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REPORT ON THE INTER-AMERICAN PROGRAM FOR THE
DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL LAW
[AG/RES. 2852 (XLIV-O/14)]

Activities carried out by the Department of International Law
of the Secretariat for Legal Affairs in
2014-2015

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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 Organization of American States (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 the developments of recent years, acknowledging important advances in the area.

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

The objective of the Program is to implement actions in the area of the dissemination of 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 execution of the Program during the last OAS calendar year (2014-2015) in the context of resolutions AG/RES. 2660 (XLI-O/11) and AG/RES. 2852 (XLIV-O/14).

REPORT ON THE INTER-AMERICAN PROGRAM
FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL LAW
AG/RES. 2852 (XLIV-O/14)

Activities undertaken by the
Department of International Law
of the Secretariat for Legal Affairs
in 2014 - 2015

Executive Summary

The Department of International Law (DIL) of the Secretariat for Legal Affairs of the 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 what is provided for in the updated version of the Program (which is included in the annexes 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 promotion and dissemination of international law and the inter-American system.

In addition, as is known, in recent years the DIL has notably expanded its activities on incorporating a series of projects with specific funds on different topics, or in light of mandates related to the activities and objectives of the Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law. In that regard, in 2014 the General Assembly issued 33 specific mandates for the DIL. Those mandates, along with the three projects it carries out with specific funds, in addition to the work of legal assistance to the political organs of the OAS and to the Inter-American Juridical Committee as its Technical Secretariat, have enabled the DIL to implement a series of activities to fulfill its role within the OAS General Secretariat. This has been reflected in an increase in the various activities for the promotion and dissemination of international law carried out by the Department this year, especially on issues that go to the agenda of the Organization, such as, for example, protecting personal data, arbitration, secured transactions, access to public information, private international law, racism and discrimination, indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants, statelessness, refugees, the public defense function and access to justice, international humanitarian law, the International Criminal Court, older adults, electronic warehouse receipts for agricultural goods, international contracts, simplified stock companies, and human rights and business, among others. It should be noted that in all cases we have taken into account a gender perspective when it comes to planning and carrying out our activities.

At the same time, this year the staff of DIL has once again given several lectures, talks, and classes on issues related to international law, the inter-American system, and the work of the OAS in various 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, since last year the DIL has implemented the practice of sending press releases via email to its network of contacts regarding each of the events it has carried out 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 processing deposits of instruments of ratification and accession, notifications, certifications, reports, etc., on international treaties and other agreements.

Finally, the DIL has endeavored to continue establishing new relationships of cooperation and deepening the already-existing ones with those institutions with which it has agreements that call for activities to promote and disseminate international law, which has contributed to covering the costs of the activities described in this report.

In conclusion, all this has brought with it tangible results of the implementation of the Program in the year covered during this period, as can be gleaned from this report, which also includes, in section IX, "The Program in Figures," a summary of specific results.

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

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I. Background

In 1997, the Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law was adopted by the General Assembly, meeting in Lima, Peru, by resolution AG/RES.1471 (XXVII-O/97).

The Program, in its original version, contained a description of the various areas, activities, and objectives to be carried out permanently and continuously by the Organization to ensure the development, promotion, and effective application of international law developed in the context of 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-O/96)), adopted by the General Assembly, meeting in Panama, in June 1996.¹ Since 1997, successive resolutions of the General Assembly have reiterated their commitment to the Program, noting its priority areas.

In 2011, the General Assembly, meeting in San Salvador, El Salvador, by resolution AG/RES. 2660 (XLI-O/11), highlighted the importance and relevance of the principles of international law as a standard of conduct for the States in their reciprocal relations contained in the Charter of the OAS. Mindful of this, the resolution took note of the important gains in the area, thus acknowledging the need to update the Program.

Accordingly, by means of the resolution in question, the Program was given new impetus to bring it into line with the new developments since the adoption of the original text, bearing in mind the results attained to date.

In June 2014, the General Assembly, meeting in Asunción, Paraguay, by means of resolution AG/RES 2852 (XLIV-O/14) “Promotion of International Law,” reaffirmed the importance of the Program, reiterated its support for it, and asked the Department of International Law to continue carrying out the actions spelled out therein.²

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

² For the complete text of resolution AG/RES 2852 (XLIV-O/14), see the section “Annexes.”

II. Themes Developed by the Department of International Law in the Framework of Mandates and Projects

The Department of International Law has been carrying out activities that answer to various mandates that correspond to those that stem from the Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law. In addition, for some time the Department has been incorporating into its activities technical cooperation projects on specific topics which make it possible to carry out various activities to disseminate and promote international law and the inter-American system.

Next we detail the work of the Department in these areas, in the understanding that they contribute to strengthening the Organization's interest in "promoting the broadest possible awareness of the inter-American legal system," as per the text of the Declaration of Panama on the Inter-American Contribution to the Development and Codification of International Law.

1 Protection of Personal Data

Mandates:

AG/RES 2842 (XLIV-O/14) "Access to Public Information and Protection of Personal Data"

9. *To invite member states, when applicable, and the General Secretariat, through its Department of International Law, in its capacity as a permanent observer, to continue supporting the work of the Ibero-American Data Protection Network (RIPD) and to participate actively in meetings of the International Conference of Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners.*
11. *To instruct the General Secretariat and the Inter-American Juridical Committee to continue promoting channels of collaboration with other international and regional organizations currently engaged in efforts in the area of data protection and with national authorities on such matters, in order to facilitate the exchange of information and cooperation.*

Pursuant to these mandates, the Department of International Law has carried out the following activities:

a. 12th Ibero-American Meeting on Data Protection

On November 12 and 13, 2014, in Mexico City, the 12th Ibero-American Meeting on Data Protection was carried out. It was organized by Mexico's Federal Institute for Access to Public Information and Data Protection (IFAI).

The meeting included authorities on data protection, academics, and specialists from the public and private sector of Argentina, Brazil, Chile Colombia, France, Mexico, Peru, Portugal, Spain, the United States, and Uruguay, who discussed issues such as

protection of personal data on the Internet; the experience of the data protection authorities in Ibero-America; business activity and privacy; institutional models for the protection of personal data; the protection of personal data in labor relations; and new technologies in data protection.

The Department of International Law was invited to participate in the panel “The Experience of the Data Protection Authorities in Ibero-America.”

The Department’s participation promoted the adoption of the *Declaration of Support for the Draft Model Inter-American Law on Data Protection of the OAS*, which was approved by the member states of the Ibero-American Network for Data Protection (RIPD).

b. International Seminar on Judicial Transparency, Prospects and Challenges of Constitutional Reform

From September 1 to 3, 2014, the International Seminar on Judicial Transparency, Prospects and Challenges of Constitutional Reform was held in Mexico City, organized by the Supreme Court of Mexico.

The Seminar included the participation of Judge Juan N. Silva Meza, President of the Supreme Court of Justice and the Federal Judicial Council; Judge José Alejandro Luna Ramos, President of the Electoral Tribunal of the Judicial Branch of the federal government; Council Member Manuel Ernesto Saloma Vera, President of the Committee on Transparency, Access to Information, and Protection of Personal Data of the Federal Judicial Council; and the new President of the Federal Institute for Access to Public Information and Data Protection (IFAI), Ms. Ximena Puente de la Mora.

The Department of International Law was invited to give the keynote address on “Protection of Personal Data of the OAS.”

At the Seminar 1,400 participants were trained on issues related to the protection of personal data in the context of the OAS.

c. Session of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP)

On December 4, 2014, the Session on Access to Public Information was held at the OAS in the context of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP) of the Permanent Council of the OAS. The Session was coordinated by the Department of International Law.

The Session included the presentations by the Department of International Law; and by Mr. David Stewart, member of the Inter-American Juridical Committee and Rapporteur on data protection for the IJC

Since 1996 the DIL has worked on the issue of protection of personal data. One of its first tasks was to accompany the work of the IJC in drawing up a preliminary study of the most relevant issues to consider in what would subsequently be known as the principles on the protection of personal data developed by the IJC.

In addition, the DIL participates in the two most important regional and international forums of authorities: the Ibero-American Network on Protection of Personal Data (RIPD) and the International Conference of Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners, in which it acquired the status of permanent observer. In the context of the RIPD, the DIL promoted the creation of a working group that supports the work of the OAS on this issue, and it participated in formal and informal meetings aimed at providing feedback and drawing on inputs for drawing up the inter-American model law or instrument, which was entrusted by the General Assembly to the IJC.

The DIL also maintains periodic communication with the data protection authorities of the member countries and continues supporting the work done by the IJC in this field in its capacity as Technical Secretariat.

2. International Commercial Arbitration

Mandate:

AG/RES 2852 (XLIV-O/14) "Promotion of International Law"

11. *To instruct the Department of International Law ... within the activities envisaged in the Program... [to] continue its training of judges and other officials in effective application of international treaties on the execution of arbitral decisions and awards.....*

In carrying out this mandate and in the context of the technical cooperation project "Commercial Arbitration: Training Judicial Agents in the Enforcement of International Awards" financed by the CIDA/OAS/2012-2015 Cooperation Program, the Department of International Law has performed the following activities:

- a. Fourth High-level Meeting on the Role of the Judiciary in International Commercial Arbitration

On October 23 and 24, 2014, the Fourth High-level Meeting on the Role of the Judiciary in International Commercial Arbitration was held in Castries, St. Lucia. It was organized by the Department of International Law and the Judicial Education Institute of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court.

The aim of the event was to discuss and analyze the role of the national courts in international commercial arbitration pursuant to the Panama Convention and the New York Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards and

the Model Law of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL).

The meeting included the participation of the Governor General of St. Lucia, Pearlette Louisy; the President of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court, Janice Pereira; the Appellate Judge and President of the Judicial Education Institute of St. Lucia, Louise Blenman; the Permanent Representative of St. Lucia to the OAS, Ambassador Sonia Johnny; the First Secretary of the High Commission of Canada to Barbados and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, Anne Gaudet; the Attorney General of St. Lucia, Kim St. Rose; the Speaker of the House of Assembly of St. Lucia, Peter Foster; and the President of the Senate of St. Lucia, Claudio Francis.

The meeting included the participation of 65 persons, among them judges, including high-level judges, national and international experts of the public and private sectors, and academics.

b. Classes in the Course on International Law of the OAS

From August 4 to 22, 2014, the 41st Course on International Law “Dispute Settlement in International Law,” which was organized by the Department of International Law and the Inter-American Juridical Committee, was carried out in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

The Department included classes on international commercial arbitration in the course, which were given by professor Diego Fernández Arroyo, professor at the Institut d’ Études Politiques of Paris (Science Po) and New York University.

c. Conference on the Role of the Judiciary in International Commercial Arbitration

On September 12, 2014, the Conference on the Role of the Judiciary in International Commercial Arbitration was held in Lima, Peru. It was organized by the Department of International Law and the Center for Conflict Analysis and Resolution of the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, in the context of the 8th *International Arbitration Congress of Arbitration*.

The objective of the event was to offer Peruvian judges a repeat, in summary form, of the issues addressed in the *High-level Meetings on the Role of the Judiciary in International Commercial Arbitration* that the Department of International Law has organized in several countries of the region.

A total of 125 persons participated in the conference, including national judges, academics, attorneys specialized in the matter, and students.

The project that the DIL has developed on this issue in recent years has been a pioneer effort in many respects. First, it has succeeded in bringing judges closer to international commercial arbitration, including judges from the highest courts. The high degree of specialization required for international commercial arbitration and the swift pace at which international commercial relations are evolving require constant updating on the subject, especially monitoring of arbitral judgments that may often be issued by courts in any part of the world. Among other factors, the low number of arbitrations that involve interaction with the judiciary and the excessive workload of judicial offices make it hard for judges to keep up to date. In this regard, the project has succeeded not only in updating the judges on the content and scope of the main legal instruments, but also on the internationally recognized scholastic legal writings and case-law, as well as providing them the experience during the meetings, on-line resources, and contacts among peers and with experts who help facilitate their work when they hear a case.

Arbitrators and judges have often been perceived as adversaries who compete for jurisdiction over the same matter. The project has made it possible to bring together two sectors who traditionally are not accustomed to collaborating or working together and has made it possible to fight the fallacy that judges and arbitrators are in opposing camps, highlighting the different ways in which both jurisdictions (state and arbitral) complement one another, support one another, and contribute to improving the administration of justice and making it more efficient. One should also note the rapprochement achieved through this project between common law judges and civil law judges. In the OAS it is the first time in several decades that judges from the highest levels of both legal traditions participate in exchanges of this sort with their peers. This rapprochement has created bridges of cooperation that the DIL seeks to extend to subjects beyond international commercial arbitration.

3. Secured Transactions

Mandate:

AG/RES 2852 (XLIV-O/14) "Promotion of International Law"

11. *To instruct the Department of International Law to continue its support, within the activities envisaged in the Program...; continue to raise awareness of the Model Law on Secured Transactions among member states.*

Pursuant to this mandate, and in the context of the technical cooperation project "Reform of the Secured Transactions Regime in the Americas," financed by the CIDA/OAS/2012-2015 Cooperation Program, the Department of International Law has carried out the following activities:

a. International Seminar on Reform of the Secured Transactions Regime and its Impact on Access to Credit in Peru

On November 25 and 26, 2014, the Seminar on Reform of the Secured Transactions Regime and its Impact on Access to Credit in Peru was held in Lima, Peru. It was organized by the Department of International Law in conjunction with the National Competitiveness Council (CNC: Consejo Nacional de la Competitividad) and the Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF) of Peru.

The main objective of the seminar was to implement reforms in amendments to the Law on Secured Transactions of Peru in keeping with the international standards and the Inter-American Model Law on Secured Transactions.

The event included the participation of the Ambassador of Canada in Peru, Her Excellency Ms. Patricia Fortier; the Chief of Staff of the OAS General Secretariat, Ambassador Hugo De Zela; and the Executive Director of the National Competitiveness Council of the Ministry of Economy and Finance of Peru, Ms. Angélica Matsuda.

Some 50 persons participated in the seminar, among them representatives from the financial, banking, and business sectors, high-level officials from Peru and other countries that are at different phases of reform (Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico), academics, and lawyers.

The presentations as well as the results of the event are currently in the publication stage.

b. Caribbean Capacity-Building Workshop on Secured Transactions and Asset-Based Lending

The Caribbean Capacity-Building Workshop on Secured Transactions and Asset-Based Lending Workshop was held in Kingston, Jamaica, February 10 to 12, 2015. It was organized by the Department of International Law and the Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce of Jamaica.

The workshop had as its main objective offering answers to the specific needs of Jamaica in relation to secured transactions. It also provided an opportunity for sharing lessons learned from other countries of the Caribbean that are considering similar reforms.

The event included the presence of the Minister of Industry, Investment and Commerce of Jamaica, Mr. Anthony Hylton; the High Commissioner of Canada in Jamaica, Mr. Robert Ready; the Representative of the OAS General Secretariat in Jamaica, Ms. Jeanelle van Glaanen Weygel; as well as international presenters, among them experts from the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL Secretariat), the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the Commercial Finance Association, the Brooklyn Law School, the San Francisco Federal Reserve

Bank, the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank, the Central Bank of the Dominican Republic, and the Ministry of Industry and Commerce of the Dominican Republic.

A total of 80 participants received trained at the workshop, among them international experts, representatives of the financial, banking, and business sectors, government officials from Jamaica and other countries of the Caribbean, representatives of groups that promote the financial inclusion of women and MSMEs, academics, and lawyers. In addition, 40 Jamaican lawyers received the certification given by the Workshop and the right to continue their legal training to obtain the official accreditation.

It should be noted that before the event, in July and October 2014, two preparatory meetings were held in Jamaica with the Honorable Minister Anthony Hylton of the Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce; and with high-level officials from governmental agencies such as the Secured Transactions Registry, the Central Bank of Jamaica, the Jamaican Intellectual Property Office, and the Bureau of Women's Affairs.

The DIL has been working in the area of reform of the secured transactions regime for more than 15 years, beginning with the development of the Inter-American Model Law on Secured Transactions, which was approved by the Sixth Inter-American Specialized Conference on Private International Law (CIDIP-VI) in 2002 and, subsequently, the Model Registry Regulations, which was approved by the Seventh Specialized Inter-American Conference on Private International Law (CIDIP-VII) in 2009. These instruments are the basis of a predictable, fair, and efficient system. Any financial regime, using a wide array of means of securing transactions, improves access to credit. This is especially important for those who most need such credit and who traditionally did not have access to it, such as micro, small, and medium enterprises, as well as women-owned enterprises.

In recent years, the DIL has been geared to collaborating with the OAS member states in the application of these models, specifically helping to improve the local capacities to achieve that objective. The activities of the project that the DIL has developed are aimed at satisfying the needs of each member state in the different stages of the internal reform process. In the case of El Salvador, the new law had been promulgated but the registry was not yet up and running. In the case of Peru, the existing law was not functional and a new law was proposed based to a greater extent on the Model of the OAS. In the case of Jamaica, the need was to raise awareness of the local interested parties to secure broad support for the already-established regime. The results also include the development of a regional network of experts who can provide support in the new advances. The DIL has documented some of these results in short films, such as that produced based on the event in El Salvador.

4. Access to Public Information

Mandates:

AG/RES 2842 (XLIV-O/14) "Access to Public Information and Protection of Personal Data"

3. *To instruct the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (OAS), through the Department of International Law, to continue supporting, with the assistance of civil society and other social actors, the efforts of those member states that so request in adopting the legislative and other appropriate measures needed to guarantee access to public information, in particular for the implementation of the Model Law or for continuing to bring themselves into line with it; and the promotion of contacts and exchanges of best practices among the national authorities (commissioners, ombudsmen, etc.) responsible for implementing access to public information.*

5. *To urge member states to continue holding, with the support of the Department of International Law, domestic and regional seminars, such as those organized in Peru (May 2013), Panama (June 2013), and Costa Rica (September 2013), on the implementation of the Model Inter-American Law on Access to Public Information in their national contexts and to provide conclusions and recommendations as a means to help incorporate the standards of said Model Law in the legal, judicial, and administrative practices of the member states.*

8. *To invite member states, when applicable, and the General Secretariat, through its Secretariat for Legal Affairs, in its capacity as a permanent observer, to continue supporting the work of the Transparency and Access to Information Network (RTA) and to participate actively in its activities.*

AG/RES 2852 (XLIV-O/14) "Promotion of International Law"

11. *To instruct the Department of International Law to continue, in the activities provided for under the Inter-American Program, to help member states implement domestic laws on access to public information....*

Pursuant to these mandates and in the context of the technical cooperation project "Equitable Access to Public Information," financed by the CIDA/OAS/2012-2015 Cooperation Program, the Department of International law has carried out the following activities:

a. High-level Workshop on Access to Public Information: Guatemala

On August 27 and 28, 2014, the High-level Workshop on Access to Public Information was held in Guatemala City, Guatemala. It was organized by the Department of International Law in association with the Office of the Human Rights Ombudsman (Procuraduría de los Derechos Humanos) of Guatemala.

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

The event included the thematic presentations of Commissioner Ximena Puente de la Mora, President of the Federal Institute for Access to Public Information and Data Protection of Mexico (IFAI); Commissioners Herminia Funes and Jaime Mauricio Campos of the Institute for Access to Public Information of El Salvador; Council Member Alejandro Ferreiro of the Council for Transparency of Chile; and Ms. Suzanne Legault, Information Commissioner of Canada; in addition to renowned institutions working on the issue, such as the Carter Center, the Regional Alliance for the Freedom of Expression and Information, the civil society organization Acción Ciudadana, and major Guatemalan journalists such as Luis Marroquín, former director of Diario Oficial of Guatemala and Diario Siglo XXI, and Luis Felipe Valenzuela, Director General of Emisoras Unidas.

Some 75 persons participated in the workshop, among them public officials from the highest level, representatives of civil society organizations and academia, and national and international experts.

b. High-level Workshop on Access to Public Information: Argentina

From March 10 to 12, 2015, the High-level Workshop on Access to Public Information was held Buenos Aires, Argentina. It was organized by the Department of International Law and the Honorable Chamber of Deputies (lower house of Congress) of Argentina.

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 the implementation of such legislation in the member countries of the OAS.

The high-level workshop included thematic presentations by experts including Rosa María Bárcena, Director General for Normative Analysis and Evaluation of Information with the Federal Institute for Access to Public Information and Data Protection of Mexico (IFAI); Suzanne Legault, Information Commissioner of Canada; Gilberto Waller Junior, Office of the Ombudsman, of Brazil; María Herminia Funes, Commissioner of the Institute for Access to Public Information of El Salvador; Patricia Guillén, in charge of Good Government and Transparency at the Secretariat of Public Management of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers of Peru; and María José Viega, professor at the Universidad de la República de Uruguay, in addition to renowned institutions that work in this area such as the Directorio Legislativo, Fundación LED, Asociación Civil por la

Igualdad y la Justicia, Fundación Salvadoreña para el Desarrollo Económico y Social, Transparency International, the Provincial Office on Anti-corruption and Transparency of the Public Sector, the Asociación por los Derechos Civiles, and Poder Ciudadano.

The Workshop included the participation of 150 persons, including public officials at the highest level, representatives of civil society organizations and academia, and national and international experts.

c. Session of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP)

On December 4, 2014, at the headquarters of the OAS, the Session on Access to Public Information was held in the context of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP) of the OAS Permanent Council.

The Department of International Law made a presentation on the work it has been doing in this area since 2011. The Department also expressed its optimism that it would obtain the financing needed to continue strengthening the dissemination of the right of access to public information and in particular the Model Inter-American Law on Access to Information in other countries of the region, including the Caribbean, and it indicated that requests have already been received from member states for the Department to provide technical assistance in this area by organizing workshops.

d. Ninth International Conference of Information Commissioners and Meeting of the Network for Transparency in the Americas (RTA)

The Ninth International Conference of Information Commissioners was held from April 21 to 23, 2015, in Santiago, Chile. It was organized by the Council for Transparency of Chile.

The Department of International Law was invited to moderate one of the working groups on comparative case-law in respect of access to public information.

The objective of the event was to bring together information commissioners from around the world to reflect on the current state of transparency and access-to-information policy in the countries, their accomplishments, and the challenges they face, with the aim of coming away with a complete view of where things stand in contemporary society.

In addition, the Department, in its capacity as a permanent observer of the Network for Transparency in the Americas (RTA), participated in the Annual Meeting of the Network, which was held on April 24, 2015, in Santiago, Chile. That meeting included an analysis of future means of cooperation between the Network and the General Secretariat of the OAS.

The workshops and activities that the DIL has carried out have succeeded in positioning the Inter-American Law on Access to Public Information as one of the important references to be considered in further developing legislation and regulations throughout the region. In Guatemala, work is proceeding on the regulation of the Law based on the recommendations of the workshop; in Peru, some aspects of the Regulation to the Law on Transparency and Access to Public Information were amended; in Argentina and Costa Rica, countries that do not have special legislation in this area, it has been possible to politically position the issue, and the main sectors of society have been brought together, including legislators to whom a set of recommendations has been given that describes the possible characteristics of national legislation on transparency and access to public information.

The experience with promoting this model legislation and the impact it has had on efforts to codify access to information reflects the effectiveness of these instruments or guides for implementation in contributing to national normative developments and in promoting common legal standards. One sign of this is that all the legislative initiatives considered and approved since the adoption of the Model Law, as well as those that are under discussion, take it into account.

5. Private International Law

Mandate:

AG/RES 2852 (XLIV-O/14) "Promotion of International Law"

12. *To instruct the Department of International Law to promote among member states further development of private international law, in collaboration with agencies and organizations engaged in this area, among them UNCITRAL, the Hague Conference on Private International Law, and the American Association of Private International Law (ASADIP).*

Pursuant to this mandate, the Department of International Law has carried out the following activities:

- a. Meeting of the Hague Conference on Private International Law and the Department of International Law

On July 14, 2014, at OAS headquarters, a meeting was held of the Regional Representative of the Hague Conference on Private International Law, Mr. Ignacio Goicochea, and the Department of International Law.

The meeting highlighted the importance of inter-institutional cooperation and the possibilities of future collaboration between the OAS and the Hague Conference. Special mention should be made of the adoption of an integrated approach that would

include bilateral and multilateral requests for technical assistance, and strengthening legislative capacities and activities.

b. 47th Session of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL)

The 47th Session of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) was held from July 7 to 18, 2014, in New York City, United States of America.

The Department of International Law was invited to participate in representation of the OAS as an observer organization, in which capacity it presented a report on the Department's activities in relation to private international law, especially in the areas of arbitration, secured transactions, electronic warehouse receipts for agricultural goods, international procurement, and simplified stock companies, all matters that are currently being studied by the Department.

c. Annual Meeting of the Association of Latin American and Caribbean Registrars (ASORLAC)

The Annual Meeting of the Association of Latin American and Caribbean Registrars (ASORLAC), a non-profit association, was held September 29 and 30, 2014, in the city of Bogotá, Colombia. Its vision is promotion of best practices in the administration of public records.

The Department of International Law was invited to make a presentation on "A Model Law on Simplified Stock Companies."

It should be highlighted that the draft Model Law was approved by resolution of the Inter-American Juridical Committee, and is currently under study by the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP).

d. Eighth Meeting of the American Association of Private International Law (ASADIP)

The Eighth Meeting of the American Association of Private International Law (ASADIP) was held October 29 to 31, 2014, in Porto Alegre, Brazil. The theme was "Services in Private International Law and Private International Law as a Service."

The Department of International Law was invited to participate in the panel on "Codification as a Service from the Perspective of the Universal and Regional Forums" and moderated the panel on "Arbitration as a Service."

It should be noted that the General Secretariat of the OAS and ASADIP have had a cooperation agreement in place since 2008 with a view to channeling academic, research, and cooperation activities that contribute to greater dissemination,

codification, and the progressive development of the inter-American legal system, in keeping with the Charter of the OAS.

e. Classes in the Course on International Law of the OAS

The 41st Course on International Law “Dispute Settlement in International Law” was held from August 4 to 22, 2014, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. It was organized by the Department of International Law and the Inter-American Juridical Committee.

The Department included classes on private international law in the course, which were entrusted to Professor Roberto Ruiz Díaz Labrado, a professor at the Universidad Nacional de Asunción and the Universidad de Buenos Aires; and professor Javier Ochoa, professor at the Universidad Central de Venezuela.

Professor Ruiz Díaz Labrado gave classes on MERCOSUR and the Dispute Settlement System, and Professor Ochoa on problems of access to justice and effective judicial protection in international civil litigation from a Latin American perspective.

f. Annual Meeting of the Advisory Committee on Private International Law of the State Department

The Annual Meeting of the Advisory Committee on Private International Law of the Department of State of the United States of America was held on November 3, 2014, in Washington D.C., United States of America.

The Department of International Law was invited to participate in that meeting.

g. 24th Session of UNCITRAL Working Group I (Microenterprises and Small and Medium Enterprises)

The meeting of Group I (Microenterprises and Small and Medium Enterprises) of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) was held in New York, United States of America, from April 13 to 17. It was organized by the United Nations.

The Department of International Law was invited to participate in that meeting.

The current work of the DIL in private international law is based on the rich history of private international law in the Americas, which has been unfolding since the late 1800s, as of the first Treaties of Montevideo of 1889 and later the adoption of the Bustamante Code in 1928. The current work of the DIL seeks to implement the initiatives adopted by the political organs, and in particular, the process of the specialized conferences. The current activities include two technical cooperation projects, one on commercial

arbitration and the other on secured transactions. Both projects are financed by the CIDA/OAS 2012-2015 Cooperation Program through the financial support of the Government of Canada, and they have been described in other sections of this report. Moreover, the DIL, as Technical Secretariat of the Inter-American Juridical Committee, the advisory body of the OAS on legal matters, has been working on three topics related to private international law: simplified stock companies, electronic customs receipts for agricultural goods, and international procurement. Finally, the DIL recognizes the importance of collaborating with other international agencies that work on the issue, and has been working more closely with the Hague Conference on Private International Law, UNCITRAL, and the American Association of Private International Law (ASADIP), among others. This guarantees the consistency of the work, optimizes the use of resources, and avoids duplication of effort. Maintaining and strengthening these relationships allows the DIL to turn to the experts who are part of these agencies to continue developing their work appropriately.

6. Racism and Discrimination

Mandate:

AG/RES 2852 (XLIV-O/14) "Promotion of International Law"

13. *To instruct the Department of International Law to continue, in the activities provided for under the Inter-American Program, to promote and raise awareness of 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.*

Pursuant to this mandate the Department of International Law has carried out the following activities:

a. Classes in the International Law Course of the OAS

The 41st Course on International Law "Dispute Settlement in International Law" was carried out in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from August 4 to 22, 2014. It was organized by the Department of International Law and the Inter-American Juridical Committee.

The Department included classes on 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, which were given by Mr. Dante Negro, Director of the Department of International Law.

b. Other

Pursuant to this mandate the Department of International Law has also promoted 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 in the following activities:

- i Workshop on the Inter-American System for Public Defenders of the Americas (Dominican Republic – June 2014).
- ii Course on the Inter-American System at the Getúlio Vargas Foundation – Rio de Janeiro offices (Brazil – August 2014).
- iii Conference at the Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Norte (Brazil – August 2014).
- iv Course on the Inter-American System at the Universidade Católica de Petrópolis (Brazil – August 2014).
- v International Congress on Tolerance and Multiculturalism (Costa Rica – October 2014).
- vi Masters in International Protection of Human Rights at the Universidad Alcalá de Henares (Spain – November 2014).

Since 2001 the DIL has been working on racism and discrimination, initially supporting the work of the Inter-American Juridical Committee on the contents of the document DDI/doc.06/01 “Preparation of a draft inter-American convention against racism and all forms of discrimination and intolerance: study of the problem in the inter-American system and in other international systems”; and then actively advising the Working Group Entrusted with Drafting the Inter-American Convention against Racism and all forms of Discrimination and Intolerance from 2005 to 2013.

In all these years the DIL has been disseminating the standards contained in the draft convention, and after their adoption, of the Inter-American Conventions against Racism, Racial Discrimination, and Related Forms of Intolerance, and against All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance; in addition to publishing and distributing those conventions in the four official languages of the OAS.

7. Indigenous Peoples

Mandates:

AG/RES 2852 (XLIV-O/14) "Promotion of International Law"

- 13 *To instruct the Department of International Law to continue, in the activities provided for under the Inter-American Program, to promote and raise awareness of the rights of ... indigenous peoples....*

AG/RES 2867 (XLIV-O/14) "Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples"

8. *To request the General Secretariat and the organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization to continue to lend their valuable support to the process of drafting the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; and to thank them for their ongoing contribution to that process.*

Pursuant to these mandates, the Department of International Law has carried out the following activities:

a. XV, XVI, XVII Meeting of Negotiations in Quest for Points of Consensus

The XV, XVI, XVII Meeting of Negotiations in Quest for Points of Consensus of the Working Group to Prepare the Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples of the Permanent Council of the OAS were held from February 9 to 11, March 9 to 11, and April 22 to 24, 2015, in the city of Washington, D.C., United States of America.

The main objective of the events was to negotiate the articles pending of the Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples so as to contribute to a swift conclusion of the negotiations of that Declaration.

The Department of International Law had the task of providing legal advisory services to the Working Group, and to administer the "Specific Fund to Support the Drafting of the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples," making it possible to ensure the participation of indigenous leaders in the negotiations.

b. Seminar on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in the Inter-American System

The Seminar on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in the Inter-American System was held in Mexico City, Mexico, from February 23 to 26, 2015. It was organized by the National Commission for the Development of Indigenous Peoples of Mexico.

The main objective of the seminar was to present an updated perspective on developments related to the rights of indigenous peoples in the hemisphere, identifying the actors and institutions involved and the ways one can participate in the Organization

of American States, in addition to discussing the legal instruments that apply to the protection and promotion of human rights.

The Department of International Law was invited to give presentations on indigenous matters in the context of the inter-American system. In addition, the Executive Secretariat of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the Secretariat of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, and representatives of the indigenous peoples made presentations.

The seminar included the participation of 200 indigenous attorneys, who represent the 68 indigenous peoples of Mexico.

14 Latin American Conference on Regional Identity and Policies

This event was organized by the Latin American Student Association of the Harvard Kennedy School of Government in the city of Boston, United States of America. The aim was to raise awareness of policies, experiences, and opportunities for growth and future developments in the region.

The Department participated on the panel titled: Economic perspectives and indigenous peoples: Perspectives in conflict? It allowed for a discussion of some issues related to the extraction of natural resources, socio-environmental conflicts, and governance. On that occasion the Department presented a legal perspective with respect to natural resources in light of international law and the case-law of the inter-American system. The event included the participation of approximately 50 persons, mainly master's and Ph.D. students enrolled at the Kennedy School, from several countries.

The Department has participated in drawing up the Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples from the outset of the negotiation, and has played an important role in providing legal advice to the Working Group.

The experience and knowledge that have been gained have enabled it to serve as a focal point and to coordinate matters related to indigenous peoples within the General Secretariat of the OAS. In this context, in 2009 it established a Program of Action on Indigenous Peoples in the Americas for the purpose of "promoting and strengthening the participation of indigenous peoples in domestic and international decision-making processes, increasing the awareness of society in general regarding this topic, training indigenous peoples' representatives in a range of areas that will allow the comprehensive development of their communities, and establishing indigenous issues as a cross-cutting theme in the Organization's different projects and activities."

In the first five years after the Program was adopted, the Department, thanks to financing from Germany, held seminars on "good governance," "the rights of indigenous peoples in the inter-American system," and "the political participation of indigenous women," which directly trained 300 persons, including indigenous leaders,

government officials, and persons from NGOs involved in the indigenous question in several member states. Special importance has been accorded to replicating these locally, by conducting training activities organized by the fellows themselves in their communities, and with their own resources. In the last five years it is estimated that 650 persons have picked up some notions about the inter-American system indirectly. The presentations held this year have made it possible to instruct a total of 250 persons in North America, with participation, for the first time, in an academic event in the United States. One should note that Working manuals on the inter-American system and good governance have been produced and published; these are in physical format as well as digital format at our website.

8. Afro-descendants

Mandates

AG/RES 2847 (XLIV-O/14) "Recognition and Promotion of the Rights of People of African Descent in the Americas "

5. *To instruct the Department of International Law to continue with the implementation of projects for promoting the topic of African descent both within the Organization and in the OAS member states*

AG/RES 2852 (XLIV-O/14) "Promotion of International Law"

13. *To instruct the Department of International Law to continue, in the activities provided for under the Inter-American Program, to promote and raise awareness of the rights of people of African descent....*

Pursuant to these mandates, the Department of International Law has carried out the following activities:

- a. Session for Sharing Good Practices of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP)

The Session for Sharing Good Practices of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP) of the Organization of American States (OAS) was held on November 13, 2014, at the headquarters of the OAS, with the support of the Department of International Law.

The session included the presentations of the Department of International Law of the Secretariat for Legal Affairs of the OAS; the Director of the Ethnic-Racial Unit of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay, Itinerant Ambassador Romero Rodríguez; the Director of the Race, Ethnicity, and Social Inclusion Unit of the Department of State of the United States of America, Ms. Zakiya Carr Johnson; and the Director for Outreach,

International Affairs, and Compensatory Programs of the National Council for the Prevention of Discrimination in Mexico (CONAPRED), Ms. María José Morales García.

In its presentation the Department of International Law presented the work it has been doing on Afro-descendants since 2008, engaging in various types of activities in order to give greater visibility to Afro-descendant persons in the inter-American and allowing them to participate in its activities. Those activities were set forth in the context of the “Project for the Incorporation of the Afro-descendent Theme in the Policies and Programs of the OAS” financed by CIDA of Canada, and through the “Project for Training Trainers of Afro-descendant Leaders in the Americas,” financed by the Spanish Fund for the OAS, as well as in the dissemination and training activities in the context of the Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law.

b. Internal Retreat of the Latin America and Caribbean Team of the World Bank’s Department of Social Development

The internal retreat of the Latin America and Caribbean team of the Department of Social Development at the World Bank was held November 17 to 19, 2014, in the city of Washington D.C., United States of America.

The objective of the meeting was to strengthen knowledge of various topics, including groups in vulnerable circumstances in Latin America and the Caribbean; as well as to establish priorities and strategies for the activity of the World Bank in the region.

The Department of International Law, in view of its work around Afro-descendants in the region, made a presentation to specialists in social development who are part of the World Bank’s team on Latin America and the Caribbean.

Some 25 specialists from the Latin America and Caribbean team at the World Bank’s Department of Social Development participated.

c. Launching the International Decade for People of African Descent in the Americas

The launch of the Decade for People of African Descent was celebrated on April 21, 2015, at the headquarters of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). It was organized by the Inter-American Development Bank, the Permanent Mission of Colombia to the OAS, and the Department of International Law.

The event was held April 20 to 23, 2015, in the city of Washington, D.C., United States of America, in the context of the week on the Decade for People of African Descent in the Americas: Challenges and Opportunities, which was organized by the Inter-American Development Bank, the Pan American Health Organization, the World Bank Group, the Permanent Mission of Colombia to the OAS, and the Department of International Law of the OAS.

The objective of the activity was to launch the Decade for People of African Descent in the inter-American system and for multilateral organizations based in Washington, D.C., seeking to highlight the significant contribution made by the Afro-descendant population to the societies of the Americas, and to propose specific measures to promote their full inclusion in the social, political, and economic lives of their nations.

The event included presentations by the Ambassador of Colombia to the Organization of American States, Ambassador Andrés González Díaz; the Senior Advisor for the Gender and Diversity Division, at the Inter-American Development Bank, Mrs. Judith Morrison; the Independent Expert of the United Nations Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), Mr. Pastor Murillo Martínez; the Vice-Minister for Participation and Equal Rights of the Ministry of Interior of Colombia, Ms. Carmen Inés Vásquez; the Commissioner of the Presidency of the Republic for Matters Related to the Afro-Costa Rican Community, Mr. Quince Duncan; the Director of the Ethnic-Racial Unit of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay, Itinerant Ambassador Romero Rodríguez; the Executive Secretary of the Black Ethnicity of Panama, Ms. Haydee Milanés; the Director of the Race, Ethnicity, and Social Inclusion Unit, Office of Western Hemisphere Affairs, Department of State, Ms. Zakiya Carr-Johnson; and the Department of International Law.

d. Special Session of the Permanent Council of the OAS

The Special Session of the Permanent Council of the OAS was held on April 22, 2015, at the headquarters of the Organization of American States (OAS). It was coordinated by the Permanent Mission of Colombia to the OAS and was supported by the Department of International Law.

The objective of the special session was to officially inaugurate the Decade at the OAS and to discuss the possibility of a Program of Action for Persons of African Descent in the Americas.

The launch included the presentations by the Interim Representative of Antigua and Barbuda to the OAS, Ms. Joy Dee Davis-Lake; the Deputy Assistant to the President in the Office of Urban Affairs, Justice and Opportunity of the White House, Mr. Roy L. Austin Jr., the International Adviser of the Secretary for Policies to Promote Racial Equality of Brazil, Mrs. Magali Naves; the Vice Minister for Participation and Equality of Rights of the Ministry of Interior of Colombia, Ms. Carmen Inés Vásquez; the Commissioner of the Presidency of the Republic for Matters Related to the Afro-Costa Rican Community, the Executive Secretary for the Black Ethnicity of Panama, Mrs. Haydee Milanés; Mr. Quince Duncan; and the Director of the Ethnic-Racial Unit of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay, Itinerant Ambassador Romero Rodríguez.

Since 2008 the DIL has been carrying out various types of activities to give visibility to and raise awareness of the issues related to the Afro-descendant population in the region; promoting and disseminating the standards for the protection of Afro-

descendants; training and fostering the participation of civil society representatives in the processes of the inter-American system, especially in the OAS and the Summits of the Americas process; promoting mainstreaming of the issues related to Afro-descendants in the design of policies, projects, and programs of the OAS; and making legal recommendations within the OAS.

In these years the DIL has trained more than 2,000 representatives of Afro-descendant organizations in the region, 25 professors of international law, and 30 staff members of the OAS; it has promoted the registration of 18 civil society organizations that have begun or concluded their process of registering in the OAS's Registry of Civil Society Organizations; it has organized five workshops in various countries of the region, and with its technical advisory services 13 workshops, replicating these, have been held in Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Honduras, and Nicaragua, resulting in the training of 357 persons by Afro-descendant leaders training trainers; it has produced 11 specialized publications on the Afro-descendant question and has a complete webpage on the topic; it has advised the member states that have presented resolutions on Afro-descendants; and finally, it has acquired the expertise and recognition regionally and internationally for its work on Afro-descendants, establishing strategic partnerships with international, regional, national, and local organizations, academic organizations, and civil society organizations.

It should be noted that those activities were set forth in the context of the "Project for the Incorporation of the Afro-descendent Theme in the Policies and Programs of the OAS" financed by the cooperation agency CIDA of Canada, and through the "Project for Training Trainers of Afro-descendant Leaders in the Americas," financed by the Spanish Fund for the OAS, and the dissemination and training activities of the Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law.

9. Statelessness

Mandate

AG/RES. 2826 (XLIV-O/14) "Prevention and Reduction of Statelessness and Protection of Stateless Persons in the Americas"

9. *To instruct the Permanent Council, through the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs and with support from the Department of International Law of the General Secretariat and such technical and financial cooperation as may be provided by the UNHCR, to continue emphasizing the problems of statelessness in its promotional and training activities and to organize, during the first quarter of 2015, an international course on statelessness for members of the permanent missions of the member states, the staff of the General Secretariat, and other interested parties.*

Pursuant to this mandate and the cooperation agreement between the General Secretariat of the OAS and the UNHCR, the Department of International Law has carried out the following activities:

a. Second Course on Stateless Persons: Fundamental Elements for Identification and Protection, Preventing and Reducing Statelessness in the Americas

The Second Course on the Essential Elements for Identifying, Protecting, Preventing, and Reducing Statelessness in the Americas was held on February 12, 2015, in Washington D.C., United States of America, in the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs of the OAS (CAJP). It was organized with the support of the Department of International Law of the Secretariat for Legal Affairs, and with the technical and financial cooperation of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

The main objective of the course was to contribute to reinforcing participants' knowledge of the phenomenon of statelessness and the legal tools for identifying and offering protection to stateless persons, as well as to prevent and reduce cases of statelessness.

The Course had 80 participants, including representatives of the Permanent Missions before the OAS, staff from different areas of the General Secretariat, and others interested.

b. Class in the OAS Course on International Law

The 41st Course on International Law "Dispute Settlement in International Law" was held August 4 to 22, 2014, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. It was organized by the Department of International Law and the Inter-American Juridical Committee.

The Department included a class on statelessness, which was given by Mr. Juan Ignacio Mondelli, Regional Office for Protection from Statelessness of the UNHCR.

The resolutions of the OAS General Assembly on refugees had previously mentioned statelessness, thereby expressing its concern about this group in vulnerable circumstances. Nonetheless, during the most recent regular sessions of the General Assembly, consecutive resolutions have been adopted specifically on this issue. It is in this context that since 2010 the DIL has been including the question of statelessness in the context of the inter-American system among its activities for promoting and disseminating international law.

In the last three years, in the context of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs of the OAS Permanent Council (CAJP), two Courses on the Essential Elements for the Identification, Protection, Prevention, and Reduction of Statelessness in the Americas. Both events were organized with the support of the DIL and with the technical and financial collaboration of the UNHCR. In addition, in the last two years, classes have been included on the issue in the Course on International Law of the OAS.

These activities have been useful for consolidating the cooperation between the Department of International Law and the UNHCR, as well as collaborating for the purpose of preventing and reducing cases of statelessness in the region.

10. Refugees

Mandate

AG/RES. 2839 (XLIV-O/14) "Protection of Asylum Seekers and Refugees in the Americas"

- 5 *To invite active participation by all member states in the "Cartagena+30" commemorative process in order to identify new challenges to international protection in the Hemisphere, and to invite them to attend the ministerial meeting in December 2014, organized by the Government of Brazil, with a view to the adoption of a new strategic framework that will respond to the protection needs of refugees and stateless persons over the next decade.*

Pursuant to this mandate and the cooperation agreement between the General Secretariat of the OAS and the UNHCR, the Department of International Law has carried out the following activities:

- a. Meeting on the 30th Anniversary of the Declaration of Cartagena on Refugees of 1984

The meeting marking the 30th anniversary of the 1984 Declaration of Cartagena on Refugees was held December 2 and 3, 2014, in Brasilia, Brazil. It was organized by the UNHCR and the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil.

The Department of International Law was invited to make a presentation on gains in relation to refugees in the OAS.

At that meeting the states of Latin America and the Caribbean adopted by acclamation the Declaration and Plan of Action of Brasilia, in which they agreed to work together to maintain the highest standards of protection internationally and regionally, to implement innovative solutions for refugees and displaced persons, and to put an end to the difficult situation faced by stateless persons in the region.

- b. Class at the Course on International Law of the OAS

The 41st Course of International Law "Dispute Settlement in International Law" was held August 4 to 22, 2014, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. It was organized by the Department of International Law and the Inter-American Juridical Committee.

The Department included a class on international refugee law, which was given by Mr. Juan Carlos Murillo, Regional Legal Adviser to UNCHR.

For at least three decades, the OAS has addressed the question of asylum-seekers and refugees in the region, as evidenced by the resolutions adopted at each General Assembly of the Organization. As of 2006 the DIL has been collaborating actively in the promotion and dissemination of international refugee law.

In is in this context that since 2008, in the CAJP a special session on refugees has been held (2008), and four courses on international refugee law have been given (2009, 2010, 2011, and 2013). Those events were organized with the support of the DIL and the technical and financial collaboration of the UNHCR. In addition, in the last nine years classes have been included on the refugee law in the Course on International Law of the OAS.

These activities have been useful for consolidating the collaboration between the Department of International Law and the UNHCR, and for assisting with the objective of deepening and more widely disseminating international refugee law in the context of the inter-American system.

11. Public Defense and Access to Justice

Mandate

AG/RES. 2821 (XLIV-O/14) "Toward Autonomy for and Strengthening of Official Public Defenders as a Guarantee of Access to Justice"

13. *To request the Permanent Council to hold in the first quarter of 2015 a third special meeting of the OAS Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs in order to exchange best practices and experiences in implementing resolutions AG/RES. 2656 (XLI-O/11), AG/RES. 2714 (XLII-O/12), and AG/RES. 2801 (XLII-O/13), specifically in relation to access to justice and the autonomy of and cooperation among public defender offices, inviting member states and their respective official public legal aid institutions, as well as members of the AIDEF, scholars, experts from civil society, and international organizations to attend.*

Pursuant to this mandate and the framework agreement between the OAS General Secretariat and the Inter-American Association of Public Defenders (AIDEF), the Department of International Law has carried out the following activities:

a. Session for Sharing Good Practices of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP)

On March 12, 2015, the Session of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs of the OAS (CAJP) for Sharing Good Practices was held.

The session of the CAJP, presided over by its Chairperson, Ambassador Stephen Vasciannie, included massive participation by public defenders or representatives of public defenders offices of their countries, who presented an overview of the situation, and engaged in exchanges on mental health, adolescence, drugs, women deprived of liberty, indigenous peoples, and the autonomy of the public defender service. There were presentations by public defenders from Paraguay, Argentina, Costa Rica, Panama, Chile, Brazil, Venezuela, Uruguay, and Mexico.

b. Workshop of Public Defenders

The Workshop of Public Defenders on the inter-American system was held June 23 and 24, 2014, in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. It was organized by the Office of Public Defender Services of the Dominican Republic.

The Department of International Law, based on the Cooperation Agreement between the General Secretariat of the OAS and the Inter-American Association of Public Defenders (AIDEF), was invited to give this training on several subjects that have to do with human rights as well as the political decision-making processes on access to justice, human rights, and public defense.

That workshop included the participation of approximately 30 public defenders, some of them inter-American public defenders.

c. Sixth Congress of the Inter-American Association of Public Defenders (AIDEF)

The 6th Congress of the Inter-American Association of Public Defenders was held June 25 and 26, 2014, in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. The theme was "Constitutional Incorporation, Guarantees, and Human Rights: A Challenge for Latin America and the Caribbean." It was organized by the Inter-American Association of Public Defenders (AIDEF).

The Department of International Law was invited to make a presentation on the gains of and challenges facing public defender services in the inter-American countries.

Approximately 25 inter-American public defenders participated at that Congress.

Since 2011, the Department of International Law has participated actively in developing this area of work through a Cooperation Agreement signed by the General Secretariat of the OAS and AIDEF on November 4, 2011, focusing on joint actions

aimed at strengthening access to justice for persons through an autonomous and independent public defender service. The Department has fostered greater knowledge of public defense and of the inter-American system.

In addition, the Department has organized all the annual work sessions held in the last three years, which facilitate a dialogue concerning the national practices on several important issues, in addition to bringing together the public defenders and the Representatives of the missions to the OAS. Among its contributions, the Department has compiled good practices on access to justice and public defense in the region.

At the end of each working session, the public defenders and the representatives of the states have verified the advisability of ensuring the continuity of the working sessions, and have asked that the mandate be renewed so as to make it possible to hold another session.

12. International Humanitarian Law

Mandates

AG/RES. 2795 (XLIII-O/13) "Promotion of and Respect for International Humanitarian Law"¹

9. *To request the General Secretariat to identify, in conjunction with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), mechanisms for promoting the participation of national committees on international humanitarian law in the activities of the Organization of American States (OAS), and to present specific proposals to the Permanent Council, through the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP), before the forty-fifth regular session of the General Assembly.*
14. *To request the General Secretariat to organize, within the framework of the CAJP, through the Department of International Law and in coordination with the ICRC, a course for member states, staff of the OAS, and the general public, in order to promote knowledge of and respect for international humanitarian law and related regional instruments, including measures for their effective implementation.*

Pursuant to these mandates, the Department of International Law has carried out the following activities:

a. Sixth Course on International Humanitarian Law

The Sixth Course on International Humanitarian Law of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs of the OAS (CAJP) was given on January 30, 2014, at the headquarters of the Organization of American States. It was organized with the support of the Department of International Law and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

¹ Biennial resolution.

The objective of the course was to promote knowledge of and respect for international humanitarian law and the related regional instruments, making it possible to consider the challenges imposed by the use of the new technologies and the legal regime applicable to the conduct of hostilities.

In all 120 persons participated in the event, including representatives of the Permanent Missions to the OAS, staff from different areas of the General Secretariat, and others interested in the topic.

b. Special Session of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP)

The Special Session of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs of the OAS (CAJP) on International Humanitarian Law was held on January 31, 2014, with the support of the Department of International Law.

At the session, the member states and the International Committee of the Red Cross presented reports on the actions carried out in the last two years regarding international humanitarian law. In addition, there was a panel discussion on the state of the art regarding the protection of cultural assets in cases of conflict, in light of the model legislation drawn up by the Inter-American Juridical Committee, the instruments of international humanitarian law, and the practice of some countries identifying the areas subject to protection. To that end there was a presentation by the rapporteur of the Inter-American Juridical Committee, Ms. Elizabeth Villalta.

Similarly, the dialogue with the National Commissions in September 2013 was continued, and ways of strengthening cooperation in the implementation and promotion of international human law between the OAS and those Commissions were proposed. Finally, consideration was given to the arms treaties and recent progress in the application of international humanitarian law in the hemisphere.

c. Class at the Course on International Law of the OAS

The 41st Course of International Law “Dispute Settlement in International Law” was held August 4 to 22, 2014, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. It was organized by the Department of International Law and the Inter-American Juridical Committee.

The Department included classes on international humanitarian law, which were given by Mr. Gabriel Valladares, Legal Adviser to the Regional Delegation of the ICRC for Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay.

In the last 20 years the Department of International Law has been supporting mandates established in resolutions aimed at promoting the adoption of decisions by the states in relation to the signature, ratification, and incorporation of international humanitarian law standards in the domestic legal systems.

Since 1999, the Department of International Law, in coordination with the International Committee of the Red Cross, has organized 12 special sessions on promotion and respect for international humanitarian law in the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs, following up on a mandate from the General Assembly. These special sessions have accorded a privileged place to the representatives of the states for addressing important issues in international humanitarian law, in addition to providing valuable inputs for the drafting and negotiation of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, taking advantage of the presence of experts, technical personnel, and researchers working in this area.

In addition, since 2007 the Department of International Law, in coordination with the International Committee of the Red Cross, has organized six courses on international humanitarian law that have addressed relevant concepts and analyzed various norms and principles, placing emphasis on recent developments (use of force, protection of persons, challenges in relation to armaments, nuclear weapons, the protection of cultural assets in case of armed conflict, etc.).

13. International Criminal Court

Mandate:

AG/RES 2852 (XLIV-O/14) "Promotion of International Law"

I. Promotion of the International Criminal Court

- 5 *To welcome the cooperation and assistance provided to date to the International Criminal Court by ... international and regional organizations, and to encourage them to continue their efforts to ensure cooperation with and assistance to the International Criminal Court....*

Pursuant to this mandate, and the exchange of letters for the establishment of a cooperation agreement between the General Secretariat of the OAS and the International Criminal Court, the Department of International Law has carried out the following activities:

a. Classes in the Course on International Law of the OAS

The 41st Course of International Law "Dispute Settlement in International Law" was held August 4 to 22, 2014, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. It was organized by the Department of International Law and the Inter-American Juridical Committee.

The Department included classes on international criminal law, which were given by Judge Sang-Hyun Song, President of the International Criminal Court, and Ambassador Tiina Intelmann, President of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute.

Judge Song gave classes on the history of international criminal law and the role of the International Criminal Court in the context of global justice, and Ambassador Intelmann gave classes on state support for the International Court of Justice.

b. Regional meeting for States of Latin America and the Caribbean

The Regional Meeting for States of Latin America and the Caribbean of the Conference of States Parties to the Rome Statute was held on December 12, 2014, in New York City, United States of America. It was organized by the International Criminal Court during the 13th Assembly of States Parties to the Conference of States Parties to the Rome Statute.

The Department of International Law was invited to make a presentation on the development of international criminal law in the inter-American system.

In all, 18 representatives participated from the States of Latin America and the Caribbean in the Conference of States Parties to the Rome Statute.

c. Seminar: Jurisdiction and Admissibility of a Matter in the International Criminal Court

The Seminar Jurisdiction and Admissibility of a Matter in the International Criminal Court was held on February 11, 2015, in Caracas, Venezuela. It was organized by the Universidad Central de Caracas.

The Department of International Law was invited to make a presentation, by videoconference, on eradicating impunity.

A total of 200 persons, including students, professors, and researchers, participated in the Seminar.

Since 1999, the General Assembly has adopted resolutions that called for adoption of the Rome Statute, and since 2003 promoting the International Criminal Court. In this context, the Department of International Law has been supporting mandates to the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs, in particular organizing eight sessions of work on the Court, held since 2005, as well as those conferred to the Inter-American Juridical Committee, whose works seek to assist in efforts to implement the Rome Statute in the legislation of the member states.

In addition, the adoption of an “Exchange of Letters” between the General Secretariat and the International Criminal Court, by which the Department of International Law participates as focal point for the OAS, has made it possible to implement a number of cooperation actions that seek to contribute to the dissemination,

codification, and progressive development of international criminal law in matters of common interest.

That agreement has facilitated the participation of members of the Court in the working sessions of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs, the participation of the General Secretariat in the Conferences of States Parties to the Rome Statute, as well as the implementation of a cooperation network made up of entities of the Court (Tribunal, Office of the Prosecutor, Secretariat of the Conference of States Parties), and international organizations such as the International Committee of the Red Cross, Parliamentarians for Global Action, and the Coalition for the International Criminal Court.

14. Older Persons

Mandate:

AG/RES. 2825 (XLIV-O/14) "Draft Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons"

1. *To request the Permanent Council to extend the mandate of the Working Group on Protection of the Human Rights of Older Persons, so that it can conclude the process of formal negotiation of the Draft Inter-American Convention on the Human Rights of Older Persons and seek to present it to the General Assembly for adoption at its forty-fifth regular session.*

Pursuant to these mandates, the Department of International Law has been advising the Working Group on Protection of the Human Rights of Older Persons.

Since 2011 the DIL has provided advisory services to the Working Group on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons.

15. Human Rights and Business

Mandate:

AG/RES 2840 (XLIV-O/14) "Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in Business"

5. *To request the Permanent Council to hold a special meeting of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs in first quarter 2015 to foster the exchange of best practices and experiences with respect to the promotion and protection of human rights in business. That special meeting shall be attended by the member states; government, academic, and civil society experts; and other social stakeholders, as well as representatives of international organizations, and through the Secretariat for Legal Affairs shall prepare a report of that meeting's findings prior to the forty-fifth regular session of the General Assembly.*

Pursuant to this mandate, the Department of International Law has carried out the following activity:

a. Special Session of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP)

The Special Session on Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in Business of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP) was held on January 29, 2015, at the headquarters of the Organization of American States, with the support of the Department of International Law.

The Session included remarks by the Chairman of the Inter-American Juridical Committee, Mr. Fabián Novak Talavera; the Commissioner in charge of the Unit on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, Mr. Paulo Vannuchi; the Director of the Department of Economic and Social Development, Ms. Maryse Robert; the Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Commission of Women, Ambassador Carmen Moreno Toscano; the member of the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights, Ms. Alexandra Guaqueta; the Executive Director of the Centro de Derechos Humanos y Ambiente (CEDH), Mr. Jorge Caillant; and the Director for Corporate Responsibility and Institutional Services of REPSOL, Mr. Eduardo García Moreno.

The purpose of the Session was to foster an exchange of good practices and experiences in relation to the promotion and protection of human rights in business.

The Department of International Law participated in organizing the “Special Session on Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in Business,” along with preparing a report of the presentations, followed by the proposals presented by the panelists and the delegations of the states, document OEA/Ser.G CP/CAJP-3300/15.

16. Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law

Mandates:

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

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.*

- e) *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.*

Pursuant to these mandates, the Department of International Law has performed the following activities:

a. 41st Course on International Law of the OAS

The 41st Course of International Law “Dispute Settlement in International Law” was held August 4 to 22, 2014, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. It was organized by the Department of International Law and the Inter-American Juridical Committee.

The classes were entrusted to key experts in international law and specialists in international relations, among them judges from international courts, professors of international law from the Americas, Europe, and Africa, and specialists from various international organizations.

Among the professors at the 41st Course on International Law, we should highlight the participation of the President of the International Criminal Court, Judge Sang-Hyun Song, of the judges of the International Court of Justice Ronny Abraham and Antonio Cançado Trindade, and of the President of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute, Ambassador Tiina Intelmann.

The Course on International Law is one of the most emblematic and traditional activities of the Organization of American States involving the promotion and dissemination of international law.

A total of 31 students from several countries of the region participated.

In the 41st Course on International Law, 31 students from several countries of the region were trained on issues related to the inter-American system and general international law; and 18 students obtained the certificate indicating they had passed the Course.

In the 41 years of the Course more than 1,500 attorneys and international relations specialists have benefited, many of whom have later held prominent positions in their respective countries – in both the public and private sectors – and even in the OAS and other international organizations.

In the evaluation of the course by the students, through an anonymous questionnaire, it received a highly positive assessment, as the course was rated outstanding.

b. Master's in International Protection of Human Rights

The face-to-face phase of the Eleventh Year of the Master's in International Protection of Human Rights was held from September 24 to December 17, 2014, at the Universidad de Alcalá, Spain.

For the sixth consecutive year the Department of International Law was invited to give classes in the master's program, which includes the participation of internationally renowned professors. The Department gave its classes November 17 to 19, 2014, covering a total of 10 hours.

The Course covered the followed topics:

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

The purpose of this Program is to train public officials, attorneys, and other professionals who work in the area of human rights with a special emphasis on the international forensic practice. The participants are from several countries of Latin America, Europe, and other regions. Many work as public defenders or human rights defenders, or are from civil society.

The Program has a total of 30 students from various countries of Latin America and Europe.

c. Briefing on the Inter-American System: Georgetown University

The briefing on the inter-American system, which was organized by the Department of International Affairs of the Secretariat for External Relations of the OAS, was held on August 28, 2014, at the headquarters of the OAS.

The Department of International Law was invited to give a talk on the inter-American system to 20 students from the Georgetown University Law Center (United States of America).

d. Briefing on the Inter-American System: Universidad Rafael Landívar

The briefing on the inter-American system was held on September 15, 2014, at the headquarters of the OAS. It was organized by the Department of International Affairs of the Secretariat for External Relations of the OAS.

The Department of International Law was invited to give a talk on the inter-American system to 25 students from the School of Law at the Universidad Rafael Landívar (Guatemala).

e. Symposium on the Caribbean Court of Justice

The Symposium on the Caribbean Court of Justice was held on January 21, 2015, in the city of Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. It was organized by the University of the West Indies, with the Caribbean Court of Justice, the United Nations Development Program, and the High Commissioner of Canada in Trinidad and Tobago.

The Department of International Law was invited to give a presentation on the role that a sub-regional justice organ can play in attaining the objectives of the Organization of American States.

That opportunity provided an occasion for the DIL to continue exploring new forms of legal cooperation with the Caribbean countries.

f. Other

By virtue of the mandates, the Department of International Law has also performed the following activities:

- i Lecture at the Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Norte (Brazil – August 2014).
- ii Course on the Inter-American System at the Getúlio Vargas Foundation –Rio de Janeiro offices (Brazil – August 2014).
- iii Course on the Inter-American System at the Universidade Católica de Petrópolis (Brazil – August 2014).
- iv Model Assembly of the OAS (Washington, D.C., United States of America – August 2014).
- v 33rd Model General Assembly of the OAS for high school students (United States of America, August 2014).
- vi Briefing on the Inter-American System in the context of the Internship Program of the Federal Government (United States of America – November 2014).
- vii Fifth Brazilian Symposium on International Courts and Tribunals: The Contribution of International Courts to the Effectiveness of International Law (Brazil – November 2014).

III. Legal Procedures and Cooperation Agreements

Mandates:

AG/RES 2660 (XLI-O/11) "Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law"

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.*

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.*

Pursuant to these mandates, the Department of International Law has conducted the following procedures:

- a) 3 processes of deposit of instruments of ratification (two states became parties to the Inter-American Convention on Serving Criminal Sentences and one to the Inter-American Convention on Forced Disappearance of Persons).
- b) 6 processes of signature (three states signed the Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination and Related Forms of Intolerance, and the same three also signed the Inter-American Convention against All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance).
- c) 10 processes of notification in relation to states of emergency (information that now appears on the webpage at the time the parties are notified pursuant to the American Convention Human Rights).
- d) 1 process of denunciation of the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance.
- e) 4 processes of removing reservations.

f) 4 notes with information on central authorities in various instruments.

In addition, certifications were prepared and up-to-date and complete information was provided on those treaties in which the Organization of American States participates as the official depositary.

In the current OAS calendar year the Department of International Law recorded a total of 90 cooperation agreements signed by the General Secretariat of the OAS.

The following agreements were signed in which the Department of International Law serves as the focal point:

1. Memorandum of Understanding between the General Secretariat of the OAS and the Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Norte (Brazil)

On December 10, 2014, the General Secretariat of the OAS and the Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Norte signed a Memorandum of Understanding.

The purpose of the Memorandum is to develop relations of cooperation to promote mainly general international law by organizing academic and research activities and cooperation in areas of common interest that contribute to greater dissemination and codification, as well as the progressive development of the inter-American legal system. Moreover, it is anticipated that there will be participation and joint organizing of conferences, seminars, events, and programs.

2. Framework Cooperation Agreement between the General Secretariat of the OAS and the Tourism and Cultural District of Cartagena de Indias (Colombia)

On March 5, 2014, the General Secretariat of the OAS and the Tourism and Cultural District of Cartagena signed a cooperation agreement.

The purpose of the Agreement is to establish general mechanisms of cooperation for coordinating activities, focusing on the promotion and dissemination of the rights of indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants by means of academic projects and the struggle against discrimination, racism, and all related forms of intolerance.

3. Framework Cooperation Agreement between the General Secretariat of the OAS and the California Western School of Law (United States of America)

The General Secretariat of the OAS and the California Western School of Law signed a framework cooperation agreement on March 4, 2015.

The purpose of the agreement is to establish mechanisms of coordination in academic activities and activities to promote international legislation and the inter-American system.

IV. Publications and Dissemination via the Internet

Mandates:

AG/RES 2660 (XLI-O/11) "Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law"

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.*

1. Publications

Pursuant to this mandate the Department of International Law has edited, published, and distributed the following titles:

- 40th Course on International Law.
- Charter of the OAS in Portuguese and French.
- High-level Workshop on Fair Access to Public Information: Peru.
- High-level Workshop on Fair Access to Public Information: Panama.
- Inter-American Convention against Racism and Racial Discrimination and Inter-American Convention against All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance.

Among the publications the Department of International Law intends to release soon are the following:

- a) 41st Course on International Law.
- b) High-level Workshop on Fair Access to Public Information: Guatemala.
- c) International Commercial Arbitration: Articles on Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Judgments and Arbitral Awards.
- d) International Commercial Arbitration in the Caribbean: The Role of the Courts as Agents for Growth and Development.

- e) Training Seminar on Secured Transactions Reform: El Salvador.
- f) International Seminar on Secured Transactions Reform and its Impact on Access to Credit in Peru.

Finally, it should be noted that our catalogue of publications contains 27 titles available for sale and 19 in digital format that can be consulted free of charge.

Those publications are requested on a regular basis by various universities and other teaching institutions, researchers, students, and others interested.

2. General Description of the Webpage of the Department of International Law

The DIL maintains a webpage through a webmaster exclusively dedicated to it; it is updated periodically.

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

The webpage contains information on the work of the political organs of the OAS tied to international law, for example, on issues of protection of personal data, international commercial arbitration, secured transactions, access to public information, private international law, racism and discrimination, indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants, statelessness, public defense and access to justice, international humanitarian law, the International Criminal Court, older persons, human rights and business, etc.

Each of these thematic areas is organized around various links, which contain information on the instruments related to them (resolutions of the General Assembly, antecedents of each topic, and every type of relevant instrument), as well as of the activities that have been carried out in relation to those themes (special sessions, courses, as well as their respective programs and agendas, etc.).

At the same time, the page is an important source for accessing documentary resources on the OAS, for example regarding treaties, General Assembly resolutions, model laws, and various instruments of the inter-American system.

The page also disseminates information on the various activities for the promotion and dissemination of international law carried out by the DIL in the context of specific projects and programs, as well as information on courses, workshops, and fellowships.

To obtain information on the scope and dissemination of this webpage, see the section of this report entitled "The Program in Figures," which shows the number of visits to the page.

Our webpage can be consulted at the following link:

www.oas.org/dil

3 Webpage of the Inter-American Juridical Committee

The DIL's webpage contains a specific link decided to the Inter-American Juridical Committee (IJC) that describes in detail the work of this organ, and provides information about its composition, members, current agenda, working documents, annual reports, etc.

This work is done by the Department in its capacity as Technical Secretariat of the ICJ, in addition to the mandates contained in the Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law, which ask that resolutions and other documents approved by different organs of the Organization that may be relevant from the legal standpoint be made available.

All information on the ICJ can be found at the link:

http://www.oas.org/cji/comite_juridico_interamericano.htm

4. Data Base of the Diplomatic Academies of the Hemisphere

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

In light of this mandate, the DIL webpage contains a link, which is updated periodically, with information on the diplomatic academies of the hemisphere (authorities, contact information, etc.), for which is it open at all times to receive suggestions and updates from the respective Permanent Missions to the OAS.

For more information, see:

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

5. Informational Bulletins / Notices

Finally, as a means of ensuring greater dissemination of its activities, the Department of International Law has continued its work of dissemination, by electronic means, specifically through informational bulletins or announcements that are circulated to all users of the OAS network (Permanent Missions, General Secretariat, National Offices, etc.), as well as to the data base of the DIL, which has some 1,574 contacts of persons associated with international law.

The bulletins are a way of periodically providing information on the Department's activities. The archives of these bulletins are available at the webpage, at the following link:

http://www.oas.org/es/sla/ddi/boletines_informativos.asp

V. The Program in Figures

For the last several years the Department of International Law has been measuring, quantifying, and verifying the impact of some of its activities. Following are some figures, in some cases estimates, but which give an approximate idea of the Program's impact. All of this is without prejudice to the incommensurable value implicit in a Program of the characteristics of this one, many of whose activities have an intangible value – like any activity that includes a strong educational component – that cannot be measured merely citing figures or numbers.

Activities of the Department

	Issue	Number of events and/or activities	Estimate of persons trained or participants
1.	Protection of Personal Information	3	1,470
2.	International Commercial Arbitration	4	295
3.	Secured Transactions	2	130
4.	Access to Public Information	4	295
5.	Private International Law	7	181
6.	Racism and Discrimination	7	331
7.	Indigenous Peoples	5	370
8.	Afro-descendants	4	155
9.	Statelessness	2	111
10.	Refugees	2	281
11.	Public Defender Services and Access to Justice	3	80
12.	International Humanitarian Law	3	171
13.	International Criminal Court	3	249
14.	Human Rights and Business	1	50
15.	Inter-American System	12	356
	TOTAL	62	4,525

Publications

	Topic	Number of books printed
1.	40 th Course on International Law	200
2.	High-level Workshop on Fair Access to Public Information: Panama	250
3.	High-level Workshop on Fair Access to Public Information: Peru	100
4.	Inter-American Conventions against Racism, Racial Discrimination, and All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance	500
5.	Charter of the OAS in Portuguese and French	250
	TOTAL	1,300

Virtual Library

The Department's virtual library currently has some 19 different publications that are available to the general public, and that can be consulted through the following catalogue:

<http://www.oas.org/es/sla/ddi/publicaciones.asp>

Informational Bulletins

Quantity. In the period covered by this report, 30 informational bulletins of DIL have been distributed, which report on the activities of promoting and disseminating information law, and the inter-American system that it supports, among other news.

Distribution and Scope. The bulletins are distributed to a list of some 1,574 interested persons and organizations, not counting the whole internal distribution system of the OAS, which is also sent the bulletin electronically (General Secretariat, Permanent Missions, National Offices, etc.).

Dissemination by Internet¹

	Month	Visits
1.	Jun	366,831
2.	Jul	312,386
3.	Aug	363,151
4.	Sep	436,963
5.	Oct	408,253
6.	Nov	465,922
7.	Dec	231,527
8.	Jan	258,561
9.	Feb	382,447
10.	Mar	367,236
11.	Apr	361,818
	TOTAL	3,955,095

VI. Conclusion

It has been 18 years since the Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law was originally adopted by the General Assembly in 1997. Since then, the states have been reaffirming their support for the Program in annual resolutions.

In 2011 this support was reinforced by the fact that the States decided to update the Program in order to more appropriately address the new developments in relation to promoting international law.

Throughout this report we have sought to highlight the efforts that the Department of International Law has made for the purpose of making it clear, through each of the activities described in detail in this report, how the mandates of the General Assembly are being carried out, how the technical cooperation projects are being implemented, and how the various areas of the Program are unfolding, namely:

- a) legal information on the treaties of the inter-American system;
- b) legal development in the organs of the OAS;
- c) the teaching of inter-American international law;
- d) dissemination through publications and other media; and

¹ Data provided by DOITS. The table does not include the link of the Inter-American Juridical Committee, which had a total of 78,230 visits.

- e) cooperation for development, dissemination, teaching of international law in the hemisphere.

Our promotion, dissemination, education, and training activities, and in general the teaching of international law, through courses, workshops, seminars, lectures, and talks have also been described at section II of this report. Some of these activities also promote legal development in the organs of the OAS.

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

As regards publications, we have continued our traditional publications, and have added others that are more novel in light of the Program.

Special mention should be made of the gains we have made in recent years including the gender perspective in all our programs and activities, especially those aimed at promoting and disseminating international law. In addition, the full and equal participation of women, their particular needs, their contributions and their presence permeated each of the thematic areas, activities, courses, seminars, and workshops organized by the Department in 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. In addition, equal participation was achieved, not only with respect to the number of fellows and participants, but also in terms of women experts, lecturers, and trainers.

The Department has also continued giving impetus to cooperation with various entities and agencies to strengthen the activities of the Program. This is extremely important since these relationships translate into an important source of financing that enables us to carry out many of the activities we have reviewed, without that implying a budgetary burden for the Organization. So as to not make any accidental omissions, we will not try to mention all the strategic allies that provide their support in many ways to successfully give impetus to the Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law, but we would like to acknowledge each and every one of them (international agencies and entities of various types, international financial institutions, the cooperation agencies of several countries, permanent missions to the OAS, observer states to the OAS, academic institutions, and civil society organizations, among others).

Finally, we put to the consideration of the states the possibility that they continue providing decisive support to the Program – as they have since it was adopted – in order to continue reinforcing the activities described in this report, to reach an ever broader public, and to disseminate and promote, in the best possible manner, international law, the inter-American system and the legal agenda of the Organization.

ANNEXES

The following documents are attaches 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. 2852 (XLIV-O/14), "Promotion 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 sub regional 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. 2852 (XLIV-O/14), “Promotion of International Law”

AG/RES. 2852 (XLIV-O/14)

PROMOTION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 4, 2014)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the “Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly 2013-2014” (AG/doc.5470/14 add. 1), in particular as it pertains to the activities of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP);

RECALLING the resolutions assigned to the CAJP in the “List of Resolutions of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP) for the Period 2007-2012 Classified by Thematic Areas as Identified by the Informal Working Group to Review the Mandates of the CAJP” (CP/CAJP/INF.188/13);

CONSIDERING that the programs, activities, and tasks set out in the resolutions within the purview of the CAJP help further the core purposes of the Organization enshrined in the Charter of the Organization of American States;

REAFFIRMING the norms and principles of international law and those contained in the Charter of the Organization of American States;

RECALLING resolutions AG/RES. 2728 (XLII-O/12) and AG/RES. 2791 (XLIII-O/13);

NOTING with concern the continuation in some parts of the world of persistent violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law, and reaffirming that all states have the basic responsibility to prevent their commission and recurrence and to avoid the impunity of their perpetrators, particularly by investigating, prosecuting, and punishing such violations, where applicable, within a framework of full respect for relevant judicial guarantees and due process;

REAFFIRMING the primary responsibility of states, through their national jurisdictions, to investigate and prosecute the perpetrators of the most serious crimes of concern to the international community in a way consistent with international law, and bearing in mind the complementary nature of the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court in respect of the crimes for which they have jurisdiction;

CONVINCED that the Rome Statute and the International Criminal Court are effective instruments for consolidating international criminal law and for guaranteeing that international justice can help consolidate lasting peace;

WELCOMING WITH SATISFACTION the fact that 122 states have now ratified or acceded to the Rome Statute, among them 28 members of the Organization of American States (OAS), and that 16 member states have ratified or acceded to the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the International Criminal Court;

RECALLING the outcome of the Review Conference of the Rome Statute, held in Kampala, Uganda, in 2010;

MINDFUL of the importance of full and effective cooperation from states, international and regional organizations, and civil society, for the International Criminal Court to function effectively, as recognized in the Rome Statute;

UNDERSCORING the importance of the “Exchange of Letters for the establishment of a cooperation agreement with the International Criminal Court,” signed by the OAS General Secretariat and the International Criminal Court on April 18, 2011, and the importance of the cooperation agreement signed by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the International Criminal Court in April 2012;

RECALLING the outcome of the Working Meeting on the International Criminal Court, held at OAS headquarters on April 12, 2013, by the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs with support from the Department of International Law;

CONSIDERING that in 1997 the General Assembly adopted the Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law, through resolution AG/RES. 1471 (XXVII-O/97), which was subsequently updated by resolution AG/RES. 2660 (XLI-O/11), and noting the “Report on the Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law [AG/RES. 2791 (XLIII-O/13)] (Activities of the Department of International Law of the Secretariat for Legal Affairs in 2013)” (CP/CAJP/INF.211/14);

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that the Department of International Law, through the Inter-American Program, has started implementing specific projects for institutional support to member states, in the areas of access to information, security interests, international arbitration, and private international law; and

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT ALSO the training activities that the OAS General Secretariat’s Department of International Law has been carrying out in various member states on the subject of promotion and protection of the human rights of indigenous peoples and people of African descent,

RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm to the Permanent Council and to the General Secretariat the applicable mandates contained in past resolutions of the General Assembly assigned to the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP) and mentioned in the preamble

of this resolution; and to urge member states to continue contributing to the attainment of the objectives established in said resolutions through the development and execution of activities, the submission of reports, the exchange of information, the adoption of measures and policies, and cooperation, support, and mutual assistance; and to instruct the General Secretariat to provide necessary support to those ends.

2. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth 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.

1. Promotion of the International Criminal Court^{1/2/}

3. To renew its appeal to those member states that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to, as the case may be, the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and its Agreement on Privileges and Immunities.

4. To remind those member states that are parties to said instruments of the importance of the promotion of their universality and to continue adopting the necessary measures to achieve their full and effective implementation, and to adopt measures to adjust their national legislation, including, where appropriate, regarding the inclusion of crimes within the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court, international cooperation and judicial assistance, and the protection of and reparations for victims.

5. To welcome with satisfaction the cooperation and assistance provided to date to the International Criminal Court by those member states that are parties to the Rome Statute, by those member states that are not, and by international and regional organizations, and to urge them to continue their efforts to ensure cooperation with and assistance to the International Criminal Court in accordance with any applicable international obligations, particularly as regards arrest and delivery, presentation of evidence, protection and movement of victims and witnesses, and serving of sentences, so as to avoid the impunity of the perpetrators of crimes over which it has jurisdiction.

6. To urge those member states that are parties to the Rome Statute to support and promote the work of the International Criminal Court, in keeping with their obligations and to underscore the importance of the cooperation that states that are not parties to the Rome Statute can render to the International Criminal Court.

7. To encourage those member states that are parties to the Rome Statute to follow up specifically on the results of the Review Conference and on compliance with

¹ The Government of Nicaragua views with concern the continuing systematic violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law in the world. ...

² The United States remains steadfastly committed to promoting the rule of law and supporting efforts to bring those responsible for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide to justice. ...

the promises made during that conference, and to give consideration to ratifying the amendments adopted.

8. To request the General Secretariat to report, prior to the forty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly, on implementation of the cooperation measures set forth in the "Exchange of Letters for the establishment of a cooperation agreement with the International Criminal Court," signed by the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States and the International Criminal Court.

9. To request the Permanent Council to hold, prior to the forty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly, a working meeting with support from the Department of International Law, which should include a high-level dialogue session among the permanent representatives of all member states to discuss, among other matters, measures that could strengthen cooperation with the International Criminal Court. The International Criminal Court, international organizations and institutions, and civil society will be invited to cooperate and participate in this working meeting.

II. Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law

10. To reaffirm the importance of, and its support for, the Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law and to request the Department of International Law to continue carrying out the activities listed in the Program and report thereon each year to the CAJP.

11. 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; continue its training of judges and other officials in effective application of international treaties on the execution arbitral decisions and awards; and continue to raise awareness of the Model Law on Secured Transactions among member states.

12. To instruct the Department of International Law to promote among member states further development of private international law, in collaboration with agencies and organizations engaged in this area, among them the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), the Hague Conference on Private International Law, and the American Association of Private International Law (ASADIP).

13. To instruct the Department of International Law to continue, in the activities provided for under the Inter-American Program, to promote and raise awareness of the rights of people of African descent and indigenous peoples, and to promote 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.^{1/}

³ The United States has consistently objected to the negotiation of new legally binding instruments against racism, racial discrimination and other forms of discrimination or intolerance ...

14. To request that member states indicate to the Secretariat for Legal Affairs as soon as possible their interest in having regular meetings of the legal consultants to the ministries of foreign affairs and other senior officials responsible for international law issues in member states; the usefulness of preparing a directory of competent authorities for such matters; and the advisability of drafting guidelines on possible topics that could be addressed at such meetings.

FOOTNOTES

1. ... At the domestic level, our criminal laws ascribe particular importance to this subject. Hence the criminalization of these offenses under Title XXII of Law No. 641 of 2007 (Criminal Code), the enforcement of which provisions are the exclusive responsibility of the Nicaraguan courts. as regards the call for states to consider acceding to or ratifying the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, the Government of Reconciliation and National Unity is unable to support this resolution and enters its reservation thereto, given that, for the time being, conditions are not suited to our accession to the present Statute.

The Republic of Nicaragua bases its international relations on friendship, solidarity, cooperation, and reciprocity among states, and therefore desists from any kind of political, military, economic, cultural, or religious measure against them, while at the same time upholding the principles of nonintervention in the domestic affairs of states and peaceful solution of international disputes by means of the mechanisms available under international law.

2. While the United States is not a party to the Rome Statute, the United States recognizes that the International Criminal Court can play a key role in bringing those responsible for the worst atrocities to justice. To that end, to date we have provided specific support to the ICC in connection with its current investigations and prosecutions, consistent with U.S. law and policy. With respect to the amendments on the crime of aggression adopted at the Kampala Review Conference, the United States notes the differences between the crime of aggression and the crimes defined in Articles 6, 7, and 8 of the Rome Statute, including with respect the question of the extent to which it is appropriate or permissible to investigate and prosecute alleged offenses in domestic courts. See RC/Res.6, Annex III, Understanding 5. The United States understands that any OAS support rendered to the ICC will be drawn from specific-fund contributions rather than the OAS regular budget.

3. ... and reiterate our longstanding reservations and concerns with this and prior resolutions on the topic and does not endorse the texts that have resulted from these negotiations. We are concerned that some provisions of the conventions could undermine or are incompatible with international human rights law protections including those related to freedoms of expression and association. There is already a robust global treaty regime that provides comprehensive protections in this area. A regional instrument is not necessary and runs the risk of creating inconsistencies with this global regime. as early as 2002, the Inter-American Juridical Committee articulated similar concerns, concluding that it was not advisable to negotiate a new convention in this area. The United States believes that the resources of the OAS and of its member states would be better utilized by identifying practical steps that governments in the Americas might adopt to combat racism, racial discrimination and other forms of discrimination and intolerance, including best practices in the form of national legislation and enhanced implementation of existing international instruments. Such efforts should be aimed at bringing immediate and real-world protection against discrimination.