

Meetings of Ministers of Justice or Other Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas

REMJA II – Lima, Peru, 1999

a. Conclusions and Recommendations

I. Access to Justice

A. To continue with the exchange of experiences regarding measures and initiatives adopted at the domestic level, as well as progress achieved and obstacles encountered by the OAS member states in relation to the problem of access to justice in their respective countries; improvement of legal aid and defense services; legal protection of minors; and incorporation of alternative dispute resolution methods in national administration of justice systems.

B. To further those ends, clear identification will be made of the applicable cooperation mechanisms in these areas, and the following actions, *inter alia*, undertaken: compilation of the legislation in force regarding these matters, with a view to creating a database; comparative studies; and preparation of a list of countries and institutions that are in a position to provide international cooperation in these areas.

b. Final Report

Chapter III- SECOND MEETING OF MINISTERS OF JUSTICE OR OF MINISTERS OR ATTORNEYS GENERAL OF THE AMERICAS

IV. Next the Meeting began consideration of item 1 on the agenda, “**Access to Justice,**” which also covers the subtopics of legal aid and defense services, initiatives for the legal protection of minors, and incorporation of alternative conflict settlement methods in national administration-of justice systems.

[...]

With regard to incorporation of alternative conflict settlement methods in national administration-of-justice systems, some delegations underlined the importance of mediation as an initial alternative method, which, according to some of the experiences that were presented, brought an end to conflicts without the need to resort to judicial processes. There was insistence on the great advantage offered by arbitration, especially in civil and commercial matters, given the enormous caseloads of the courts in these areas. However, remarks were also made about the lingering