

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

REMJA IV – Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 2002

a. Conclusions and Recommendations

III. IMPROVING THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

With regard to the areas considered at this meeting concerning the improvement of the administration of justice, REMJA-IV recommends:

1. That a register of alternative means of conflict resolution be established at the inter-American level that will refer to the services provided by governmental and nongovernmental centers, as well as programs dealing with the topic in the Hemisphere.
2. That the Justice Studies Center of the Americas (CEJA) compile the information in said register and disseminate the alternative means of conflict resolution used in different countries in order to promote the adoption of these mechanisms in national legislations.

b. Final Report

CHAPTER III

4. Fourth Plenary Session:

Topic 2: Improving the Administration of Justice

The plenary then studied the next issue: “Access to justice: Alternative means of conflict resolution and other mechanisms.” It took note of the comments made by the delegations of Barbados, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, the United States, Uruguay, and Venezuela. At the start of the discussion, the delegate of Ecuador suggested changing the title to “Improving the Systems for the Administration of Justice,” a suggestion that was approved by the plenary. The meeting heard proposals for establishing a register of alternative conflict-solving methods within the inter-American framework, one that could accredit services provided by the centers and programs active in the area; it was suggested that the Justice Studies Center of the Americas should be studied as a possible hub for gathering this register’s information and for disseminating alternative methods around the member countries. It was also suggested that steps be taken to incorporate alternative conflict-solving methods into national legislations, and that consideration be given to the possible inclusion of those methods in public contracts. Finally, it was suggested that proposals from nongovernmental organizations be taken into consideration in these endeavors. The plenary took note of the presentations and forwarded them to the Working Group.