

PERMANENT COUNCIL OF THE
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
COMMITTEE ON JURIDICAL AND POLITICAL AFFAIRS

OEA/Ser.G
CP/CAJP/INF. 211/14
24 January 2014
Original: Spanish

REPORT ON THE INTER-AMERICAN PROGRAM FOR THE
DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

[AG/RES. 2791 (XLIII-O/13)]

Activities carried out by the
Department of International Law of the
Secretariat for Legal Affairs
in 2013

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Introduction

Initially, the Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law (the Program) was approved by the General Assembly of the OAS in Lima, Peru, in 1997, by resolution AG/RES. 1471 (XXVII-O/97). The Program was adopted in the framework of the principles and purposes established in the Charter of the Organization, and mindful of the Declaration of Panama on the Inter-American Contribution to the Development and Codification of International Law of 1996 (AG/DEC. 12 (XXVI-O/96)).

In 2011 the General Assembly, meeting in San Salvador, El Salvador, decided, by AG/RES. 2660 (XLI-O/11), to update the Program to bring it more into line with new developments, recognizing the major advances in the area.

In this way, the General Assembly reaffirmed the importance of the Program, reiterating its support for it and asking the Department of International Law (DIL) to continue carrying out the actions indicated in that document, as it had been doing since it was originally adopted in 1997.

The Program's objective is to implement actions for broader dissemination of the inter-American treaties, legal developments in the organs of the OAS, the teaching of inter-American international law, dissemination through publications and other media, and cooperation for the development, dissemination, and teaching of international law in the Hemisphere.

This document presents a report on the implementation of the Program during the last year (2013), in the framework of resolutions AG/RES. 2660 (XLI-O/11) and AG/RES. 2791 (XLIII-O/13).

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FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL LAW
AG/RES. 2791 (XLIII-O/13)

Activities carried out by the
Department of International Law
of the Secretariat for Legal Affairs
in 2013

Executive Summary

The Department of International Law (DIL) of the Secretariat for Legal Affairs of the Organization of American States (OAS) is pleased to submit the report on the activities carried out during the last year in relation to the Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law.

In keeping with that is provided for in the updated version of the Program (which is included in the attachments to this report), the Department has continued strengthening some of its more traditional activities, such as the Course in International Law, as well as other events for promoting and disseminating international law and the inter-American system.

In addition, as is known, in recent years the DIL has notably expanded its activities as it has incorporated a series of projects with specific funds on different issues, or in the wake of mandates related to the activities and objectives of the Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law. Once again this has been reflected this year in an increase in the various activities for the promotion and dissemination of international law carried out by the Department, especially on issues that go to the Organization's agenda, such as access to information and protection of personal data, international humanitarian law, secured transactions, international commercial arbitration, access to justice and public defenders offices, as well as certain groups in vulnerable situations, such as indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants, refugees, internally displaced persons, and stateless persons. It should be noted that in all cases we have adopted a gender perspective when planning and carrying out our activities.

At the same time, the staff members of DIL have given several lectures, talks, and classes on issues related to international law, the inter-American system, and the work of the OAS in a variety of forums.

The Department has continued its work of disseminating international law through publications, as well as through its website. In addition, in order to make known its activities and disseminate them as widely as possible, DIL has implemented a practice, starting last year, of sending press releases by email to its network of contacts on each of the events it holds to promote and disseminate international law.

The Department has reaffirmed its work of disseminating the legal instruments of the inter-American system, as well as the task of serving as the depositary of the instruments of ratification and accession, notices, certifications, reports, etc., related to inter-American treaties and other agreements.

Finally, DIL has sought to continue establishing new relationships of cooperation and to deepen already-existing ones with those agencies with which it has agreements that call for activities for promoting and disseminating international law. Such agreements have helped cover many of the activities described in this report.

In conclusion, all this has been accompanied by a series of tangible results in terms of implementing the Program in the year covered in this period, as can be gleaned in the pages that follow. (For a summary of results, see section IX, "The Program in Figures").

Dante Negro
Director of the Department of International Law
Secretariat for Legal Affairs

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I. Background

Initially the Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law was adopted by the General Assembly meeting in Lima, Peru, in 1997, by resolution AG/RES.1471 (XXVII-0/97). In its original version the Program contained a description of the various areas, activities, and objectives to be pursued and carried out on an ongoing, continuous basis by the Organization for the development, promotion, and effective application of international law drafted and adopted in the inter-American system.

The Program adopted in 1997 finds its antecedents primarily in the “Declaration of Panama on the Inter-American Contribution to the Development and Codification of International Law” (AG/Dec.12 (XXVI-0/96)), adopted by the General Assembly meeting in Panama in June 1996.¹ Since 1997, successive resolutions of the General Assembly have reiterated its commitment to the Program, indicating the priority areas.

In 2011, the General Assembly, meeting in San Salvador, El Salvador, by resolution AG/RES. 2660 (XLI-O/11), emphasized the importance and relevance of the principles of international law as norms of conduct for the States in their reciprocal relations as set forth in the Charter of the OAS. Bearing this in mind, the resolution took note of the important progress in the area, thus recognizing the need to update the Program.

Through that resolution the Program was given new impetus to bring it into line with the new developments since the adoption of the original text, mindful of the results to date.

In June 2013, the General Assembly, meeting in Antigua, Guatemala, by resolution AG/RES 2791 (XLIII-O/13) “Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law,” reaffirmed the Program’s importance, reiterated its support for it,

¹ For the complete text of the Declaration of Panama, see the “Attachments” section.

and asked the Department of International Law (DIL) to continue carrying out the actions spelled out in the Program.²

II. 40th Course on International Law

The objectives of the Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law include, among others, strengthening the Course on International Law organized annually by the DIL (of the Secretariat for Legal Affairs) and the Inter-American Juridical Committee in the city of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (seat of the Inter-American Juridical Committee), incorporating into it lectures on the latest developments in international law and the hemispheric agenda.

Pursuant to this mandate, the 40th Course on International Law was held from August 5 to 23, 2013. The Course was organized by the DIL (of the Secretariat for Legal Affairs) and the Inter-American Juridical Committee, which held its session so as to partially coincide with the dates of the Course, making it possible to take advantage of the presence of the distinguished jurists who serve on the Committee to give some of the classes.

As is well-known, the Course on International Law is one of the most emblematic and traditional activities of the Organization of American States in the area of promoting and disseminating international law. Hence the Course has played an important role, training more than 1,500 attorneys and experts on international relations in the Hemisphere who have benefited from it over these years, many of whom have subsequently held prominent positions in their respective countries – in both the public and private spheres – and even in the realm of the OAS and other international organizations.

For three weeks a total of 32 students from different countries of the region participated in the 40th edition, whose central theme this year was “40 Years Promoting International Law.” The varied subjects offered throughout the course sought to reflect the contemporary trends and challenges facing international law in light of various types of events that affect almost all areas of human life on a global scale, with special emphasis on the inter-American system.

The classes were given by well-known experts in international law and specialists in international relations, including judges of international courts, professors of international law from the

² For the complete text of resolution AG/RES 2791 (XLIII-O/13), see the “Attachments” section.

Americas, Europe, and Africa, and specialists from several international agencies, among others.

In the students' course evaluations, given using an anonymous questionnaire, it was given a very positive evaluation, with a score of outstanding. The questionnaire also gave the students the opportunity to express their suggestions for improvements in the Course.

It is anticipated that the annual publication put out by DIL will soon be completed. It will bring together the course materials and become part of the bibliography of the inter-American system. The publication will also bring the presentations made in the course to a wider audience.

Finally, as a way to encourage students to pursue research, the course coordinating office offers the possibility of obtaining not only a "Certificate of Attendance," given to those who attend and pass the requirements of the course (including two exams), but also a "Certificate of Approval," which is given to those who have submitted an original research paper. A group of students in the course have submitted their respective papers, for which they explored in greater depth matters addressed in the course related to the inter-American system and international law in general.

For the complete Program of the 40th Course in International Law, see the following link:

http://www.oas.org/es/sla/ddi/docs/XL_Curso_Derecho_Internacional_programa.pdf

III. Activities to Disseminate International Law and/or the Inter-American System in the Framework of Projects and Mandates on Specific Topics

The Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law anticipates organizing other educational activities on different aspects of inter-American law, beyond the Course in International Law, in particular on the most recent thematic developments in the Organization.

In this context, for some time now DIL has been including among its activities projects on specific topics in the context of the different cooperation agreements that make it possible to carry out the different activities for disseminating and promoting international law and the inter-American system. In addition, the Department has been carrying out activities that answer to various mandates that correspond to the mandates stemming from the Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law.

Accordingly, next we detail DIL's work in these areas, in the understanding that they help strengthen the Organization's interest in "promoting the broadest possible awareness of the inter-American legal system," as stated in the Declaration of Panama on the Inter-American Contribution to the Development and Codification of International Law.

A. Access to Information

The DIL has been implementing the technical cooperation project "Equitable Access to Public Information" financed by the CIDA/OEA/2012-2015 Cooperation Program.

The purpose of the project is to contribute to improving the capacity of the OAS member states in the area of transparency and equitable access to public information by disseminating and incorporating the Model Inter-American Law on Access to Public Information and its implementation guide.

Education, training, and dissemination activities have been carried out in the period covered by this report in the context of the above-noted Project, namely:

1. High-level Workshop on Access to Public Information:
Peru

The High-level Workshop on Access to Public information was held May 9 and 10, 2013, in Lima, Peru.

The Workshop was organized by DIL, in association with the Presidency of the Council of Ministers of Peru and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Peru.

The main objective of the workshop was to analyze the Peruvian legal framework in the area of access to public information, using as a reference the principles and provisions of the Model Inter-American Law on Access to Public Information.

The Workshops had 73 participants, including high-level public officials such as the Vice Minister for Human Rights of the Ministry of Justice of Peru, the National Authority for the Protection of Personal Data of Peru, the Human Rights Ombudsman of Peru, the President of the Council of Ministers of Peru, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Peru, and a representative from the Peruvian Mission to the OAS. Also participating were international experts from the World Bank, the Federal Institute for Access to Information and Protection of Personal Data of Mexico, the Regional Alliance for Access to Information and Freedom of Expression, and the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México.

2. High-level Workshop on Access to Public Information: Panama

The Second High-level Workshop on Access to Public Information was held in Panama City, Panama, on June 26 and 27, 2013.

The Workshop was organized by DIL and the National Authority on Transparency and Access to Information of Panama.

The main objective of the Workshop was to analyze the Panamanian legal framework in relation to access to public information using as a reference the principles and provisions of the Model Inter-American Law on Access to Public Information.

The Workshop brought together 57 participants, among them government officials of the former National Council on Transparency, the Office of the Attorney General, the Supreme Court of Justice, the National Environmental Authority, the Administrative Court for Public Contracts, and the Authority on Governmental Innovation; and from other agencies such as the Panamanian Association of Business Executives, Fundación Mar Viva, Universidad Interamericana de Panamá, and the Journalists' Association (Colegio de Periodistas). Also participating were international experts from the Federal Institute for Access to Information and Protection of Personal Data of Mexico, the Regional Alliance for Access to Information and Freedom of Expression, and the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México.

3. High-level Workshop on Access to Public Information: Costa Rica

The Third High-level Workshop on Access to Public Information was held September 10 and 11, in San José, Costa Rica.

The workshop was organized by the DIL, the Vice Presidency of the Republic of Costa Rica, and the National Commission for Improvement of the Administration of Justice (CONAMAJ).

The main objective of the workshop was to analyze the Costa Rican framework for access to public information, using as a reference the principles and provisions of the Model Inter-American Law on Access to Information.

The Workshop was attended by 42 participants, among them public officials, civil society representatives, members of the academic community, and national and international experts. Also participating were the Ambassador of Canada in Costa Rica, a representative of the Costa Rican Mission to the OAS, and

representatives of the Regional Alliance for Access to Information and Freedom of Expression and the Instituto de Prensa y Libertad de Expresión (IPLEX).

4. Multidisciplinary Working Group in the context of the High-level Workshop on Access to Public Information: Costa Rica

The Multidisciplinary Working Group meeting was held on September 11, 2013, in San José, Costa Rica, in the context of the Third High-level Workshop on Access to Public Information.

The Group was organized by the DIL, the Vice Presidency of the Republic of Costa Rica, and the National Commission for Improvement of the Administration of Justice (CONAMAJ).

The main objective of the workshop was to foster the sharing of experiences and good practices in relation to legislation on access to public information and its implementation in the national legislation of member countries of the OAS.

The Group had 42 participants, including public officials from the highest level, representatives of civil society organizations, academia, and national and international experts.

5. Conference Commemorating International Right to Know Day

The Conference to Commemorate International Right to Know Day was held in San José, Costa Rica, on September 12, 2013.

The Conference was co-organized by the DIL, the Office of the Human Rights Ombudsman (Defensoría de los Habitantes), the First Vice Presidency of the Republic, the Society of Professionals in the Economic Sciences (Colegio de Profesionales en Ciencias Económicas), the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Policy (MIDEPLAN), the Digital Government (Gobierno Digital), and the National Commission for Improvement of the Administration of Justice (CONAMAJ).

The main objective of the conference was to disseminate and promote access to public information and to share good practices in this area, as well as to raise awareness in the citizenry as to the importance of access to public information and the role of exercising this right in strengthening democratic governance.

More than 400 people participated in the Conference.

B. Afro-descendants

Both the OAS and the Summits Process have repeatedly expressed their concern in relation to the inclusion, respect for human rights, and attention to the needs of Afro-descendants. As one way to respond to this concern, the DIL has given impetus to several initiatives to promote the inclusion of this community with greater sensitivity to the international standards of protection that apply to them, all in the context of the Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law, as such activities themselves include training and dissemination on issues of international law in general and on the inter-American system in particular.

1. Replicating the workshops with technical support from DIL

In the context of a Project to Train Trainers of Afro-descendant Leaders in the Americas, which had a duration of one year (2011-2012), DIL is providing technical support to those fellows who participated in the Workshop for Training Trainers of Afrodescendants in the Americas, which was held in March 2012, in Panama City, Panama. The Department has been offering technical assistance and accompaniment to former fellows who organize training activities for members of Afro-descendant communities and organizations. The idea is to promote the training of Afro-descendant leaders in the region, replicating the workshops.

The workshops held in 2012-2013 had approximately 357 participants in all, according to the information from the fellows who have organized those events.

This year, one fellow organized a training activity.

a) Training Course for Afro-descendant Leaders of Brazil, Northeast Region, State of Bahia

The First Course for Training Afro-descendant Leaders of Brazil, Northeast Region, State of Bahia, was held from July 29 to 31 in Salvador, Bahia.

The Course was organized by the Instituto de Ação Social e Cidadania Mão Amiga, and had technical support from DIL, as well as the support of the Secretariat for Justice, Citizenship Human Rights of the State of Bahia, the Secretariat for the Promotion of Racial Equality of the State of Bahia, the Baobá Fund for Racial Equity, and the Municipal Secretariat for Reparation of Salvador.

The main objective of the Course was to give Afro-descendant leaders the tools they need to be able to access the inter-American system and participate more in and have a greater impact on its political organs, especially in respect of those issues of special interest to this community.

The Course included 50 leaders and observers from the state of Bahia, Brazil, and from other cities of Brazil.

The Course was held in Salvador de Bahia, the city with the largest Afro-descendant population in the Americas; it was the thirteenth workshop in the context of the project carried out by the Department of International Law, and it is expected that it will be replicated again in the future with the aim of reaching more Afro-descendant leaders in the region.

The earlier replications of the workshop took place in Colombia, Nicaragua, Honduras, Ecuador, and Brazil.

On the Afro-descendant population, see the various presentations made in the next section of this report. In general, for more details on the work the DIL is doing with Afro-descendant persons, see:

<http://www.oas.org/dil/afrodescendants.htm>

C. International Commercial Arbitration

The DIL is implementing the technical cooperation project "Commercial Arbitration: Training Judicial Agents in the Enforcement of International Awards," financed by the CIDA/OEA/2012-2015 Cooperation Program.

The key objective of the project is to promote, among judges and other public officials, knowledge and the correct application of the regional and global legal instruments in the area of international commercial arbitration and in particular those that regulate the enforcement of judgments and arbitral decisions in disputes in the realm of international trade. The workshops are also aimed at analyzing the main institutions and legal instruments in the world of international commercial arbitration; its importance in the international economy and in international commercial transactions; and the relevance and role of judges in its different phases.

In the period covered by this report education, training, and dissemination activities have been carried out in the context of the Project cited, namely:

1. High-level Meeting on International Commercial Arbitration: Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Judgments and Arbitral Awards

The High-level Meeting on International Commercial Arbitration: Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Judgments and Arbitral Awards, was held on January 21 and 22, 2013, in Miami, United States of America.

The main objective of the meeting was to hold a serious and constructive discussion on the current challenges at the regional level in recognizing and enforcing judgments and arbitral decisions. The issues discussed and the suggestions of the experts, and the key players identified were the basis for designing the contents and methodology of the training program in the months after the workshop.

The meeting was organized by DIL and included the participation of 12 of the most recognized specialists in international commercial arbitration, bringing together representatives from academia and arbitral practice, as well as high-level representatives of the judicial branch, including members of the Supreme Courts of Justice of 11 countries of the Americas.

2. First High-level Meeting on the Role of the Judiciary in International Commercial Arbitration

The First High-level Meeting on the Role of the Judiciary in International Commercial Arbitration was held in San José, Costa Rica, July 22 to 24, 2013.

The meeting was organized by DIL and was supported by the Supreme Court of Justice of Costa Rica, the National Commission for Improvement of the Administration of Justice (CONAMAJ), and the Judicial Training School of Costa Rica.

The meeting brought together 65 participants. They included Supreme Court judges, other high-level judges, and other public officials from Central America, Mexico, the Dominican Republic, and Panama.

3. Second High-level Meeting on the Rule of the Judiciary in International Commercial Arbitration

The Second High-level Meeting on the Role of the Judiciary in International Commercial Arbitration was held in Santiago, Chile, from December 4 to 6, 2013.

The meeting was organized by DIL and sponsored by the Supreme Court of Justice of Chile.

The Meeting brought together 60 participants. Supreme Court members, other high-level judges, and other public officials from South America were among those in attendance.

D. International Law of Refugees

1. Course on the International Law of Refugees

On January 31, 2013, the Course on the International Law of Refugees “Contemporary Challenges in the International Protection of Refugees” was held in Washington, DC.

The course was held pursuant to the mandate established in resolution AG/RES. 2758 (XLII-O/12), “Protection of Asylum Seekers and Refugees in the Americas,” which entrusted the Permanent Council with carrying it out, in the context of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP), with the support of DIL and the technical and financial assistance of the UNHCR.

The course was given in English and Spanish, with simultaneous interpretation available in the four official languages of the Organization. That year the course was focused on the following topics: general notions of the international law of refugees, mixed migratory movements, and the need for international protection of unaccompanied children and victims of human trafficking in the context of the existing international law on refugees, the need for international protection of the victims of organized crime and associated violence in the context of existing international law, the need for international protection of indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples in the America in the context of existing international law, the LGBTI population and the need for international protection in the Americas in the context of the existing international law on refugees, issue of refuge in the Caribbean. All this is considered with an international perspective, contemplating international cooperation.

The course had 70 participants, including staff from the Permanent Missions to the OAS, the General Secretariat of the OAS, and others interested.

The program, the presenters’ résumés, and the audio and video presentations of the sessions are available at DIL’s website. http://www.oas.org/es/sla/ddi/refugiados_cursos.asp

E. Secured Transactions

The Department of International Law (DIL) of the Secretariat for Legal Affairs has been implementing the technical cooperation project “Reform of the Secured Transactions Regime in the Americas,” financed by the CIDA/OEA/2012-2015 Cooperation Program.

The essential objective of the project is to contribute to the establishment of foreseeable secured loan systems in the member states that make credit more accessible and stimulate economic growth throughout the Hemisphere. In the period covered by this report, education, training, and dissemination activities have been carried out that can be described as follows:

1. First Planning Session of the Department of International Law with the member states of the OAS

The First Planning Session of the Department of International Law with the member states of the OAS was held on July 18, 2013, in Washington D.C., United States of America, between the Department of International Law and the member states of the OAS.

The session was organized by DIL and the main objective was to present a summary of the objectives, process, and activities planned for the Project, and to engage in dialogue with representatives of the OAS member states who until then had shown interest in the Project on Secured Transactions.

The session had 13 participants, including the representatives of the Permanent Missions to the OAS of El Salvador, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Paraguay, and Suriname. The meeting also included the participation of a specialist in gender equality from the Inter-American Commission of Women, who provided specific examples on how the reform on secured transactions can help increase women’s access to credit.

2. Colloquium Inter-organizational Collaboration for the Advancement of Private International Law in the Western Hemisphere

The Colloquium Inter-organizational Collaboration for the Advancement of Private International Law in the Western Hemisphere was held on November 20, 2013, in Washington D.C., United States of America.

The Colloquium was organized by DIL. The main objective was to identify opportunities to strengthen and expand existing collaboration with these organizations, focusing attention on

secured transactions and electronic warehouse receipts, subjects that are part of the work plan of these organizations.

The Colloquium had 13 participants, including the Secretary General of The Hague Conference on Private International Law, Dr. Christophe Bernasconi, and Dr. Spiros V. Bazinas, Senior Legal Officer with the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), as well as representatives of the Permanent and Observer Missions to the OAS.

F. Indigenous Peoples

In the last year DIL has continued holding events for dissemination and training geared to leaders of indigenous peoples, governments officials, and members of civil society organizations who work on the indigenous question, in the context of the “Program of Action of the DIL of the OAS on Indigenous Peoples in the Americas” (Program of Action), which seeks, among other things, to foster the integral development of those peoples. One should note that the activities that unfold in the context of this Program are financed by the *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit* (GIZ), as directed by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

The objective of the program is to provide participants with the tools needed to implement the lessons learned in their respective communities or workplaces.

In the period covered by this report education, training, and dissemination activities have been carried out in the context of said Program of Action, as described next.

1. Workshop on Good Governance and Political Participation of Indigenous Leaders

From June 17 to 21, the Workshop on Good Governance and Political Participation of Indigenous Leaders was held in Antigua, Guatemala. The Workshop was organized by DIL with the logistical support of the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) and financing from the Government of Germany (BMZ) and the German Development Agency (GIZ).

The main objective of the Workshop was to promote and strengthen the participation of indigenous peoples in the various internal and international decision-making processes.

The Workshop was part of the “Department of International Law’s Program of Action to Strengthen the Participation of Indigenous Peoples in the Inter-American System,” which seeks to enhance the political impact of indigenous peoples through proposals combining concepts relating to the inter-American system, democratic values, and communication strategies, in addition to identifying the players and institutions involved, while emphasizing actions that further gender equity.

The Workshop included 27 participants from Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Suriname, and Guatemala. The presenters at the event included professors, national indigenous leaders from the political and community sectors, as well as staff of the Secretariat for Political Affairs and the Secretariat for Legal Affairs of the OAS.

2. Mechanisms to Protect the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

The Workshop “Mechanisms to Protect the Rights of Indigenous Peoples” was held October 9, 2013, in Washington D.C., United States of America. The Workshop was organized by DIL with the support of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Commission of Women, with financing from the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), as directed by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

The main objective of the Workshop was to train the staff and consultants of the General Secretariat of the OAS interested in the indigenous question, as well as staff members of the Permanent Missions to the OAS, to facilitate the insertion of the indigenous question in the various projects and activities of the Organization.

The Workshop had 60 participants.

3. Photo Exhibit “Indigenous Perspectives”

The photo exhibit “Indigenous Perspectives” opened on October 9, 2013, in Washington D.C., United States of America. The Exhibit was organized by DIL with the support of the Art Museum of the Americas (AMA) and the financing of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), as directed by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

The main objective of the Exhibit was to illustrate the daily experience of indigenous peoples of our hemisphere in a variety of aspects: culture, work, art, history, and nature. It is a

“perspective” through 21 images selected for their beauty, creativity, and originality, among 520 submitted in May and June 2013. The winning photograph, “Kayapó Body Painting,” captures the moment when children express themselves through art in the Kayapó community, in the Brazilian Amazon.

The opening was attended by 40 persons, including the winning artist in the competition, Mr. Mario Rainha Campos; staff of the General Secretariat of the OAS, representatives of Permanent Missions to the OAS, and the general public.

4. Replicating workshops with technical support from DIL

As part of the Program of Action, DIL provides technical support to the fellows who participate in the education and training activities once the on-site workshops have culminated. The Department offers technical assistance and accompaniment to the former fellows who organize training activities for members of indigenous communities and to those who submit development projects. In this way, an effort is made to promote the program’s sustainability by the fellows themselves giving impetus to repeating the workshops in their communities, using with their own resources.

This year, 11 fellows organized 11 training events. Next is a description, in each case, of the issue addressed, the place of the event, the date, and the number of persons in attendance:

- a) “Workshop on the Political Participation of Indigenous Women,” June 27, 2013, in Veracruz, Mexico. Included the participation of 90 indigenous women leaders.
- b) “Democracy and the OAS,” in Sacatepéquez, Guatemala, July 8 to 11, 2013. Attended by 65 indigenous leaders.
- c) “Participation and Political Advocacy and Collective Rights of Indigenous Peoples,” in the municipality of San Juan de Comalapa, Guatemala, August 11, 2012. Attended by 55 indigenous leaders.
- d) “Workshop on the Political Participation of Indigenous Peoples,” August 19, 2013, in Veracruz, Mexico. Included the participation of 81 indigenous leaders.
- e) “The Importance of Women’s Political Participation in Guatemala,” in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala, August 23, 2013. Attended by 63 indigenous women leaders.

- f) “Workshop on the Political Participation of Indigenous Peoples,” in Puerto Cabezas, Nicaragua, August 28, 2013. Attended by 30 indigenous leaders.
- g) “Meeting of the Council of Elders” in Térraba, Costa Rica”, September 17 and 18, 2013. Attended by 68 indigenous leaders.
- h) “Workshop on Political Participation of Indigenous Leaders,” in Oaxaca, Mexico, September 26 and 27, 2013. Attended by 33 persons, including municipal authorities and indigenous leaders.
- i) “Political Participation and Rights of Indigenous Peoples,” in Veracruz, Mexico, September 27, 2013. Attended by 87 indigenous leaders.
- j) “International Legal Framework for the Protection of Indigenous Peoples,” in Managua, Nicaragua, September 27, 2013. Attended by 35 indigenous leaders.
- k) “Political Participation of Indigenous Peoples” in the community of Akuanusadup, Kuna Yala, Panama, October 24, 2013. Attended by 22 indigenous leaders.

In the workshops given during this period, in all some 629 persons have participated, based on the information provided by the fellows who have organized those events.

The workshops held are a result of the trainings conducted from November 2011 to June 2013, and represent a significant impact of the promotion activities, and in terms of expanding awareness of the courses programmed by DIL.

On the indigenous question in general, see the various presentations on the issue in the next section. For more details on the work done by DIL in relation to indigenous peoples, see the following link:

http://www.oas.org/en/sla/dil/indigenous_peoples.asp

IV. Participation of the Staff of DIL in Different Forums

DIL staff members have continued participating in and organizing conferences and presentations, both at OAS headquarters and in the context of the work missions to the member states, as well as in other forums. All these activities have the aim of making international law and the issues on the

hemispheric agenda as widely known as possible. These activities have great potential to reach very large numbers of people (see the section “The Program in Figures”).

Among the activities carried out in 2013, special mention can be made of the following, organized by topic:

A. Access to Information and Protection of Personal Data

1. Regional Open Government Meeting

The Regional Open Government Meeting was held in Santiago, Chile, January 10 and 11, 2013, in Santiago, Chile. The event was organized by the Government of Chile and the Open Government Partnership (OGP).

The Meeting included the participation of OAS Secretary General José Miguel Insulza, who spoke of the instruments that the OAS has that could be useful for attaining certain objectives or pursuing the key lines of work on which OGP is based, namely, the Mechanism for Fighting Corruption and the Model Inter-American Law for Access to Public Information, adopted by the General Assembly in 2010.

The DIL participated in the Panel on Access to Public Information on the Agenda of the OGP and the Role of the Oversight Bodies. In its presentation DIL explained the process for adopting the Model Law and the content of the standards included in it, suggesting that said Model Law could be considered a tool to be used by the countries that make up the OGP in implementing their respective plans of action.

The Meeting had 300 participants, including high-level officials of the oversight bodies, other public institutions with responsibility for the issue, as well as international experts and academics.

2. Presentation to the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs of the OAS (CAJP)

On April 10, 2013, in Washington D.C., United States of America, in the context of a regular meeting of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs of the OAS (CAJP), the Preliminary Draft of the Inter-American Program on Access to Public Information was presented to that Committee. This presentation was made pursuant to General Assembly resolution AG/RES 2727 (XLII-O/12), by which DIL was entrusted with drawing up that preliminary draft.

The Preliminary Draft included only specific actions whose performance can be evaluated objectively based on progress indicators that have a minimal impact on the Organization's budget.

In addition, the agenda of the CAJP included a presentation on the technical cooperation project led by DIL on Equitable Access to Public Information, financed by the program of the Canadian International Development Agency. In addition, DIL presented a website that is a good introduction to that project. That electronic resource contains more than 190 digital files related to the negotiation of the Model Inter-American Law on Access to Public Information and its Implementation Guide and a data base of comparative law that contains the national provisions and proposed legislation on access to information in the countries of the region.

The meeting included the participation of representatives of the Permanent Missions to the OAS and the Observer States.

3. 11th Ibero-American Meeting on Data Protection

The 11th Ibero-American Meeting on Data Protection was held in Cartagena, Colombia, from October 15 to 17, 2013.

The Meeting was organized by the Ibero-American Network for the Protection of Personal Data (RIPD), the Spanish Agency for Data Protection, the Federal Institute for Access to Information and Data Protection (IFAI), and the Spanish Cooperation Training Center in Cartagena, Colombia.

The main objective of the Meeting was to analyze issues with a major impact in the sphere of the protection of personal data through the development of the new technologies, especially Internet, highlighting, among them, the so-called right to forget; cloud computing; legal cooperation and law enforcement; systems of professional certification; and advertising based on one's interactions on the Internet.

DIL, in its papers, presented the developments on the issue in the context of the OAS, both the work done by DIL and the developments and mandates in the Organization in the context of the advisory and political organs.

It is the first time that the OAS, through DIL, participated in the Meeting in its capacity as a permanent observer to the Ibero-American Network for Data Protection (RIPD). The RIPD was created in response to the need to foster, maintain, and strengthen the exchange of information, experiences, and knowledge among the Ibero-American countries.

The Meeting had 50 participants, including high-level officials from oversight bodies, other public institutions with authority in the area, as well as international experts and academics.

4. Closed Session of the Ibero-American Network for Data Protection (RIPD)

The Closed Session of the Ibero-American Network for Data Protection (RIPD) was held October 17, 2013, Cartagena, Colombia.

The main objective of the Session was to approve the review of the by-laws of the RIPD, to approve the Annual Work Plan of the RIPD, and to learn of new legislative developments in the last year in several countries of the hemisphere, such as Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Panama, El Salvador, and the Dominican Republic.

In its first time participating as an observer of the RIPD, DIL, in representation of the OAS, made a presentation on the treatment of data protection in the OAS, and referred in particular to the possible adoption of a Model Law on the issue. In addition, it discussed the developments and mandates emanating in recent years from the resolutions of the General Assembly, as well as the work that is done in this area by the Inter-American Juridical Committee (IJC). The RIPD includes representatives from most of the Ibero-American countries, and at present the Network is chaired by the Federal Institute for Access to Information and Data Protection of Mexico (IFAI) and the Permanent Secretariat is at the Spanish Agency for Data Protection.

The Meeting brought together 19 participants, including representatives of the RIPD and observer organizations.

B. Access to Justice and Public Defender Services

1. Presentation to the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs of the OAS (CAJP)

On March 7, 2013, in Washington D.C., United States of America, in the context of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs of the OAS, the Special Session was held on Exchange of Good Practices and Experiences in Public Defender Services as a Guarantee of Access to Justice for Persons in Vulnerable Conditions. This session was held pursuant to a mandate from General Assembly resolution AG/RES. 2714 (XLII-0/12).

On that occasion, DIL submitted a report on the implementation of General Assembly resolution AG/RES. 2656 (XLI-0/11) and referred to the cooperation activities it is pursuing with the Inter-American Association of Public Defenders (AIDEF: Asociación Interamericana de Defensorías Públicas), in the context of the Cooperation Agreement that the General Secretariat of the OAS signed with that association on November 4, 2011. It also presented a summary of the written responses from 11 states to a questionnaire circulated last year aimed at compiling preliminary information on different aspects of public defense in the region, and to identify best practices in this area. Both the responses to the questionnaires and the results of this session will enable DIL to carry out the mandate in General Assembly resolution AG/RES. 2714 (XLII-0/12) to prepare a report that compiles good practices in the area of access to justice and public defense in the region to be submitted to the CAJP in the second half of that year.

The persons in attendance at this meeting had an opportunity to exchange ideas, good practices, and experiences in public defender services and the importance of ensuring their autonomy as a guarantee of access to justice for all citizens. They also shared good practices on the structure and characteristics of such institutions, highlighting the need for their independence and functional and budgetary autonomy; the recent expansion of their functions and areas of jurisdiction in some countries, different from what they have traditionally been, for example providing services not only to the accused, but also to victims, and to matters not just criminal, but also agrarian, as well as proceedings for alimony and child support.

The participants emphatically thanked the OAS and the General Secretariat for the importance that has been accorded to the topic and for the adoption of resolutions by the General Assembly, which have facilitated the strengthening of these institutions, and have had specific results, especially with respect to the adoption of relevant legislation, as is the case of the recent Paraguayan law on public defender services.

The Session was attended by 40 persons, among them representatives of the member states of the OAS, permanent observers, and public defenders of the hemisphere, as well as representatives of the AIDEF and other civil society organizations registered with the OAS.

2. Courses on the Inter-American System for Public Defenders

In the third week of March, in the cities of Buenos Aires and Paraná, Argentina, two courses were given on the inter-American system for public defenders. Those courses were held

in the context of resolution AG/RES.2714 (XLII-O/12) “Official Public Defenders as a Guarantee of Access to Justice for Persons in Situations of Vulnerability,” paragraph 7 of which encourages the organs of the inter-American system to hold trainings of the official public defenders of the hemisphere.

The courses were organized by the Office of Public Defense of the Nation of Argentina, the Office of Public Defense of the province of Entre Ríos, and the DIL.

In the context of these courses DIL made presentations on the structure and operations of the OAS, and the mechanisms available to public defenders to participate in the system, also addressing specific issues such as indigenous peoples, Afrodescendants, persons with disabilities, and the LGBTI community, highlighting the most recent developments on these issues within the Organization.

DIL was thus able to attain one of its objectives, which is to disseminate the inter-American system not only in the capital cities of the member states, but also in the provinces and cities of the interior.

The courses included the participation of more than 130 public defenders of Argentina from Buenos Aires and from the provinces of Entre Ríos, Santa Fe, Corrientes, Formosa, Córdoba, and La Rioja, in addition to public defenders, judges, and prosecutors from the trial and appellate courts, other appellate judges, and the Attorney General and Chief Public Defender of Entre Ríos.

C. Afro-descendants

1. Third World Summit of African and Afro-descendant Mayors and World Leaders

The Third World Summit of African and Afro-descendant Mayors and World Leaders was held in Cali and Cartagena, Colombia, September 12 to 18, 2013. The Summit was organized by the National Conference of Black Mayors (NCBM), which brings together 689 mayors in the United States; and the Association of Afro-Colombian Mayors (AMUNAFRO: Asociación de Alcaldes Afrocolombianos), which brings together 215 mayors in Colombia. It enjoyed the support of the Government of Colombia.

The main objective of the Summit was to further the political dialogue and international cooperation for the development of Africa and the African Diaspora, generating cultural, social, economic, commercial, sports, academic, and spiritual integration.

DIL, in view of its work on Afro-descendants in the context of the Organization of American States (OAS), participated in the Roundtable on Good Practices.

The Third World Summit of African and Afro-descendant Mayors and World Leaders culminated with a declaration of 16 commitments, in which special mention should be made of the request to pool efforts with a view to signing, ratifying, and implementing the Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination and Related Forms of Intolerance; and the Inter-American Convention against All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance.

The Summit was attended by approximately 2,000 participants, including the President of Colombia, Juan Manuel Santos; the Vice President of Colombia, Angelino Garzón; the mayor of Cali, Rodrigo Guerrero; the mayor of Cartagena, Dionisio Vélez; the mayor of Quibdó, Zulia Mena; the director of the Presidential Program on Afro-Colombians, Oscar Gamboa; the Minister of Integration and International Cooperation of Italy, Cécile Kyenge; and the Assistant Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS), Ambassador Albert Ramdin.

2. Presentation to the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP)

The Session for Sharing Good Practices and Successful Experiences for the Social Inclusion of the Afro-descendant Population among the Members States was held December 12, 2013, in Washington D.C., United States of America, in the context of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs of the OAS (CAJP). This session was held pursuant to a mandate from General Assembly resolution AG/RES. 2784 (XLIII-O/13) "Recognition and Promotion of the Rights of People of African Descent in the Americas."

The Session included presentations by Ms. Judith Morrison, Senior Adviser with the Inter-American Development Bank on gender and diversity, and by the DIL.

In its presentation the DIL discussed the work it has been doing on Afro-descendant issues since 2008, engaging in different types of activities in order to give greater visibility to Afro-descendant persons in the inter-American system and to enable them to participate in its activities. This presentation took place in the context of the "Project for the Incorporation of the Afro-descendant Issues in the Policies and Program of the OAS" financed by CIDA (Canada), through the "Project for Training Trainees of Afro-descendant Leaders in the Americas," financed by the Spanish Fund for the OAS, and the activities for

dissemination and training in the context of the Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law.

The meeting included representatives of the Permanent Mission to the OAS and the Observer States.

D. International Commercial Arbitration

1. Fifth Latin American Conference on Arbitration

The Fifth Latin American Conference on Arbitration took place June 13 and 14, 2013, in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

The Conference was organized by the Centro de Estudios de Derecho, Economía y Política (CEDEP) and the Law School of the Universidad de Buenos Aires, with the support of the American Association of Private International Law (ASADIP: Asociación Americana de Derecho Internacional Privado).

The main objective of the Conference was to raise various important issues of current relevance concerning arbitration. DIL co-sponsored one of the main working groups, which was led by the Secretary for Legal Affairs of the OAS, Dr. Jean Michel Arrighi.

The Conference included the participation of more than 200 presenters and arbitrators, with more than 600 persons in attendance from several countries of Latin America and elsewhere, including representatives of more than 20 of the main arbitration centers and institutions of the region and internationally.

E. International Criminal Court

1. Twelfth Session of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute

The Twelfth Session of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute was held in The Hague, Netherlands, from November 20 to 22, 2013.

The DIL, in representation of the OAS, participated with one presentation on the working sessions of the International Criminal Court, and on the work on the ICC done by the Inter-American Juridical Committee, in the context of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs of the OAS (CAJP).

The session brought together 120 people, among them staff of the International Criminal Court, professionals practicing international criminal law, representatives of academia, and government authorities, including legal experts from several member states of the OAS.

F. Secured Transactions

1. 23rd Session of the Sixth Working Group of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law

The 23rd Session of the Sixth Working Group (Security Interests) of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) was held in New York, United States of America, from April 8 to 12, 2013.

The 23rd Session was a forum for the dissemination of valuable information by renowned experts in the field who presented their points of view and debated how both stakeholders and beneficiaries can provide assistance in the context of efforts to harmonize policies, good practices, procedures, notice and enforcement systems, and relevant legal instruments.

DIL, in representation of the OAS, participated in the deliberations in its capacity as an international organization that is an observer at UNCITRAL.

The Session had 24 participants, among them professionals in the practice of private international law, representatives of the academic world, and governmental authorities, including experts on legal matters from several member states of the OAS.

2. Conference on the Reform of Secured Transactions in Latin America and the Caribbean

The “Conference on the Reform of Secured Transactions in Latin America and the Caribbean” was held September 18 and 19, 2013, in San José, Costa Rica.

The Conference was organized by the International Finance Corporation (IFC) of the World Bank Group, the Institute of the Americas, and the Government of Costa Rica. The main objective of the Conference was to promote and expand implementation of the reform of secured transactions regimes in the Hemisphere.

DIL participated on a panel made up of representatives of the IFC, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and the Office of Technical Assistance of the Treasury Department of the United States of America.

The Session was attended by 25 persons, including professionals engaged in the practice of private international law, representatives of the academic community, and government

authorities, including legal experts from several member states of the OAS.

3. Pacific Colloquium: Harmonizing Trade Law and Economic Development

The “Pacific Rim Colloquium: Harmonizing Trade Law and Economic Development,” was held in Santiago, Chile, October 17 to 19, 2013. The Colloquium was organized by the Law School of the Universidad Mayor de Chile and the Centro Nacional de Leyes para el Libre Comercio Interamericano (National Law Center for Inter-American Free Trade).

The main objective of the Colloquium was to promote and expand harmonization in relation to trade law and to identify key priorities for facilitating economic integration in the Pacific Region.

The DIL participated in the Colloquium, making a presentation on the OAS Model Law on Secured Transactions and its Model Registry Regulations, as well as the Project on Secured Transactions at the OAS.

The Session included 25 participants, among them professionals engaged in the practice of private international law, representatives of academia, and government authorities, including legal experts from various member states of the OAS.

4. Conference and Annual Meeting of the American Association of Private International Law (ASADIP)

The Conference and Annual Meeting of the American Association of Private International Law (ASADIP) was held October 31 and November 1, 2013, in Asunción, Paraguay.

ASADIP was founded in 2007. Among its objectives is: *“To cooperate with the Organization of American States regarding Inter-American draft rules on the subject, as well as with other instances and universal, regional, subregional and national institutions, both public and private, in charge of the drafting and development of Private International Law.”* We should note that both organizations subsequently signed a cooperation agreement to achieve this objective.

The DIL participated in the inaugural act and on one panel on secured transactions.

There were 26 participants in the Conference and Annual Meeting, including professionals engaged in the practice of private international law, representatives of academia, and government authorities, including legal experts from several member states of

the OAS, the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT), and The Hague Conference on Private International Law (Regional Office).

5. Consultations on the 4th Protocol to the Cape Town Convention

The Meeting of Consultation on the 4th Protocol to the Cape Town Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment was held on November 19, 2013, in Washington D.C., United States of America.

DIL was invited to participate in the consultations on the possibility of beginning to draft that Protocol.

It should be noted that the Cape Town Convention seeks to establish a legal framework for international interests in mobile equipment and with that aim to start up an international registry system. The Convention, together with the first protocol on aeronautical equipment, came into force in 2006. The second protocol, on railway equipment, and the third protocol, regarding spatial objects, were adopted in 2007 and 2012, respectively, and are open for signature by the States, even though neither has yet to come into force.

There were 20 participants at the meeting, among them professionals engaged in the practice of private international law representatives of academia, including legal experts from several member states of the OAS, the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT), and The Hague Conference on Private International Law (Regional Office).

6. Meeting of the World Bank Insolvency and Creditor/Debtor Regimes Task Force

The Meeting of the World Bank Insolvency and Creditor/Debtor Regimes Task Force was held November 21 and 22, 2013, in Washington D.C., United States of America.

DIL participated in the meeting and was invited to join the Insolvency and Creditor/Debtor Regimes Task Force.

DIL has been invited to join the World Bank's Insolvency and Creditor/Debtor Regimes Task Force. We should emphasize that the principles and main considerations for effective insolvency and debtor/creditor regimes are being subjected to a review as provided for in the legislative guides of the United Nations Commission for International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) on the insolvency regime and secured transactions.

Reforming the insolvency regime goes hand in hand with reforming the secured transactions regime. This is precisely why the work of the Task Force is of special interest to DIL.

The Meeting was attended by 20 participants, among them professionals practicing private international law, representatives of academia, including legal experts from several member states of the OAS, the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT), and The Hague Conference on Private International Law (Regional Office).

G. Indigenous Peoples

1. Global Conference of Indigenous Women

The Global Conference of Indigenous Women was held in Lima, Peru, October 28 to 30, 2013.

The Conference was organized by the International Forum of Indigenous Women, the Enlace Continental de Mujeres Indígenas de las Américas, the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact, the African Indigenous Women's Organization, the Alianza de Mujeres Indígenas de Centroamérica y México, Asian Indigenous Women's Network, the Pacific Indigenous Women's Network, the Indigenous Information Network, and CHIRAPAQ, Centro de Culturas Indígenas del Perú. And it had the support of the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum for Indigenous Affairs, UN Women, FAO, UNDP, Ministry of Culture of Peru, Christensen Fund, Global Fund for Women, Tamalpais Trust, the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), the Indigenous Fund, IWGIA, Channel Foundation, Mama Cash, and the Ford Foundation.

The main objective of the Conference was to contribute to the actual observance and full recognition of the rights of indigenous women, youths, and children in light of the efforts made in the women's movement since the 1995 Beijing Conference, and to facilitate the preparation of recommendations for the United Nations World Conference of Indigenous Peoples to take place in September 2014, pursuant to resolution A/Res/65/98. DIL made a presentation on international provisions regarding indigenous peoples' participation in the public sphere.

The Conference was attended by 250 persons, among them indigenous women leaders, public officials, experts from international organizations, and academics.

In addition, taking advantage of DIL's presence in Lima, a meeting was held with former Peruvian and foreign students in the trainings held over the last five years, in the context of the project

“Program of Action of the Department of International Law on Indigenous Peoples in the Americas,” as the result of a cooperation agreement between DIL and the German Development Agency (GIZ). This meeting was aimed at exchanging views on the implications of the trainings and follow-up to them. The meeting included a representative of the GIZ in Peru and the Director of the OAS National Office in Peru.

H. Inter-American System

1. Master's in International Protection of Human Rights

For the fifth year in a row the Department of International Law participated in the Master's in International Protection of Human Rights (tenth edition) organized by the Universidad de Alcalá, of Spain, with professors of world standing. The Department gave its classes November 25 and 26, 2013, covering a total of 10 hours.

The Course covered the following issues:

- a. The inter-American system and human rights.
- b. The process of strengthening and the reforms to the inter-American human rights system.
- c. Current issues on the inter-American legal agenda: persons with disabilities, sexual orientation and gender identity, access to public information, indigenous peoples, and Afro-descendants.

This Program is aimed at training public officials, attorneys, and other professionals who work in the area of human rights with a special emphasis on international forensic practice. The participants are from a variety of countries of Latin America, Europe, and other regions. Many of them work as public defenders or human rights defenders, or are from civil society.

To obtain additional information on the Program, visit the page: <http://dip.uah.es>

With its participation, the DIL has succeeded in disseminating the work the Organization does in the area of human rights in relation to vulnerable sectors, and the main current political processes in relation to these issues. The classes were attended by 30 students.

V. Cooperation Agreements

The Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law includes as one of its components cooperation for developing, disseminating, and teaching international law in the Hemisphere. In this connection, the Program seeks to promote agreements with various entities for the teaching and dissemination of inter-American law, and with international organizations. Similarly, it is anticipated that cooperation agreements will be entered into with various international financial institutions, and with other entities that can economically support the work of disseminating, developing, and teaching international law.

In keeping with what is provided for under this component of the Program, in the past DIL has entered into several cooperation agreements with a variety of agencies and entities, making it possible to better implement the activities for promoting and disseminating international law contemplated in the Inter-American Program, and at the same time it making it possible to finance several of these activities.

In the period covered by this report, the General Secretariat of the OAS signed three new cooperation agreements in which the DIL is the focal point, very directly linked to the Program's objectives and purposes.

A. Framework Agreement with the Office of the Chief Prosecutor of the Federal District of Mexico

On April 14, 2013, the General Secretariat of the OAS and the Office of the Chief Prosecutor of the Federal District of Mexico signed a cooperation agreement in the context of the celebrations marking the 75th anniversary of Professional Training Institute of that Office of the Chief Prosecutor.

The purpose of the agreement signed is to create cooperation mechanisms that make it possible to improve the efficiency in the performance of the Office of the Chief Prosecutor's constitutional mandate, among them through the education, training, and updating of the members of the Public Ministry, thereby strengthening its work; and the joint organizing of activities such as research, sharing experiences and best practices, and forging spaces that facilitate a fluid dialogue with other actors and networks of the sector, all aimed at strengthening the service offered.

DIL is the technical area in charge of implementing the Agreement.

B. Framework Cooperation Agreement with the Institute of Political Sciences of Grenoble

On June 15, 2013, the General Secretariat of the OAS signed a cooperation agreement with the Institute of Political Sciences of Grenoble.

The agreement is aimed at creating mechanisms for cooperation mechanisms between the parties on issues of mutual interest.

DIL is the technical area that will be in charge of implementing the Agreement.

C. Framework Cooperation Agreement with the Judicial Branch of Peru

On December 4, 2013, the General Secretariat of the OAS and the Judicial Branch of Peru signed a cooperation agreement.

The purpose of the agreement is to disseminate and promote international law among judges in the courts of Peru.

DIL is the technical area that will be in charge of implementing the Agreement.

VI. Publications and Virtual Bookstore

The Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law seeks to disseminate publications of texts such as the Charter of the OAS as amended and others of interest, such as, for example, the annual volumes on issues related to international law that have been published for years, and that are part of the inter-American legal materials. The most important publications are distributed to all the Permanent Missions to the Organization, universities of the Hemisphere, and others interested.

In addition, during the period covered by this report, DIL began a project aimed at digitizing its publications. It is expected that this effort will culminate shortly. Its objective is for the publications of DIL to reach a larger audience, by Internet and free of charge, that is interested in knowing more about the inter-American system and the legal doctrine that DIL has been compiling over the years.

The books edited, published, and distributed over the period covered by this report include the following:

A. 39th Course on International Law

The DIL published the 39th Course on International Law, which brings together the presentations made at that event, which is organized annually by this Department along with the Inter-American Juridical Committee.

The series of the Course on International Law is part of the doctrinal materials of the inter-American system and stands out for the quality of its texts and the authors who contribute to the publication, who include judges of international courts, academics, officials of international organizations, members of the Inter-American Juridical Committee, and other specialists.

For more information, see:

http://www.oas.org/dil/esp/publicaciones_curso2012_portadaampliada.htm

B. Access to Information

In the context of the technical cooperation project “Equitable Access to Public Information,” financed by the CIDA/OEA/2012-2015 Cooperation Program, the DIL continues working to promote the purpose of this project, which is to contribute to improving the capacity of the OAS member states in the areas of transparency and equitable access to public information by disseminating and incorporating the Model Inter-American Law on Access to Public Information and its implementation guide. In this vein, the following materials have been published in the period covered by this report:

1. Model Inter-American Law on Access to Public Information and Its Implementation Guide

The publication is one of the outcomes of the project “Equitable Access to Public Information,” financed by the CIDA/OEA/2012-2015 Cooperation Program.

To access the book, see:

http://www.oas.org/es/sla/ddi/docs/Acceso_Ley_Modelo_Libro_Espanol.pdf

2. High-level Workshop on Equitable Access to Public Information: Costa Rica

The book “Taller de Alto Nivel sobre Acceso Equitativo a la Información Pública” pulls together the papers from the “High-level Workshop on Equitable Access to Public Information: Costa Rica,” held in San José, Costa Rica in September 2013.

The publication is one of the outcomes of the project “Equitable Access to Public Information,” financed by the CIDA/OEA/2012-2015 Cooperation Program.

To access the book, see:

http://www.oas.org/es/sla/ddi/docs/acceso_informacion_taller_alto_nivel_costa_rica_2013_publicacion.pdf

C. International Commercial Arbitration

In the framework of the technical cooperation project “Commercial Arbitration: Training the Judicial Agents in the Enforcement of International Awards,” financed by the CIDA/OEA/2012-2015 Cooperation Program, DIL continues pursuing the main objective of that project, which is to promote, among judges and other public officials, knowledge and the correct application of the regional and international legal instruments in the area of international commercial arbitration, in particular those that regulate the enforcement of judgments and arbitral decisions in international trade disputes.

It is in this vein that the following publications have been completed in the period covered by this report:

1. Arbitraje Comercial Internacional: El Reconocimiento y la Ejecución de Sentencias y Laudos Arbitrales Extranjeros

The book “Arbitraje Comercial Internacional: El Reconocimiento y la Ejecución de Sentencias y Laudos Arbitrales Extranjeros” pulls together the papers from the “High-level Meeting on International Commercial Arbitration: Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Judgments and Arbitral Awards,” held in January 2013 in Miami, United States of America.

The publication is one of the outcomes of the project “International Commercial Arbitration: Training the Judiciary in the Enforcement of International Arbitral Awards,” financed by the Canadian International Development Agency.

The book also pulls together articles by specialists, academics, and judicial authorities, including Román Solís Zelaya, Member of the First Chamber of the Supreme Court of Costa Rica; Milton Juica, Member of the Supreme Court of Chile; Hernán de León Batista, Member of the Supreme Court of Panama; Paul Arrighi, Member of the International Chamber of Commerce; Humberto Sáenz Marinero, partner with the firm Sáenz & Asociados of El Salvador; and Verónica Sandler Obregón, Professor at the Universidad de Buenos Aires and the Law School of the Universidad de Argentina de Empresa.

To access the book, see:
http://www.oas.org/es/sla/ddi/docs/arbitraje_comercial_publicaciones_Reconocimiento_Ejecucion_Sentencias_Laudos_2013.pdf

2. Inter-American Conventions on International Commercial Arbitration

The publication is one of the results of the project “International Commercial Arbitration: Training the Judiciary in the Enforcement of International Arbitral Awards,” financed by the CIDA/OEA/2012-2015 Cooperation Program.

To access the book, see:
http://www.oas.org/es/sla/ddi/docs/arbitraje_comercial_publicaciones_Convenciones_Interamericanas_12-03-12.pdf

3. Inter-American Convention on International Commercial Arbitration: Minutes and Preparatory Sessions

The publication is one of the outcomes of the project “International Commercial Arbitration: Training the Judiciary in the Enforcement of International Arbitral Awards,” financed by the CIDA/OEA/2012-2015 Cooperation Program.

To access the book, see:
http://www.oas.org/es/sla/ddi/docs/arbitraje_comercial_publicaciones_Actas_Sesiones_Preparatorias_2013.pdf

D. Secured Transactions

In the context of the technical cooperation project “Reform of the Secured Transactions Regime in the Americas,” financed by the CIDA/OEA/2012-2015 Cooperation Program, DIL continues pursuing the main objective of that project, which is to contribute to establishing foreseeable systems of secured loans in the member states, which make credit more accessible and stimulate economic growth throughout the Hemisphere. In this regard, the following has been published in the period covered by this report:

The Model Inter-American Law on Secured Transactions and Model Registry Regulations

E. Indigenous Peoples

In the context of DIL's “Program of Action on Indigenous Peoples in the Americas” (Program of Action), which seeks, among other things, to foster the integral development of the indigenous

peoples, the DIL has prepared tools needed for training leaders of indigenous peoples, government officials, and members of civil society organizations working on indigenous issues.

The publications are the result of DIL's "Program of Action on Indigenous Peoples in the Americas" (Action Program), financed by the *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit* (GIZ), as directed by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

In this context, the following publications have been completed during the period covered by this report:

1. The Rights of Indigenous Peoples in the Inter-American System
1. Manual of the Logical Framework System: Case Studies and Examples Related to the Indigenous Question.
2. Democracy and Political Participation of the Indigenous Peoples.

F. Upcoming Publications

The following are among the publications DIL anticipates completing next:

- a) 40th Course in International Law (2013).
- b) Human Rights in the Works of the Inter-American Juridical Committee.
- c) High-level Workshop on Equitable Access to Public Information: Panama.
- d) High-level Workshop on Equitable Access to Public Information: Peru.

G. Virtual Bookstore

Our catalogue of publications contains around 41 available titles, which are the works published in prior years.

Copies are requested regularly by university and other educational institutions, researchers, students, and others.

In addition, at present, a process is under way for digitizing the publications of DIL and making them accessible free of charge on

line. It is expected that this process will conclude soon, so that our publications can be available to a wider public.

That information can be consulted at our website:
<http://www.oas.org/dil/publications.htm>

VII. Dissemination over the Internet

A. General Description of DIL's Website

DIL maintains an Internet page through an exclusively dedicated webmaster that is updated periodically.

This page is a very important tool for promoting and disseminating international law.

The website contains information on the work of the political organs of the OAS related to international law, for example on issues of international humanitarian law, indigenous peoples, Afrodescendants, refugees, internally displaced persons, and stateless persons, access to information and protection of personal data, the International Criminal Court, racism, discrimination, and intolerance, private international law, international commercial arbitration, etc.

Each of these issues is organized around various links, which contain information on the instruments related to them (General Assembly resolutions, background on each issue, and all types of relevant instruments), as well as the activities in relation to these issues (special sessions, courses, as well as their respective programs and agendas, etc.).

At the same time, the website is an important source for gaining access to documentary resources on the OAS, for example, in relation to treaties, General Assembly resolutions, model laws, and various instruments of the inter-American system.

The page also puts out information on the various activities for promoting and disseminating international law carried out by the DIL in the context of specific projects and programs, as well as information on courses, seminars, and scholarships.

To obtain information on the reach and dissemination of this website, see the section of this report titled "The Program in Figures," with information on the number of visits to and downloads from the page.

You can consult our website at the following link:
www.oas.org/dil

B. Website of the Inter-American Juridical Committee

DIL's website also has a specific link to the Inter-American Juridical Committee (ICJ), which details the work of that organ and provides information on its composition, members, current agenda, working documents, annual reports, etc.

The Department serves as the Technical Secretariat for this organ, in addition to the mandates contained in the Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law, which call for making available resolutions and other documents approved by different organs of the Organization that may be relevant from the legal point of view.

All information relevant to the ICJ can be consulted at the following link:

<http://www.oas.org/en/sla/iajc/default.asp>

C. Data Base of the Diplomatic Academies of the Hemisphere

AG/RES. 2174 (XXXVI-O/06) "Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law" called on the DIL to create a data base at its website on the diplomatic academies of the Hemisphere.

In light of this mandate, DIL's website has a link, updated periodically, with information on the diplomatic academies of the hemisphere (authorities, contact information, etc.), and for which it is permanently open to receive suggestions and updates through the respective Permanent Missions to the OAS.

For more information, see:

http://www.oas.org/en/sla/dil/diplomatic_academies.asp

D. Newsletters/Notices

Finally, as a way of more broadly disseminating its activities, DIL has continued its work of dissemination by electronic media, specifically through newsletters or announcements that are circulated to all users of the OAS network (Permanent Missions, General Secretariat, National Offices, etc.), as well as the data base of DIL, which has some 1,505 contacts all of whom are persons associated with international law.

The newsletters are used to periodically report on the Department's activities. These newsletters are available at the website, at the following link:

<http://www.oas.org/en/sla/dil/newsletters.asp>

VIII. Legal Procedures and/or Dissemination of Inter-American Instruments

The Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law provides for accessibility through a website where one can consult the texts of the inter-American treaties of which the OAS is the depositary, the current status of signatures, ratifications and/or accessions, reservations, objections, declarations, and date of entry into force, as well as similar information on cooperation agreements entered into by the OAS, among other matters.

In keeping with this mandate, all the information described in the previous paragraph is available at our website, which has a simple system for searching treaties, agreements, and other instruments chronologically or alphabetically.

In addition, and in keeping with its functions, in 2013 DIL performed the following procedures:

- a) Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination, and Related Forms of Intolerance, adopted by the General Assembly.
- b) Inter-American Convention against All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance, adopted by the General Assembly.
- c) One deposit of an instrument of ratification.
- d) 10 notifications regarding states of emergency.
- e) One denunciation of an instrument.

In addition, certifications were prepared and updated and complete information was provided on those treaties in which the Organization of American States is named as the official depositary.

As regards bilateral agreements, a total of 70 cooperation agreements entered into by the General Secretariat were recorded.

All this information can be consulted at our website at the following link: http://www.oas.org/dil/treaties_and_agreements.htm

IX. The Program in Figures

Several years ago DIL began to measure, quantify, and verify the impact of some of its activities. Next are some figures, in some cases estimates, but that give one an approximate idea of the Program's impact. All this is without prejudice to the incommensurable value implicit in a Program with the characteristics such as ours, many of whose activities have an intangible value – like any activity that has a major education/training component – and which cannot be measured with mere figures or numbers.

Education and Training Events Organized by the Department

	Topic	Number of events and/or activities	Estimate of persons trained or participants
1.	Course on International Law	1	32
2.	Access to Information and Protection of Personal Data	5	614
3.	Afrodescendants	1	50
4.	International Commercial Arbitration	3	137
5.	International Law on Refugees	1	70
6.	Private International Law	2	26
7.	Indigenous Peoples	14	756
	TOTAL	27	1,685

Fellowships Granted by the Department in the Context of Projects Financed with Specific Funds

	Topic	Number of fellows
1.	Indigenous Peoples	27
2.	TOTAL	27

Participation of DIL Staff in Different Forums

	Topic	Number of presentations, etc.	Estimate of persons trained or participants
1.	Access to Information and Protection of Personal Data	4	387
2.	Access to Justice and Public Defender Services	2	170
3.	Afrodescendants	2	2,018
4.	International Commercial Arbitration	1	820
5.	International Criminal Court	1	12
6.	Private International Law	6	140
7.	Indigenous Peoples	1	250
8.	Inter-American System	1	30
	TOTAL	18	3,827

Publications

	Topic	Number of books printed	Copies distributed or sold
1.	39 th Course on International Law	200	141
2.	Model Inter-American Law on Access to Public Information and its Implementation Guide	230	158
3.	High-level Workshop on Equitable Access to Public Information: Costa Rica	200	100
4.	International Commercial Arbitration: Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Judgments and Arbitral Awards	150	143
5.	Inter-American Conventions on International Commercial Arbitration	250	150
6.	Inter-American Convention on International Commercial Arbitration: Minutes and Preparatory Sessions	200	200
7.	Model Inter-American Law on Secured Transactions and Model Registry Regulations	800	100
8.	The Rights of Indigenous Peoples in the Inter-American System	100	50
9.	Manual of the Logical Framework System – Case Studies and Examples Related to Indigenous Issues	100	50
10.	Democracy and Political Participation of Indigenous Peoples	100	50
11.	TOTAL	2,330	1,142

Virtual Library

The Department's virtual library currently has approximately 41 different publications available to the general public, and which can be consulted through the following catalogue:

http://www.oas.org/dil/publications_digital_catalogue.htm

Dissemination by Internet³

	Month	Visits	Downloads
1.	Jan	423,247	211,000
2.	Feb	504,042	279,000
3.	Mar	554,121	415,000
4.	Apr	618,871	526,000
5.	May	616,669	531,000
6.	June	527,090	561,000
7.	July	421,195	500,000
8.	Aug	332,151	419,000
9.	Sep	464,608	623,841
10.	Oct	492,970	844,821
11.	Nov	436,594	680,211
12.	Dec	227,993	366,559
13.	TOTAL	5,619,551	5,957,432

Newsletters

Number. In the period covered by this report, 56 newsletters of DIL have been distributed. These newsletters report on its activities for the promotion and dissemination of international law and the inter-American system, among other news.

Distribution and Reach. The bulletins are distributed to a list of approximately 1,505 interested individuals and organizations, not counting the whole internal distribution system within the OAS, which also receives the newsletter electronically (General Secretariat, Permanent Missions, National Offices, etc.).

³ Data provided by DOITS. The table does not include the link for the Inter-American Juridical Committee, which had a total of 78,230 visits plus 149,530 downloads.

X. Conclusion

It has been 16 years since the Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law was first adopted by the General Assembly in 1997. Since then, the States have been reaffirming their support for the Program through annual resolutions. In 2011, this support was reinforced by the decision by the States to update the Program in order to adapt it to new developments in the promotion of international law, mindful of the results attained to date in its implementation.

Throughout this report we have sought to highlight the efforts made by DIL, through each of the activities described in detail, to make clear how the Department has been working in the different areas of the Program, namely:

- a) legal information about treaties in the inter-American system;
- b) legal developments in the organs of the OAS;
- c) the teaching of inter-American international law;
- d) dissemination through publications and other means; and,
- e) cooperation for the development, dissemination, and teaching of international law in the Hemisphere.

Accordingly, we have explained how we are providing complete information on the texts of the treaties, their legal status, as well as the cooperation agreements entered into by the OAS, using new technologies and means of dissemination such as the Internet. In addition, the inter-American agenda is disseminated through these same media, with complete information on specific issues related to international law.

Our activities for the promotion, dissemination, education, training, and in general the teaching of international law, through courses, workshops, seminars, lectures, and talks have also been described at sections II and IV of this report. Some of these activities also perform the function of promoting legal developments in the organs of the OAS.

We have continued to put out our traditional publications while also adding some that are more novel in light of the Program.

One should note the gains we have made in recent years in including a gender perspective in all our programs and activities, especially those aimed at promoting and disseminating international law. Accordingly, the full and equal participation of

women, their particular needs, contributions, and presence permeated each of the thematic areas, activities, courses, seminars, and workshops organized by the DIL during the last year. The content of these activities included not only the cross-cutting axis of gender, but also the treatment of issues specifically related to women, which received serious and specific attention. On a complementary basis, equal participation was achieved, not only in terms of the number of fellowships and participants, but also in terms of experts, lecturers, and trainers.

DIL has also continued fostering cooperation with several entities and agencies to strengthen the Program's activities. Such initiatives are extremely important, as these relationships translate into a major source of financing that allows us to carry out many of the activities that we have described, without that implying a budgetary burden for the Organization. In order to avoid accidental omissions, we will not proceed to name the strategic allies that support us in many different ways to contribute to the success of the Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law, yet we take this opportunity to state our recognition of each and every one of them (various international agencies and entities, international financial institutions, aid agencies of many countries, Permanent Missions to the OAS, Observer States to the OAS, academic institutions, and civil society organizations, among others).

We conclude this report by suggesting to the States, for their consideration, that they continue to provide their decisive support for the Program, as they have since it was adopted, in order to increasingly reinforce the activities described in this report, reach an ever larger public, and disseminate and promote in the best possible manner international law, the inter-American system, and the Organization's legal agenda.

ATTACHMENTS

The following documents are provided as attachments to this report:

- A. AG/DEC. 12 (XXVI-O/96), "Declaration of Panama on the Inter-American Contribution to the Development and Codification of International Law"
- B. AG/RES. 2660 (XLI-O/11), "Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law"
- C. AG/RES. 2791 (XLIII-O/13) "Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law"

A. AG/DEC. 12 (XXVI-O/96), "Declaration of Panama on the Inter-American Contribution to the Development and Codification of International Law"

AG/DEC. 12 (XXVI-O/96)

DECLARATION OF PANAMA ON THE INTER-AMERICAN
CONTRIBUTION
TO THE DEVELOPMENT AND CODIFICATION OF
INTERNATIONAL LAW

(Adopted at the sixth plenary session,
held on June 5, 1996)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

CONSIDERING:

That the Charter of the Organization of American States establishes that international law is the standard of conduct of states in their reciprocal relations;

That international order consists essentially of respect for the personality, sovereignty, and independence of states, and the faithful fulfillment of obligations derived from treaties and other sources of international law;

That the Organization of American States is the principal and irreplaceable forum in which states, on an equal footing, adopt legal provisions in both public and private international law to govern their relations at the hemispheric level;

That this has allowed the development of a rich regional legal heritage, which has been a valuable contribution by the Organization of American States to the consolidation of a peaceful, just, and equitable international order;

That full respect for the rule of law, nationally and internationally, is vital to the exercise of representative democracy, which is an essential purpose of the Inter-American system, and in this sense additional legal instruments should be developed to further strengthen democracy in the Hemisphere;

That the contribution of the inter-American legal system to the establishment of important principles of general international law has been recognized by the world community, notably the development of inter-American rules concerning human rights protection, the application of the principle of nonintervention, the

establishment of procedures for peaceful settlement of disputes, the development of principles concerning the right to asylum and of rules on the law of the sea, the strengthening of judicial cooperation, the development and codification of private international law, and the creation of institutions to finance and promote economic and social development;

That, more recently, there have been noteworthy legal contributions concerning hemispheric solidarity and inter-American cooperation for the protection of minors, the prevention of violence against women, efforts against corruption, the war on terrorism, and the waging of a common battle against drugs;

That the formulation and development of inter-American international law in the framework of the Organization encourages cooperation and mutual understanding among different national legal systems as well as between the civil and common law systems represented in the Hemisphere;

That inter-American legal development is a priority undertaking that should be intensified in light of the decision by the heads of state and government meeting in Miami in 1994 in support of peace, democracy, development, economic integration, and social justice;

That this will require a search for innovative legal solutions to meet the new challenges and demands arising from the commonality of interests, the increasing circulation of people, increased trade, the existence of common threats to our societies, concerns relating to indigenous populations, and the environment;

That the Secretary General of the Organization of American States has presented an important document entitled "The Law in a New Inter-American Order," which assesses the inter-American system's contribution to the governance of international relations, analyzes legal issues in our region, and recommends steps to achieve greater efficiency in the legal area, and which the Permanent Council of the Organization and the Inter-American Juridical Committee have received with interest;

That we are living in the United Nations Decade of International Law (1990-1999), an era in which the need for the progressive development and codification of international law has been underscored; and

That it is necessary for the member states to reaffirm their full support for the progressive development and codification of international law, for dissemination of information thereon in the framework of the Organization of American States, and for measures allowing greater inter-American legal cooperation,

DECLARES:

1. Its renewed and most staunch commitment to continue promoting the progressive development and codification of inter-American international law in the framework of the Organization of American States as a suitable way to strengthen relations of peace and solidarity among the states of the Americas, with full respect for their sovereignty and the principle of nonintervention.

2. Its firm belief that the inter-American legal heritage should be preserved and enriched on the basis of the Charter of the Organization of American States and in light of new challenges and goals in our region, so that it will reflect the ongoing cooperation between the two legal systems operating in the Hemisphere.

3. Its profound conviction that international law is the standard of conduct for states in their reciprocal relations, and that the Organization of American States is the forum best suited for the development, negotiation, and adoption of inter-American legal norms.

4. Its recognition of the work undertaken by the various bodies of the Organization on the proposal and preparation of inter-American legal provisions, emphasizing the need for ongoing cooperation and coordination among the Permanent Council, the Inter-American Juridical Committee, and the General Secretariat.

5. Its appreciation to the Secretary General for presenting the document "The Law in a New Inter-American Order," which should be studied by the competent bodies of the Organization.

6. Its resolve to support initiatives aimed at legally reinforcing the institutions of the member states and their cooperative efforts in their struggle against the various scourges afflicting our peoples.

7. Its conviction that, with a view to the growing integration of our countries, it is necessary to intensify the development of private international law and the harmonization of national laws so that they will not hinder the free movement of persons and goods but facilitate regional trade.

8. Its commitment to the legal development of the purposes and principles set forth in the Charter of the Organization of American States.

9. Its determination to move forward with the adoption of legal instruments to promote inter-American cooperation in preserving and protecting the environment.

10. Its certainty that the challenges of today require not only the development of international law through international treaties but also the adaptation by each state of national law to international agreements in force.

11. Its conviction that ties of coordination and cooperation between the Organization of American States and other international organizations, the United Nations in particular, must be strengthened in the area of the progressive development and codification of international law.

12. Its intent that the Organization of American States, through courses, seminars, studies, and publications on international law and judicial cooperation, continue to perform an important task in providing training and information jurists, diplomats, scholars, and officials across the region.

13. Its interest in promoting the broadest possible awareness of the inter-American legal system and, to that end, in studying innovative and cost-effective ways of disseminating this information so that the system will be fully understood and effectively applied in national legal systems.

14. Its approval of the reorganization of the Secretariat for Legal Affairs of the General Secretariat, which is being assigned responsibility for all General Secretariat activities related to the progressive development and codification of international law, its dissemination, and legal and judicial cooperation among the states.

15. Its decision to request the Inter-American Juridical Committee to review its work approach and its agenda with a view to playing a more active role in the legal issues entrusted to it by the Organization, with access to the resources it needs to carry out its responsibilities.

16. Its decision that the Permanent Council, through its Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs, promote procedures for more effective cooperation and coordination among the various bodies of the Organization on legal matters.

17. That this declaration shall be called the "Declaration of Panama on the Inter-American Contribution to the Development and Codification of International Law."

B. AG/RES. 2660 (XLI-O/11), “Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law”

AG/RES. 2660 (XLI-O/11)

INTER-AMERICAN PROGRAM FOR THE DEVELOPMENT
OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 7, 2011)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

Having seen the Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly (AG/doc.5217/11 add. 1), in particular as it pertains to the implementation of resolution AG/RES. 2590 (XL-O/10), “Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law”;

CONSIDERING that in 1996 the General Assembly adopted the Declaration of Panama on the Inter-American Contribution to the Development and Codification of International Law [AG/DEC. 12 (XXVI-O/96)], and that in 1997, by resolution AG/RES. 1471 (XXVII-O/97), it adopted the Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law;

CONSIDERING ALSO that the General Assembly has reaffirmed its support for said Program through resolutions AG/RES. 1557 (XXVIII-O/98), AG/RES. 1617 (XXIX-O/99), AG/RES. 1705 (XXX-O/00), AG/RES. 1766 (XXXI-O/01), AG/RES. 1845 (XXXII-O/02), AG/RES. 1921 (XXXIII-O/03), AG/RES. 2032 (XXXIV-O/04), AG/RES. 2070 (XXXV-O/05), AG/RES. 2174 (XXXVI-O/06), AG/RES. 2264 (XXXVII-O/07), AG/RES. 2405 (XXXVIII-O/08), AG/RES. 2503 (XXXIX-O/09), and AG/RES. 2590 (XL-O/10);

UNDERSCORING the importance and ongoing validity of the principles of international law set forth in the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), as a standard to govern the conduct of states in their relations with one another;

TAKING NOTE of the “Report on the Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law. Activities Conducted by the Department of International Law of the Secretariat for Legal Affairs in 2010” (CP/CAJP/INF.136/11) and of the oral report given by the Director of that Department to the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs on April 7, 2011; and

RECALLING that, since the adoption of the Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law by the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh regular session, in 1997, important progress has been made in the area; and recognizing the need to update the Program,

RESOLVES:

1. To thank the Department of International Law for presenting the Report on the Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law and to urge its continued presentation of that report.

2. To reaffirm the importance of, and its support for, that Program and to request the Department of International Law to continue carrying out the activities listed therein.

3. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its forty-third regular session on the implementation of this resolution. Execution of the activities envisaged in this resolution will be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

4. To adopt the update to the Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law as follows:

INTER-AMERICAN PROGRAM FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

The member states of the Organization of American States (OAS), within the framework of the principles and purposes set forth in the Charter of the Organization; bearing in mind the Declaration of Panama on the Inter-American Contribution to the Development and Codification of International Law [AG/DEC. 12 (XXVI-O/96)], as well as the Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law, adopted in 1997 by resolution AG/RES. 1471 (XXVII-O/97); and in response to new developments in the promotion of international law and the results achieved to date in the implementation of that Program, have decided to update the Program by carrying out the following measures:

Treaties in the Inter-American Context

- a. To continue maintaining and periodically updating the website of the Department of International Law with information on new legal developments on the

inter-American agenda and on inter-American treaties and agreements, publishing them in such a way as to provide access to the complete texts of inter-American treaties of which the OAS is the depository and data on the current status of signatures, ratifications and/or accessions, reservations, objections, declarations, the dates of their entry into force, background information, preparatory documentation on those inter-American treaties, and similar information on cooperation agreements concluded by the OAS.

Legal Development within the Organs of the OAS

- b. To request the General Secretariat to maintain close coordination among the various areas and offices and other bodies of the OAS in terms of systematizing data on resolutions, declarations, programs of action, and other legal developments arising from the various organs of the Organization.

Teaching of Inter-American International Law

- c. To strengthen the Course on International Law conducted each year in Rio de Janeiro by the Inter-American Juridical Committee and the Secretariat for Legal Affairs by including sessions on the latest developments in international law and the hemispheric agenda.
- d. To organize, in cooperation with institutions in the various member states and other entities, whether in the territories of member states or at OAS headquarters, courses at the subregional and national levels on the various aspects of inter-American law, in particular, on the latest thematic developments within the Organization, so as to give legal advisers of foreign ministries, diplomatic staff, members of parliament, judges, members of the armed forces, and other senior public and institutional officials an opportunity to learn about and discuss legal and political developments within the OAS.
- e. To hold periodic meetings of professors of public and private international law from the member states and other regions so as to enhance the study, development, and teaching of legal topics in the inter-American system; and to strengthen ties with various academic institutions with a view to

achieving the systematic incorporation of inter-American law into the curricula of the various faculties of law.

- f. To take into account the need to include topics and representatives from the various legal systems in the Hemisphere in all the activities mentioned above.

Promoting Awareness

- g. To promote awareness of inter-American legal instruments, such as the amended OAS Charter and inter-American treaties, through publications and other media.
- h. To promote awareness of the major OAS activities in the legal area, on a periodic basis, through the newsletter of the Department of International Law.
- i. To continue to promote awareness of the legal publications arising from activities such as the Course on International Law and its thematic series, the Workshops on International Law, and other academic activities in the area of international law.

Cooperation in the Development, Dissemination, and Teaching of International Law in the Hemisphere

- j. To promote agreements with various entities for the teaching and dissemination of inter-American law, including universities, institutes of international studies, and diplomatic academies, to encourage greater awareness of the legal heritage of the inter-American system and of the latest political and legal developments in the OAS framework.
- k. To promote cooperation with international organizations such as the United Nations, in particular the Sixth Committee of its General Assembly and the International Law Commission, as well as The Hague Academy of International Law and The Hague Conference on Private International Law, as a means of further publicizing inter-American international law.
- l. To promote the conclusion of cooperation agreements with various international financial agencies, such as the Inter-American Development

Bank and the World Bank, and with foundations and other public and private entities that are in a position to provide financial support for the dissemination, development, and teaching of international law.

C. AG/RES. 2791 (XLIII-O/13) “Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law”

AG/RES. 2791 (XLIII-O/13)

INTER-AMERICAN PROGRAM FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 5, 2013)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly (AG/doc.5358/13 add.1), in particular, as it pertains to the implementation of resolution AG/RES. 2723 (XLII-O/12), “Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law”;

CONSIDERING that in 1996 the General Assembly adopted the Declaration of Panama on the Inter-American Contribution to the Development and Codification of International Law [AG/DEC. 12 (XXVI-O/96)] and that in 1997, by resolution AG/RES. 1471 (XXVII-O/97), it adopted the Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law, which was subsequently updated by resolution AG/RES. 2660 (XLI-O/11) in view of the important developments in that field since its adoption;

CONSIDERING ALSO that the General Assembly has reaffirmed its support for said Program in annual resolutions since 1998;

UNDERSCORING the importance and ongoing validity of the principles of international law set forth in the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), as a standard to govern the conduct of states in their relations with one another;

TAKING NOTE of the “Report on the Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law [AG/RES. 2723 (XLII-O/12)] (Activities Carried Out by the Department of International Law of the Secretariat for Legal Affairs in 2012)” (CP/CAJP/INF.176/13), and of the oral report submitted by the director of that department to the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs on April 11, 2013, and

BEARING IN MIND that, within the framework of the Inter-American Program, the Department of International Law has begun implementing specific projects providing institutional

support to member states with respect to access to information, secured transactions, and international arbitration,

RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm the importance of, and its support for, the Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law and request the Department of International Law to continue carrying out the activities listed in the Program and to report thereon each year to the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP).

2. To instruct the Department of International Law to continue its support, within the activities envisaged in the Program, to the member states with respect to the implementation of domestic laws on access to public information, based on the model inter-American law in that regard, as well as its training of judges and other officials in effective implementation of international treaties on the execution of arbitral decisions and awards, in keeping with inter-American conventions on such matters; to continue to raise awareness of the Model Inter-American Law on Secured Transactions among member states; and to support, through the exchange of information, the work of other international agencies in this area, including the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL).

3. To instruct the Secretariat for Legal Affairs to consult with member states and to report to the CAJP regarding:

- a. their interest in holding periodic meetings of legal consultants from ministries of foreign affairs and other high-level officials responsible for international law matters in the member states;
- b. the usefulness of preparing a directory of competent authorities on the subject; and
- c. the usefulness of preparing guidelines regarding possible thematic areas to be addressed at those meetings.

4. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth regular session on the implementation of this resolution. Execution of the activities envisaged in this resolution will be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

