open the First Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Culture (Annex VIII).

**C. FIRST WORKING SESSION: Follow-up on the Plan of Action of Cartagena de Indias, 2002**

The Chair put for consideration of delegations the first point on the agenda: "Follow-up to the Plan of Action of Cartagena de Indias, 2002", noting that the Committee should analyze the degree of compliance with the commitments, the results, and the steps remaining to be taken on each of the following two themes.

**1. Theme A: The Horizontal Cooperation Strategy based on the Permanent Portfolio of Consolidated Programs**

OAS Report

The Director of the Unit for Social Development, Education and Culture gave a presentation on the horizontal cooperation strategy approved by the Ministerial Meeting in Cartagena. In particular, she stressed the role of the OAS as a catalyst for the exchange and transfer of experience among cultural authorities, and the importance of securing a political commitment from member states for this purpose. She presented the Permanent Portfolio of Consolidated Programs in Culture, containing 29 programs from 11 countries, available at the CIC web site.<sup>1</sup> The Portfolio is the cornerstone of the cooperation strategy, and will be continuously updated with programs presented by the cultural authorities.

Planned workshops

The Committee noted the invitation from the Government of Canada concerning the workshop entitled "Young Canada Works", which will be held in October of this year in Ottawa; the Mexican program on "Integral Projects for Conservation and Development in Communities"; and the program presented by Honduras on the "Program of Rescue and Promotion for Indigenous and Traditional Handicraft Production in Honduras" (PROPAITH).

Questions-and-answers session

Several delegations took the floor to describe their programs contained in the portfolio, and to refer to the programs of Canada, Mexico and Honduras. It was agreed to include, in the Mexican workshop on "Integral Projects of Conservation and Development in Communities", a project on heritage conservation with a focus on the illicit trafficking of cultural goods, sponsored by the Government of Guatemala.

During the discussion, delegates welcomed the development of the horizontal cooperation strategy, noting that since its launch member states have presented a significant number of programs in activities of special importance.

As well, the Committee discussed mechanisms and financing requirements for projects in the culture field. Delegates noted the need to increase allocations for culture within the OAS FEMCIDI, the need to give greater consideration to the needs of small countries, and the need to coordinate institutional promotion for increasing financing for culture, at both the political and the technical levels. On this basis, delegates expressed the need to: a) identify culture projects prepared outside the scope of culture ministries; b) promote a political commitment and a subregional consensus in the Andean zone, Central America, MERCOSUR and CARICOM, in line with the hemispheric

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<sup>1</sup> The web site of the CIC has the following address: <http://www.oas/udse/cic>

consensus; c) consolidate programs shared by member states; and d) examine experience in the culture field at the political-technical level, instead of focusing exclusively on the technical level.

## **2. Theme B: Inter-American Cultural Policy Observatory**

### Presentation by the General Secretariat

Consideration of Theme B, Inter-American Cultural Policy Observatory, began with a presentation by the Director of the Unit for Social Development, Education and Culture. She reported that the unit, in follow-up to the Plan of Action of Cartagena, has coordinated and supervised the feasibility study for creation of a cultural policy observatory, which was financed with generous support from the Department of Heritage Canada and the Convenio Andrés Bello. The terms of reference for the study, which were submitted for consideration by this meeting, were prepared jointly by various authorities in the hemisphere, including the Canadian Cultural Observatory and the Ministry of Culture of Colombia.

For preparing the study, the UDSE, in consultation with cultural experts and authorities, selected Mr. Raj Isar, former Director of Cultural Policy for UNESCO. Mr. Raj Isar was assisted by an advisory committee which revised, commented on and enriched the study, drawing upon various subregional perspectives. The advisory committee consisted of cultural experts representing the different subregions of the hemisphere: Mrs. Sylvie Duran (Central America), Mr. George Yudice (North America), Mr. German Rey (Andean countries), Mr. Keith Nurse (Caribbean); Mr. Thomas Lowy (member countries of MERCOSUR). Mr. Alfonso Castellanos was also part of the committee, representing the host country of the CIC meeting. Mr. Leo Goldstone also participated, as an internationally recognized expert on cultural indicators.

### Presentation by the expert in charge of the feasibility study

Mr. Raj Isar gave a presentation on the feasibility study for the Inter-American Cultural Policy Observatory (OIPC) for which he was responsible. He began his presentation by noting that the American hemisphere is in the vanguard in this field, with its political decision to create this Observatory. He pointed out that although the region has sound infrastructure in terms of cultural information, the cultural sector is fragmented, marginalized and poorly informed, which is why the Observatory is needed. The existence of information infrastructure could give the false impression that such an Observatory would simply have to gather and organize information, but this is not possible, because the information is so varied. What is needed is a mechanism that will not only gather information but also foster international coordination in producing it.

The principal players that will use the Observatory fall within three spheres, which will have to be recognized when it comes to establishing the functions and the nature of the OIPC: 1) the political and institutional sphere, at the decision-making level; 2) the technical sphere; and 3) the public impact sphere, which includes the tourism and education sectors, among others.

This expert considered that the Observatory should have the following key functions, flowing from those considered in the Plan of Action of Cartagena: 1) compiling and disseminating specialized information on the cultural sector; 2) promoting research and compiling data on cultural policies and on cultural diversity in member states; and 3) helping to design indicators for measuring the impact of policies on the cultural sector.

To accomplish these functions, the OIPC would have to: 1) serve as an information body functionally independent of the Inter-American Committee on Culture (CIC); 2) establish links with

existing international initiatives and resources, and work with them; 3) guarantee the effective participation of nongovernmental players; 4) develop a network of information providers in each country; and 5) create high-impact, interactive online capacities for economic information and news.

He noted that the Committee would have to establish a business plan for the Observatory, and make a decision on the three structural options proposed in the study (an independent, informal network not managed by the CIC; a more formal, administered network; or an independent entity supervised by the CIC). The OIPC business plan should take into account financing factors, aspects of governance for its operations, and the physical location of its operations center.

Finally, the expert argued that the Observatory could be launched as a pilot project within a period of next three years, and that it could aim at producing the following results: 1) a review of the list of potential contributors to the Observatory, contained in appendix 1 of the study, 2) a database on cultural information systems in member states, 3) methodological tools and guidelines, including harmonized categories and criteria, for creating two or three cultural indicators, 4) two or three solid subregional studies on priority issues, 5) an analytical database addressing such issues as: the economic behavior of various cultural subsectors, the cultural contribution to social welfare, the distribution of cultural products and services, culture and commercial trade, 6) an interactive portal linking institutions and players in the existing cultural information infrastructure, and 7) an operational network of users and partners.

#### Presentation of the diagnostic of the National Cultural Information System of Mexico

Mr. Alfonso Castellanos, Director of the National Cultural Information System (SIC) of Mexico, gave a presentation on the diagnosis of that system. He noted that the current SIC's objective is to provide policy guidance to the country and to serve as a tool for urban planning. It makes use of a relational and geo-referenced database to create more complex indicators. This database is remotely updated, and has enlisted the cooperation of 32 state culture ministries, the federal state, and UNESCO. The system includes a well-developed infrastructure, based on libraries, bookstores, theaters, artistic programs, festivals, etc., and its field of action is not defined by national government institutions.

#### Questions-and-answers session

Delegations took the floor to refer to the report presented. The agreements concerning the Inter-American Cultural Policy Observatory (OIPC) are included in the corresponding section of the CIC Work Plan (Annex II), and consequently this section of the report merely summarizes some of the comments from delegations.

Delegations agreed that the Observatory must go beyond merely collecting and analyzing information, and that it must not be simply a database or an electronic portal. The OIPC should contribute to developing specialized knowledge about cultural policies and, in particular, it has a crucial role to play in positioning the cultural agenda properly within development policies. Culture must be placed at the center of public policies. In this respect, the OIPC should support the inclusion of cultural heritage in development policies, generate and promote research to strengthen the capacities of cultural authorities in formulating and developing cultural policies, and contribute to analysis of the transverse nature of culture. As well, the Observatory should foster a network of academics, researchers and cultural policymakers, so that they can maintain permanent communication with each other.



Speakers noted the need to provide practical support for the OIPC, taking into account existing financial resources, without creating a new information bureaucracy. They stressed that the OIPC should rely on national information systems, to avoid the fate of SICLAC, which most participants regarded as a failure. In this respect, they stressed the need for compensation policies to help small countries develop their information systems.

Delegations emphasized that the Committee should act on the OIPC as soon as possible, and that it should focus on a limited number of activities to prevent its work plan from becoming overly ambitious and therefore difficult or impossible to implement. These activities are included in the CIC Work Plan (Annex II), and they are expected to be completed before the Second Ministerial Meeting on Culture, so as to provide input to the ministerial decision on the OIPC. It was also recommended that greater use should be made of information technologies in this preliminary phase, with particular reference to the CIC web site, taking advantage of support from the Canadian Cultural Observatory.

The Committee approved a feasibility study on the Observatory, and agreed to prepare a business plan that would reflect its conclusions, and that would provide a more detailed analysis of various aspects in line with Mr. Isar's recommendations.

**D. SECOND WORKING SESSION: Work Plan for the Inter-American Committee on Culture**

**1. Theme 1. Preservation of Cultural Heritage**

The Committee began consideration of its work plan with a discussion of Theme 1, "Preservation of Cultural Heritage". The Chair recalled that the objective of the discussion was to consider the establishment, within the OAS, of a list of cultural heritage sites for recognition, promotion and joint protection.

Following a presentation by Maria P Kouroupas, cultural property specialist with the United States State Department, delegations opened debate on this topic, which ended with the Committee's decision to establish a working group, open to participation by all delegations, to examine the idea of creating a registry of cultural heritage sites of the Americas. The Unit for Social Development, Education and Culture was asked to provide support for this working group.

**2. Theme 2. Partnerships for Cooperation**

The Committee continued with preparation of its work plan, on Theme 2, "Partnerships for Cooperation", which includes strengthening partnerships among international agencies and forging links between OAS member states and civil society.

The delegate of Colombia to the CIC, Luis Armando Soto, gave a short introduction to the topic. Subsequently, delegations stressed the importance of strengthening interagency cooperation agreements, and the Unit for Social Development, Education and Culture, as Technical Secretariat of the CIC, was asked to convene a second interagency meeting, prior to the Second Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Culture. It was also agreed to pursue the process of strengthening relations with civil society, in particular through identification and exchange of consolidated programs that involve civil society participation as a substantive element.

**3. Theme 3. Cultural Policies and Cultural and Economic Development**

The plenary meeting next considered Theme 3 on "Cultural Policies and Cultural and Economic Development". The delegates of Chile and Costa Rica, Pilar Entrala and Sylvie Duran, respectively, introduced the topic with presentations that stressed the impact of culture on development and the need to give cultural policies a more prominent position within the broader framework of development policies. They also referred to the challenges facing cultural policy in the context of free-trade agreements.

It was agreed to ask the representatives of Chile and Costa Rica, as well as the Convenio Andrés Bello, to provide the CIC, through its virtual forum, with background documents on cultural policies and free-trade treaties, and on the economic dimension of culture.

**4. Theme 4. Culture and Sports**

Consideration of Theme 4 on "Culture and Sports" began with a short presentation by the Canadian delegate to the CIC, Denny Gélinas. Delegates next agreed to ask the Canadian cultural authorities to serve as the permanent link with other authorities of the hemisphere in the field of youth, culture and sports. Member states were also urged to create mechanisms for open and constructive dialogue within their national authorities responsible for sports.

The Committee then approved its work plan, after formulating various amendments and observations on the substantive issues contained in it (Annex II).

**E. THIRD WORKING SESSION: Definition of the Use of Resources from the OAS Subfund for Culture**

The Director of the Unit for Social Development, Education and Culture informed the Committee of the decision of the OAS Permanent Council to award US \$190,833.33 to the culture area, to be drawn from the excess resources of the Reserve Subfund of the OAS Regular Fund. She also reviewed the criteria for using those funds established by the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CEPCIDI) in its resolution CEPCIDI/RES. 89 (LXXXIX-O/03), which provides that the sectoral areas identified therein, including culture, would determine, through ministerial, sectoral, or Inter-American Committee meetings and based on specific projects, how to use the funds available.

The Technical Secretariat of the CIC presented a "Proposed Program in Support of Inter-American Conferences of Ministers and Authorities of Culture", which provided inputs for defining the use of resources in a manner consistent with the requirements of the CIC work plan, approved by resolution, for defining the use of OAS resources. The Technical Secretariat prepared a preliminary proposal of activities for the work plan of the CIC, which is attached to that resolution (Annex II), and which will have to be reviewed and considered again by the CIC.

**F. FOURTH WORKING SESSION: Integration of the CIC Subcommittees and Working Groups**

CEPCIDI was authorized to establish such subcommittees as it deems appropriate to support the work plan approved by the CIC.

**G. FIFTH WORKING SESSION: Second Meeting of Ministers and Highest Appropriate Authorities of Culture**

The Committee discussed a preliminary agenda for the Second Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Culture to be held in Mexico City in June, 2004. The discussion focused on a draft agenda submitted by the Mexican delegation (Annex IV).

Delegations noted the importance of adopting an agenda that would allow ministers and high authorities of culture to engage in broad dialogue on the role of culture in the economies of the hemisphere; to create forums for discussing the challenges of integration negotiations, diversity and value-added, among other topics, and to strengthen mechanisms of partnership for cooperation in the cultural field. Delegates also addressed operational issues for the meeting. These included considerations of the number and duration of presentations by delegations on each topic, and the need to ensure proper representation of the five subregions in those presentations. Finally, delegates considered the idea of convening preliminary meetings at OAS headquarters in order to reach consensus on substantive and operational aspects of the ministerial meeting.

**H. CLOSING SESSION**

Delegations unanimously adopted a resolution thanking the government and the people of Mexico, submitted by the Canadian delegation (CIDI/CIC/doc. 6/03, Annex III), noting the excellent organization of the meeting's work that facilitated follow-up to the decisions of the Heads of State and Government in the Work Plan from the Third Summit of the Americas.

Delegations congratulated the OAS General Secretariat for its excellent work in preparing the meeting, with special mention of the Director of the Unit for Social Development, Education and Culture, Sofialeticia Morales, the Coordinator for Culture, Sara Meneses, and the Consultant, Maria Claudia Camacho, for their endeavors relating to the organization and conduct of this event.

The Chairman closed the First Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Culture.

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Mexico City, Mexico

OEA/Ser.W/XIII.5.1  
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## FIRST MEETING OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON CULTURE

### Agenda September 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, 2003

#### Background

The Inter-American Committee on Culture (CIC) was created within the framework of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development, as a follow-up to the Plan of Action of the First Meeting of Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia. Its purpose is to serve as the technical-political body that permits and facilitates the inter-American dialogue in the area of culture.

The Committee will monitor the mandates of the Summits of the Americas and the agreements made at the Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities. Specifically, it will analyze the feasibility study of the creation of an Inter-American Cultural Policy Observatory, in addition to the advances in the strategy of horizontal cooperation through the Permanent Portfolio of Consolidated Programs established by the Unit for Social Development and Education and Culture (UDSE), and will establish priority guidelines for course of action. The CIC must also reflect on the themes of cultural diversity to orient the elaboration of a work plan for the Hemisphere.

#### Agenda

##### September 4, 2003

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| <b>9:00</b>          | <b>Registration of participants</b>  |
| <b>9:30 – 9:50</b>   | <b>I. Election of Committee Authorities</b><br>Election of President and two Vice-Presidents that reflect geographic and linguistic representation |
| 9:50 – 10:00         | Break  |
| <b>10:00 – 10:30</b> | <b>Opening Ceremony</b><br>Address by Sari Bermudez, President of CONACULTA<br>Address by Sofialesticia Morales, Director of UDSE/OEA              |

**10:30 – 12:00**            **II. Follow-up on the Plan of Action of Cartagena de Indias 2002** – Report on the degree of fulfillment of the commitments made, analysis of advancements, results and steps to follow.

**Theme A:** The Horizontal Cooperation Strategy based on the Permanent Portfolio of Consolidated Programs

10:30 – 10:50    Report from the OAS

10:50 – 11:10    Invitations from: Canada, to the workshop on “Young Canada Works” in October 2003; from Mexico to the workshop on “Integral Projects on Conservation and Development in Communities” (date to be determined); and from Honduras to the workshop on PROPAITH in 2004.

11:10 – 12:00    Question and Answer session

**12:00 – 13:30**            **Theme B:** Inter-American Cultural Policy Observatory.

12:00 – 12:20    Presentation by the UDSE.

12:20 – 12:40    Presentation by Raj Isar, expert in charge of the feasibility study

12:40 – 13:00    Presentation of the diagnostic of the National Cultural Information System by Alfonso Castellanos.

13:00 – 13:30    Question and Answer session with the participation of the sub-regional experts present at the meeting.

**13:30 – 15:00**            **Lunch**

15:00 – 17:00    Question and answer session continued and definition of next steps, commitments and resources for the Inter-American Cultural Policy Observatory

**17:00 – 18:00**            **III. Work plan for the Inter-American Committee on Culture**

**Theme 1:** Preservation of Cultural Heritage - Consider the establishment, within the framework of the OAS, of a list of cultural heritage sites in the Americas.

**20:30 - 22:30**            **Dinner at the Antiguo Colegio de San Ildefonso**

**September 5, 2003**

**9:00 – 11:45**            **III. Work plan for the Inter-American Committee on Culture (continued)**

- 9:00 – 9:45 **Theme 2:** Partnerships for cooperation - Continue strengthening partnerships and informational exchanges between and among OAS member states as well as with civil society. Build partnerships with international organizations
- 9:45 – 10:45 **Theme 3:** Cultural policies and cultural and economic development - Share best practices of government cultural policies to preserve and promote cultural diversity, economic prosperity, human security, social cohesion and human rights, and considering the challenges facing developing countries in the Americas, especially those with vulnerable economies.
- Under the auspices of the OAS, compile best practices of government actions (e.g. policies and programs) in support of cultural diversity in areas a number of areas including: education; cultural sectors, particularly small, voluntary and not for profit enterprises; diverse expressions; linguistic minorities, among others.
- 10:45 – 11:00 Break
- 11:00 – 11:45 **Theme 4.** Culture and sports – Update on Sport Cooperation in the Americas.
- 11:45 – 13:30 IV. Definition of the use of resources from the OAS Subfund for culture**  
(Proposal presented by the UDSE)
- 13:30 - 15:00 Lunch at the Foreign Affairs Secretariat**
- 15:00 – 15:30 V. Integration of the CIC sub-committees and working groups**
- 15:30 –17:00 VI. 2nd Meeting of Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities, to be held in Mexico City in June, 2004 – Elaborate preliminary agenda**
- 18:30 – 22:00 Closing Cocktail Hour at the National Art Museum**

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## **RESOLUTION**

### **USE OF EXCESS RESOURCES OF THE RESERVE SUBFUND OF THE REGULAR FUND ALLOCATED TO THE SECTORAL AREA OF CULTURE OF CIDI FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS MANDATES**

#### **THE FIRST MEETING OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON CULTURE,**

**HAVING SEEN** Permanent Council resolution CP/RES. 831 (1342/02), "Use of Excess Resources of the Reserve Subfund for Capital Investments and to Meet OAS Mandates," and the resolution of the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development CEPCIDI/RES. 89 (LXXXIX-O/03), "Criteria for Use of Excess Resources of the Reserve Subfund of the Regular Fund Allocated to CIDI for the Implementation of Summits of the Americas Mandates";

#### **BEARING IN MIND:**

That in resolution CP/RES. 831 (1342/02), the Permanent Council resolved to allocate four million dollars (US\$4,000,000) to the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) for the implementation of Summit of the Americas mandates, with the support of the General Secretariat,

That in resolution CEPCIDI/RES. 89 (LXXXIX-O/03), it was resolved that multiple sectoral areas, including culture, will receive up to US\$190,833.33 to execute the projects they determine.

That in the said CEPCIDI resolution, it was resolved that the sectoral areas identified therein, including culture, would determine, through ministerial, sectoral, or Inter-American Committee meetings and based on specific projects, how to use the funds available;

That in the said CEPCIDI resolution, the following minimum criteria were set that projects determined by the sectoral areas must meet in order to be financed with the resources assigned. The projects must:

- Implement Summit of the Americas mandates;
- Pertain to those topics within the sectoral area for which the OAS has recognized competence;
- Be hemispheric in scope, although they may contain subregional components;
- Be capable of mobilizing external resources;
- Incorporate an evaluation component;



- When appropriate, integrate other IACD cooperation mechanisms, in particular, the fellowship and training mechanisms;
- Be of adequate technical quality; and

That the units of the General Secretariat serving technical secretariats for sectoral meetings were instructed to support to the design, coordination, and implementation of project proposals, as decided by ministerial, sectoral, or Inter-American Committees meetings.

**CONSIDERING:**

That the First Meeting of the CIC defined a work plan containing a series of projects and activities to be carried out thereunder.

**RESOLVES:**

1. To approve the “Work Plan of the Inter-American Committee on Culture,” together with the projects and activities contained therein, which constitutes an integral part of this resolution and is found as an annex.
2. To approve, in principle, the budget attached to this resolution, for the implementation of the Work Plan referred to in the preceding paragraph.
3. To instruct the UDSE to present a reviewed version of the budget once its components have been properly defined.
4. To instruct the Unit for Social Development, Education and Culture to report on the process of implementing the said work plan to both the upcoming Ministerial Meeting and the Inter-American Committee on Culture.

## INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON CULTURE

### WORK PLAN\*

In response to the Plan of Action of Cartagena, the Inter-American Committee on Culture has decided the following:

#### A) With respect to horizontal cooperation:

- Strengthen horizontal cooperation around the three Exemplary Programs from Canada, Mexico, and Honduras. The discussion about increasing the number of internships and participants, and support for the cooperation strategy, will take place when the proposal regarding the OAS subfund is analyzed.
- Incorporate into the Portfolio the information system experiences of Mexico, Chile, and Canada. Hold a coordination workshop involving the three countries, the OAS, and a representative of each subregion to establish a critical transfer strategy for national cultural information systems that responds to the subregions' realities. This strategy is to entail, *inter alia*, the organization of three seminars dealing with this issue: one for Central America, one for the Andean nations and the members of Mercosur, and one for the CARICOM countries. Mexico will be responsible for the first of these; the Andrés Bello Convention and Chile for the second; and Canada for the third. Complementary efforts will be pursued with the OEI to strengthen the development of information systems in those countries that come under the purview of the two organizations.
- Strengthen interagency coordination and cooperation in connection with the horizontal cooperation strategy based on the Permanent Portfolio of Exemplary Programs.

#### B) With respect to the Inter-American Cultural Policy Observatory:

The Ministers of Culture, at their First Meeting, agreed to conduct a feasibility study into the creation of an Inter-American Cultural Policy Observatory (ICPO) under the aegis of the CIC. In connection with this:

- 1) We acknowledge the excellent work carried out by Dr. Raj Isar, the expert Advisory Committee, and the OAS.
- 2) We agreed to draw up a business plan, taking on board the conclusions of the feasibility study, particularly the three options regarding the structure of the ICPO, and paying due attention to its funding, administrative structure, location, and operational mechanisms. In connection with this, the Technical Secretariat was asked to devise this business plan and to make it available to the member states at the CIC's online forum. Additionally, the Secretariat will present the business plan to the Permanent Missions to the OAS.

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\* Adopted at the First Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Culture, held in Mexico City on September 4-5, 2003.

- 3) We reiterated that the substantive functions of the ICPO are those set forth in the Plan of Action of Cartagena de Indias:
  - Facilitate the exchange of information on cultural policies and cultural diversity in the member states.
  - Gather and make available specialized information on the cultural sector.
  - Promote research and data collection on cultural policies in the member states.
  - Contribute to the design of indicators by which to measure the impact of cultural policies and the cultural sector, including cultural industries, on the economic, social, and cultural life in member states, as well as indicators on cultural legislation and cultural rights, within the context of human rights, among others.
  - Build effective partnerships with foundations, academic and research institutions, and other cultural observatories in the member states and around the world to promote the dissemination of cultural information.
  - Identify measures that would contribute to the preservation and promotion of cultural diversity in the member states.
  - Create a cultural atlas of the Americas.
  
- 4) We agreed to readdress the concepts contained in the feasibility study and to pursue the following actions that will provide the Ministers of Culture with more information with which to reach a decision.
  - Reviewing and completing the initial map of potential contributors to the ICPO, which appears as an appendix to the feasibility study.
  - Drawing up a preliminary database of cultural policy profiles, in consideration of the cultural diversity of the nations of the hemisphere and based on the OAS's virtual map and on the work carried out by the OEI, the Andrés Bello Convention, and other agencies.
  - Establishing an active network of users and contributors, with particular emphasis on the inclusion of cultural policy experts and researchers and involving those agencies that perform Observatory duties.
  - Establishing an interactive portal for the Observatory, based on the information tools that already exist, such as the CIC's website, with technical support from the Canadian Cultural Observatory.
  - Organizing an expert workshop for analyzing the design of cultural indicators and the impact of culture on economic development.
  - Conducting at least two studies on the relationship between culture and development.
  
- 5) We agreed to present the Business Plan and the results from the preliminary phase to the ministers at the Second Meeting of Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities.

**C. With respect to the preservation of cultural heritage:**

- 1) Set up a Working Group to analyze the usefulness of establishing a register of cultural heritage sites of the Americas. Membership of this Working Group is to be open to all the member states, and equitable geographical representation is to be ensured so that all regions have the opportunity of being permanently represented. The UDSE, in its capacity as the CIC's

Technical Secretariat, will be instructed to support the work of this group in conjunction with the other agencies.

**D. With respect to partnership for development, civil society, and alliances with international organizations, the following agreements were reached:**

- 1) Ask the Technical Secretariat, with the support of the countries, to further promote interagency agreements and to hold a second interagency meeting prior to the Second Meeting of Ministers of Culture.
- 2) Strengthen efforts with civil society organizations, and have countries submit exemplary programs wherein joint participation with civil society is a major element. Particular emphasis will be given to the Cultural Markets of Mexico and Brazil, the gathering “Gateway to the Americas” and the Latin American cultural market of Salvador, respectively. The Secretariat will be asked to seek out ways to tie in inter-American cultural commitments with the efforts being pursued in those countries.
- 3) The Technical Secretariat will be asked to explore the possibility of tying in the different Forums and Ministerial Meetings on cultural matters with other international agencies.

**E. With respect to cultural policy and cultural and economic development**

- 1) Ask Chile and Costa Rica, as well as the Andrés Bello Convention and other agencies with experience on this topic, to furnish the CIC’s online forum with study documents on cultural policies and free-trade agreements and on the productive dimension of culture.

**F. With respect to culture and sport**

- 1) Ask Canada to serve as a permanent liaison between the authorities in charge of youth, culture, and sports policies in the member states, and to report thereon to the CIC. At the same time, invite the member states to establish an effective dialogue with their national authorities responsible for sports, in order to assure a constant flow of information about this important policy and to avoid duplication of efforts.

**BUDGET FOR OAS CULTURE SUBFUND USAGE**

Activity	Unit	Amount	Unit Cost	Total Cost	Joint Financing		
					OAS Subfund	Other Sources	Sources
<b>COMPONENT 1</b>							
<b>Inter-American Cultural Policy Observatory</b>							
Preparation of Business Plan	Consultant	1	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000		
Completion of initial mapping	Person/Month	10	\$500	\$5,000	\$5,000		
Establishment of a database of cultural policy profiles							
- Drawing up of virtual map for placing information	Web designer	1	\$5,000	\$5,000		\$5,000	UDSE
- Collecting and updating profiles	Person/Month	10	\$500	\$5,000	\$5,000		OEI and CAB
- Subregional analysis documents on cultural policies	Consultant	5	\$2,000	\$10,000	\$10,000		
Establishment of an interactive portal for the Observatory	Webmaster	1	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000		Canadian Observatory
Expert workshop: cult. Indicators and impact on economy							UNESCO, CAB, Mexico, Canada
Two studies	Consultant	2	\$2,500	\$5,000	\$5,000		
Translation of documents				\$20,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	International agencies, countries
<b>COMPONENT 2</b>							
<b>Horizontal Cooperation Strategy</b>							
<i>Workshop in Canada (Young Canada Works)</i>							
- Air fares	Fare per participant	10	\$1,200	\$12,000		\$12,000	Dept. Fellowships, OAS
- Board and lodging	Per diems / 1 week	10	\$800	\$8,000		\$8,000	Dept. Canadian Heritage
- Workshop coordination	Cost per workshop	1	\$2,000	\$2,000		\$2,000	DCH - OAS
- Website design	Design per workshop	1	\$4,000	\$4,000		\$4,000	UDSE/OAS
<i>Mexico workshop (Integral Conservation Projects)</i>							
- Air fares	Fare per participant	10	\$1,200	\$12,000		\$12,000	Dept. Fellowships, OAS
- Board and lodging	Per diems / 1 week	10	\$800	\$8,000	\$8,000		
- Workshop coordination	Cost per workshop	1	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000		
- Website design	Design per workshop	1	\$4,000	\$4,000		\$4,000	UDSE/OAS
<i>Honduras Workshop (PROPAITH)</i>							
- Air fares	Fare per participant	10	\$1,200	\$12,000		\$12,000	Dept. Fellowships, OAS
- Board and lodging	Per diems / 1 week	10	\$800	\$8,000	\$8,000		
- Workshop coordination	Cost per workshop	1	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000		
- Website design	Design per workshop	1	\$4,000	\$4,000		\$4,000	UDSE/OAS
<i>Workshop on information systems for Andean &amp; Mercosur regions</i>							
- Air fares	Fare per participant	10	\$1,200	\$12,000		\$12,000	CAB
- Board and lodging	Per diems / 1 week	10	\$800	\$8,000		\$8,000	CAB
- Workshop coordination	Cost per workshop	1	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000		CAB and OAS
- Website design	Design per workshop	1	\$4,000	\$4,000		\$4,000	UDSE/OAS

Activity	Unit	Amount	Unit Cost	Total Cost	Joint Financing		
					OAS Subfund	Other Sources	Sources
<i>Workshop on information systems for Caribbean region</i>							
- Air fares	Fare per participant	10	\$1,200	\$12,000		\$12,000	Canada
- Board and lodging	Per diems / 1 week	10	\$800	\$8,000		\$8,000	Canada
- Workshop coordination	Cost per workshop	1	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000		Canada and OAS
- Website design	Design per workshop	1	\$4,000	\$4,000		\$4,000	UDSE/OAS
<i>Workshop on information systems for Central America</i>							
- Air fares	Fare per participant	10	\$1,200	\$12,000	\$12,000		
- Board and lodging	Per diems / 1 week	10	\$800	\$8,000	\$8,000		
- Workshop coordination	Cost per workshop	1	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000		
- Website design	Design per workshop	1	\$4,000	\$4,000		\$4,000	UDSE/OAS
<i>OAS-IDB seminar on economic and cultural policies</i>							
- Coordination and logistics	several/month	1	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000		UDSE/OAS
- Instructors, premises	cost IDB/sem.	1	\$10,000	\$10,000		\$10,000	IDB
- Experts supporting the topic	expert/sem.	2	\$3,000	\$6,000	\$6,000		
- Participants' air fares (34)	ticket/partic.	34	\$1,000	\$34,000		\$34,000	IDB and countries
- Participants' per diems	per diems/partic.	34	\$1,080	\$36,720		\$36,720	IDB and countries
- Simultaneous interpreting	interpreter/day	6	\$1,500	\$9,000	\$9,000		
- Seminar website	consultant/month	1	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000		UDSE/OAS
<b>COMPONENT 3</b>							
<b>Preservation of cultural heritage</b>							
Establishment of a working group							CAB, OEI, UNESCO, OAS
<b>COMPONENT 4</b>							
<b>Culture and civil society</b>							
- Coordination of the online forum	Webmaster per year	1	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000		
- Holding a seminar							
- Travel and accommodation for 40 participants	Trip per participant	40	\$1,600	\$64,000	\$32,000	\$32,000	Participating countries & agencies
- Meeting coordination and logistics	Sem. Coordination	1	\$6,000	\$6,000		\$6,000	Host country and OAS
- Document translation and simult. int.	Sem. Costs	1	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$3,000	\$7,000	International agencies
<b>COMPONENT 5</b>							
<b>Support for the next ministerial meeting</b>							
- Expert studies	Cost per study	3	\$5,000	\$15,000	\$15,000		
- Participation of smaller economies	Trip per participant	10	\$1,800	\$18,000	\$18,000		
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>\$440,720</b>	<b>\$190,000</b>	<b>\$250,720</b>	

FIRST MEETING OF THE INTER-AMERICAN  
COMMITTEE ON CULTURE

September 4 and 5, 2003

Mexico City, Mexico

OEA/Ser.W/XIII.5.1

CIDI/CIC/doc.6/03

26 August 2003

Original: Spanish

**EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE TO THE GOVERNMENT  
AND PEOPLE OF MEXICO**

THE MEMBERS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, AT ITS  
FIRST MEETING,

**ACKNOWLEDGING** the generous offer of the Government of Mexico to host the First Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Culture in the framework of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development, in Mexico City;

**TAKING INTO ACCOUNT** the warm welcome and hospitality of the inhabitants of Mexico City, who represent the rich cultural diversity of the Americas;

**BEARING IN MIND** the work done over many years by Dr. Jaime Nualart to promote culture, as well as his extraordinarily efficient and wise chairmanship of the First Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Culture; and

**CONSIDERING** the outstanding performance of CONACULTA personnel in the preparations for this meeting,

**RESOLVE:**

1. To express their heartfelt gratitude to the Government and people of Mexico for their excellent organization of the work of the meeting, which ensured that it was a success and contributed to the fulfillment of the mandates assigned by the First Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities on Culture, as follow-up to the Plan of Action adopted by Heads of State and Government at the Third Summit of the Americas.

2. To thank the people of Mexico with great satisfaction for their special thoughtfulness, their courtesy, and the facilities they provided during the meeting.

FIRST MEETING OF THE INTER-AMERICAN  
COMMITTEE ON CULTURE  
September 4-5, 2003  
Mexico City, Mexico

OEA/Ser.W/XIII.5.1  
CIDI/CIC/doc.5/03  
29 August 2003  
Original: Spanish

## **PRELIMINARY DRAFT AGENDA OF THE SECOND INTER-AMERICAN MEETING OF MINISTERS AND HIGH AUTHORITIES ON CULTURE**

### **I. PREPARATORY SESSION**

This session includes: Election of the Chair and Vice-Chairs, establishment of the Style Committee, and consideration of the Draft Agenda and Schedule for the Meeting.

### **II. OPENING SESSION**

Words of welcome and presentations by Mexican Government authorities and the Organization of American States.

### **III. SESSIONS FOR DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF KEY ISSUES**

This meeting revolves around analysis and discussion of the three core issues indicated below. Each of these topics will be presented by ministers and high authorities on culture representing each of the subregions in the Hemisphere and subsequently debated by all those present.

**Topic 1:** Diagnostic assessment. What part does culture play in the Hemisphere's economic integration efforts?

*Presentation by five ministers, one for each subregion (the Andean subregion, MERCOSUR, CARICOM, Central America, and North America)  
Ministerial dialogue*

**Topic 2:** New technologies as a tool for promoting cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue, and protection of the region's tangible and intangible cultural heritage.

*Presentation by five ministers, one for each subregion (the Andean subregion, MERCOSUR, CARICOM, Central America, and North America)  
Ministerial dialogue*

**Topic 3:** The outlook for cultural industries and cultural diversity in the framework of hemispheric integration processes.

*Presentation by five ministers, one for each subregion (the Andean subregion, MERCOSUR, CARICOM, Central America, and North America)  
Ministerial dialogue*

### **IV. DISCUSSION AND ADOPTION OF THE DECLARATION AND MINISTERIAL PLAN OF ACTION**



FIRST MEETING OF THE INTER-AMERICAN  
COMMITTEE ON CULTURE  
September 4-5, 2003  
Mexico City, Mexico

OEA/Ser.W/XIII.5.1  
CIDI/CIC/doc.8/03  
5 September 2003  
TEXTUAL

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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Fundación Centro de Arte de Maracaibo Lía Bermúdez

Nerio Martín Sánchez Mestre  
Director de Museo  
Fundación Centro de Arte de Maracaibo Lía Bermúdez



**ANNEX VI: PRESENTATION BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE UNIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, EDUCATION AND CULTURE OF THE OAS, SOFIALETICIA MORALES GARZA**

Organization of American States  
Unit for Social Development and Education

## FIRST MEETING OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON CULTURE

Mexico City, September 4 and 5, 2003

1

## 1948 Charter of the OAS

“The spiritual unity of the continent is based on respect for the cultural values of the American countries and requires their close cooperation for the high purposes of civilization.”

2

### Culture in the Summits of the Americas Process

1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005

**I Summit of the Americas**  
“We recognize the heterogeneity and diversity of our resources and cultures”  
“we can advance our shared interests and values by building strong partnerships”

**II Summit of the Americas**  
“Hem ispheric integration is a necessary complement to national policies aimed at overcoming lingering problems and obtaining a higher level of development.”  
“In its broadest sense, a process of integration based on respect for cultural identities will make it possible to shape a common, interwoven set of values and interests that helps us in these objectives.”

**III Summit of the Americas**  
“We consider the cultural diversity that characterizes our region to be a source of great richness for our societies. Respect for and value of our diversity must be a cohesive factor that strengthens the social fabric and the development of our nations.”

**IV Summit of the Americas...**

First Meeting of Ministers and Highest Authorities of Culture (2002)  
First Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Culture (2003)

3

## Some reflections since the Meeting of Experts in Vancouver...

4

“Reducing culture to a simple dimension of reality (labelled the cultural dimension) is contradictory to the will to preserve and promote cultural diversity, given that every economic, labour, educational reality...is a cultural activity”

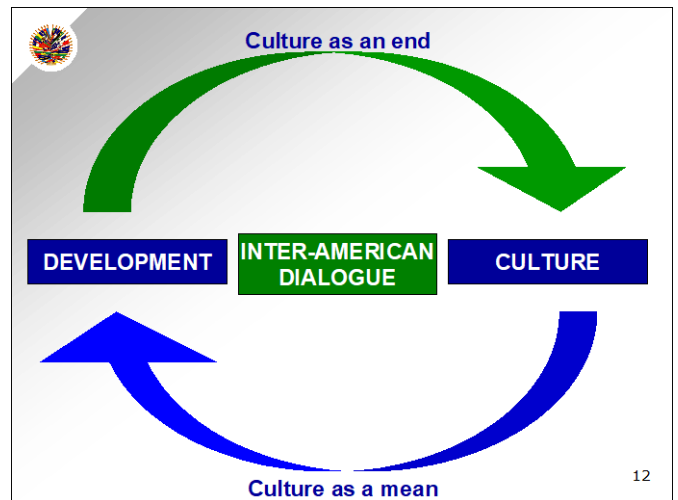
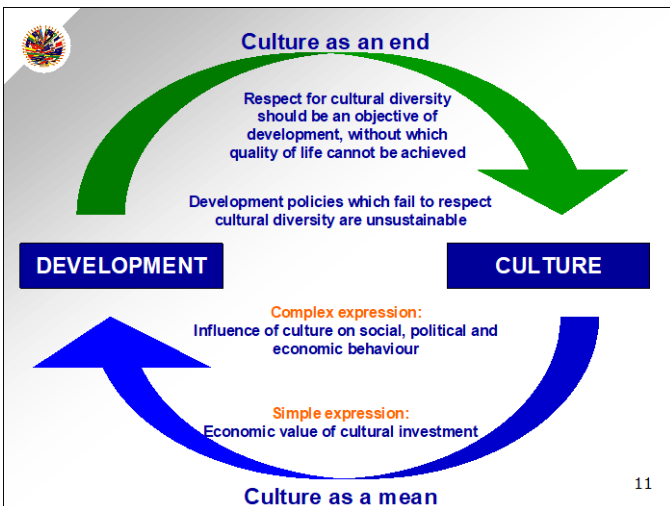
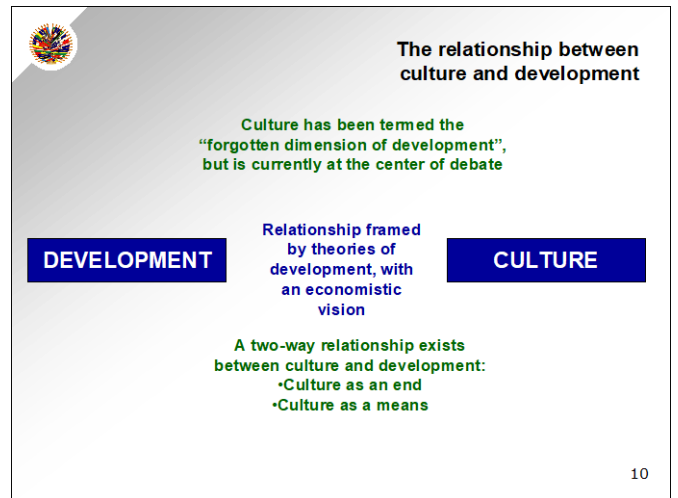
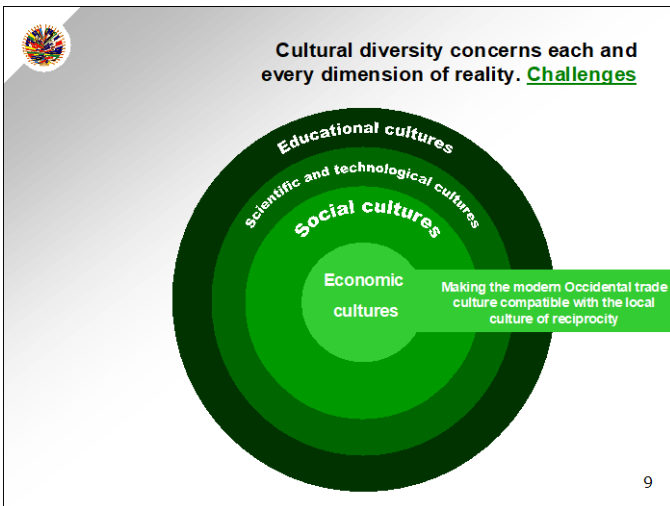
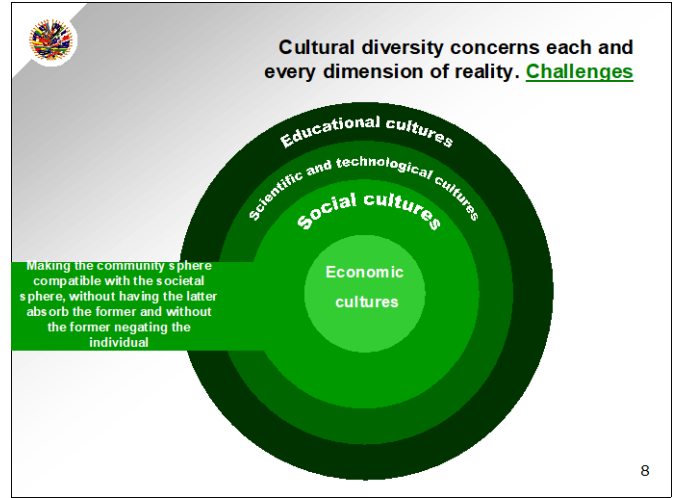
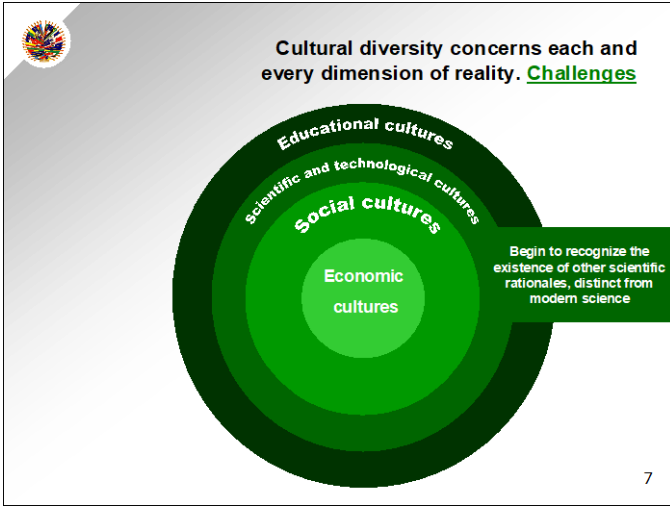
Agustí Nicolau

5

Cultural diversity concerns each and every dimension of reality. Challenges

Oral traditions and learning beyond the classroom must be considered valid and necessary means to achieve human dignity

6





**This view has been present in the Summit of the Americas, the Ministerial Conference and the CIC**

“We value culture as integral to sustainable development.”

“Having recognized the strong relationship between culture and the various spheres of development.”

“We recognize that government cultural policies that preserve and promote cultural diversity are fundamental to the social and economic development of our countries ...”


Declaration of Cartagena de Indias, 2002

“Recognizing that respect for and value of cultural diversity contribute to social and economic dynamism, and are positive factors in the promotion of good governance, social cohesion, human development, human rights and peaceful co- existence in the Hemisphere ...”

III Summit of the Americas, 2001

“Foster the exchange of information on policies, including among others: culture as a means and goal of national, regional and local development, and particularly cultural policies as a component of social and economic development.”

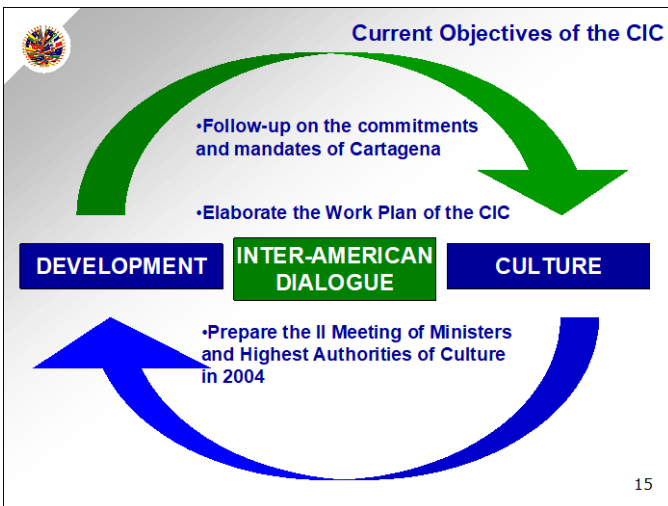
Rules of procedure of the CIC, 2003 13



**CIC faces big challenges..**

- Contribute to the better understanding of the different approaches to culture and cultural policy in member states.
- Provide follow-up and promote the implementation of the Plan of Action of the Summits of the Americas and on the mandates of the Inter-American Meetings of Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities in the framework of CIDI
- Prepare proposals for inclusion in the Declaration and Plan of Action of the Summits of te Americas
  - Intermediate Summit of the Americas, México, 2004
- Strengthen the links between culture and other sectors, especially through Ministerial meetings and Inter-American Committees.
  - Inter-american Forum on Poverty, equity and social inclusion , Oct. 2003
  - Inter-american Conference of Ministers of Labor, Sept. 2003
  - ... and other Inter-American Committees
- Coordinate inter-american ministerial dialogue on the theme of culture

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**Cultural Diversity as the spiritual unity of the continent**

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**ANNEX VII: REMARKS BY THE CHIEF OF THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS UNIT  
OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS OF MEXICO, PORFIRIO THIERRY  
MUÑOZ LEDO**

Sra. Sofioleticia Morales

Directora de la Unidad de Desarrollo Social, Educación y Cultura de la Organización de los Estados Americanos (OEA)

Sra. Sari Bermúdez

Presidenta del Consejo Nacional para la Cultura y las Artes (CONACULTA)

Sr. Alfonso Quiñónez

Director de Políticas del Consejo Interamericano para el Desarrollo Integral (CIDI) de la Organización de los Estados Americanos (OEA)

Es para mi motivo de particular honor participar en esta Primera Reunión de la Comisión Interamericana de Cultura, que se reúne para examinar las políticas culturales y facilitar la comprensión, la promoción y el respeto hemisférico de la diversidad étnica, lingüística y cultural que caracteriza a las Américas.

Estoy cierto que la ocasión se significará por un fructífero intercambio de ideas y proyectos que enriquecerán la relación entre los Estados miembros de la Organización de los Estados Americanos (OEA). A nombre de la Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores, agradezco la amable invitación que me han formulado los organizadores de este evento y les deseo el mayor de los éxitos.

Consciente del significado y la trascendencia de la cultura que le define, el pueblo de México, como muchos otros pueblos, ha comprendido también su importancia como elemento fundamental en sus vínculos con otras naciones.

La cultura es hoy en día el verdadero puente entre los pueblos y gobiernos, y es por ello que la política exterior no puede prescindir de ella, sino más bien impulsarla como un activo de su acervo diplomático.

El Presidente de la República ha señalado que la política exterior está llamada a “apuntalar y encabezar los esfuerzos de promoción económica, comercial, cultural y de imagen de México, en aras de un desarrollo nacional sustentable y de largo aliento.” La política cultural internacional busca ante todo afianzar la imagen de un país renovado, democrático, tolerante y seguro, mediante acciones de difusión de la cultura mexicana y estrategias de cooperación internacional basadas en criterios de inclusión y respeto.

La permanente recreación de la cultura le otorga un incommensurable valor estratégico para nuestro país: la cultura como forma de diálogo entre civilizaciones, la cultura como vehículo por el intercambio de conocimientos y expresiones; la cultura como activo económico para promover el conocimiento y la salvaguardia del patrimonio artístico y cultural. La cultura como medio para promover el desarrollo. En suma, la cultura como fuente de inspiración de las acciones más variadas de política exterior.

Señores y señoras,

México está empeñado en fortalecer sus políticas de promoción y difusión cultural internacional, mediante acciones de largo aliento que lleven al exterior lo mejor de nuestra cultura, el arte y la educación. Buscamos con ello fomentar el intercambio y la cooperación cultural, promover las exportaciones de productos artísticos mexicanos, difundir información actualizada sobre nuestro país, promover el aprendizaje y la difusión de la lengua española, y contribuir mediante estas al posicionamiento de las empresas mexicanas en el exterior.

Para lograrlo, pondremos en marcha una estrategia de consolidación de nuestras representaciones culturales en el extranjero, unificando bajo una misma concepción y estructura sus labores de difusión y cooperación. Ello permitirá un diseño global de la política cultural, convirtiendo a nuestras representaciones en espacios del México contemporáneo, para proyectar las múltiples oportunidades y posibilidades culturales que ofrece nuestro país.

Deseo concluir celebrando la realización de este evento. El acercamiento de las instituciones culturales en foros como éste, muestran la intensa cooperación cultural que existe entre México y los países de las Américas. Los resultados de este encuentro sin duda contribuirán a alcanzar un mayor conocimiento y a estrechar los lazos de amistad y cooperación entre nuestras sociedades, subrayando la importancia de las iniciativas que se sostendrán a lo largo de la reunión.

Muchas gracias.

**ANNEX XIII: REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR CULTURE AND THE ARTS (CONACULTA), SARI BERMÚDEZ**

Señoras y Señores,  
Muy Buenos Días.

Es una gran satisfacción para el gobierno mexicano darle la mas cordial bienvenida a las importantes delegaciones de los países miembros de la Organización de los Estados Americanos aquí reunidas.

Representa también un hecho muy significativo para el consejo nacional para la cultura y las artes que se celebre en nuestro país la instalación de la comisión interamericana de cultura. quienes hoy iniciamos estos trabajos respondemos de esta manera al mandato de la primera reunión interamericana de ministros y altas autoridades de cultura en el ámbito del consejo interamericano para el desarrollo integral de la OEA.

La realización de acciones multilaterales a través de organismos internacionales como la OEA, representan para México, y concretamente para el Consejo que me honro en presidir, un reto formidable en el campo de la cooperación cultural, ya que nos permiten un inusual juego de espejos poco común en materia de intercambios internacionales.

Nos permiten, por un lado ofrecer cooperación internacional y, por otro, ser beneficiarios inmediatos. En este sentido, México tiene una larga tradición como donante y receptor de cooperación cultural con la mayoría de los países del continente.

Es por lo anterior, y como un acuerdo de la reunión en Cartagena, que hoy se crea esta comisión interamericana de cultura, la cual tendrá, entre otros de sus objetivos más relevantes, el de dar un seguimiento puntual a los acuerdos, planes de trabajo y rutas de acción derivados de las reuniones de ministros y autoridades culturales de las Américas. también se tendrá como objetivos estimular la cooperación horizontal entre los países miembros de la OEA y, de manera preponderante en el marco de esta reunión, el establecer los lineamientos de política cultural que definirán las acciones a seguir en el ámbito interamericano.

Con la finalidad de ser puestos a consideración de las más altas autoridades culturales del continente americanos en la II Reunión a celebrarse en México el próximo verano, abordaremos temas como la necesidad de diseñar programas tendientes a la conservación y el reconocimiento de nuestro patrimonio cultural, de establecer alianzas e intercambios internacionales en cooperación cultural, y, por último, compartir experiencias y mejores prácticas sobre políticas culturales gubernamentales para preservar y promover la diversidad cultural, la prosperidad económica, la cohesión social y los derechos humanos en los países de la región.

Quiero agradecer a la Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores el apoyo que nos ha brindado para la celebración de este encuentro en la sede de la diplomacia mexicana; y a la secretaría general de la oea por la colaboración recibida en el ámbito del consejo interamericano para el desarrollo integral.

En estos dos días se discutirán en México temas de singular importancia para el quehacer cultural de las ciudades y comunidades que pueblan el continente americano. En sus manos, señores Delegados, está la responsabilidad de someter a la consideración del secretario general de la oea, y de

los titulares de cultura de los países miembros de este organismo internacional, propuestas innovadoras y acercamientos originales en nuestra labor cultural.

Hoy tengo el honor de declarar formalmente inaugurada la primera de la que será una larga y fructífera cadena de reuniones hemisféricas de la comisión interamericana de cultura de la oea.

Los exhorto, señores delegados, a que esta reunión cumbre, sienta las bases para una ejemplar cooperación cultural interamericana. Enhorabuena y muchas gracias.