THIRTY-SIXTH REGULAR SESSION
SANTO DOMINGO, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
June 4 – 6, 2006

PROCEEDINGS
VOLUME I

AG/DEC. 46 - AG/DEC. 51 (XXXVI-O/06)
AG/RES. 2158 - AG/RES. 2258 (XXXVI-O/06)

CERTIFIED TEXTS OF THE DECLARATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

GENERAL SECRETARIAT
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
I hereby certify that this volume contains the official texts of the declarations and resolutions adopted by the General Assembly of the Organization of American States at its thirty-sixth regular session, held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, from June 4 to 6, 2006.

José Miguel Insulza
Secretary General
Organization of American States
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DECLARATION OF SANTO DOMINGO:
GOOD GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE KNOWLEDGE-BASED SOCIETY

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND HEADS OF DELEGATION OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS), meeting in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, on the occasion of the thirty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly,

RECALLING that the Charter of the OAS proclaims that the historic mission of the Americas is to offer human beings a land of liberty and a favorable environment for the development of their personality and the realization of their just aspirations;

REAFFIRMING their commitment, expressed in the OAS Charter, to give primary importance within their development plans to the encouragement of education, science, technology, and culture, oriented toward the overall improvement of the individual, and as a foundation for democracy, social justice, and progress;

RECOGNIZING that humankind is moving rapidly toward a new development model focused on the human person, based on the intensive use of knowledge and innovation, and with the capacity of information and communication technologies (ICTs) to produce, access, and disseminate knowledge, as an important tool for strengthening democratic governance, bringing about equitable and sustainable development in the Americas, and reducing the digital divide;

MINDFUL of the existence of the digital divide, recognized in the context of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), and of the importance of bridging it within and between countries in order to contribute to reaching common objectives of fair, equitable, and sustainable development, including the reduction of poverty, inequalities, and social exclusion, for all the peoples of the Americas, through integral development plans that include strategies for reducing such a divide;

CONVINCED that the development of and equitable and universal access to the knowledge-based society constitutes a challenge and an opportunity that helps us to address the social, economic, and political goals of the countries of the Americas;

REAFFIRMING their commitment to promote equity, social justice, and universal access to ICTs, as well as their commitment to internationally agreed development objectives, including those of the United Nations Millennium Declaration;

BEARING IN MIND that the Inter-American Democratic Charter states that the peoples of the Americas have a right to democracy and their governments have an obligation to promote and defend it, and that democracy is essential for their social, political, and economic development; and,
in that sense, that it affirms that democracy and social and economic development are interdependent and mutually reinforcing;

REITERATING that the Inter-American Democratic Charter establishes that it is the right and responsibility of all citizens to participate in decisions relating to their own development. This is also a necessary condition for the full and effective exercise of democracy. Promoting and fostering diverse forms of participation strengthens democracy;

REITERATING ALSO that the Inter-American Democratic Charter states that transparency in government activities, probity and responsible public administration on the part of governments, and respect for social rights and freedom of expression and the press are essential components of the exercise of democracy;

RECOGNIZING that good public administration requires effective, representative, transparent, and publicly accountable government institutions at all levels, citizen participation, effective checks and balances, and the balance and separation of powers. In this context, accountability and citizen participation, in accordance with national laws, in the follow-up, oversight, and evaluation of public administration, as an active contribution to the prevention and elimination of corruption, are tools for promoting the transparency, efficiency, and responsibility of the region’s governments, and that ICTs can play an important role in this regard;

CONSIDERING that the importance of incorporating ICTs into the region’s political, economic, and social development efforts has been supported by the Summits of the Americas since the First Summit, held in Miami in 1994; was emphasized in the declaration on connectivity of the Third Summit, held in Quebec City in 2001; and was reaffirmed at the Fourth Summit, held in Mar del Plata, Argentina, in November 2005;

CONSIDERING ALSO that the Declaration of Mar del Plata establishes that every effort must be made to take advantage of the possibilities offered by ICTs to increase efficiency and transparency in the public sector and to facilitate the participation of citizens in public life, thereby helping to strengthen democratic governance; and recognizing that democratic governance is interconnected with economic and social development in the region, as was recognized in its Plan of Action;

TAKING NOTE of the commitments of the Summits of the Americas, in which the Presidents and Heads of State of the Americas identified education as the linchpin of hemispheric progress and human development, which impacts the political, social, economic, and democratic life of our societies; and highlighting the positive contribution ICTs can make to addressing the needs of the region’s education systems;

NOTING that the “Declaration of Santiago on Democracy and Public Trust: A New Commitment to Good Governance for the Americas” [AG/DEC. 31 (XXXIII-O/03)] recognizes the need to define an agenda for good governance for the Hemisphere that addresses political, economic, and social challenges and fosters credibility and public trust in democratic institutions;
REITERATING the commitment made in the “Declaration of Florida: Delivering the Benefits of Democracy” [AG/DEC. 41 (XXXV-O/05)] to advance the prosperity, democratic values, democratic institutions, and security of our Hemisphere; and considering that ICTs can play a valuable role in this regard;

CONVINCED, as also stated in the Declaration of Florida, that countries must be governed democratically, with full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, the rule of law, the separation of powers and independence of the judiciary, and democratic institutions, and that the governments of the Americas have an obligation under the OAS Charter and the Inter-American Democratic Charter to promote and defend democracy and must be answerable to their peoples;

REAFFIRMING the commitment made in the Declaration of Florida to adopt and implement those actions required to generate productive employment, reduce poverty, and, especially, eradicate extreme poverty, while taking into account the different economic realities and conditions of the countries of the Hemisphere, and that the elimination of extreme poverty is essential to the promotion and consolidation of democracy and constitutes a common and shared responsibility of the American states;


NOTING ALSO that resolution AG/RES. 2119 (XXXV-O/05), “Promotion and Strengthening of Democracy,” requests that the General Secretariat, through the appropriate offices, take into account in its activities the contribution that ICTs can make to developing more just, open, and democratic societies;

CONSIDERING that the Declaration of Mar del Plata recognizes the important link between culture and development;

RECOGNIZING that the human person is the central subject of the development process and that development policy should therefore make the human person the main participant in and beneficiary of development; for that reason we affirm that the implementation of the knowledge-based society agenda should support these objectives;

REAFFIRMING, as mentioned in the Geneva Declaration of Principles of the WSIS, “Building the Information Society: a global challenge in the new Millennium,” adopted in 2003, that cultural diversity is the common heritage of humankind. The knowledge-based society should be founded on and stimulate respect for cultural identity, cultural and linguistic diversity, traditions, and religions, and foster dialogue among cultures and civilizations;
REAFFIRMING ALSO, as indicated in the Geneva Declaration of Principles, that it is essential to promote the production of and accessibility to all content—educational, scientific, cultural, or recreational—in diverse languages and formats. The development of local content suited to domestic or regional needs will encourage social and economic development and will stimulate participation by all stakeholders, including people living in rural, remote, and marginal areas;

RECOGNIZING the outcomes of the WSIS, which highlighted the use of ICTs as an enabler that will assist member countries in achieving internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals;

MINDFUL that the Geneva Declaration of Principles states that regional integration contributes to the development of the global information society and makes strong cooperation within and among regions indispensable. Regional dialogue should contribute to national capacity-building and to the alignment of national strategies with the goals of the Declaration of Principles in a compatible way, while respecting national and regional particularities;

RECOGNIZING that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaims that everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive, and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers;

RECOGNIZING ALSO the contribution of ICTs as fundamental tools for strengthening democracy in the Hemisphere;

UNDERSCORING that access to information and the exchange and creation of knowledge are important elements of a free, democratic, and pluralistic society, and that the use of the Internet and the World Wide Web, without political censorship, can contribute to the development of a democratic future and the exercise of the right to freedom of expression and the free flow of information and ideas for all the peoples of the Americas, a basic premise of knowledge-based societies;

REITERATING, as established in the Geneva Declaration of Principles, that the use of ICTs and content creation should respect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of others, including personal privacy and the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion, in conformity with relevant international instruments;

REITERATING ALSO their ongoing concern over the frequency and intensity of natural disasters, as well as of environmental and other disasters, which have devastating effects and affect sustainable development in the region and the physical and psychological integrity of its inhabitants;

AWARE that ICTs should be regarded as tools and not as an end in themselves, as expressed in the Geneva Declaration of Principles. Under favorable conditions, these technologies can be a powerful instrument, increasing productivity, generating economic growth, job creation, and employability, and improving the quality of life of all. They can also promote dialogue among people, nations, and civilizations;
HIGHLIGHTING the importance of ICTs for micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises and other units of production, to improve their capacities and competitiveness;

NOTING that the Latin American and Caribbean member states of the United Nations adopted the Plan of Action for the Information Society (eLAC 2007), in Rio de Janeiro in June 2005, as a result of a regional process that began in Bávaro, Dominican Republic, in 2003;

RECALLING that the Ministers of Science and Technology, the Ministers of Education, and the Ministers of Labor of the Americas recognized, in the Declaration of Lima of November 2004, the Declaration of Scarborough and Commitments to Action of August 2005, and the Declaration of Mexico of September 2005, the fundamental role that ICTs play in implementing their respective agendas;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that the February 2006 Declaration of San José of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL) recognizes significant progress made in connectivity in the region and the need to proceed with the implementation of the second phase of the Agenda for Connectivity in the Americas and the Plan of Action of Quito;

NOTING the commitments to improve coordination and share best practices made by multilateral and bilateral development and financial institutions as a result of the Rome Declaration on Harmonization, of February 2003;

RECOGNIZING that all the peoples of the Americas have contributed significantly, throughout their rich history, to the development of knowledge, by generating scientific, technological, and cultural know-how, which has served as a basis and a foundation for the development of ICTs;

BEARING IN MIND that it is necessary, as the case may be, that states develop national policies and strategies, as well as establish or better their legislation and its legal and regulatory frameworks that provide juridical security, for the development of the knowledge-based society;

VALUING the importance of national experiences that contribute to universalizing access to information and knowledge and to reducing the digital and social divides, such as programs of access to ICTs, among others digital literacy plans, multipurpose public community access sites, the use of open-source and proprietary software, and e-government;

REITERATING, as established in the Geneva Declaration of Principles, that intellectual property protection is important to encourage innovation and creativity in the knowledge-based society; similarly, the wide dissemination, diffusion, and sharing of knowledge is important to encourage innovation and creativity. Facilitating meaningful participation by all in intellectual property issues and knowledge-sharing through full awareness and capacity-building is a fundamental part of an inclusive knowledge-based society;

RECOGNIZING the important role played in Latin America and the Caribbean by the Institute for Connectivity in the Americas (ICA), including the bringing together of stakeholders from different sectors to implement innovative technology initiatives that contribute to the development of
the region and to its insertion into the knowledge-based society, as part of the connectivity agenda for
the Hemisphere established during the Third Summit of the Americas (Quebec City, 2001);

RECOGNIZING ALSO the contributions to the development and implementation of the
knowledge-based society agenda of international financial institutions, such as the Inter-American
Development Bank, the World Bank, and the Andean Development Corporation, and other
multilateral organizations, especially those of the United Nations system, such as the Economic
Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC);

MINDFUL that access to and application of ICTs have contributed to the capacity of the
countries of the region to make progress in political, social, economic, and cultural processes; and
recognizing the urgency of developing an appropriate process for the Americas, in order to advance
toward the fulfillment of the commitments made in high-level declarations on the expansion of the
knowledge-based society; and

RECOGNIZING that building an inclusive knowledge-based society requires new forms of
solidarity, partnership, and cooperation among governments and other stakeholders, i.e., the private
sector, civil society, and international organizations,

DECLARE:

1. Their emphasis on the importance of information and communication technologies
(ICTs) as a crosscutting tool for achieving equitable and sustainable development and strengthening
good governance and the promotion and protection of human rights, as well as the need to work
intensely to ensure that every person in the Americas, in particular those in situations of vulnerability
and with special needs, may participate in the benefits generated by the knowledge-based society.

2. Their request that the organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization of American
States (OAS) continue to support the incorporation of ICTs into national development plans,
particularly in public-institution modernization processes, favoring those that consider the training of
public-sector employees and that are necessary to reinforce good governance and a climate of
democracy, and to promote transparency, accountability, citizen participation, and efficiency in the
management and provision of services in the public sector, so as to meet the needs and aspirations of
every person.

3. Their commitment to ensure that special attention is given to state modernization
through the design and implementation of e-government strategies, including capacity-building
programs for public employees, in order to improve the delivery of public services and information to
the population as a whole, in particular for groups in greatest need, and enhance transparency and
accountability.

4. Their commitment also to develop ICTs as a tool for promoting and fostering
ongoing, ethical, and responsible participation by the citizenry within a legal framework conforming
to the respective constitutional order, particularly by persons belonging to groups in situations of
vulnerability or with special needs, in decisions concerning their own development, which is, in turn,
a necessary condition for the full and effective exercise of democracy.
5. Their commitment, consistent with the spirit of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, to guarantee the liberty of every person to enjoy freedom of expression, including access to uncensored political debate and the free exchange of ideas through all forms of mass media, including the Internet.

6. Their resolve to develop and encourage strategies and best practices that enhance the possibility of every person to engage actively in the exchange of opinions, including political discourse, through the Internet or other technological communications media, guaranteeing freedom of investigation, of opinion, and of the expression and dissemination of ideas, as essential components of the knowledge-based society.

7. Their commitment to actively foster a dynamic and enabling environment for regional and international cooperation, and to urge the involvement of all relevant stakeholders, including the private sector, civil society, and regional and international institutions, including financial institutions, with a view to implementing the development of complementary strategies that promote freedom of expression and information on the Internet and other technological communications media and universal access to the Internet for all the peoples of the Americas.

8. Their reaffirmation of the importance of multilingualism and, as such, the need to create, diversify, and disseminate the contents of the Internet in the different languages spoken in the Hemisphere, including the official languages of the OAS, in order to build an integrative knowledge-based society.

9. Their determination to facilitate universal access to ICTs, making them available to all the countries of the region and all their citizens through, among other means, multipurpose public community access sites, community-based radio and TV stations, and other wire-based technologies, such as community-based telephony, or wireless technologies, taking into account the sustainability and permanent development of these projects and initiatives.

10. Their request that the Secretary General, taking into account the OAS Charter and the Inter-American Democratic Charter, promote, by means of suitable programs, the use of ICTs to foster participation by every person in public life, a building block of democratic governance.

11. That they will promote the utilization of ICTs for the follow-up, oversight, and evaluation of public administration by the citizenry, in order to achieve a transparent and efficient government and the strengthening of democracy.

12. Their commitment to enhance and expand all programs and initiatives aimed at redressing inequalities and poverty which strengthen the democratic institutional system in the region, using ICTs as a development tool, taking into account in particular the challenges faced by those persons belonging to groups in situations of vulnerability or with special needs.

13. Their recognition of the importance of the gender perspective and the need to enhance women’s equitable access to the benefits of ICTs, and to ensure that ICTs can become a central tool for the empowerment of women and the promotion of gender equality. Policies, programs, and projects need to ensure that gender differences and inequalities in access to and use of ICTs are identified and fully addressed.
14. Their request to the OAS to continue, through its General Secretariat, in particular the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI), and its specialized commissions and committees, such as the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL) and the Inter-American Committee on Science and Technology (COMCYT), coordinating regional efforts to develop initiatives and identify additional resources to provide greater access to ICTs and their use and benefits, thus contributing to bridging the digital divide and strengthening skills for the 21st century workforce.

15. Their continued conviction, in keeping with the Tunis Commitment of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), adopted in 2005, that governments, the private sector, civil society, the scientific and academic communities, and users can utilize various technologies and licensing models, including those developed under proprietary schemes and those developed under open-source and free modalities, in accordance with their interests and with the need to have reliable services and implement effective programs for their people. Taking into account the importance of proprietary software in the markets of the countries, they reiterate as well the need to encourage and foster collaborative development, interoperative platforms, and free and open-source software, in ways that reflect the possibilities of different software models, notably for education, science, and digital inclusion programs.

16. Their reaffirmation also of the principles, enunciated in the Geneva and Tunis phases of the WSIS, that the Internet has evolved into a global facility available to the public and that its governance should constitute a core issue of the information society agenda. The international management of the Internet should be multilateral, transparent, and democratic, with the full involvement of governments, the private sector, civil society, and international organizations. It should ensure an equitable distribution of resources, facilitate access for all, and ensure the stable and secure functioning of the Internet, taking into account multilingualism.

17. Their request to the Secretary General to continue, through the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) and the Inter-American Committee on Education (CIE), to support measures to increase access to schooling and the quality of education at all levels—essential factors in increasing human productivity—particularly for the most vulnerable groups, as well as efforts to ensure that inter-American action programs and horizontal cooperation strategies strengthen the quality of teaching processes in formal education and continuing and adult education, retraining, and lifelong learning, including the use of new ICTs.

18. Their reaffirmation of the importance of incorporating new ICTs into the capacity-building of our citizens, as established in the Plan of Action of the Fourth Summit of the Americas, held in Mar del Plata, Argentina.

19. Their invitation to the institutions of higher education of the Americas to continue to contribute fully to the capacity-building of human resources in the areas of good governance and development in the knowledge-based society.

20. Their heightened commitment to foster literacy as well as investment in science, technology, mathematics, engineering, and innovation in primary, secondary, and higher education, as the case may be, in keeping with the November 2004 Declaration of Lima of the Ministers of
Science and Technology, and as essential prerequisites for the evolution of the knowledge-based society.

21. Their reaffirmation of the Tunis Commitment to promote universal, ubiquitous, equitable, and affordable access to ICTs, especially universal design and assistive technologies, for all people, especially those with disabilities, everywhere, to ensure that the benefits are more evenly distributed between and within societies, and to bridge the digital divide in order to create digital opportunities for all and to benefit from the potential offered by ICTs for development.

22. Their instruction to the OAS to continue, through the CIE, to promote in the hemispheric and subregional programs arising from the mandates of the Summits of the Americas the appropriate use of ICTs in education, adapting them to the requirements of the knowledge-based society and to local contexts, thus providing opportunities and benefits to every person, in particular to those populations excluded from social and economic development.

23. Their support for the efforts to protect and promote cultural diversity, as well as cultural identities, within the knowledge-based society, and, in this regard, their request to the General Secretariat, and in particular to the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development and the Inter-American Committee on Culture (ICC), that they continue supporting inter-American policies and programs that foster the development of culture in the region and consider the impact that ICTs can have on its multiple dimensions, such as the preservation and protection of national heritage, the enhancement of the dignity and identity of the peoples of the Americas, the creation of decent employment, and the overcoming of poverty.

24. Their emphatic interest in promoting increased ICT use by businesses, in particular micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises and other units of production, to enable them to prepare their workforce for the knowledge-based society and improve their output and competitiveness in national and international public and private markets.

25. Their renewed commitment to generate an environment conducive to the development of a competitive national scientific and technological industry that promotes private-sector innovation and investment and generates jobs, is responsive to the legitimate aspirations of all people to improve their lives, and contributes to economic development with social justice.

26. Their intent to cooperate and establish appropriate measures to prevent and mitigate the environmental impact of ICT-related products throughout their life cycle and at the stage of recycling and disposal, consistent with international law.

27. Their reaffirmation, in keeping with the November 2004 Declaration of Lima of the Ministers of Science and Technology, of the importance of designing and implementing programs to support the establishment of national innovation systems oriented toward the productive sector, with a view to improving its competitiveness through the use of ICTs, thus contributing to the integral development of our countries.

28. Their renewed commitment to undertake efforts to enhance disaster prevention, mitigation, and management, to integrate those efforts into development plans, and to promote the sharing of information, best practices, lessons learned, and technical skills related to disaster
prevention, mitigation, and management; and their conviction that ICTs should be an important tool in the success of those efforts.

29. That it is of critical importance to continue the process of adopting in the region legislative, regulatory, and administrative frameworks that are transparent, efficient, and consistent, that offer juridical security, and that promote, among other things, competition, innovation, encouragement of investment, and universal access to services.

30. Their commitment to protect and encourage the innovation, creation, and production of knowledge, and of scientific and technological resources of all people, including indigenous peoples, and artisans, who make significant contributions to the development of the knowledge-based society.

31. Their request to the Permanent Council to consider the possibility of convening, with the assistance of the General Secretariat, an inter-American specialized conference or meeting, for the purpose of exchanging experiences, best practices, and other such information that may support efforts of the states to design or enhance, as the case may be, legislative, regulatory, and administrative frameworks with respect to ICTs, to enable them to better support advancing diverse topics associated with the expansion of the knowledge-based society and promote investment.

32. Their interest in taking advantage of existing experiences, in particular those of public institutions in the Americas, in the planning and implementation of national strategies for the knowledge-based society; and their instruction to CIDI and the General Secretariat to continue their horizontal cooperation activities.

33. Their instruction to the General Secretariat to promote the support of and synergies with international organizations, the private sector, academia, and civil society, in order to implement the commitments made in Santo Domingo, in terms of their comparative advantages, with special attention to the smallest and most vulnerable economies.

34. Their emphasis on the importance of regional collaborative networks for the development of and access to public goods and research which explore the possibilities offered by ICTs to promote the dissemination and transfer of technologies on mutually agreed terms and that contribute to the integral development of the countries of the Hemisphere.

35. Their request to the OAS General Secretariat to include ICTs as a crosscutting element in the design of inter-American policies and programs related to good governance and equitable and sustainable development.
AG/DEC. 47 (XXXVI-O/06)

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE PERUVIAN PEOPLE ON THE ELECTORAL PROCESS

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 5, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING LEARNED of the widespread and peaceful turnout of the Peruvian people for their general elections; and

CONSIDERING that one of the essential elements of representative democracy in accessing and exercising power in accordance with the rule of law is the holding of free and impartial periodic elections by secret ballot and universal suffrage, as an expression of the people’s sovereignty and in accordance with the provisions of the Inter-American Democratic Charter,

EXPRESSES:

1. Its congratulations to the Peruvian people for the electoral process, which was conducted with full respect for the will of the people and in accordance with Peru’s Constitution and laws.

2. Its appreciation for the work of the electoral observation mission of the Organization of American States, headed by Lloyd Axworthy and Rafael Bielsa.

3. Its gratitude to the states that contributed to this electoral observation mission.
AG/DEC. 48 (XXXVI-O/06)

DECLARATION ON THE QUESTION OF THE MALVINAS ISLANDS

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

CONSIDERING its repeated statements that the Question of the Malvinas Islands is a matter of enduring hemispheric concern;

RECALLING its resolution AG/RES. 928 (XVIII-O/88), adopted by consensus on November 19, 1988, in which it requested the Governments of the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to resume negotiations in order to find, as soon as possible, a peaceful solution to the sovereignty dispute;

BEARING IN MIND that, in its resolution AG/RES. 1049 (XX-O/90), it expressed its satisfaction over the resumption of diplomatic relations between the two countries and that, in its declaration AG/DEC. 5 (XXIII-O/93), it emphasized the excellent state achieved in their bilateral relations;

RECOGNIZING that the accreditation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, under resolution CP/RES. 655 (1041/95), as a permanent observer to the Organization of American States reflects principles and values shared by that country and OAS member states, which facilitate greater mutual understanding;

NOTING with satisfaction that the Governments of the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland continue to reinforce political, trade, and cultural ties, and are also engaging in close cooperation, both bilaterally and in international forums; and

HAVING HEARD the presentation by the head of delegation of the Argentine Republic,

WELCOMES the reaffirmation of the will of the Argentine Government to continue exploring all possible avenues towards a peaceful settlement of the dispute and its constructive approach towards the inhabitants of the Malvinas Islands.

REAFFIRMS the need for the Governments of the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to begin, as soon as possible, negotiations on the sovereignty dispute, in order to find a peaceful solution to this protracted controversy.

DECIDES to continue to examine the Question of the Malvinas Islands at its subsequent sessions until a definitive settlement has been reached thereon.
AG/DEC. 49 (XXXVI-O/06)

DECLARATION ON THE CENTENNIAL OF
THE INTER-AMERICAN JURIDICAL COMMITTEE

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

CONSIDERING:

That the origins of the Inter-American Juridical Committee go back to the Third International Conference of American States, which, on August 23, 1906, established the International Commission of Jurists; that body was replaced by the Inter-American Neutrality Committee, made up of the First Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, held in September and October 1939, and, by a resolution of the Third Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, held in 1942, became known as the Inter-American Juridical Committee; it was thus included in the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS) in 1948 as the permanent committee of the Inter-American Council of Jurists and later, under the 1967 Buenos Aires Protocol, as a main body of the OAS;

That, pursuant to its mandates, the Inter-American Juridical Committee and its predecessors, in consultative bodies of the inter-American system on legal affairs, have done important work on the codification and progressive development of international law in the Hemisphere, thereby contributing to the unique legal tradition that distinguishes the Americas in the international community;

That the unique legal tradition of the Americas is reflected in the Declaration of Panama on the Inter-American Contribution to the Development and Codification of International Law, adopted by the OAS General Assembly on June 5, 1996; and

That, for the same reason, the centennial commemoration of the work of the Inter-American Juridical Committee is an opportunity to highlight the leading role it has played in international law,

DECLares:

1. That 2006 is the year for commemoration of the centennial of the Inter-American Juridical Committee.

2. Its satisfaction with the efforts carried out by the Inter-American Juridical Committee in the sphere of private international law, which, through the codification of international juridical norms and the harmonization of legislation, have culminated in the signing of treaties and the adoption of model laws on a wide variety of topics.

3. Its satisfaction with the valuable contribution of the Inter-American Juridical Committee to the progressive development and codification of international law in fields such as the
right to asylum, human rights, indigenous peoples, the peaceful settlement of disputes, collective security, the law of the sea, the struggle against terrorism, corruption, and the illicit traffic in narcotics and drugs.

4. Its recognition of the century of work of the Inter-American Juridical Committee as a consultative organ of the Organization of American States (OAS) in preparing draft conventions and proposing model laws, which are reflected in resolutions, legal opinions, reports and other documents, including its annual reports and, in particular, the Annual Report of the Inter-American Juridical Committee to the General Assembly (CP/doc.4080/06 corr. 1).

5. That it invites the Inter-American Juridical Committee to present to the OAS Permanent Council its points of view on the general principles of law that form the legal basis of the inter-American system.
AG/DEC. 50 (XXXVI-O/06)

DECLARATION ON THE DECADE OF THE AMERICAS FOR THE RIGHTS AND DIGNITY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (2006-2016)

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING its resolutions AG/RES. 1249 (XXIII-O/93) and AG/RES. 1356 (XXV-O/95), “Situation of Persons with Disabilities in the American Hemisphere”; and AG/RES. 1369 (XXVI-O/96), “Panama Commitment to Persons with Disabilities in the American Hemisphere”;

BEARING IN MIND that the 1999 Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities provides that “[a] distinction or preference adopted by a state party to promote the social integration or personal development of persons with disabilities does not constitute discrimination”;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that, in the Plan of Action of the Fourth Summit of the Americas (Mar del Plata, Argentina, November 5, 2005), the Heads of State and Government instructed the Organization of American States (OAS) to “consider at the next OAS period of regular sessions of the General Assembly to be held in the Dominican Republic, a Declaration on the Decade of the Americas for Persons with Disabilities (2006-2016), together with a program of action”;

DEEPLY CONCERNED that approximately 90 million people live with disabilities in the Hemisphere, many of whom are subsisting below the poverty line in our countries, excluded from their communities by physical, political, cultural, social, economic, attitudinal, and other barriers;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that it is especially important for the states to undertake joint efforts to promote the effective exercise of the rights of persons with disabilities and their integration into the countries’ economic, social, cultural, civil, and political activities, and to promote their active participation in social development, so as to comply with international commitments, including the United Nations Millennium Development Goals; and

CONSIDERING that, in order to promote short-, medium-, and long-term action to integrate persons with disabilities, international and regional institutions in various parts of the world have found it advantageous to declare disability decades, the aim of which is to call attention to the actual situation of persons with disabilities, strengthen governments’ political will, and attract human, technical, and economic international cooperation resources through concerted hemispheric and/or regional action to bring about substantive change toward improving the quality of life of persons with disabilities,

DECLAR aplices:

1. Its deep concern over the persisting state of disadvantage, inequity, and discrimination in which most persons with disabilities are living.
2. The need to adopt urgent hemisphere-wide and/or regional measures and strategies to promote the recognition and exercise of all basic human rights, including civil and political as well as economic, social, and cultural rights, as well as the fundamental freedoms, of persons with disabilities.

3. The decade from 2006 to 2016 to be the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities, with the theme: “Equality, Dignity, and Participation,” the objectives of which are the recognition and full exercise of the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities and their right to participate fully in economic, social, cultural, and political life and in the development of their societies, without discrimination and on an equal basis with others.

4. The need, during the aforementioned Decade, to undertake programs, plans, and measures to bring about the inclusion of and full participation by persons with disabilities in all aspects of society; to carry out social, political, economic, cultural, and development programs, so as to enable such persons to attain opportunities on an equal basis with others; to promote effective measures to prevent new disabilities; and to provide persons with disabilities with access to rehabilitation services and programs.
AG/DEC. 51 (XXXVI-O/06)

DECLARATION ON HAITI

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECOGNIZING the success of the electoral process in Haiti with the elections of February 7 and April 21, 2006, and the importance of completing the electoral process at the municipal and local levels;

NOTING with satisfaction that by fully participating in these elections the people of Haiti have exercised their democratic rights in conformity with relevant national legislation and the Inter-American Democratic Charter; and

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the Presidential Statement issued by the United Nations Security Council on May 15, 2006, and the Joint Communiqué of the High-Level International Meeting on Haiti, held in Brasilia on May 23, 2006, and their strong support for, and encouragement of, continued international engagement in Haiti,

EXTENDS its most sincere congratulations to the people of Haiti for their clear resolve and commitment to democracy demonstrated during the recent elections and looks forward to the timely completion of legislative, municipal, and local elections.

CONGRATULATES Mr. René Garcia Préval on his democratic election and assumption of office and extends the support of the member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) for his efforts as President of the Republic of Haiti towards the establishment of a government that fulfills the electors’ expectations.

WELCOMES the opportunity seized by the Haitian people to address current challenges and to work towards a better future for all Haitians and urges all sectors of the Haitian society to work to that end.

WELCOMES ALSO the commitments made by the President of the Republic of Haiti to promote national reconciliation and inclusiveness, good governance, the rule of law, police and justice reform, universal education, restoration of the environment, sustainable development, and prosperity for all Haitians.

CALLS UPON the international community, particularly the United Nations, member states of the OAS, and Haiti’s international partners to express their solidarity by working in cooperation with the new government in support of its efforts to achieve integral development in Haiti and to meet the immediate and longer-term reconstruction needs of the country.
REITERATES the importance of sustained attention to Haiti by the United Nations Security Council and the role played by the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) in reinforcing the efforts made to ensure the security conditions necessary for the success of development initiatives in Haiti.

REAFFIRMS the continued engagement by the OAS and Haiti’s international partners to strengthen the rule of law, respect for human rights, political stability, strengthening of democracy, and social and economic development in Haiti.

WELCOMES the support and solidarity of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) for Haiti and its return to the activities of that organization.

REMAINS FIRMLY CONVINCED that significant and lasting change in Haiti can be realized through clear Haitian leadership and ownership of the country’s development agenda, the strong and unequivocal support of member states and other partner governments and international organizations, as well as coordination among them.
AG/RES. 2158 (XXXVI-O/06)

PLACE AND DATE OF THE THIRTY-SEVENTH REGULAR SESSION
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

(Adopted at the first plenary session, held on June 5, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT Articles 43 and 44 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly, relating to the holding of its regular sessions and the establishment of sites for those sessions;

CONSIDERING:

That, in resolution AG/RES. 939 (XVIII-O/88), it recommended that the first Monday in June of each year be set as the opening date for its regular sessions; and

That the Government of the Republic of Panama has offered to host the thirty-seventh regular session of the General Assembly, in the year 2007, stating that it decided to make that offer as a reaffirmation of its and the Panamanian people’s commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the Organization of American States and as a manifestation of Panama’s historical vocation to support fraternity and solidarity among the nations of this Hemisphere; and

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that on May 25, 2006, the Permanent Council welcomed this offer by acclamation,

RESOLVES:

1. To accept with gratitude the generous offer of the Government of the Republic of Panama to host the thirty-seventh regular session of the General Assembly.

2. To determine that the thirty-seventh regular session of the General Assembly will start on the first Monday in June in the year 2007 in the Republic of Panama, in a location to be decided in due course.
AG/RES. 2159 (XXXVI-O/06)

AMENDMENTS TO THE STATUTE AND REGULATIONS OF
THE INTER-AMERICAN TELECOMMUNICATION COMMISSION

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

The Annual Report of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL) and the amendments to the CITEL Statute and Regulations adopted by the Fourth Regular Meeting of the CITEL Assembly by resolution CITEL/RES. 54 (IV-06);

CONSIDERING:

That more member states have expressed an interest in participating in the work and decisions of the Permanent Executive Committee of CITEL (COM/CITEL), and that the introduction of the principle of rotation into the process of electing the chairs of CITEL’s Permanent Consultative Committees (PCCs) will expand opportunities for participation by the CITEL member states in those committees;

That the CITEL Assembly, by resolution CITEL/RES. 54 (IV-06), adopted amendments to Articles 14 and 23 of the CITEL Statute, to expand the membership in COM/CITEL from 11 to 13 member states and to introduce the principle of rotation into the process of electing the chairs of the PCCs;

That, by that same resolution, the CITEL Assembly also adopted amendments to Article 3 of the CITEL Statute regarding its objectives and functions, to facilitate the implementation of CITEL’s 2006-2010 Strategic Plan;

That also, by resolution CITEL/RES. 54 (IV-06), the CITEL Assembly adopted minor editorial changes, as technical corrections, in the text of the Statute;

That, by resolution CITEL/RES. 54 (IV-06), the CITEL Assembly amended the CITEL Regulations to conform them to the proposed modifications to the CITEL Statute, to clarify issues regarding the participation of observers and associate members in CITEL meetings, and to introduce technical corrections into the text; and

That amendments to the CITEL Statute adopted by the CITEL Assembly pursuant to Articles 5 and 34 of the CITEL Statute are subject to the approval of the OAS General Assembly, and that amendments to the CITEL Regulations adopted by the CITEL Assembly must be sent to the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) for its information,
RESOLVES:

1. To approve, retroactive to the date of their adoption by the Fourth Regular Meeting of the Assembly of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL), by resolution CITEL/RES. 54 (IV-06), the amendments to Articles 3, 14, and 23 of the CITEL Statute set out in the Appendix to this resolution, together with the editorial changes in the Statute adopted in that resolution.

2. To take note of the amendments to the CITEL Regulations adopted by the Fourth Regular Meeting of the CITEL Assembly in resolution CITEL/RES. 54 (IV-06).
APPENDIX

AMENDMENTS TO THE STATUTE OF THE
INTER-AMERICAN TELECOMMUNICATION COMMISSION (CITEL)

1. Paragraphs (a) and (b) under the heading “Objectives” in Article 3 shall read:
   a. To facilitate and promote, by all means available to it, the continuing development of telecommunications, including information and communication technologies, in this Hemisphere.
   b. To promote and foster the existence of appropriate telecommunications, including information and communication technologies, for the process of regional development.

2. Paragraphs (f), (g), and (h) under the heading “Functions” in Article 3 shall read:
   f. To study the regulatory aspects of telecommunications.
   g. To study legal problems related to direct transmission via satellite, in order to prepare draft inter-American agreements on this subject and to formulate a common position for the Member States of CITEL to take in this connection when dealing with the pertinent international agencies.
   h. To prepare studies on the harmonization of policies on matters relating to telecommunications.

3. Article 14 of the CITEL Statute shall read:
   The Permanent Executive Committee (COM/CITEL) is the executive organ of CITEL. It is composed of representatives of thirteen Member States of CITEL elected at the CITEL Assembly, who shall serve until the next Regular Meeting of the Assembly. The principles of rotation and of an equitable geographic representation shall be observed, insofar as possible, in the election of eleven of these Member States. One of the two remaining members shall be the representative of the Member State hosting the meeting of the CITEL Assembly in which the election takes place. The other shall be the representative of the Member State in whose territory the next Regular Meeting of the CITEL Assembly will be held.

4. The section entitled “Organization” in Article 23 of the CITEL Statute shall read:
   The CITEL Assembly shall organize the Permanent Consultative Committees it considers necessary to attain the objectives defined in Article 3 of this Statute and shall elect the host countries of the Permanent Consultative Committees, observing, to the extent possible, the principles of rotation and an equitable geographic distribution.
AG/RES. 2160 (XXXVI-O/06)

STRENGTHENING OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE INTER-AMERICAN TELECOMMUNICATION COMMISSION TO PROMOTE TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEVELOPMENT IN THE REGION

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN resolution AG/RES. 2100 (XXXV-O/05), which requested the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL) to present a follow-up report on its activities to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth regular session;

RECALLING the commitments made by the Heads of State and Government at the Summits of the Americas in Miami (1994), Santiago (1998), Quebec City (2001), Nuevo León (2004), and Mar del Plata (2005), relative to the strengthening of strategies to support the development and regular updating of a regional telecommunications infrastructure plan and the effort to bridge the digital divide with the ongoing implementation of the Agenda for Connectivity in the Americas and Plan of Action of Quito (ACAPAQ);

REAFFIRMING that, in its capacity as the principal hemispheric multilateral forum, the Organization of American States has a unique role to play in strengthening connectivity in the region in order to contribute to its socioeconomic development;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

That resolution AG/RES. 1947 (XXXIII-O/03) adopted the Protocol of Amendment to the Inter-American Convention on an International Amateur Radio Permit (IARP), which had been adopted by resolution AG/RES. 1316 (XXV-O/95) and which permits the temporary operation of amateur radio stations within a member state by persons holding an IARP issued by another member state without further review, something which is critical in cases of disaster; and

That resolution AG/RES. 2135 (XXXV-O/05) reiterated the commitment of member states to the Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action of Geneva of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), and underscored the importance of promoting regional actions, coordinated among the public sector, civil society, and the private sector, that are conducive to implementation of the postulates set forth in that Declaration, as a way of contributing to the economic and social development of the Hemisphere;

UNDERSCORING the valuable efforts by CITEL, as the main inter-American telecommunications forum, to propose active, sustainable policies in support of information and communication technologies (ICTs) and to reinforce the continuity of the initiatives generated in the effort to implement the ACAPAQ and, in general, for the appropriate harmonization of regional actions related to the development of the information society and for the establishment of a proactive

...
national and regional strategic vision among member states as an important means to achieve further results in the international sphere; and

UNDERSCORING ALSO:

The following CITEL activities undertaken in 2005:

a. Approval of various recommendations dealing with the coordination of standards to ensure the interoperability and the timely introduction of advanced technologies; harmonization of the radio spectrum and the operation of radio communication services, including radio broadcasting; development and implementation of modern technologies and new radio communication services; and economic aspects and principles of tariff-setting in order to promote the development of telecommunications networks and services;

b. Approval and publication within the context of its preamble of the third edition of *The Blue Book: Telecommunication Policies for the Americas*, a reference tool to provide the countries of the Americas with objective information and descriptions on telecommunication policies and matters relative to regulation, including the difficulties and opportunities posed by the development of new telecommunication technologies;

c. Making available different telecommunication professional development courses, using materials prepared by accredited training centers in the region and in coordination with the Center of Excellence for the Americas Region of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU);

d. Coordination and harmonization of regional views at the international telecommunication forums, through the development of inter-American proposals and common positions for the World Telecommunication Development Conference and the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference, both scheduled for 2006, and the 2007 World Radiocommunication Conference;

e. Organization of various seminars and workshops dealing with priority issues for the countries, such as Number Portability, International Telecommunication Regulations (ITR), Broadband over Power Lines/Power Line Communications (BPL/PLC), and Broadband Wireless Technologies: Opportunities and Challenges; and

f. Maintenance and expansion of cooperation among all member states and with the pertinent regional organizations,

RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm the essential value of the work and recommendations of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL) in pursuing its goal of driving telecommunication development in the region and, in particular, in carrying out the mandates of the Summits of the Americas, the General Assembly, and meetings of the CITEL Assembly.
2. To reiterate its commitment to continue strengthening and reinforcing mechanisms to enable member states to continue implementing the commitments of the Summits of the Americas in connection with telecommunications.

3. To entrust the General Secretariat of the OAS with supporting, through CITEL, the efforts of member states to:
   a. Promote the dissemination and application of CITEL recommendations among the different stakeholders so that they may contribute to their implementation and continue to intensify efforts to adopt the measures, national plans, and strategies necessary to improve connectivity in the region;
   b. Develop, promote, and foster further dissemination of information, exchange of experiences and lessons learned, and awareness regarding the impact of telecommunications through the different CITEL observatories that compile information;
   c. Increase their active participation in the preparation and follow-up of high-level international telecommunication meetings and, in particular, in preparing coordinated inter-American proposals, positions, and views for such meetings;
   d. Promote the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs), and, in particular, the availability of a broadband infrastructure, as essential elements in encouraging mass access to information networks;
   e. Increase the development and training of human resources to better respond to the demands of the telecommunications sector and to the needs of an increasingly knowledge-based society;
   f. Consider signing, ratifying, or acceding to the Inter-American Convention on the International Amateur Radio Permit (IARP) and its Protocol of Amendments, in the event they have not yet done so, as it is a fundamental tool in disaster situations; and request the Secretary General to submit a report to the Permanent Council before the thirty-seventh regular session of the General Assembly on the corresponding status of signatures, ratifications, and accessions; and
   g. Support the work of expert groups devoted to promoting the thematic areas identified under the last preambular paragraph of this resolution.

4. To instruct the General Secretariat to continue to support the strengthening of CITEL, in its capacity as an OAS specialized entity and the main hemispheric telecommunications forum, and to consider increasing its financial resources.
5. To invite member states and permanent observers, individuals, and national and international entities, whether public or private, that so desire, to make voluntary contributions to support the development of CITEL projects and programs.

6. To request CITEL to submit a follow-up report to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session.
AG/RES. 2161 (XXXVI-O/06)

STRENGTHENING OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

BEARING IN MIND resolution AG/RES. 2099 (XXXV-O/05), “Strengthening of the Inter-American Commission of Women,” which urged the Secretary General to take measures to support the work of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) and to promote gender equity and equality;

CONSIDERING that in the last five years the CIM has received additional mandates from the member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) without the corresponding budgetary appropriations, even though it carries out the following activities, which the member states consider a priority:

a. It serves as the organ for follow-up, coordination, and evaluation of the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women’s Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality (IAP) [AG/RES. 1732 (XXX-O/00)];

b. It is responsible for promoting measures aimed at institutionalizing integration of the gender perspective into the organs, agencies, and entities of the inter-American system;

c. It serves as the technical advisory body of the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG) on all aspects of gender equity and equality (chapter 15, Plan of Action of the Third Summit of the Americas);

d. It collaborates with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in strengthening national capacities to produce statistics broken down by sex and race, especially in the labor area (item 22, Plan of Action of the Fourth Summit of the Americas);

e. It serves as coordinator, together with the General Secretariat, of the Meeting of Ministers or of the Highest-Ranking Authorities Responsible for the Advancement of Women in the Member States (REMIM), which is held every four years [AG/RES. 1741 (XXX-O/00)]; and

f. It assists OAS bodies and member states in their efforts to combat the crime of trafficking in persons, especially women, adolescents, and children [CIM/RES. 225 (XXI-O/02)];

CONSIDERING ALSO that the Permanent Secretariat of the CIM is the secretariat to the Conference of States Parties to the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and
Eradication of Violence against Women, “Convention of Belém do Pará” and to the Committee of Experts of the recently established Mechanism to follow up on implementation of said Convention (MESECVI) [AG/RES. 2138 (XXXV-O/05)]; and

RECALLING:

That resolution AG/RES. 1732 (XXX-O/00), which adopted the IAP, requested the General Secretariat to strengthen the Permanent Secretariat of the CIM by providing it with the necessary human and financial resources, and to help it obtain funds from private sources;

That resolutions AG/RES. 1451 (XXVII-O/97), AG/RES. 1592 (XXVIII-O/98), AG/RES. 1625 (XXIX-O/99), AG/RES. 1777 (XXXI-O/01), AG/RES. 1941 (XXXIII-O/03), AG/RES. 2021 (XXXIV-O/04), and AG/RES. 2124 (XXXV-O/05) instructed the General Secretariat and the Permanent Council to make every possible effort to allocate technical, human, and financial resources to the CIM so it would be better equipped to perform its essential activities; and

That at the Second Meeting of Ministers or of the Highest-Ranking Authorities Responsible for the Advancement of Women in the Member States (REMIM-II), held in April 2004, the ministers adopted resolution CIM/REMIM-II/RES. 8/04, “Strengthening of the CIM,” which reiterated the need for greater human and financial support for the Permanent Secretariat of the CIM,

RESOLVES:

1. To reiterate its instruction to the Secretary General to provide the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), in its role as a specialized organization of the Organization of American States (OAS), with adequate human and financial resources to strengthen its ability to carry out its growing mandates, in particular those recognized as priorities by the member states.

2. To urge the Secretary General to include CIM projects and programs among the priorities presented to external donors for funding.

3. To invite member states and permanent observers, as well as individuals and national or international organizations, whether public or private, that wish to do so to make voluntary contributions to support the development and implementation of CIM projects and programs.

4. To renew the mandate to the Permanent Council, through the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs (CAAP), to invite the CIM Executive Secretary to present periodic reports on the financial resources needed to fulfill the Commission’s mandates.

5. To request the Secretary General to report, through the Permanent Council, to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session on the implementation of this resolution.
AG/RES. 2162 (XXXVI-O/06)

MECHANISM TO FOLLOW UP ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION ON THE PREVENTION, PUNISHMENT, AND ERADICATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, “CONVENTION OF BELÉM DO PARÁ”

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN resolution AG/RES. 2138 (XXXV-O/05), “Fourth Biennial Report on Fulfillment of Resolution AG/RES. 1456 (XXVII-O/97), ‘Promotion of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, Convention of Belém do Pará,’” which requested the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth regular session on implementation of the Mechanism to Follow Up on Implementation of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, “Convention of Belém do Pará” (MESECVI);

CONSIDERING:

That the Convention of Belém do Pará, adopted in 1994, states in its preamble that “the elimination of violence against women is essential for their individual and social development and their full and equal participation in all walks of life”;

That, in the Convention of Belém do Pará, the states parties “agree to pursue, by all appropriate means and without delay, policies to prevent, punish and eradicate” all forms of violence against women; and

That the Convention of Belém do Para is the only specific, binding international legal instrument on gender-based violence and has become an important driving force for the states parties thereto to undertake to implement policies, laws, and national and regional action programs to eradicate violence against women;

OBSERVING that, to date, following ratification by the Government of Jamaica, 32 member states have ratified the Convention of Belém do Pará, thereby expressing their absolute rejection of and concern over any act of gender-based violence and demonstrating their commitment to the fulfillment of the Convention’s objectives and of the obligations they have assumed;

BEARING IN MIND that the Plans of Action of the Summits of the Americas, the Strategic Plan of Action of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), and the Inter-American Program for the Promotion of Women’s Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality (IAP) have considered gender-based violence as an area for priority attention;
BEARING IN MIND ALSO:

That the reports of the Special Rapporteurship on the Rights of Women of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights have demonstrated a marked interest in implementing and following up on the Convention; and

That despite the steps taken by countries in the region, violence against women continues to be an area of special concern, which led the states parties to establish a mechanism to follow up on implementation of the Convention of Belém do Pará, as a means by which to gauge progress and trends toward the fulfillment of its objectives and to facilitate cooperation among the states parties and with all member states of the Organization of American States (OAS); and

RECALLING:

That on October 26, 2004, the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, “Convention of Belém do Pará,” with the participation of the states not party and with technical assistance from the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) and the OAS Secretariat for Legal Affairs, adopted the Statute of the MESECVI;

That the OAS General Secretariat, through the Permanent Secretariat of the CIM, serves as the secretariat to the organs of the MESECVI, with advice, where appropriate, from the IACHR, as well as from other areas of the General Secretariat;

That during the First Meeting of Experts, on August 24, 2005, regulatory instruments were adopted to govern the work of the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI, along with the criteria to guide the first round of evaluation; and

That, to date, 26 states parties have appointed experts and competent national authorities, and that the time frames and actions agreed to by the states parties and the experts are being kept to, in accordance with the work schedule adopted,

RESOLVES:


2. To welcome the start of procedures that will lead to the first round of evaluation of the MESECVI; and to express its conviction that this exercise will contribute significantly to achievement of the objectives set forth in the Convention.

3. To congratulate the states parties for their efforts to fulfill the objectives of the Convention by implementing the MESECVI; and to urge those that have not already done so to appoint an expert and competent national authority and to submit their responses to the questionnaire, in order to guarantee the full implementation and success of the Mechanism.
4. To reiterate its gratitude to the Permanent Secretariat of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) for its support of the states parties during the process of adoption of the MESECVI and to thank it for the important role it plays as secretariat of the Mechanism with a view to contributing to the fulfillment of the objectives of the Convention of Belém do Pará.

5. To call upon the member states to consider, as the case may be, signing and ratifying, ratifying, or acceding to the Convention of Belém do Pará.

6. To invite all states parties and states not party to the Convention, permanent observers, international financial institutions, and civil society organizations to contribute to the Specific Fund established in the Organization of American States to finance MESECVI’s operations.

7. To thank the Government of Mexico for its valuable contributions to the Mechanism, in both financial and human resources, and the Government of Brazil for its financial contribution.

8. To request the Secretary General once again to allocate more human, technical, and financial resources to enable the CIM to continue supporting the efforts of the states parties regarding the full implementation of the Convention of Belém do Pará, as well as other initiatives by the member states geared toward the elimination of violence against women.

9. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session on MESECVI activities and the outcomes of the first evaluation round.
AG/RES. 2163 (XXXVI-O/06)

TRIBUTE TO HIS EXCELLENCY ALBERTO LLERAS CAMARGO
ON THE ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS BIRTH

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

WISHING to pay tribute to the memory and ideas of His Excellency Alberto Lleras Camargo, the distinguished Colombian intellectual, politician, diplomat, journalist, and writer, defender of peace and democracy, and leader in the struggle to achieve integration in the Hemisphere;

UNDERSCORING the intellectual and journalistic vocation of His Excellency Alberto Lleras Camargo, manifested in his work as founder, director, editor, and correspondent of major national and Latin American newspapers and journals, such as *El Liberal, La Tarde, El Independiente, La República, El Tiempo, and El Espectador* in Colombia; and *La Nación* and *El Mundo* in Argentina;

RECALLING that His Excellency Alberto Lleras Camargo was an outstanding figure in the political life of the Republic of Colombia, who, in the course of his tireless efforts to champion democratic principles and values, held important public positions, as Councilman in Bogotá, President of the House of Representatives, Ambassador, Minister of the Interior, Education, and Foreign Affairs, and President of the Republic of Colombia on two occasions;

EMPHASIZING that His Excellency Alberto Lleras Camargo played a fundamental part in the reconstruction and strengthening of democratic institutions in Colombia at a time when democracy was sorely tried;

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION that His Excellency Alberto Lleras Camargo played an active part in the major conferences and meetings that gave rise to the new international order in the aftermath of the Second World War and contributed decisively to the Pan American cause at the Seventh International Conference of American States of 1933 in Montevideo; the Inter-American Conference for the Maintenance of Peace in Buenos Aires, in 1936, at which he gave a presentation in favor of the founding of the League of American Nations; the Inter-American Conference on Problems of War and Peace (known as the Conference of Chapultepec) in Mexico, in 1945, in which he chaired the Committee on the Inter-American System, which gave rise to the agreement that led, three years later, to the establishment of the Organization of American States (OAS); the Inter-American Conference for the Maintenance of Continental Peace and Security, held in Rio de Janeiro, in 1947, which adopted the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance (Rio Treaty); the Ninth International Conference of American States, which created the OAS and adopted the American Treaty on Pacific Settlement or Pact of Bogotá in 1948; and at the San Francisco Conference, which established the United Nations in 1945;
RECALLING that His Excellency Alberto Lleras Camargo, the last Director-General of the Pan American Union and the only Latin American to occupy that post, became the first Secretary General of the OAS, a position he held from 1947 to 1954; and

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that this year marks the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of His Excellency Alberto Lleras Camargo,

RESOLVES:

1. To extol the work and ideas of His Excellency Alberto Lleras Camargo and, in particular, his contribution to the ideal of American unity and his constant struggle for peace and democracy in the Hemisphere.

2. To pay tribute to the memory of His Excellency Alberto Lleras Camargo, in order to highlight and express our appreciation for his valuable contributions to the strengthening and prestige of the Organization as the last Director-General of the Pan American Union and the first Secretary General of the Organization of American States.

3. To join in the celebrations of the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of His Excellency Alberto Lleras Camargo, illustrious citizen of Colombia, the Americas, and the world.
AG/RES. 2164 (XXXVI-O/06)

INTER-AMERICAN PROGRAM ON EDUCATION FOR DEMOCRATIC VALUES AND PRACTICES

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN its resolutions AG/RES. 2119 (XXXV-O/05), AG/RES. 2045 (XXXIV-O/04), AG/RES. 2044 (XXXIV-O/04), AG/RES. 1960 (XXXIII-O/03), AG/RES. 1957 (XXXIII-O/03), AG/RES. 1907 (XXXII-O/02), and AG/RES. 1869 (XXXII-O/02), and resolutions CIDI/RME/RES. 10 (III-O/03) and CIDI/RME/RES. 12 (IV-O/05);

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

That, in the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), the member states reaffirm that the education of peoples should be directed toward justice, freedom, and peace, and pledge to give primary importance within their development plans to the encouragement of education oriented toward the overall improvement of the individual, and as a foundation for democracy, social justice, and progress;

That the Inter-American Democratic Charter recognizes that education is key to strengthening democratic institutions, promoting the development of human potential, and alleviating poverty and fostering greater understanding among our peoples. To achieve these ends, it is essential that a quality education be available to all, including girls and women, rural inhabitants, and minorities;

That at the Second Summit of the Americas, held in Santiago, Chile, on April 18 and 19, 1998, the Heads of State and Government affirmed that the “democratic culture must encompass our entire population,” and pledged to strengthen education for democracy;

That in the Declaration against Violence, adopted at the Second Meeting of Ministers of Education, held in Punta del Este, Uruguay, on September 24, 2001, the ministers pledged to emphasize nonviolence and the culture of peace in national and subregional initiatives for training and education in values, and to foster the preparation of a hemispheric program for education in democratic values;

That, in the Declaration of Santiago on Democracy and Public Trust: A New Commitment to Good Governance for the Americas, adopted by the General Assembly at its thirty-third regular session, in June 2003, the ministers of foreign affairs of the member countries of the OAS declared that “[t]he consolidation of democracy in the region requires a culture based on profound democratic principles and values and on their daily observance. These values should be fostered through education for democracy”; and
That, in the Declaration of Mexico, adopted at the Third Meeting of Ministers of Education, held in Mexico City from August 11 to 13, 2003, the ministers recognized “the importance of instilling democratic awareness, culture, and values in the present and future generations, and of the principles of the Inter-American Democratic Charter,” urged that “efforts be made to incorporate those principles into our educational programs in accordance with the laws of each country,” and requested the Inter-American Education Committee (CIE) to “make a special effort to organize a meeting before the end of the year to share our programs in values education in order to strengthen the decision we made in Punta del Este to promote education for peace and against violence, with the participation of the OAS, UNESCO, the Organization of Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture (OEI), and the Andres Bello Agreement”; and

CONSIDERING:

That on April 12 and 13, 2004, the Permanent Council and the CIE held a joint meeting on the promotion of a democratic culture through education, and proposed guidelines for the preparation of an inter-American program on education for democratic values and practices; and

That at the Fourth Meeting of Ministers of Education, held in Scarborough, Trinidad and Tobago, from August 10 to 12, 2005, the ministers adopted the Inter-American Program on Education for Democratic Values and Practices and accepted the offer of the Government of Mexico to sponsor the first technical activity of the information exchange component,

RESOLVES:

1. To underscore the importance of the Inter-American Program on Education for Democratic Values and Practices, which will help generate and provide information to strengthen democratic culture through formal and nonformal education, and to develop and strengthen teaching methods in education for democratic values and practices, human rights and peace, and the promotion of horizontal cooperation and the exchange of experiences among the different entities active in this area internationally, regionally, nationally, and locally.

2. To acknowledge the work conducted by the Permanent Council and the Inter-American Committee on Education (CIE), with support from the General Secretariat and assistance from the member states and hemispheric civil society, to implement the Inter-American Program on Education for Democratic Values and Practices, which was adopted by the Fourth Meeting of Ministers of Education within the Framework of CIDI.

3. To acknowledge also the progress made in implementing the Program, including the holding of the First Meeting of the Advisory Group, in Bogotá, Colombia, from April 19 to 21, 2006, and the design of the program’s Web page and information bulletin.

4. To take note of the offer of the Government of Mexico to launch one of the Program’s first activities by organizing and holding the “Inter-American Seminar on Good Practices in Education for Citizens,” which will take place in Mexico City, from July 5 to 8, 2006, providing an opportunity for dialogue and exchanges on the subject of education for citizens among member countries.
5. To request the General Secretariat to continue, through the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development and the Secretariat for Political Affairs, and other areas of the General Secretariat, as appropriate, to support the Permanent Council, the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI), and the member states in the ongoing design and implementation of the Inter-American Program on Education for Democratic Values and Practices, and to report thereon on a regular basis to CIDI and the Permanent Council.

6. To instruct the CIE to follow up on implementation of the Inter-American Program on Education for Democratic Values and Practices; and to instruct CIDI and the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session on the implementation of this resolution.

7. To invite member states and permanent observers, as well as individuals and national or international organizations, whether public or private, that wish to do so to make voluntary contributions to support the development and implementation of the Program.
AG/RES. 2165 (XXXVI-O/06)

COORDINATION OF VOLUNTEERS IN THE HEMISPHERE IN RESPONSE TO NATURAL DISASTERS AND THE FIGHT AGAINST HUNGER AND POVERTY – WHITE HELMETS INITIATIVE

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the Report of the General Secretariat on the White Helmets Initiative (CP/doc.4142/06), resolutions AG/RES. 1351 (XXV-O/95), AG/RES. 1403 (XXVI-O/96), AG/RES. 1463 (XXVII-O/97), and AG/RES. 2018 (XXXIV-O/04), and declaration AG/DEC. 45 (XXXV-O/05);

RECALLING that, in the Plan of Action of the First Summit of the Americas, held in Miami, in December 1994, the Heads of State and Government said that the White Helmets Initiative could facilitate the eradication of poverty and strengthen the international community’s capacity for rapid humanitarian response to emergency humanitarian, social, and developmental needs, and that the countries of the Americas could pioneer this initiative by forming national volunteer corps that could respond to calls from other countries in the region;

RECALLING ALSO that, in the Declaration of Mar del Plata of the Fourth Summit of the Americas (Argentina, 2005), the Heads of State and Government reaffirmed their commitment to fight poverty, inequality, hunger, and social exclusion; noted with concern the increased intensity of natural and man-made disasters and their devastating impact on human lives, infrastructure, and economies in the Hemisphere; and called for action at the national, regional, and international levels to strengthen disaster management programs;

RECOGNIZING that the development of the White Helmets Initiative has contributed to efforts to alleviate critical situations of hunger and poverty in the Hemisphere, wherever they may occur, and has assisted populations afflicted by natural and other disasters, by promoting an effective and appropriate transition from emergency aid to rehabilitation, reconstruction, and development, in the context of the purposes and principles established in the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), while also preserving the nonpolitical, neutral, and impartial nature of humanitarian aid;

UNDERSCORING that the OAS/IDB/WH Program provides for the execution, in 2006, of humanitarian assistance projects in the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Honduras, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, and Paraguay within the framework of the Third Call and the organization of technical assistance workshops for the establishment of national humanitarian volunteer corps and their coordination in the Hemisphere; and that the Program has been extended to 2007;

BEARING IN MIND that, in 2005, the Initiative provided humanitarian responses to countries in the Hemisphere that faced serious natural disasters, such as Hurricanes Katrina and Rita
in the United States, Hurricane Stan in Guatemala and El Salvador, the storm in Uruguay, and the climate crises in Ecuador and Peru;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that the Initiative has provided ongoing assistance during the stabilization process in the Republic of Haiti and will continue to lend its assistance to the new authorities;

UNDERSCORING the recent designation of focal points for the White Helmets Initiative by the Governments of Brazil, Ecuador, Guatemala, Guyana, Jamaica, Panama, and Trinidad and Tobago, which join those already established by the Governments of Argentina, Honduras, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay; and

CONSIDERING the agreements expressed by the participants in the First Regional Meeting of Focal Points of the White Helmets Initiative, held in Buenos Aires on December 1 and 2, 2005, including: the decision to proceed with coordination, consultations, and discussion of experiences among countries that have activities under way in the framework of the White Helmets Initiative; the importance of coordination with the relevant regional, international, and multilateral organizations; the establishment of guidelines for preparation of a record of experiences and best practices at the national level in areas such as disaster risk management and fighting hunger and poverty, which could be made available to the member countries of the Regional Humanitarian Volunteer Corps Network,

RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm its support for the White Helmets Initiative as one of the valuable mechanisms in the Hemisphere for risk management and fighting hunger and poverty.

2. To urge the General Secretariat to continue its support for the development of the White Helmets Initiative.

3. To take note of the establishment of the Regional Humanitarian Volunteer Corps Network and its future use as a valuable tool for risk management and fighting hunger and poverty in the Hemisphere.

4. To invite those member states that so wish to designate focal points for the White Helmets Initiative and to help to strengthen local volunteer corps with a view to enhancing their coordination with the Regional Humanitarian Volunteer Corps Network in the Hemisphere.

5. To express interest in the enhanced coordination of activities under the White Helmets Initiative with the General Secretariat, the Inter-American Council for Integral Development, as well as relevant United Nations entities to promote and develop humanitarian assistance and volunteerism in the Hemisphere.

6. To encourage member states, permanent observers, multilateral organizations, and persons or entities, whether public or private, national or international, to contribute to the Special White Helmets Fund.
7. To instruct the Joint Consultative Organ of the Committee on Hemispheric Security and the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CEPCIDI) on Natural Disaster Reduction and Risk Management to consider the White Helmets Initiative in its study of tools for natural disaster reduction and risk management in the framework of the Organization of American States, such as the preparation of local capacity-building plans, the organization of an interconnected database of specialized profiles on disaster topics, or the design of training plans for White Helmets Initiative volunteers.

8. To instruct the General Secretariat to consider the advisability and feasibility of using a technical team belonging to the Regional Humanitarian Volunteer Corps Network as a rapid response mechanism allowing the Organization to go to the scene of a disaster, at the request of the state affected, to coordinate aid and interact with the United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, as appropriate, as well as with specialized and local teams.

9. Also to request the General Secretariat to follow up on and promote the action referred to in the preceding paragraphs, and to present a report on the implementation of this resolution to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session.
AG/RES. 2166 (XXXVI-O/06)

PUBLIC PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES FOR MEMBERSHIP ON THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE INTER-AMERICAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT resolution AG/RES. 2120 (XXXV-O/05), “Presentation of Candidates for Membership on the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights,” adopted on June 7, 2005, at the thirty-fifth regular session of the General Assembly, held in Fort Lauderdale;

EMPHASIZING that the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights are composed of individuals who have distinguished themselves in the human rights field and made vital contributions to developing a rights protection system for the Hemisphere and strengthening the legal mechanisms needed for effective protection;

CONSIDERING that defense of the individual and of his or her fundamental rights is one of the basic principles on which the Organization of American States (OAS) was founded, as indicated in Article 3.1 of the Charter of the Organization, which establishes that the American states proclaim the fundamental rights of the individual without distinction as to race, nationality, creed, or sex, as one of the principles on which the Organization is based;

CONSIDERING ALSO that the importance of respect for human rights was reaffirmed by the adoption of the American Declaration on the Rights and Duties of Man, a document that complements the OAS Charter and recognizes that the essential rights of man are not derived from the fact that he is a national of a certain state, but are based upon attributes of his human personality, and that the international protection of the rights of man should be the principal guide of an evolving American law;

RECALLING that this premise has gradually evolved through the American Convention on Human Rights and other instruments, such as the Inter-American Democratic Charter;

CONSIDERING that the inter-American system, conscious of the central role of the individual in society, has facilitated the participation of various organizations whose purpose is to strengthen that role. That important role has been recognized in a series of General Assembly resolutions, such as resolution AG/RES. 1852 (XXXII-O/02), and AG/RES. 1915 (XXXIII-O/03), “Increasing and Strengthening Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities,” and reaffirmed in resolution AG/RES. 2092 (XXXV-O/05), “Increasing and Strengthening Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities and in the Summits of the Americas Process”;
RECALLING that Article 34 of the American Convention on Human Rights establishes that the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights shall be composed of seven members, who shall be persons of high moral character and recognized competence in the field of human rights;

RECALLING ALSO that Article 52.1 of the American Convention on Human Rights establishes that the Inter-American Court of Human Rights shall consist of seven judges, nationals of the member states of the Organization, elected in an individual capacity from among jurists of the highest moral authority and of recognized competence in the field of human rights, who possess the qualifications required for the exercise of the highest judicial functions in conformity with the law of the state of which they are nationals or of the state that proposes them as candidates; and

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the importance of preserving the autonomy of persons elected to serve as members of the human rights protection organs of the OAS in the exercise of their juridical functions,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge member states to continue to present candidates for the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, in accordance with the requirements established in Articles 34 and 52.1 of the American Convention on Human Rights, Article 2 of the Statute of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, and Article 4 of the Statute of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

2. To invite member states to consider the possibility of learning the points of view of civil society organizations in order to help propose the best candidacies for positions with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

3. To reiterate its instruction to the General Secretariat to publish the curriculum vitae of each candidate on the OAS Website, upon the announcement of each candidacy, so that member states and civil society in general may be adequately informed as to the background of candidates for the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. Also to request the General Secretariat to issue a press release announcing the curricula vitae that have been published.
AG/RES. 2167 (XXXVI-O/06)

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMMITTEE PROVIDED FOR IN THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING its resolution AG/RES. 1608 (XXIX-O/99), in which the General Assembly adopted the Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities;

CONSIDERING:

That the Heads of State and Government, gathered at the First Summit of the Americas (Miami, 1994), the Second Summit of the Americas (Santiago, 1998), and the Third Summit of the Americas (Quebec City, 2001) reaffirmed their commitment to protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all, including those in situations of vulnerability or marginalization and, among them, persons with disabilities and others needing special protection, and undertook to eradicate all forms of discrimination and to achieve the full participation of all individuals in the political, economic, social, and cultural life of the countries of the region;

That in the Declaration of Florida: Delivering the Benefits of Democracy, adopted by the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth regular session, the governments reaffirmed the commitment to eliminate all forms of discrimination and intolerance, particularly those based on gender, ethnic origin, race, religion, and disability, as a fundamental element in strengthening democracy;

That in the Plan of Action of the Fourth Summit of the Americas, held in Mar del Plata, Argentina, in November 2005, the governments undertook to develop and strengthen policies to increase opportunities for decent, dignified, and productive work for senior citizens and persons with disabilities, and ensure compliance with national labor laws in this area, including eliminating discrimination against them in the workplace, and to consider a declaration on the decade of the Americas for persons with disabilities (2006-2016), together with a program of action;

That the Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities entered into force on September 14, 2001;

That Article VI of the aforementioned Convention provides for the establishment of a Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities, composed of one representative appointed by each state party, to follow up on the commitments undertaken in the Convention. It also provided that the Committee would hold its first meeting within the 90 days following the deposit of the 11th instrument of ratification, which occurred when Nicaragua ratified the Convention on November 25, 2002; and
That the aforementioned article also stated that the first meeting of the Committee should be convened by the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States; and

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION that in order to ensure effective compliance with the obligations taken on by the states parties it is necessary and advisable to activate the Committee provided for in the Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities as soon as possible,

RESOLVES:

1. To request the Secretary General to convene, in accordance with Article VI of the Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities, the first meeting of the Committee during the second half of 2006.

2. To request that the Secretary General, taking into account the contributions of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and of the civil society organizations that specialize in disability issues, present to the member states, through the Permanent Council, a proposal on the documents needed in order to activate the mechanism contemplated in Article VI of the aforementioned Convention.

3. To instruct the Permanent Council to follow up on this resolution, which will be implemented within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources, and to present a report on its implementation to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session.
AG/RES. 2168 (XXXVI-O/06)

COMBATING RACISM AND ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AND INTOLERANCE AND CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION AGAINST RACISM AND ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AND INTOLERANCE

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly (AG/doc.4548/06 add. 6 corr. 1), as well as resolutions AG/RES. 1712 (XXX-O/00), AG/RES. 1774 (XXXI-O/01), AG/RES. 1905 (XXXII-O/02), AG/RES. 1930 (XXXIII-O/03), AG/RES. 2038 (XXXIV-O/04), and AG/RES. 2126 (XXXV-O/05);

REAFFIRMING the firm commitment of the Organization of American States (OAS) to the prevention and eradication of racism and all forms of discrimination and intolerance, and the conviction that discriminatory attitudes of this type are a negation of such universal values as the inalienable and inviolable rights of persons and of the purposes, principles, and guarantees provided for in the OAS Charter, the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the American Convention on Human Rights, the Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities, and the Inter-American Democratic Charter;

AWARE that the principles of equality and nondiscrimination recognized in Articles 3.1 and 45.a of the Charter of the Organization of American States, in Article 2 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in Article II of the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, in Article 1 of the American Convention on Human Rights, and in Article 9 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter enshrine respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, without any distinction as to race, color, nationality, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, or any other status;

1. The United States reserves on all references to the draft Inter-American Convention against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance, because it believes the Working Group should not engage in negotiations on a new convention against racism. As there is already a robust global treaty regime on this topic, most notably the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination to which some 170 countries are States Parties, a regional instrument is not necessary and runs the risk of creating inconsistencies with this global regime. The United States believes that the Working Group should be more action-oriented in addressing the scourge of racism and discrimination. For instance, the working group could analyze the forms and sources of racism and discrimination in the Hemisphere and identify practical steps that governments in the Americas might adopt to combat racism and other forms of discrimination, including best practices in the form of national legislation and enhanced implementation of existing international and national instruments. This would be aimed at bringing immediate and real-world protection against discrimination.
DEEPLY DISTURBED by the general increase in different parts of the world of cases of intolerance of, and violence against, members of many religious communities, including those motivated by Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, and Christianophobia;

RECOGNIZING the existence of groups of people who are victims of longstanding and contemporary manifestations of racism, discrimination, and intolerance in the Americas;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that the preamble to the Declaration and Plan of Action of the Regional Conference of the Americas, held in Santiago, Chile, in December 2000, to prepare for the United Nations World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, held in Durban, South Africa, in 2001, recognizes that “in spite of the efforts made by States in the region, racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance still persist in the Americas and continue to be causes of suffering, disadvantage and violence, as well as of other serious human rights violations, which must be fought by all available means as a matter of the highest priority”;

RECALLING paragraph 24 of the Declaration of Mar del Plata, of November 5, 2005, prepared in the context of the Fourth Summit of the Americas, in which the Heads of State and Government expressed their support for the implementation of resolution AG/RES. 2126 (XXXV-O/05), which led to the establishment of the Working Group to Prepare a Draft Inter-American Convention against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance, and encouraged that Working Group in its efforts “to combat racism, discrimination, and intolerance through available means as a matter of the highest priority”;

TAKING NOTE of the preliminary written inputs presented by the Governments of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, and Peru for the preparation of the future Draft Inter-American Convention against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance; and inviting the other member states to submit their preliminary inputs on the subject;

TAKING NOTE ALSO of the message from the Permanent Mission of Brazil announcing that the Regional Conference of the Americas against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance would be held in Brazil from July 26 to 28, 2006 (CP/doc.4099/06);

TAKING NOTE FURTHER of the Preliminary Draft Inter-American Convention against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance (CP/CAJP-2357/06), presented by the Chair of the Working Group to Prepare a Draft Inter-American Convention against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance on the basis of inputs received by the Group, during its first year of activities, from member states, from organs, agencies, and entities of the OAS, and from the United Nations, regional organizations, indigenous peoples’ representatives, entrepreneurs, labor groups, and civil society organizations; and

BEARING IN MIND that resolution AG/RES. 2038 (XXXIV-O/04) instructed the Permanent Council to continue to address, as a matter of priority, the subject of preventing, combating, and eradicating racism and all forms of discrimination and intolerance,
RESOLVES:

1. To take note of the Report of the Rapporteur of the Special Meeting to Examine and Discuss the Nature of a Future Inter-American Convention against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance, held at the headquarters of the Organization of American States (OAS) on November 28 and 29, 2005 (CAJP-GT/RDI-16/05), the preliminary inputs submitted in writing by the Governments of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, and Peru (CAJP/GT/RDI-4/05 add. 1 to 6), and the comments made by the delegation of Guatemala during the Special Meeting of the Working Group to Prepare a Draft Inter-American Convention against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance, which appear in the abovementioned Rapporteur’s report, on the nature of a future regional instrument, and all reports of the meetings of the Working Group held during its first year of activities, which constitute the basis for the proposed Preliminary Draft Inter-American Convention against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance, prepared by the Chair of the Working Group (CP/CAJP-2357/06).

2. To instruct the Working Group to begin negotiations on the Draft Inter-American Convention against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance, taking into account the Preliminary Draft Inter-American Convention against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance (CP/CAJP-2357/06).

3. To instruct the Working Group to adopt its work plan and methodology when it begins its activities.

4. To request that the Working Group, in the context of negotiation of the draft Convention, continue promoting meetings to receive contributions from member states, organs, agencies, and entities of the OAS, the United Nations, and regional organizations; and, bearing in mind the Guidelines for Participation by Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities, contained in Permanent Council resolution CP/RES. 759 (1217/99), dated December 15, 1999, that it also continue to receive contributions from representatives of indigenous peoples, entrepreneurs, labor groups, and civil society organizations.

5. To renew the mandate to the Justice Studies Center of the Americas (JSCA) contained in operative paragraph 2 of resolution AG/RES. 2126 (XXXV-O/05), in which it was requested to prepare, as a complement to the document “Judicial System and Racism against Persons of African Descent” (CP/doc.3845/04 corr. 1) and within the framework of its mandate and available resources, studies on how the judicial systems of the Hemisphere treat indigenous peoples and migrants, including a mention of the diverse forms of discrimination that affect the countries of the Hemisphere, as addressed in the Declaration of the Regional Conference of the Americas, held in Santiago, with special attention paid to the following:

   a. The manner in which the courts, through their practices and jurisprudence, recognize and apply international and domestic standards on human rights;
   b. The presence of minorities and indigenous people as staff in the judicial branch and the public defender’s and public prosecutor’s offices of states;
   c. Percentage indicators and analysis of the presence of indigenous people and migrants among the states’ prison populations;
d. Percentage indicators and analysis of the presence of indigenous people and migrants among all persons processed, prosecuted, and convicted by the states’ judicial systems;

e. Domestic norms for defending the rights of indigenous people and migrants;

f. The treatment given by the courts to documented and undocumented migrant workers when the latter are the accused or defendants in criminal proceedings, with special attention to possible differences in how the two groups are treated and in how the two together are treated in comparison with nationals of the respective state;

g. The treatment given by the courts to documented and undocumented migrants with regard to labor and social security matters;

h. The availability of judicial resources to solve questions concerning migration status and their level of efficiency in doing so; and

i. The recognition, application, and enforcement by governments of existing international and domestic obligations regarding racism and all forms of discrimination and intolerance.

6. To request the General Secretariat to provide the broadest possible support, through the Executive Secretariat of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) and the Office of International Law of the Department of International Legal Affairs, to the Working Group’s activities.

7. To request the IACHR to present the conclusions of the study referred to in operative paragraph 3 of resolution AG/RES. 1930 (XXXIII-O/03), on the laws of the member states dealing with the adoption of policies to promote equality or affirmative action; and to urge the member states that have not yet done so to submit their inputs on the subject to the Inter-American Commission.

8. To request the IACHR to continue, within the framework of inter-American and international legal instruments currently in force, to pay due attention to the problems generated by manifestations of racism, discrimination, and intolerance in the Americas, to continue intensifying dialogue and cooperation with the Special Rapporteur of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance, and with the United Nations Independent Expert on minority issues, and to report on that cooperation to the Permanent Council in due course.

9. To support the work of the Special Rapporteurship of the IACHR on the rights of persons of African descent and against racial discrimination; to congratulate the Commission on its creation of a scholarship for young lawyers of African descent; and to urge states to consider giving financial support to this initiative and to the Rapporteurship.

10. To renew the invitation to the organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization, including the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) and the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI), to prepare inputs on the prevention of racism and all forms of discrimination and intolerance, for consideration by the Working Group.
11. To instruct the Permanent Council to follow up on this resolution, which will be implemented within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources, and to present a report on its implementation to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session.
AG/RES. 2169 (XXXVI-O/06)

COMMEMORATION OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF GALO PLAZA LASSO, FORMER SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING:

That Mr. Galo Plaza Lasso served with utmost distinction as Secretary General of the Organization of American States from 1968 to 1975; and

That Mr. Galo Plaza Lasso was a distinguished public figure in his country, which he served with talent, integrity, and genuine passion, occupying high positions as President of the Municipal Council of Quito, Ambassador in Washington, Minister of National Defense, Senator of the Republic, and Constitutional President of Ecuador;

EMPHASIZING that, during his four years as President of Ecuador, Mr. Galo Plaza Lasso displayed profound democratic convictions and set an example of tolerance and of unrestricted respect for human rights and freedom of expression; and that during the same period he carried out extensive public works and promoted a forward-looking economic policy that made Ecuador the world’s leading banana-exporting country;

UNDERSCORING the important services rendered by Mr. Galo Plaza Lasso to the cause of world peace, as Chairman of the United Nations Observation Group in Lebanon, Chairman of the United Nations committee on bases in the Congo, and Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General and Mediator in Cyprus; as well as his active participation in the Inter-American Conference on Problems of War and Peace, held in Chapultepec, Mexico (1945), and at the San Francisco Conference, at which the Charter of the United Nations was signed; and

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that this year marks the one hundredth anniversary of his birth,

RESOLVES:

1. To pay tribute to the memory of Mr. Galo Plaza Lasso; and to express gratitude for his devoted contribution to the noble causes of peace, justice, and friendly understanding among nations.

2. To extol the valuable work accomplished by Mr. Galo Plaza Lasso as Secretary General of the Organization of American States to bring about unity in the Hemisphere, strengthen the Organization, and enhance its prestige.

3. To associate itself with the events taking place to commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of this distinguished Ecuadorian, a citizen of the Americas and the world.
AG/RES. 2170 (XXXVI-O/06)

SUPPORT FOR THE WORK OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE AGAINST TERRORISM

(Assented at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the observations and recommendations of the Permanent Council on the annual reports of the organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization of American States (OAS) (AG/doc.4548/06 add. 5), particularly the Annual Report of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CP/doc.4110/06 rev. 1);

REITERATING the commitments undertaken in resolutions AG/RES. 1650 (XXIX-O/99), “Hemispheric Cooperation to Prevent, Combat and Eliminate Terrorism”; AG/RES. 1734 (XXX-O/00), “Observations and Recommendations on the Annual Report of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism”; and AG/RES. 1789 (XXXI-O/01), AG/RES. 1877 (XXXII-O/02), AG/RES. 1964 (XXXIII-O/03), AG/RES. 2051 (XXXIV-O/04), and AG/RES. 2137 (XXXV-O/05), “Support for the Work of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism”;

NOTING WITH SATISFACTION that the Sixth Regular Session of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) was held in Bogotá, Colombia, from March 22 to 24, 2006, and adopted the Declaration of San Carlos on Hemispheric Cooperation for Comprehensive Action to Fight Terrorism, the CICTE Work Plan, and resolution CICTE/RES. 1/06, “Cooperation Initiatives for the Security of Tourism and Recreational Facilities in the Americas”;

REAFFIRMING that terrorism, whatever its form or manifestation and whatever its origin or motivation, has no justification whatsoever, is inimical to the full enjoyment and exercise of human rights, and poses a grave threat to international peace and security and the democratic values enshrined in the OAS Charter, the Inter-American Democratic Charter, and other regional and international instruments;

RECALLING the need to confront terrorism through sustained cooperation, with full respect for the obligations that international law imposes, including international human rights law, international humanitarian law, and international refugee law;

REAFFIRMING that the fight against terrorism demands the broadest possible cooperation among the member states and coordination among international and regional organizations, in order to prevent, punish, and eliminate terrorism in all its forms;

NOTING WITH SATISFACTION that Argentina, Brazil, Guatemala, Trinidad and Tobago, and the United States ratified the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism in 2005 and that other countries not yet party to this Convention have nonetheless made important headway; and
NOTING WITH SATISFACTION ALSO the holding of the fourth meeting of CICTE’s National Points of Contact, in Bogotá, Colombia, on March 22, 2006, and the strengthening of the National Points of Contact Network to facilitate and improve information exchange and to share best practices for cooperation in the fight against terrorism in the Hemisphere,

RESOLVES:

1. To express its most vigorous condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, as criminal and unjustifiable under any circumstances, in any place, and regardless of who perpetrates it, and because it poses a grave threat to international peace and security, and to the democracy, stability, and prosperity of the countries of the region.

2. To endorse the Declaration of San Carlos on Hemispheric Cooperation for Comprehensive Action to Fight Terrorism; and to encourage the member states to implement the commitments contained therein.

3. To reiterate that it is important for the member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) to sign, ratify, implement, and continue implementing, as the case may be, the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism, as well as pertinent regional and international conventions and protocols, including the 13 international conventions and protocols and United Nations Security Council resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001), 1540 (2004), 1566 (2004), 1617 (2005), and 1624 (2005), in order to find, deny safe haven to, and bring to justice, on the basis of the principle of extradite or prosecute, any person who supports, facilitates, participates, or attempts to participate in the financing, planning, preparation, or commission of terrorist acts or provides safe havens.

4. To express its abiding commitment to fight terrorism and the financing thereof with full respect for the rule of law and international law, including international humanitarian law, international human rights law, international refugee law, the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism, and United Nations Security Council resolution 1373 (2001).

5. To call upon those member states that have not yet done so to ratify the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism and to implement it effectively.

6. To express satisfaction with the progress made by member states in the adoption of effective measures to prevent, combat, and eradicate terrorism; and to underscore the need to continue strengthening their application and that of cooperation mechanisms in the fight against terrorism at the bilateral, subregional, regional, and international levels.

7. To express its satisfaction with the work of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) in identifying immediate and longer-term measures needed to strengthen hemispheric cooperation to prevent, combat, and eliminate terrorism, including technical assistance provided to states that request it in order to comply with their obligations under the various binding international instruments, in accordance with CICTE’s new Work Plan.
8. To instruct the CICTE Secretariat to implement the programs and projects listed in the CICTE Work Plan for 2006-2007, in particular those that involve measures to prevent, control, and punish terrorist financing, through training programs for those officers of the law and the courts charged with investigating, prosecuting, and punishing these crimes; assistance in carrying out the Nine Special Recommendations on Terrorist Financing of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF); assistance in creating and launching Computer Security Incident Response Teams (CSIRTs) in those countries where they do not yet exist; the inter-American program for the security of tourism and recreational facilities in the Americas; measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring biological, chemical, and nuclear materials, and technical assistance to improve the quality of travel documents and similar documents and their security measures.

9. Once again to thank the member states and permanent observers that have contributed human and other resources to CICTE’s Secretariat to help implement the CICTE Work Plan.

10. Once again to call upon member states, permanent observers, and pertinent international organizations to provide, maintain, or increase, as appropriate, their voluntary contributions of funding and/or human resources to CICTE to enable it to perform its functions and enhance its programs and areas of activity.

11. To instruct the General Secretariat to continue providing, within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the OAS and other resources, administrative and any other support needed for the CICTE Secretariat and for the Seventh Regular Session of CICTE, scheduled to be held in Panama City, Panama, in the first quarter of 2007, including the preparatory meetings for that regular session and for the meeting of National Points of Contact that will take place in conjunction with it.

12. To request the Chair of CICTE to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session on the implementation of this resolution.
AG/RES. 2171 (XXXVI-O/06)


(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN resolution AG/RES. 2091 (XXXV-O/05), “Support for and Follow-up to the Summits of the Americas Process,” which took into account the decision of the member states to hold the Fourth Summit of the Americas;

CONSIDERING:

That the Fourth Summit of the Americas was held in Mar del Plata, Argentina, on November 4 and 5, 2005;

That the Heads of State and Government adopted the Declaration of Mar del Plata and the Plan of Action of the Fourth Summit of the Americas, with the commitment to fight poverty, inequality, hunger, and social exclusion in order to raise standards of living and to strengthen democratic governance in the Americas;

That the Heads of State and Government assigned the right to work, as articulated in human rights instruments, a central place on the hemispheric agenda, recognizing the essential role of the creation of decent work in achieving these objectives;

That the Summits of the Americas process and the initiatives and mandates adopted at the First Summit of the Americas (Miami, 1994), the Summit of the Americas on Sustainable Development (Santa Cruz de la Sierra, 1996), the Second Summit of the Americas (Santiago, 1998), the Third Summit of the Americas (Quebec City, 2001), and the Special Summit of the Americas (Monterrey, 2004) have established political, economic, and social priorities for the Hemisphere that determine the inter-American agenda;

That the Organization of American States (OAS) is the foremost political forum for dialogue and cooperation among the countries of the Hemisphere, and that the Heads of State and Government recognized its central role in the implementation and follow-up of the Summit mandates;

That, in Mar del Plata, the Heads of State and Government instructed the General Secretariat to continue to act as technical secretariat to the Summits process and to provide support to the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG), ministerial meetings, and specialized conferences, to coordinate the participation of civil society, and to ensure the dissemination of information on the commitments made as part of the Summits process; and
That the Heads of State and Government instructed the member institutions of the Joint Summit Working Group, under the coordination of the OAS, to support the follow-up and implementation of the Summits of the Americas and to assist in the preparations for future Summits; and

RECOGNIZING the importance of the Committee on Inter-American Summits Management and Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities (CISC) of the Permanent Council of the OAS, in the efficient, timely, and appropriate follow-up and implementation of the activities entrusted to the Organization as a result of the Summits of the Americas,

RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm the mandates and commitments adopted by the Heads of State and Government in the Declaration of Mar del Plata and the Plan of Action of the Fourth Summit of the Americas.

2. To urge member states to implement, promote, and disseminate the commitments made in the Declaration of Mar del Plata and the Plan of Action of the Fourth Summit of the Americas.

3. To encourage the organs, agencies, and entities of the inter-American system, as well as agencies within the United Nations system and other institutions participating in the Joint Summit Working Group, to assign priority to implementation of the initiatives contained in the Declaration of Mar del Plata and the Plan of Action of the Fourth Summit of the Americas and to report regularly to the Committee on Inter-American Summits Management and Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities (CISC) on the progress made in implementing the adopted mandates and commitments.

4. To instruct the General Secretariat to carry out, promote, and disseminate the initiatives and commitments adopted at the Fourth Summit of the Americas that were entrusted to the Organization of American States (OAS) in the Declaration of Mar del Plata and the Plan of Action of the Fourth Summit of the Americas.

5. To instruct the General Secretariat to coordinate with the other OAS organs and entities and with the institutions of the Joint Summit Working Group in following up on the commitments and mandates established in the Declaration of Mar del Plata and the Plan of Action of the Fourth Summit of the Americas.

6. To instruct the CISC to present to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session, through the Permanent Council, a follow-up report on implementation of the mandates of the Fourth Summit of the Americas.
AG/RES. 2172 (XXXVI-O/06)

INCREASING AND STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION
IN THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
AND IN THE SUMMITS OF THE AMERICAS PROCESS

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly on
the activities of the Committee on Inter-American Summits Management and Civil Society
Participation in OAS Activities (AG/doc.4548/06 add. 3);

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT resolution AG/RES. 2092 (XXXV-O/05), “Increasing and
Strengthening Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities and in the Summits of the Americas Process”;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT ALSO the Guidelines for Participation by Civil Society
Organizations in OAS Activities, approved by the Permanent Council in resolution CP/RES. 759
(1217/99) and endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution AG/RES. 1707 (XXX-O/00), which
establish that, “[i]n order to bear fruit, civil society participation must be oriented by a clear and yet
flexible regulatory framework. Such flexibility is achieved by way of periodic review of
participation in OAS activities. These Guidelines thus represent a further step toward enhancing civil
society participation in OAS activities”;

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION the Strategies for Increasing and Strengthening
Participation by Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities, adopted by the Permanent Council in
resolution CP/RES. 840 (1361/03) and subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution AG/RES. 1915 (XXXIII-O/03), which requested “the Committee on Inter-American Summits
Management and Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities (CISC) to follow up on these
strategies; to evaluate their implementation; and, if appropriate, to propose amendments to them or
new mechanisms for increasing and strengthening participation by civil society organizations in OAS
activities”;

CONSIDERING that the Summits of the Americas process encourages full participation by
civil society and that, in the Declaration of Nuevo León, the Heads of State and Government
undertook to institutionalize meetings with civil society and with the academic and private sectors;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that the Declaration of Mar del Plata recognized the pivotal role
the Organization of American States (OAS) plays in coordinating civil society participation in the
Summits process;
UNDERSCORING the efforts made by the host country of the Fourth Summit of the Americas, in coordination with the OAS General Secretariat through the Summits Secretariat, to encourage, promote, and facilitate civil society participation in the preparatory activities for the Fourth Summit of the Americas and at the Summit itself;

CONSIDERING that Article 6 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter states that “[i]t is the right and responsibility of all citizens to participate in decisions relating to their own development. This is a necessary condition for the full and effective exercise of democracy. Promoting and fostering diverse forms of participation strengthens democracy”;

NOTING the establishment of the Specific Fund to Support the Participation of Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities and in the Summits of the Americas Process, by resolution CP/RES. 864 (1413/04), to support participation by civil society organizations in OAS activities, including the dialogue of heads of delegation of member states, the Secretary General, and civil society organization representatives, which has been included on the draft schedule for regular sessions of the General Assembly as a regular activity before the inaugural session, as indicated in resolution AG/RES. 1915 (XXXIII-O/03);

NOTING WITH SATISFACTION the recommendations and the dialogue stemming from the Special Meeting of the Committee on Inter-American Summits Management and Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities: “Good Governance and Development in the Knowledge-Based Society,” held on May 3, 2006, which included broad participation by civil society organizations of the Hemisphere;

RECOGNIZING the importance of participation by civil society organizations in strengthening democracy in all member states and the significant contribution they can make to the activities of the OAS and of the organs, agencies, and entities of the inter-American system;

RECOGNIZING ALSO that civil society participation in OAS activities should take place in a context of close collaboration between the political and institutional bodies of the Organization; and

NOTING the establishment of the OAS Department for the Promotion of Good Governance and particularly the Participation and Civil Society Section, which is charged with promoting the role of civil society and citizen participation in the strengthening of democratic governance,

RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm the commitment of the member states to continue strengthening and implementing mechanisms for civil society participation in the Summits of the Americas process and in the activities of the Organization of American States (OAS), as well as the willingness of the Organization to implement concrete actions designed to achieve the effective participation of civil society in the Summits process and the OAS.

2. To instruct the Permanent Council, the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI), and the General Secretariat to continue, in coordination with all organs, agencies, and entities of the OAS, to facilitate the implementation of the Strategies for Increasing and Strengthening Participation by Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities, adopted by the
Permanent Council in resolution CP/RES. 840 (1361/03), and endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution AG/RES. 1915 (XXXIII-O/03), “Increasing and Strengthening Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities.”

3. To continue to actively support and promote the registration of civil society organizations and their participation in OAS activities, and in its organs, agencies, and entities.

4. To instruct the General Secretariat to present a report that includes the best practices for civil society participation developed by other regional organizations, in order to facilitate a study on models of participation that could be used in the OAS and the Summits of the Americas process.

5. To renew its invitation to all member states and to permanent observers and other donors, as defined in Article 73 of the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat and in other rules and regulations of the Organization, to contribute to the Specific Fund to Support the Participation of Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities and in the Summits of the Americas Process, in order to support participation by civil society organizations in OAS activities, including the dialogue of heads of delegation with the Secretary General and with representatives of civil society organizations.

6. To continue to urge member states to:
   a. Participate in the dialogue of heads of delegation with representatives of civil society organizations in the context of General Assembly sessions and in the Summits of the Americas process; and
   b. Continue their efforts, both domestically and multilaterally, to expand opportunities for participation by civil society organizations in OAS activities and in the Summits of the Americas process.

7. To encourage member states to continue reporting on existing procedures and regulations regarding consultations with civil society, to allow for an exchange of experiences and best practices among the member states.

8. To recognize the efforts of the host countries of the thirty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly and the Fourth Summit of the Americas to work together with the General Secretariat and with civil society organizations to facilitate and organize their participation in the dialogue of heads of delegation, in accordance with resolution CP/RES. 840 (1361/03); and to encourage future hosts to continue to build on these traditions.

9. To instruct the General Secretariat to continue to support member states that so request in their efforts to increase the institutional capacity of their governments to receive, absorb, and act on civil society input and advocacy, including, when possible, through the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs).
10. To instruct the General Secretariat to carry out the activities referred to in this resolution within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

11. To instruct the General Secretariat to report to the Permanent Council before the thirty-seventh regular session of the General Assembly on the implementation of this resolution.
AG/RES. 2173 (XXXVI-O/06)
THE DECLARATION OF RECIFE
(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the report of the Permanent Council on the implementation of resolution AG/RES. 2091 (XXXV-O/05), “Support for and Follow-up to the Summits of the Americas Process” (AG/doc.4548/06 add. 3);

BEARING IN MIND resolution AG/RES. 2093 (XXXV-O/05), “Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities Responsible for Policies on Decentralization, Local Government, and Citizen Participation at the Municipal Level in the Hemisphere”;

BEARING IN MIND ALSO resolutions AG/RES. 1901 (XXXII-O/02), “Declaration of La Paz on Decentralization and on Strengthening Regional and Municipal Administrations and Participation of Civil Society,” and AG/RES. 1993 (XXXIV-O/04), “Mexico City Plan of Action on Decentralization and Strengthening of Municipal and Regional Administrations and Citizen Participation,” adopted at the first and second ministerial meetings;

WELCOMING the holding in the city of Recife, State of Pernambuco, Brazil, from October 26 to 28, 2005, of the Third Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities Responsible for Policies on Decentralization, Local Government, and Citizen Participation at the Municipal Level in the Hemisphere (RIAD-III), with the support of the OAS General Secretariat and in fulfillment of resolution AG/RES. 2093 (XXXV-O/05);

WELCOMING ALSO the adoption of the Declaration of Recife during the third ministerial meeting, which focused on the role of local governments, citizen participation, and regional development in the fight to combat poverty, generate employment and income, and strengthen democratic governance;

BEARING IN MIND that the ministerial meetings on decentralization and the High-Level Inter-American Network on Decentralization, Local Government, and Citizen Participation (RIAD) were established to provide support and institutional follow-up to the commitments undertaken by the Heads of State and Government at the Summits of the Americas in Santiago, Chile (1998) and Quebec City (2001) and those undertaken in the Declaration of Nuevo León (2004), on strengthening municipal and regional administrations and promoting citizen participation in government policies;

NOTING WITH SATISFACTION that the Declaration of Mar del Plata of the Fourth Summit of the Americas, held in Argentina in November 2005, recognized the work of the Meetings of Ministers and High-Level Authorities Responsible for Policies on Decentralization, Local Government, and Citizen Participation at the Municipal Level in the Hemisphere (RIAD), in particular RIAD-III; and
REAFFIRMING the recognition by the Summits of the potential of regional and municipal governments to address and help solve the challenges of governance in the Hemisphere,

RESOLVES:

1. To declare that the holding of the Third Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities Responsible for Policies on Decentralization, Local Government, and Citizen Participation at the Municipal Level in the Hemisphere (RIAD-III) in Recife, Brazil, in October 2005, constitutes a fundamental step toward building and consolidating RIAD as an instrument for intergovernmental cooperation.

2. To thank the Government of Brazil for its warm hospitality and the excellent arrangements it made for holding RIAD-III, as well as the General Secretariat for its valuable support.

3. To express its firm support for the objectives of the Declaration of Recife adopted by the meeting and for the commitment to broaden and strengthen the institutional framework of the decentralization process, so as to strengthen local and regional governments, as well as channels for citizen participation in public administration, consolidate democratic governance, create decent work opportunities, and promote a more inclusive form of development that can reduce social and regional inequalities in the Hemisphere.

4. To reaffirm, as set forth in the Declaration of Recife, the crucial importance of coordination and cooperation between the central government and regional and local governments, as well as of dialogue with civil society, with a view towards a more inclusive form of economic development that can boost democratic governance.

5. To take note of the innovations of the ministerial meeting, such as the RIAD 2005 Expo-Fair, an activity timed to coincide with the meeting in order to afford an opportunity for dialogue with stakeholders in the decentralization processes, share experiences in the formulation of decentralization policies, particularly replicable practices in decentralization, and forge frameworks and parameters for decentralization based on compared experiences, as called for in the Declaration of Recife.

6. To express appreciation for the support provided by the experts of RIAD’s Technical and Financial Support Group, coordinated by its technical secretariat with technical assistance and resources from the International City/County Management Association and the United States Agency for International Development (ICMA/USAID); and to urge the agencies to continue and strengthen their ties with RIAD, thereby contributing to efforts to boost coordination in favor of decentralization processes.

7. To take note of the progress made by RIAD in support of efforts to construct regional decentralization strategies; and to urge members of RIAD to continue working with the Chair of the Network and the regional Vice Chairs on the development of hemispheric and subregional activities and projects on specific topics, pursuant to its mandates, while moving ahead with the establishment of basic parameters and frames of reference to facilitate the comparison of
experiences, the systematization of outcomes, and the channeling of decentralization policies through RIAD.

8. In this context, to take note of the meeting of the Chair and Vice Chairs of RIAD (its Executive Committee), convened by Brazil as Chair of the Network and held in Brasilia on March 27 and 28, 2006, with technical support from the Department for the Promotion of Good Governance acting as technical secretariat, and of the preparation of the Plan of Action for 2006-2007, which envisages the following key courses of action aimed at consolidating the Network:

- Political dialogue and consensus-building among the national operators of decentralization policies and regional coordination of the RIAD focal points;

- Dialogue among the member states of the RIAD and decentralization stakeholders (regional and municipal governments and civil society);

- Strengthening of internal and organizational aspects of the Technical and Financial Working Group; and

- Promotion of comparative policy exchanges and the sharing of research papers, experiences, methodologies, instruments, and, in general, knowledge of national and regional trends in the decentralization processes under way in the Hemisphere.

9. With that Plan in mind, to urge the members of the RIAD to continue strengthening the Network as an instrument for multilateral cooperation in support of the processes of development and democratic governance in the region.

10. To instruct the Permanent Council to follow closely the work of the RIAD and convene the next ministerial meeting, taking into account the resources available in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

11. To request the Secretary General to present a report on the implementation of this resolution to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session.
AG/RES. 2174 (XXXVI-O/06)

INTER-AMERICAN PROGRAM FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly (AG/doc.4548/06 add. 6 corr. 1), in particular as it pertains to the implementation of resolution AG/RES. 2070 (XXXV-O/05), “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 its 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), and AG/RES. 2070 (XXXV-O/05);

TAKING NOTE of the Report on the Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law - Activities of the Department of International Legal Affairs (April 2005–February 2006) (CP/CAJP-2332/06), presented in compliance with said Program; and

NOTING WITH SATISFACTION the holding of the Meeting of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP) to share experiences on how international law is addressed in diplomatic academies and other training centers for public officials, held at the headquarters of the Organization of American States on January 19, 2006, the final report of which was presented by the Chair of that Committee (CP/CAJP-2324/06 corr. 1),

RESolves:

1. 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 Legal Affairs of the General Secretariat to continue carrying out the activities enumerated in the Program.

2. To urge that the General Secretariat, through the Office of International Law of the Department of International Legal Affairs, continue conducting the Workshops on International Law and the Course on International Law in Rio de Janeiro and provide support for activities designed to increase awareness of international law, with special emphasis on the inter-American system, as well as for activities involving the dissemination of legal information and the status of signatures and ratifications of inter-American treaties deposited with the General Secretariat, through its publications, electronic media, and the Internet, in all the official languages of the Organization of American States (OAS).
3. To take note of the report of the Meeting of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP) to share experiences on how international law is addressed in diplomatic academies and other training centers for public officials; and to request the Office of International Law to continue to support that Committee in organizing these events and to create a database on its Web page on diplomatic academies in the Hemisphere, in response to the recommendations of that CAJP meeting.

4. To request the Office of International Law of the Department of International Legal Affairs to design a model general course on the inter-American system, for diplomatic academies, other training centers for public officials, and other legal education centers in the Hemisphere, in the context of the mandates of the Program for the Development of International Law on the promotion and dissemination of the inter-American system and of the recommendations of the CAJP meeting on how inter-American law is addressed.

5. To request the Permanent Council to follow up on the implementation of this resolution, which will be carried out within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session.
AG/RES. 2175 (XXXVI-O/06)

RIGHT TO THE TRUTH

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

CONSIDERING the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, the American Convention on Human Rights, or “Pact of San José, Costa Rica,” the Inter-American Convention to Prevent and Punish Torture, and the Inter-American Convention on Forced Disappearance of Persons;

CONSIDERING IN PARTICULAR Articles 25, 8, 13, and 1.1 of the American Convention on Human Rights, related, respectively, to the right to judicial protection, the right to due process and judicial guarantees, the right to freedom of expression, and the duty of states to respect and guarantee human rights;

CONSIDERING ALSO the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the 1977 Additional Protocols thereto, and other relevant instruments of international human rights law and international humanitarian law, as well as the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action;

NOTING the universality, interdependence, indivisibility, and interrelatedness of civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights;

TAKING NOTE of Articles 32 and 33 of Additional Protocol I, adopted on June 8, 1977, to the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts, which recognize the right of families, as soon as circumstances permit, to know the fate of persons who have disappeared in armed conflicts;

STRESSING that adequate steps to identify victims should also be taken in situations not amounting to armed conflict, especially in cases of severe or systematic violations of human rights;

RECALLING resolution 2005/66 of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, on the right to the truth;

RECALLING ALSO its resolution AG/RES. 445 (IX-O/79), on the promotion of human rights, and its resolutions AG/RES. 510 (X-O/80), AG/RES. 618 (XII-O/82), AG/RES. 666 (XIII-O/83), and AG/RES. 742 (XIV-O/84), on forced disappearance;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT its resolution AG/RES. 2134 (XXXV-O/05), on persons who have disappeared;

1. The delegation of El Salvador submitted a declaration on this resolution. The text of this declaration is contained in the minutes of the thirty-sixth regular session of the OAS General Assembly.
NOTING that the General Assembly has received reports from the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights on the human rights situation in certain countries of the region, which refer to the right to the truth and recognize that the disappearance of persons causes suffering and hardship, especially to relatives and any other person having a legitimate interest, who are uncertain about their fate and unable to provide them with legal, moral, and material assistance;

NOTING ALSO that the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights have recognized the right to the truth in their respective recommendations and judgments in various individual cases of human rights violations;

MINDFUL that the right to the truth may be characterized differently in some legal systems as the right to know or the right to be informed or as freedom of information;

TAKING NOTE of the conclusions of the regional seminar “Memory, Truth, and Justice: Our Recent Past,” held in the context of the Meeting of Competent High Authorities on Human Rights and Foreign Ministries of MERCOSUR and Associated States, in November 2005, which recognize the collective dimension of the right to the truth;

STRESSING that the regional community should make a commitment to recognize the right of victims of gross violations of human rights and serious violations of international humanitarian law, and their families and society as a whole, to know the truth regarding such violations to the fullest extent practicable, in particular the identity of the perpetrators, the causes and facts of such violations, and the circumstances under which they occurred;

STRESSING ALSO that it is important for states to provide effective mechanisms for society as a whole and, in particular, for relatives of the victims, to learn the truth regarding gross violations of human rights and serious violations of international humanitarian law; and

CONVINCED that states, within the framework of their own internal legal systems, should preserve records and other evidence concerning gross violations of human rights and serious violations of international humanitarian law, in order to facilitate knowledge of such violations, investigate allegations, and provide victims with access to an effective remedy in accordance with international law, in order to prevent these violations from occurring again in the future, among other reasons,

RESOLVES:

1. To recognize the importance of respecting and ensuring the right to the truth so as to contribute to ending impunity and to promoting and protecting human rights.

2. To welcome the establishment in several states of specific judicial mechanisms, as well as other non-judicial or ad hoc mechanisms, such as truth and reconciliation commissions, that complement the justice system, to contribute to the investigation of violations of human rights and of international humanitarian law; and to express appreciation for the preparation and publication of the reports and decisions of these bodies.
3. To encourage the states concerned to disseminate and implement the recommendations of national non-judicial or ad hoc mechanisms, such as truth and reconciliation commissions, to monitor the implementation of said recommendations at the domestic level, and to report on compliance with the decisions of judicial mechanisms.

4. To encourage other states to consider the possibility of establishing specific judicial mechanisms and, where appropriate, truth commissions or other similar bodies to complement the justice system, to contribute to the investigation and punishment of gross violations of human rights and serious violations of international humanitarian law.

5. To encourage states and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), within its sphere of competence, to provide the states that so request with necessary and appropriate assistance concerning the right to the truth, through, inter alia, technical cooperation and information exchange on national administrative, legislative, and judicial measures applied, as well as experiences and best practices geared toward the protection, promotion, and implementation of this right.

6. To request the IACHR to prepare a report, for presentation to the Permanent Council, on the evolution of the right to the truth in the Hemisphere, which report shall include national mechanisms and experiences in this regard.

7. To encourage all states to take appropriate measures to establish mechanisms or institutions for disclosing information on human rights violations, and to ensure that citizens have appropriate access to said information, in order to further the exercise of the right to the truth, prevent future human rights violations, and establish accountability in this area.

8. To request the Permanent Council to follow up on this resolution, which will be implemented within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources, and to present a report on its implementation to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session.
AG/RES. 2176 (XXXVI-O/06)

PROMOTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING its resolutions AG/RES. 1619 (XXIX-O/99), AG/RES. 1706 (XXX-O/00), AG/RES. 1709 (XXX-O/00), AG/RES. 1770 (XXXI-O/01), AG/RES. 1771 (XXXI-O/01), AG/RES. 1900 (XXXII-O/02), AG/RES. 1929 (XXXIII-O/03), AG/RES. 2039 (XXXIV-O/04), and AG/RES. 2072 (XXXV-O/05);

RECALLING ALSO the recommendation of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (OEA/Ser.L/V/II.102, Doc. 6 rev., April 16, 1999, Chapter VII, 21.3.B), as well as its resolution No. 1/03, on the prosecution of international crimes, and the document “Framework for OAS Action on the International Criminal Court” (AG/INF.248/00);

RECOGNIZING that the adoption of the Statute of the International Criminal Court, on July 17, 1998, in Rome, is a milestone in efforts to combat impunity, and that the Court is an effective instrument for consolidating international justice and peace;

DEEPLY DISMAYED by the persistent violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law; and reaffirming that all states have the primary duty to prosecute and punish those violations so as to prevent their recurrence and avoid the impunity of the perpetrators of those crimes;

CONVINCED of the importance of preserving the effectiveness and legal integrity of the Rome Statute and the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court, and recognizing the firm resolve of the states parties to preserve them;

CONVINCED ALSO of the importance of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties for preserving the effectiveness and legal integrity of the Rome Statute;

WELCOMING the entry into force of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court on July 1, 2002, because as of that date the Court became the judicial body complementing the efforts of national jurisdictions to prosecute the perpetrators of the most serious international crimes, such as genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes;

1. Reservation by the United States: The United States has long been concerned about the persistent violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law throughout the world. The United States will continue to be a forceful advocate for the principle of accountability for war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity, but cannot support the flawed International Criminal Court. Thus, the United States has not ratified the Rome Statute and has no intention of doing so. In light of this position, the United States cannot join in the consensus on an OAS resolution that promotes the Court.
MINDFUL that the effective functioning of the International Criminal Court requires cooperation from the states and from international and regional organizations, as well as support from civil society;

WELCOMING that, with the ratification of Mexico, 100 states have now ratified or acceded to the Rome Statute, among them 22 members of the Organization of American States, and that 139 states have signed it, including 27 members of the Organization;

NOTING WITH GRATIFICATION that 17 states of the Hemisphere have signed the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the International Criminal Court, seven have ratified it or acceded to it, and others are in the process of doing so;

UNDERSCORING the contribution made by the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute to strengthen cooperation among states and improve the operations of the International Criminal Court;

TAKING NOTE of the results of the fourth session of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute (November 28-December 3, 2005), contained in document ICC-ASP/4/32 of the International Criminal Court;

EXPRESSING ITS SATISFACTION with the progress made by the International Criminal Court in developing into a fully operational judicial body;

HAVING SEEN the report of the Inter-American Juridical Committee presented pursuant to resolution AG/RES. 2072 (XXXV-O/05) (CP/doc.4111/06);

EXPRESSING ITS SATISFACTION with the holding of the Working Meeting on Appropriate Measures That States Should Take to Cooperate with the International Criminal Court in the Investigation, Prosecution, and Punishment of the Perpetrators of War Crimes, Crimes against Humanity, Genocide, and Crimes against the Administration of Justice of the International Criminal Court, within the framework of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs, in which representatives of the International Criminal Court, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and civil society organizations participated, at the Organization’s headquarters on February 3, 2006; and taking note of the results of that meeting, contained in the Rapporteur’s Report (CP/CAJP-2327/06 corr. 1); and

TAKING NOTE of the Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly (AG/doc.4548/06 add. 6 corr. 1),

RESOLVES:

1. To urge those member states of the Organization that have not already done so to consider ratifying or acceding to, as the case may be, the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.
2. To urge all member states of the Organization to continue to participate constructively in the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and to encourage the participation of states that are not yet party thereto.

3. To urge member states of the Organization, whether or not they are parties or signatories to the Rome Statute, to promote and respect its intent and its purpose, in order to preserve its effectiveness and integrity.

4. To renew the appeal to the member states of the Organization that are parties to the Rome Statute to adapt or amend their domestic law, as necessary, with a view to the full and effective implementation of the Statute, including the relevant provisions of international human rights law and/or international humanitarian law.

5. To urge those member states that are not party to the Rome Statute to adapt their domestic legislation in accordance with such instruments of international human rights law or international humanitarian law as may be applicable to them.

6. To urge the member states of the Organization to consider ratifying or acceding to, as the case may be, the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the International Criminal Court, and in the case of those states that are already party to that Agreement to take the necessary measures for its full and effective implementation at the national level.

7. To encourage states to contribute to the Trust Fund established by the United Nations for the benefit of victims of crimes within the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court, and of the families of such victims, as well as to the Fund for the participation of least developed countries.

8. To request the Inter-American Juridical Committee to prepare, on the basis of the results of the report presented (CP/doc.4111/06), a document of recommendations to the member states of the Organization on how to strengthen cooperation with the International Criminal Court, as well as on progress made in that regard, and to present it to the Permanent Council, so that it may in turn submit it to the General Assembly of the Organization at its thirty-seventh regular session.

9. To urge the member states of the Organization to cooperate among themselves and, as appropriate, with the International Criminal Court so as to avoid the impunity of the perpetrators of the most serious international crimes, such as war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide, ensuring that their national legislation facilitates said cooperation and applies to crimes within the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court.

10. To request the Permanent Council to hold, with support from the General Secretariat, a working meeting on appropriate measures that states should take to cooperate with the International Criminal Court in the investigation, prosecution, and punishment of the perpetrators of war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide, and crimes against the administration of justice of the International Criminal Court. The International Criminal Court, international organizations, and nongovernmental organizations will be invited to cooperate and to participate in this working meeting.
11. To request the Permanent Council to include the topic of the implementation of the Rome Statute and the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities on the agenda of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs.

12. To request the Secretary General to present a report on the implementation of this resolution to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session.
AG/RES. 2177 (XXXVI-O/06)

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS:
SUPPORT FOR THE INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS, AND
ORGANIZATIONS OF CIVIL SOCIETY WORKING TO PROMOTE AND
PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE AMERICAS

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly (AG/doc.4548/06 add. 3) as it pertains to this topic, and resolution AG/RES. 2067 (XXXV-O/05), “Human Rights Defenders: Support for the Individuals, Groups, and Organizations of Civil Society Working to Promote and Protect Human Rights in the Americas”;

RECALLING the United Nations Declaration on the Rights and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms;

CONCERNED that situations persist in the Americas that directly or indirectly prevent or hamper the work of individuals, groups, or organizations working to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms;

BEARING IN MIND that, in resolution 60/161 of the United Nations General Assembly and resolution 2005/67 of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, the member states of the United Nations noted “with deep concern that, in many countries, persons and organizations engaged in promoting and defending human rights and fundamental freedoms are facing threats, harassment and insecurity as a result of those activities”;

CONSIDERING that the member states of the Organization of American States support the work carried out by human rights defenders and recognize their valuable contribution to the promotion, observance, and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the Americas, and to the representation and defense of individuals, minorities, and other groups of persons whose rights are threatened or violated;

TAKING NOTE that, in its decisions granting provisional measures, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights has highlighted the importance of the work of human rights defenders to the development of democracies in the Americas;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the work accomplished by the Unit for Human Rights Defenders of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the member states’ replies to the questionnaire drawn up by that unit with a view to preparing a comprehensive report on the subject;
EMPHASIZING that the protection and promotion of human rights is legitimate work and that, in the exercise of their duties, human rights defenders contribute decisively to strengthening democratic institutions and improving national human rights systems;

UNDERSCORING the importance of the role of human rights defenders in promoting dialogue, openness, participation, and justice to contribute to the prevention of violence and promote sustainable peace and security, and the affirmation that, to be effective, international strategies in this area must pay special attention to protecting human rights defenders; and


RESOLVES:

1. To reiterate its support for the work carried out, at both the national and regional levels, by human rights defenders; and to recognize their valuable contribution to the promotion, observance, and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the Hemisphere.

2. To recognize that, in view of their specific role and needs, women human rights defenders should be accorded special attention to ensure that they are fully protected and effective in carrying out their important activities.

3. To condemn actions that directly or indirectly prevent or hamper the work of human rights defenders in the Americas.

4. To encourage human rights defenders to continue their selfless work and their contributions to the enhancement of national human rights systems for the strengthening of democracy, in accordance with the principles contained in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

5. To urge member states to continue or begin, as the case may be, activities to educate and disseminate information to government officials, society at large, and the media, both public and private, so as to make them aware of the importance and validity of the work of human rights defenders and their organizations.

6. To urge member states to continue stepping up their efforts to adopt the necessary measures to safeguard the lives, freedom, and personal safety of human rights defenders and their relatives, including effective emergency protection measures in the case of imminent threat or danger, and to ensure that thorough and impartial investigations and proceedings are carried out, and appropriate punishments are applied, in all cases of violations against human rights defenders.
7. To request the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to:
   a. Continue to give due consideration to this matter;
   b. Continue intensifying its dialogue and cooperation with the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Human Rights Defenders; and
   c. Include in its annual report a section on the work of the Unit for Human Rights Defenders of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

8. To invite member states to promote the dissemination and enforcement of the instruments of the inter-American system and the decisions of its bodies on this matter, as well as the United Nations Declaration on the Rights and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

9. To invite member states to consider the preparation and implementation of national plans to apply the principles contained in the United Nations Declaration mentioned in the preceding paragraph, for which purpose they may also request the advisory services of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

10. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session on the implementation of this resolution, which will be carried out within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.
AG/RES. 2178 (XXXVI-O/06)

STANDARDS FOR THE PREPARATION OF PERIODIC REPORTS
PURSUANT TO THE PROTOCOL OF SAN SALVADOR

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly (AG/doc.4548/06 add. 6 corr. 1) and resolutions AG/RES. 2030 (XXXIV-O/04), AG/RES. 2041 (XXXIV-O/04), and AG/RES. 2074 (XXXV-O/05);

CONSIDERING the provisions of the American Convention on Human Rights, Chapter III of which refers to economic, social, and cultural rights;

UNDERSCORING the entry into force, in November 1999, of the Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the Area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights “Protocol of San Salvador,” and its ratification by 13 member states of the Organization of American States (OAS);

RECALLING that both the American Convention and the Protocol of San Salvador recognize that the essential rights of an individual are not derived from one’s being a national of a certain state, but are based upon attributes of the human person;

BEARING IN MIND that, in Article 19 of the Protocol of San Salvador, the states parties undertake to submit, pursuant to the provisions of that article and the corresponding rules to be formulated for that purpose by the OAS General Assembly, periodic reports on the progressive measures they have taken to ensure due respect for the rights set forth in said Protocol;

RECOGNIZING that, in resolution AG/RES. 2074 (XXXV-O/05), the General Assembly adopted the “Standards for the Preparation of Periodic Reports pursuant to Article 19 of the Protocol of San Salvador”; and

BEARING IN MIND that the Plan of Action of the Fourth Summit of the Americas, held in Mar del Plata, Argentina, on November 5, 2005, urged the member states to consider signing and ratifying, or acceding to, as the case may be, the Protocol of San Salvador, and to collaborate in the development of progress indicators in the area of economic, social, and cultural rights, in accordance with resolution AG/RES. 2074 (XXXV-O/05),

RESOLVES:

1. To instruct the Permanent Council, to continue its efforts and to make proposals as soon as possible, through the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs, on the composition and functioning of the Working Group established to examine the national reports in accordance with the
Standards for the Preparation of Periodic Reports pursuant to Article 19 of the Protocol of San Salvador, which would constitute qualitative progress in this area.

2. To request the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to continue its work, in accordance with the Standards referred to in operative paragraph 1 of this resolution, with a view to proposing to the Permanent Council as soon as possible, for possible adoption, the progress indicators to be used for each group of protected rights on which information is to be provided, taking into account, *inter alia*, the contributions of the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights.

3. To reiterate that the time periods for submission of the national progress reports to be presented by the states parties to the Protocol of San Salvador will begin with the Permanent Council’s approval of the provisions of operative paragraphs 1 and 2 of this resolution.

4. To urge member states to consider signing and ratifying, ratifying, or acceding to, as the case may be, the Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the Area of Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, “Protocol of San Salvador.”

5. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session on the implementation of this resolution, which will be carried out within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.
AG/RES. 2179 (XXXVI-O/06)

INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION AGAINST THE ILLICIT MANUFACTURING OF
AND TRAFFICKING IN FIREARMS, AMMUNITION, EXPLOSIVES,
AND OTHER RELATED MATERIALS

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly, in
particular the section on the matters entrusted to the Committee on Hemispheric Security
(AG/doc.4548 add. 2-c);

REITERATING the urgent need for all member states to take the appropriate measures and
to cooperate with one another to prevent, combat, and eradicate the illicit manufacturing of and
trafficking in firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials, because of the harmful
effects of these activities on the security of each state and the region as a whole, since they jeopardize
the well-being of peoples, their social and economic development, and their right to live in peace;

UNDERSCORING the importance of the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit
Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials
(CIFTA) for promoting and facilitating cooperation and the sharing of information and experiences
among the states parties with a view to preventing, combating, and eradicating the illicit
manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials;

REAFFIRMING the importance of the decisions adopted by the First Conference of the
States Party to the CIFTA, held in Bogotá, Colombia, on March 8 and 9, 2004, and in particular the
commitments and measures agreed to in the Declaration of Bogotá on the Functioning and
Application of the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in
Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials;

RECALLING that, in the Declaration of Nuevo León, adopted on January 13, 2004, the
democratically elected Heads of State and Government of the Americas, gathered for the Special
Summit of the Americas in Monterrey, Mexico, expressed their commitment to fight all forms of
transnational crime, including illicit arms trafficking;

CONSIDERING that the states of the Hemisphere recognized, in the Declaration on Security
in the Americas, adopted on October 28, 2003, in Mexico City, that the illicit manufacturing of and
trafficking in firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials are a threat to
hemispheric security and, when used by terrorists and criminals, undermine the rule of law, breed
violence and, in some cases, impunity, exacerbate conflicts, and represent a serious threat to human
security, and that they agreed to combat the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms,
ammunition, explosives, and other related materials;
BEARING IN MIND the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and the hemispheric contribution to its implementation, and the importance of taking concrete measures in the Hemisphere toward implementation of the national, regional, and global components of that Programme of Action;

RECALLING resolutions AG/RES. 1 (XXIV-E/97), AG/RES. 1621 (XXIX-O/99), AG/RES. 1750 (XXX-O/00), AG/RES. 1800 (XXXI-O/01), AG/RES. 1874 (XXXII-O/02), AG/RES. 1972 (XXXIII-O/03), AG/RES. 1999 (XXXIV-O/04), and AG/RES. 2094 (XXXV-O/05), regarding the CIFTA;

CONSIDERING the substantial progress made by the Consultative Committee of the CIFTA, especially the decisions adopted at its seventh regular meeting, held on April 6, 2006;

BEARING IN MIND Permanent Council resolution CP/RES. 906 (1550/06), “Convocation of the Second Meeting of the CIFTA-CICAD Group of Experts to Prepare Model Legislation on the Areas Covered by the CIFTA,” adopted in fulfillment of resolution AG/RES. 2094 (XXXV-O/05);

NOTING WITH SATISFACTION:

The results of the First Meeting of the CIFTA-CICAD Group of Experts to Prepare Model Legislation on the Areas Covered by the CIFTA, held on February 6 and 7, 2006, at the headquarters of the Organization of American States (OAS), in Washington, D.C.;

The Work Program 2006-2007 of the Consultative Committee of the CIFTA, approved by that Committee at its seventh regular meeting;

The results of the First Meeting of National Authorities Directly Responsible for Granting Export, Import, and International Transit Licenses or Authorizations for Transfers of Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials, held on October 6 and 7, 2005, at OAS headquarters;

The results and recommendations of the Second Meeting of Central Authorities and Other Experts on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters and Extradition within the framework of the Meeting of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers and Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA), held in Brasilia, Brazil, from September 1 to 3, 2005; and

The participation of the Consultative Committee of the CIFTA, through its Secretariat pro tempore, in the United Nations Second Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, held from July 11 to 15, 2005, at United Nations headquarters in New York;

HAVING SEEN the report of the Secretary General on the status of signatures and ratifications of the CIFTA and taking note of the fact that this Convention has been signed by 33 member states and ratified by 26 of them; and
REAFFIRMING the importance of the soonest possible entry into force of the CIFTA in all member states in order to facilitate and guarantee the achievement of its purposes throughout the Hemisphere,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge all member states that have not already done so to give prompt consideration to ratifying or acceding to, as the case may be, the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (CIFTA), and to adopting all necessary measures for its effective implementation.

2. To support, in the framework of the Consultative Committee of the CIFTA, the Second Meeting of the CIFTA-CICAD Group of Experts to Prepare Model Legislation on the Areas Covered by the CIFTA, scheduled for October 11, 12, and 13, 2006, to finalize, on the first day, the draft model legislation on the marking and tracing of firearms, and to begin preparing the draft model legislation on strengthening controls at export points, in accordance with the provisions of Permanent Council resolutions CP/RES. 884 (1484/05) and CP/RES. 906 (1550/06).

3. To request the Permanent Council to consider, and as appropriate, to adopt ad referendum of the thirty-seventh regular session of the General Assembly, the model legislation referred to in operative paragraph 2 of this resolution, on the marking and tracing of firearms.

4. To congratulate the Consultative Committee of the CIFTA on adopting the general guidelines for organizing and standardizing the format of the reports that states must submit on Articles VIII, IX, X, and XIII of the CIFTA, in order to strengthen monitoring of the implementation of the Convention.

5. To endorse the recommendation of the Second Meeting of Central Authorities and Other Experts on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters and Extradition within the framework of the Meeting of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA), (Brazil, September 2005) that future meetings of central authorities and other experts on mutual assistance in criminal matters and extradition consider strengthening these areas in the framework of the CIFTA and with respect to acts of corruption, in compliance with the commitments set forth in paragraphs 9 and 10 of the Declaration of Bogotá on the Functioning and Application of the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (Declaration of Bogotá).

6. To request the Secretariat pro tempore of the Consultative Committee of the CIFTA to participate actively in the United Nations Conference to Review the Progress Made in the Implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, to be held in New York from June 26 to July 7, 2006.

7. To request the General Secretariat to continue its work with the United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs (UNDDA), the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UN-LiREC) and its partners, and the Inter-American Defense Board (IADB), through the Inter-American Defense College, to
prepare and offer specialized courses in the destruction of small arms, light weapons, and ammunition, and in stockpile management.

8. Also to request the General Secretariat to continue its work with the UNDDA and with UN-LiREC and its partners, to prepare and offer specialized courses to train instructors in special techniques for investigating the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms and ammunition, and, where appropriate, on national registries.

9. To invite the Consultative Committee of the CIFTA to continue reporting periodically to the Committee on Hemispheric Security of the Permanent Council on progress in the implementation of the Declaration of Bogotá, so that said Committee may take such information into account when preparing coordinated strategies and integrated action plans in connection with the new threats, concerns, and other challenges to hemispheric security.

10. To invite the states parties to the CIFTA to make voluntary contributions to the Consultative Committee of the CIFTA in order to support the activities established in that Committee’s Work Program pursuant to the Declaration of Bogotá.

11. To request member states, permanent observers, and international, regional, and subregional organizations interested in the subject, as well as the international community, to consider the possibility of providing technical, financial, and educational assistance to support the implementation of measures to prevent, combat, and eradicate the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials.

12. To direct that the meetings of the Consultative Committee of the CIFTA, including those held for the purposes envisaged in operative paragraph 2 of this resolution, be held within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources; and to request the General Secretariat to provide the necessary administrative and technical secretariat support for these purposes.

13. To request the Secretary General to present a report to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session on the status of signatures and ratifications of the CIFTA.

14. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session on the implementation of this resolution.
AG/RES. 2180 (XXXVI-O/06)

THE AMERICAS AS AN ANTIPERSONNEL-LAND-MINE-FREE ZONE

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

REITERATING its profound concern over the presence in the Americas of thousands of antipersonnel land mines and other undetonated explosive devices;

BEARING IN MIND:

The serious threat that mines and other unexploded ordnance pose to the safety, health, and lives of local civilian populations, as well as of personnel participating in humanitarian, peacekeeping, and rehabilitation programs and operations;

That the presence of mines is a factor that impedes economic and social development in rural and urban areas; and

That their elimination constitutes an obligation and prerequisite for the development and integration of peoples, especially in border areas, and helps to consolidate a common strategy for combating poverty;

RECOGNIZING WITH SATISFACTION:

The efforts being made by member states to implement comprehensive mine-action programs, including activities aimed at mine-risk education, stockpile destruction, mine clearance, the physical and psychological rehabilitation of victims, and the socioeconomic reclamation of demined areas;

The mine-free declaration made by the Government of Honduras at the conclusion of the final phase of its National Mine Action Plan, in October 2004, and the more than 65,000 families who benefited from this important humanitarian effort;

The mine-free declarations made by the Governments of Costa Rica and El Salvador in fulfillment of their obligations under the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (Ottawa Convention);

1. The “conversion of the Americas into an antipersonnel-land-mine-free zone” is incompatible with current United States landmine policy, which clearly states that we will not become a party to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (Ottawa Convention). The United States remains committed to humanitarian mine action and to cooperating in practical steps to end the harmful legacy of landmines. The United States will continue to support OAS efforts to eliminate the humanitarian threat of all persistent landmines and declare countries “mine-impact-free.”
The important and commendable effort made by the Government of Guatemala in managing to complete its mine clearance and destruction of explosive devices operations in 2005, culminating in its mine-free declaration of December 2005, ahead of schedule, in fulfillment of its obligations under the Ottawa Convention, and its readiness to establish a physical and psychological rehabilitation program for the victims of antipersonnel mines;

The outstanding efforts of the Government of Nicaragua in anticipation of concluding its mine clearance and destruction of explosive devices operations by the end of 2006, thereby taking another step toward transforming Central America into the first mine-free region in the world and implementing the program of support for the victims of mines and destruction of explosive devices, as well as the vocational reintegration program;

The important efforts made by the Government of Chile to adhere fully to the precepts set forth in the Ottawa Convention, including the destruction of all stockpiled mines, advances in demining on the border with Peru, work initiated on the borders with Argentina and Bolivia, and the initiative to validate a list of victims, thus making it possible to have a precise and useful record of the injured parties;

The start of mine-clearing operations in Colombia in November 2005, the development and training of a group of Colombian sappers, and the implementation of a rehabilitation and vocational reintegration program for the victims of mines and explosive devices;

The notable effort made by the Government of Suriname in managing to complete its mine-clearing and destruction of explosive devices program in 2005; and

The completion of the destruction of stockpiles and fulfillment of Article 4 of the Ottawa Convention by all the states parties thereto in the Hemisphere;

RECOGNIZING:

The valuable contributions by member states such as Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, the United States, and Venezuela; and by permanent observers such as Denmark, France, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, the Russian Federation, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the European Union;

The efforts being made by all governments to implement comprehensive mine-action programs, including activities aimed at mine-risk education, stockpile destruction, mine clearance, the physical and psychological rehabilitation of victims, and the socioeconomic reclamation of demined areas in their countries;

The success of the Program for Comprehensive Action against Antipersonnel Mines (AICMA), which for over 14 years has supported humanitarian de-mining activities and the destruction of explosive devices; and

The important and efficient coordination work of the General Secretariat, through AICMA, together with the technical assistance of the Inter-American Defense Board;
WELCOMING the work of nongovernmental organizations in furthering the aim of a Hemisphere and a world free of antipersonnel land mines, which is often performed in cooperation and association with the states;

HAVING SEEN:

The Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly, in particular the sections on matters assigned to the Committee on Hemispheric Security (AG/doc.4548/06 add. 2); and


RECALLING:


Its resolutions AG/RES. 1498 (XXVII-O/97), AG/RES. 1568 (XXVIII-O/98), AG/RES. 1641 (XXIX-O/99), AG/RES. 1995 (XXXIV-O/04), and AG/RES. 2106 (XXXV-O/05), “Support for the Program for Comprehensive Action against Anti-personnel Mines in Central America”; AG/RES. 1299 (XXIV-O/94), “Regional Contribution to Global Security: Antipersonnel Land Mines”; and AG/RES. 1343 (XXV-O/95), “Mine-Clearing Programs,” which reaffirmed the commitment of member states to use every means necessary to rid their countries of antipersonnel mines; and


RECALLING ALSO that in the Declaration on Security in the Americas, adopted at the Special Conference on Security, held in Mexico City on October 28, 2003, the states of the Hemisphere reaffirmed their support for establishing the Hemisphere as an antipersonnel-land-mine-free zone; and

TAKING NOTE of the successful outcomes of the Meeting of States Parties to the Ottawa Convention, held from November 28 to December 2, 2005, in Zagreb, Croatia, and the Declaration adopted by the participants in that meeting,
RESOLVES:

1. To renew its support for the commitment of member states to strive jointly to rid their territories of land mines and their impact and to convert the Americas into an antipersonnel-land-mine-free zone.

2. To stress the responsibility of all member states to continue their vital cooperation in mine action as an innovative form of confidence- and security-building.

3. To acknowledge the moral obligation of member states to support victims of antipersonnel mines both physically and financially, with rehabilitation and vocational reintegration, through their national institutions.

4. To firmly condemn, in accordance with the principles and norms of international humanitarian law, the use, stockpiling, production, and transfer of antipersonnel mines by non-state actors, acts which put at grave risk the population of the affected countries; and to reaffirm that progress toward a mine-free world will be facilitated if non-state actors observe the international norm established by the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (Ottawa Convention).

5. To urge member states to continue considering mine action as a national and regional priority and to foster the necessary political momentum and contribution of resources to maintain the leadership that the Americas have acquired globally to further this fundamental humanitarian task.

6. To encourage member states to develop statements of remaining goals and to collaborate with the Mine Action Team of the Organization of American States (OAS), through its mine clearance, mine-risk education, and victim assistance programs, in order to advance mine action in the region.

7. To further encourage member states and permanent observers to support the Program for Comprehensive Action against Antipersonnel Landmines (AICMA) with all necessary means and to provide resources to mine action programs in the region in order to achieve the goal of the Americas as an antipersonnel-land-mine-free zone.

8. To urge member states which have not yet done so to ratify or consider acceding to the Ottawa Convention as soon as possible to ensure its full and effective implementation.

9. To call upon all states parties and non-states parties that share the objectives of the Ottawa Convention to take all necessary action, at the national, regional, and international levels, to implement the Nairobi Action Plan 2005-2009.

10. To reiterate the importance of participation by all member states in the OAS Register of Antipersonnel Land Mines by April 15 of each year, in keeping with resolution AG/RES. 1496 (XXVII-O/97); and to commend member states which have regularly submitted their reports to that end.
11. To encourage member states that are party to the Ottawa Convention to provide to the Secretary General as part of their submissions to the OAS Register of Antipersonnel Land Mines, in keeping with resolution AG/RES. 1496 (XXVII-O/97), a copy of their Ottawa Convention Article 7 transparency reports; and also to encourage member states which are not yet party to the Ottawa Convention to provide similar information with their annual submissions.

12. Once again to urge member states which have not yet done so to become party as soon as possible to the 1980 United Nations Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects and the four Protocols thereto; and to request member states to inform the Secretary General when they have done so.

13. To instruct the General Secretariat to continue to provide member states, within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources, with the support necessary to continue the mine-clearing programs and the prevention education programs for the civilian population, the rehabilitation of victims and their families, and the socioeconomic reclamation of demined areas.

14. To request the Inter-American Defense Board to continue to provide technical advice to AICMA.

15. To request the Secretary General to transmit this resolution to the United Nations Secretary-General and to other international organizations as he deems appropriate.

16. To request the Permanent Council and the General Secretariat to present a report on the implementation of this resolution to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session.
AG/RES. 2181 (XXXVI-O/06)

SUPPORT FOR ACTION AGAINST ANTIPERSONNEL MINES IN ECUADOR AND PERU

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

The Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly, in particular the sections on matters assigned to the Committee on Hemispheric Security (AG/doc.4548/06 add. 2); and


RECALLING its resolution AG/RES. 1644 (XXIX-O/99), operative paragraph 12, urging member states and permanent observers to provide assistance to the national mine-clearing programs being carried out by Ecuador and Peru in their territories;

AWARE that the presence of land mines in border areas between the two countries and in the vicinity of power grids in Peru constitutes a serious threat to civilian populations and stands in the way of economic development in rural and urban areas; and that their elimination constitutes an obligation and prerequisite for the development and integration of peoples, especially in border areas, and helps to consolidate a common strategy for combating poverty;

RECOGNIZING the substantial progress made by Ecuador and Peru in mine-clearing, the destruction of stockpiles, and measures to enhance transparency, and the special importance of humanitarian demining when it is carried out in a joint and consolidated fashion, as in the case of the work being done by the Governments of Ecuador and Peru in their common border area, which has resulted in information exchange and levels of cooperation that constitute an effective mutual confidence-building measure and an avenue toward further integration of their peoples;

NOTING WITH SATISFACTION that Ecuador and Peru have destroyed their antipersonnel mine stockpiles, in furtherance of one of the objectives of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (Ottawa Convention);

NOTING the corresponding humanitarian demining efforts, as well as the awareness campaigns and assistance to victims in both countries;
NOTING ALSO the start of joint humanitarian demining activities, in 2006, in the common border area around the Chira River and in the Cordillera del Cóndor, and the significant progress made;

RECOGNIZING:

The firm resolve of Ecuador and Peru to honor the commitments undertaken pursuant to the Ottawa Convention;

The complete elimination of antipersonnel mine stockpiles in Ecuador and Peru through assistance under the “Managua Challenge” Fund;

The demining of the Zarumilla Canal located on the border between Ecuador and Peru, as recorded in the agreement signed in Tumbes, Peru, in June 2002;

The carrying out, in March 2004, of humanitarian mine-cleaning activities on the border between the Department of Tumbes in Peru and the Province of El Oro in Ecuador, marking yet another step in the process of implementing and following through on the Brasilia Agreements of October 26, 1998;

The valuable cooperation being provided by member states, permanent observers, and other countries, to national efforts in Ecuador and Peru to forge ahead with their mine-clearing programs;

The financial cooperation from the European Union, through the “Antipersonnel Mines Project in the Cordillera del Cóndor, Peru-Ecuador,” which will allow both countries to continue their concerted action against antipersonnel mines in a region of special social and ecological importance;

The establishment, in Ecuador, of the Amazonas Regional Mine-Clearing Commando for the work to be carried out in the Province of Morona-Santiago, and, in Peru, of the Regional Mine-Clearing Office in Bagua, Department of Amazonas;

The important work of coordination, promotion, and fundraising carried out by the General Secretariat through the Program for Comprehensive Action against Antipersonnel Mines (AICMA), which is devoted to humanitarian mine-cleaning, the physical and psychological rehabilitation of victims and their families, prevention education, and the social and economic reclamation of demined areas; and

The efficient technical advice and support of the Inter-American Defense Board and the AICMA Program for the mine-clearing activities in Ecuador and Peru supported by the AICMA Program, through a group of international monitors selected by the Board and appointed thanks to cooperation among the Governments of Brazil, Chile, Honduras, and Nicaragua; and

TAKING NOTE of the efforts made by Ecuador and Peru, with the help of AICMA and the Government of Canada, to organize, in August 2003, in Peru, the Regional Seminar “Towards an antipersonnel-land-mine-free Hemisphere” and, in August 2004, in Ecuador, the Regional Conference on Mine Action in the Americas “One more step towards an antipersonnel mine-free Hemisphere,”
RESOLVES:

1. To recognize the important work and achievements of the Governments of Ecuador and Peru in destroying their stockpiles and in mine-clearing in common border areas and in other areas of their respective territories, as well as in promoting education on the risks posed by antipersonnel mines in order to continue significantly reducing the number of accidents caused by these devices.

2. To encourage the Governments of Ecuador and Peru to continue their intensive cooperation in the area of mine action as an innovative form of confidence- and security-building, action that could serve as a new means of confidence- and security-building for other countries concerned and generate the political momentum needed to maintain the Hemisphere’s global leadership in promoting this essential humanitarian task.

3. Also to encourage the Governments of Ecuador and Peru to continue mine-clearing operations on the border, so that the border area may be free of antipersonnel mines within the time frame estimated by the two countries with technical advice from the Program for Comprehensive Action against Antipersonnel Mines (AICMA) and the Inter-American Defense Board (IADB).

4. To reiterate to member states, permanent observers, international organizations, and the international community in general the importance, in view of the initial results achieved, of their continuing to provide technical and financial assistance to the Governments of Ecuador and Peru for their mine-clearing programs and any comprehensive action against antipersonnel mines that they carry out along their common border and inside their respective territories.

5. To instruct the General Secretariat to continue to cooperate fully, through AICMA, with programs to support comprehensive action against antipersonnel mines in Ecuador and Peru, including work on humanitarian mine-clearing programs, the physical and psychological rehabilitation of the victims and their families, prevention education, and the social and economic reclamation of demined areas.

6. To instruct the General Secretariat once again to continue to work, through AICMA, on identifying and raising voluntary contributions from member states, permanent observers, and other states, as well as other organizations, to the Specific Fund intended to continue to finance mine-clearing and comprehensive action programs against antipersonnel mines carried out by Ecuador and Peru in their respective territories.

7. To request the Permanent Council and the General Secretariat to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session on the implementation of this resolution.
AG/RES. 2182 (XXXVI-O/06)

ADOPTION OF THE AMENDED STATUTES OF
THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON NATURAL DISASTER REDUCTION

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the report of the Permanent Council and the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development on the creation of a single permanent inter-American committee on natural and other disasters, and the related recommendations contained in that report (CP/CSH-774/06);

RECALLING its resolution AG/RES. 2114 (XXXV-O/05), “Natural Disaster Reduction and Risk Management,” which called for a review of the Statutes of the Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction (IACNDR) and the Inter-American Emergency Aid Fund (FONDEM) to propose amendments necessary to create a single permanent inter-American committee to address natural and other disasters;

AWARE of the duplications in the composition and functions of the Inter-American Committee for Emergency Situations under the FONDEM, the IACNDR, and the Inter-American Emergency Aid Committee under the Inter-American Convention to Facilitate Disaster Assistance;

REITERATING:

The importance of reducing member states’ vulnerability to disasters by the appropriate use of sustainable development practices as an element of sustained economic and social development; and

The need to strengthen the planning and disaster management activities of the Organization of American States so as to respond more effectively to the increasingly frequent natural disasters in the Hemisphere;

RECOGNIZING the importance of the IACNDR as one of the principal regional instruments for assisting member states in preparing, responding to, and reducing vulnerability to natural and other disasters; and

PURSUANT to Article 15 of the IACNDR Statutes currently in force, which establishes that the current Statutes may be modified by the General Assembly at its own initiative,

RESOLVES:

1. To adopt the amended Statutes of the Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction (IACNDR) attached hereto.
2. To declare that the IACNDR will fulfill the duties and functions of the Inter-American Emergency Aid Committee under the Inter-American Convention to Facilitate Disaster Assistance.

3. To declare that the IACNDR will also fulfill the duties and functions of the Inter-American Committee for Emergency Situations under the Inter-American Emergency Aid Fund (FONDEM).

4. To declare the entry into force of the amended IACNDR Statutes as of the date of the adoption of this resolution.
STATUTES OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE
ON NATURAL DISASTER REDUCTION (IACNDR)

CHAPTER I
NATURE AND PURPOSE

Article 1

The Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction (hereinafter “the IACNDR”) is an entity of the Organization of American States (hereinafter “the OAS” or “the Organization”), established by the General Assembly through resolution AG/RES. 1682 (XXIX-O/99).

Article 2

The purpose of the IACNDR is to act as the principal forum of the Inter-American system for analyzing issues related to natural and other disasters, including the prevention and mitigation of their effects, in coordination with the governments of member states; competent national, regional, and international organizations; and nongovernmental organizations.

The IACNDR seeks to strengthen hemispheric actions to achieve maximum international cooperation in support of national and/or regional efforts for timely prevention, preparedness, early warning, response, vulnerability reduction, emergency care, mitigation, rehabilitation, and reconstruction.

The IACNDR shall provide advisory services to the Inter-American Emergency Aid Fund (FONDEM) in all matters pertaining to emergency aid, including social, humanitarian, material, technical, and financial assistance to member states pursuant to the Statutes of that Fund.

The IACNDR shall provide advisory and coordination services under the Inter-American Convention to Facilitate Disaster Assistance.

Article 3

The IACNDR is governed by these Statutes. Its activities shall be carried out in accordance with the OAS Charter and the mandates handed down by the OAS General Assembly and Permanent Council.
CHAPTER II
FUNCTIONS

Article 4

The IACNDR shall submit to the Permanent Council annual progress reports on the implementation and updating of the Inter-American Strategic Plan for Policy on Vulnerability Reduction, Risk Management and Disaster Response (IASP), which contains recommendations on initiatives related to natural disasters and methods of financing, placing particular emphasis on policies, programs, and international cooperation intended to reduce the vulnerability of member states to natural disasters.

CHAPTER III
STRUCTURE

Article 5: Composition

The IACNDR shall comprise the Chair of the OAS Permanent Council, the Secretary General of the OAS, the Assistant Secretary General of the OAS, the President of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Director General of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the Secretary General of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), the President of the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF), the Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the Director General of the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD), the Chair of the Inter-American Defense Board (IADB), and the Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM).

Article 6: The Chair and its functions

The Secretary General of the OAS, or, in his absence, his respective representative, is Chair of the IACNDR and, in that capacity, performs the following functions:

a. Convenes the IACNDR;

b. Represents the IACNDR before the other organs and agencies of the OAS;

c. Directs and coordinates the meetings organized by the IACNDR with other agencies responsible for or associated with matters related to the prevention and mitigation of the effects of natural disasters;

d. Coordinates performance of the IACNDR’s functions;

e. When necessary, invites the member states, permanent observers, and representatives of national, subregional, regional, and international organizations and mechanisms to participate in IACNDR meetings with voice but without vote; said organizations could include the United Nations, the World Bank, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the White Helmets Initiative, the Caribbean Disaster
Emergency Response Agency (CDERA), and the Coordination Center for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America (CEPREDENAC);

f. Coordinates the preparation of the reports that the IACNDR will submit to the Permanent Council;

g. Coordinates cooperation among National Coordination Authorities of the states parties to the Inter-American Convention to Facilitate Disaster Assistance and offers states affected by a natural disaster to notify the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA); and

h. Performs such duties as required under Article VII of the Statutes of the Inter-American Emergency Aid Fund (FONDEM).

CHAPTER IV
MEETINGS

Article 7
The IACNDR shall meet at least twice a year. At the discretion of the Chair, more frequent meetings may be called.

Article 8
The necessary quorum for a meeting of the IACNDR shall be more than half its members.

Article 9
Should the Secretary General of the OAS be absent from all or part of a meeting of the IACNDR, the other members present shall decide by a majority of votes on a replacement to direct its discussions during his or her absence.

Article 10
A member of the IACNDR may, under special circumstances, appoint another high-level officer of the agency to which he or she belongs to represent it at those meetings that the member cannot attend.

Article 11
Each member of the IACNDR shall have the right to one vote. The Committee shall do everything possible to adopt decisions and recommendations by consensus. Should it not be possible to adopt decisions and recommendations by consensus, the Committee shall adopt them by a majority vote of the members.
Article 12

The IACNDR shall meet at the OAS headquarters, except when it decides on an alternative venue for any of its meetings.

CHAPTER V
SECRETARIAT SERVICES

Article 13

The General Secretariat of the OAS shall provide secretariat services to the IACNDR, in accordance with the resources allocated in the Regular Fund program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

CHAPTER VI
FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Article 14

The IACNDR shall fund those activities that pertain to Article 4 of these Statutes by soliciting specific contributions from the member states of the OAS and from other states and international intergovernmental organizations, or by seeking to establish the necessary specific and trust funds, pursuant to Articles 69 and 70 of the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat of the Organization.

In addition to financial contributions obtained pursuant to the foregoing paragraph, for purposes of emergency aid under Article V of the FONDEM Statutes, financial resources shall be made available pursuant to Article IV.b of the FONDEM Statutes for such purposes.

CHAPTER VII
AMENDMENTS AND ENTRY INTO FORCE

Article 15

These Statutes may be amended by the General Assembly either at its own initiative or at the request of the IACNDR.

Article 16

These Statutes shall enter into force on the date of their adoption by the OAS General Assembly.
AG/RES. 2183 (XXXVI-O/06)

ADOPTION OF THE AMENDED STATUTES OF
THE INTER-AMERICAN EMERGENCY AID FUND

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

HAVING SEEN the report of the Permanent Council and the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development on the creation of a single permanent committee on natural and other disasters and risk management, and the related recommendations contained in that report (CP/CSH-774/06);

RECALLING its resolution AG/RES. 2114 (XXXV-O/05), “Natural Disaster Reduction and Risk Management,” which called for a review of the Statutes of the Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction (IACNDR) and the Inter-American Emergency Aid Fund (FONDEM) to propose amendments necessary to create a single permanent inter-American committee to address natural and other disasters;

AWARE of the duplications in the composition and functions of the Inter-American Committee for Emergency Situations under FONDEM, the IACNDR, and the Inter-American Emergency Aid Committee under the Inter-American Convention to Facilitate Disaster Assistance;

REITERATING:

The importance of reducing member states’ vulnerability to disasters by the appropriate use of sustainable development practices as an element of sustained economic and social development; and

The need to strengthen the planning and disaster management activities of the Organization of American States so as to respond more effectively to the increasingly frequent natural disasters in the Hemisphere;

RECOGNIZING the importance of FONDEM as one of the principal regional instruments for assisting member states in responding to natural disasters; and

PURSUANT to Article XI of the FONDEM Statutes currently in force, which establishes that amendments to the current Statutes may be proposed by the Permanent Council to the General Assembly for approval,

RESOLVES:

1. To adopt the amended Statutes of the Inter-American Emergency Aid Fund (FONDEM) attached hereto.

2. To declare the entry into force of the amended FONDEM Statutes as of the date of the adoption of this resolution.
APPENDIX

STATUTES OF
THE INTER-AMERICAN EMERGENCY AID FUND (FONDEM)

Article I
In accordance with resolution VIII of the Second Special Inter-American Conference, an Inter-American Emergency Aid Fund is created, hereinafter to be called the Fund.

Article II
The primary objective of FONDEM is to support the political role of the OAS in matters pertaining to emergency aid, and to demonstrate the solidarity of the member states of the Organization by participating in the coordination of aid in the face of natural disasters in the Hemisphere.

Article III
The Fund shall provide available social, humanitarian, material, technical, and financial aid, both in kind and in services, to any member state of the Organization that is threatened by, has suffered from, or is in an emergency situation caused by natural disasters.

Article IV
The Fund shall be made up of:

a. Voluntary contributions from the governments of the member states, permanent observer states, or other states, international organizations, foundations, nongovernmental entities, public or private enterprises, or individuals; and

b. Financial resources approved by the General Assembly of the Organization charged against unused appropriations from previous biennia.

Article V
The Secretary General is authorized to grant emergency aid of up to US$25,000 per case from unused appropriations from previous biennia and shall immediately notify the Permanent Council thereof.
Article VI

The Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction, as modified by General Assembly resolution AG/RES. 2182 (XXXVI-O/06), shall provide all advisory services to the Fund on all matters pertaining to emergency aid and social, humanitarian, material, technical, and financial assistance to member states pursuant to Article III of these Statutes.

Article VII

The Fund shall operate under the authority of the Permanent Council, which shall set its general policy. The Secretary General shall be responsible for its management and shall report annually to the Permanent Council on the Fund’s operations.

Article VIII

The Secretary General of the Organization of American States shall be responsible for carrying out the decisions of the Permanent Council with respect to the Fund and shall report to the Council on the implementation of each decision. The Secretary shall also perform the following functions:

a. Receive donors’ contributions and establish in the General Secretariat, in coordination with the Permanent Council, the machinery and procedures required for the operation of the Fund;

b. Receive requests for assistance submitted by affected member states, establish the admissibility of those requests, and present them to the Permanent Council for approval;

c. Ask the member states and other entities mentioned in Article IV.a for the contributions required by the Fund;

d. Establish cooperative relations and coordinate resources and emergency plans with the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund, the World Food Programme of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Pan American Health Organization, the League of Red Cross Societies, and other international and national institutions whose activities and experiences may further the best possible achievement of the Fund’s objectives, and report to the Permanent Council thereon; 

e. Determine in each case the specific mechanisms for granting aid, with the urgency that the situation demands; and

f. Keep separate books for the accounts of the Fund.
Article IX

The Secretary General shall request each member state to designate an official or agency to coordinate that country's participation in the Fund. Wherever possible, this official or agency shall be the same one entrusted with responsibility for plans to remedy national emergencies and for receiving external aid in these cases.

Article X

Administrative expenses and operational costs of emergency missions incurred by the General Secretariat in connection with the operation of the Fund shall be covered by the Fund’s existing resources. The Secretary General is empowered to analyze the financial aspects of the Fund’s operation and to submit any recommendations he may deem appropriate to the Permanent Council of the Organization.

Article XI

Amendments to these Statutes may be proposed by the Permanent Council to the General Assembly for approval.
AG/RES. 2184 (XXXVI-O/06)

NATURAL DISASTER REDUCTION, RISK MANAGEMENT, AND ASSISTANCE IN NATURAL AND OTHER DISASTER SITUATIONS

( Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly, in particular the section on the work of the Joint Consultative Organ of the Committee on Hemispheric Security and the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CEPCIDI) on Natural Disaster Reduction and Risk Management (AG/doc.4548/06 add. 2);

DEEPLY CONCERNED by the devastation in several member states caused by diverse natural disasters, including phenomena such as the severe 2004 and 2005 hurricane seasons, cyclical problems associated with the “El Niño” warm water currents in the Pacific Ocean, floods, landslides, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and tsunamis, which have resulted in losses suffered by their populations, including the tragic loss of life, the substantial damage to their economic and social infrastructure, and the resulting negative impact on their development objectives and on their poverty eradication efforts, exacerbated by the diversion of financial resources to disaster response and away from sustainable development;

REAFFIRMING the importance of urgently reducing the vulnerability of member states to natural disasters through the development of domestic natural disaster reduction strategies, mutual assistance, technical cooperation, land-use planning, and improvement of building codes;

RECOGNIZING the need to include a gender perspective in the Organization's activities related to natural disaster reduction and risk management;

CONSIDERING that effective natural disaster reduction and mitigation is dependent on a high degree of preparedness, effective mobilization and coordination by government at all levels, as well as by the private sector, and nongovernmental, community, and civil society organizations;

RECOGNIZING:

The important role of the Committee on Hemispheric Security (CSH) in coordinating cooperation among the organs and mechanisms of the Organization related to the various aspects of security and defense in the Hemisphere, including natural and man-made disasters, in the framework of the Declaration on Security in the Americas;

The work of the Joint Consultative Organ on Natural Disaster Reduction and Risk Management established in the framework of the CSH of the Permanent Council and the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CEPCIDI), in its
efforts to proceed with and further its consideration of natural disaster reduction and risk management, in keeping with resolution AG/RES. 2114 (XXXV-O/05);

That the Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction (IACNDR), in accordance with the amendments to its Statutes and to the Statutes of Inter-American Emergency Aid Fund (FONDEM) adopted by the General Assembly at this regular session, is a principal regional instrument for assisting member states in preparing for, and responding and reducing vulnerability to, natural and other disasters, as well as the advisory body to FONDEM and to the states parties to the Inter-American Convention to Facilitate Disaster Assistance;

The commitments made by member states to meet the natural disaster risk reduction goals of the Hyogo Framework for Action, adopted at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (Kobe, Japan, January 18-22, 2005), including the important role of regional organizations in helping to achieve those goals; and

The need to continue strengthening the Organization’s planning and management activities so as to respond more effectively to the frequent natural disasters in the Hemisphere;

RECALLING:

Its prior resolutions on natural disaster reduction and risk management [AG/RES. 2114 (XXXV-O/05)], on natural disaster reduction [AG/RES. 2024 (XXXIV-O/04), AG/RES. 1955 (XXXIII-O/03), and AG/RES. 1885 (XXXII-O/02)], and on OAS natural disaster reduction mechanisms [AG/RES. 1803 (XXXI-O/01) and AG/RES. 1755 (XXX-O/00)]; and

That, through the Plan of Action of the Fourth Summit of the Americas, held in Mar del Plata, Argentina, in November 2005, the member states pledged to substantially improve the capacity at national, regional, and hemispheric levels for risk mitigation; to implement cost-effective and robust early warning systems; to enhance disaster recovery and reconstruction capabilities in collaboration with relevant international and regional institutions; and to explore with relevant international and regional institutions the coordinated development of effective public-private catastrophic risk insurance systems;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that the Third Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities Responsible for Policies on Decentralization, Local Government and Citizen Participation at the Municipal Level in the Hemisphere, held in Recife, Brazil, in October 2005, expressed in the Declaration of Recife its concern over the impact of natural disasters on issues related to democratic governance, such as efforts at poverty reduction and achieving more inclusive development to reduce social and regional inequality; and

NOTING:

The ongoing coordination initiatives of the General Secretariat, through the Office of the Assistant Secretary General and the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development and its Department of Sustainable Development, with international financial institutions, and the important work of the organs, agencies, and entities of the inter-American system in matters related to natural disasters, in their areas of competence; and
The effort by the Inter-American Defense Board (IADB) to provide technical, advisory, and educational services on the prevention and mitigation of natural disasters, which has contributed to assisting populations affected by such disasters,

RESOLVES:

1. To continue to accord high priority to the topic of natural disaster reduction, risk management, and assistance in natural and other disaster situations.

2. To instruct the Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction (IACNDR):
   a. To deal with matters related to natural disasters, especially their mitigation, through reduction of vulnerability and risk management, monitoring and warning, preparation and response to emergencies, and disaster recovery and reconstruction; and
   b. To work on the immediate implementation of the Permanent Council’s recommendations on systematic risk management, including risk identification, risk reduction, and risk transfer, directed to the Organization of American States (OAS) and its subsidiary bodies.

3. To request that the General Secretariat, through the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development and its Department of Sustainable Development, in coordination with the IACNDR and with the support of its members:
   a. Improve the economic cost-benefit analysis of natural disaster risk reduction and prevention, in consultation with the World Bank and subregional development banks;
   b. Identify funding geared specifically toward natural disaster prevention and disaster recovery and reconstruction, and inform the IACNDR accordingly; and
   c. Carry out its work bearing in mind the gender perspective.

4. To request that the General Secretariat, through the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development and its Department of Sustainable Development, also collaborate, as necessary, with the Department for the Promotion of Good Governance of the Secretariat for Political Affairs in providing technical support to the ministerial meeting on decentralization and its High-Level Inter-American Network on Decentralization, Local Government, and Citizen Participation (RIAD) for the analysis of information and the promotion of information exchanges on aspects of natural disaster reduction and risk management which impact the efforts of the member states to strengthen democratic governance.

5. To request the Permanent Council to prepare recommendations for consideration by the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session on the amendment of the IACNDR Statutes
in order to bring its objectives, functions, structure, and capacity to obtain resources into line with its new mandates.

6. Also to request the Permanent Council to consider the possibility of convening, at an appropriate time, a meeting of high-level national authorities on natural disaster reduction and risk management, with the participation of the private sector, subregional, national, and international bodies and agencies, and nongovernmental, community, and civil society organizations.

7. Also to request the Permanent Council to consider, with the assistance of the General Secretariat and in consultation with the IACNDR, the advisability and feasibility of using a technical team of the Regional Humanitarian Volunteer Corps Network as a rapid response mechanism allowing the Organization to go to the scene of a disaster, at the request of the affected state, to contribute to the coordination of aid and interact with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, as appropriate, as well as with specialized and local teams.

8. To request that the General Secretariat, through the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development and its Department of Sustainable Development:
   a. Provide advisory services on natural disaster reduction and risk management to the Permanent Council;
   b. Provide technical and advisory services on natural disaster reduction and risk management to the IACNDR; and
   c. Work in close collaboration with the private sector, with international, regional, subregional, and national natural disaster preparedness response organizations, and with nongovernmental, community, and civil society organizations.

9. To urge member states to establish short time frames for the implementation of the recommendations set out in the Inter-American Strategic Plan for Policy on Vulnerability Reduction, Risk Management and Disaster Response (IASP), developed by the IACNDR, aimed at reducing the cost of the impact of natural hazard events that lead to a disaster and the number of persons needing attention during a disaster.

10. To urge the international community and international financial institutions to fund multinational programs on risk management focusing on each of its three main areas: identification, reduction, and transfer.

11. To actively encourage the preparation and sharing of individual country disaster preparedness, response, and mitigation plans in order to facilitate more effective support from members of the international community.

12. To urge the states parties to the Inter-American Convention to Facilitate Disaster Assistance to designate a National Coordinating Authority pursuant to the terms of the Convention and to notify the General Secretariat of that designation.
13. To invite those member states that have not already ratified the Inter-American Convention to Facilitate Disaster Assistance to give consideration to signing and/or ratifying the Convention, as the case may be, and to adopt the measures necessary for its effective implementation.

14. To request the IACNDR and the General Secretariat to submit a joint annual report to the Permanent Council on the fulfillment of the mandates of the General Assembly and the Statutes of the IACNDR.

15. To instruct the Permanent Council and the General Secretariat to carry out the activities mentioned in this resolution within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

16. To request the Permanent Council to report on the implementation of this resolution to the OAS General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session.

17. To request the Secretary General to forward a copy of this resolution to the United Nations Secretary-General.
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly, in particular the section on the matters entrusted to the Committee on Hemispheric Security (AG/doc.4548/06 add. 2);

RECALLING the decisions of the Second Summit of the Americas (Santiago, 1998), the Third Summit of the Americas (Quebec City, 2001), the Special Conference on Security (Mexico City, 2003), the Special Summit of the Americas (Monterrey, Mexico, 2004), and the Fourth Summit of the Americas (Mar del Plata, Argentina, 2005), and the mandates issued in General Assembly resolutions in connection with the Special Conference on Security, especially resolution AG/RES. 2117 (XXXV-O/05), “Follow-up to the Special Conference on Security”;

RECALLING ALSO that “[o]ur new concept of security in the Hemisphere is multidimensional in scope, includes traditional and new threats, concerns, and other challenges to the security of the states of the Hemisphere, incorporates the priorities of each state, contributes to the consolidation of peace, integral development, and social justice, and is based on democratic values, respect for and promotion and defense of human rights, solidarity, cooperation, and respect for national sovereignty”;

REAFFIRMING the commitment to revitalize and strengthen the organs, institutions, and mechanisms of the inter-American system related to the various aspects of hemispheric security, to achieve greater coordination and cooperation among them, within their areas of competence, in order to improve the ability of the states of the Americas to meet the traditional threats, as well as the new threats, concerns, and other challenges to hemispheric security;

RECALLING that at its thirty-second special session the General Assembly adopted the Statutes of the Inter-American Defense Board, which established the legal and institutional relationship between the Organization of American States and the Inter-American Defense Board; and

TAKING NOTE of the establishment of the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security and of the Department for the Prevention of Threats against Public Security, as part of the General Secretariat’s efforts to strengthen its capacity to better serve the member states and the political organs of the Organization with respect to hemispheric security,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge all member states to continue implementing the Declaration on Security in the Americas, with a view to consolidating peace, stability, and security in the Hemisphere.
2. To request the Permanent Council to continue, through the Committee on Hemispheric Security:

a. Coordinating cooperation among the organs, agencies, entities, and mechanisms of the Organization of American States (OAS) related to the various aspects of security and defense in the Hemisphere, respecting the mandates and areas of competence of each, in order to achieve the application, evaluation, and follow-up of the Declaration on Security in the Americas;

b. Maintaining the necessary liaison with other institutions and mechanisms, whether subregional, regional, or international, related to the various aspects of security and defense in the Hemisphere, respecting the mandates and areas of competence of each, in order to achieve the application, evaluation, and follow-up of the Declaration;

c. Requesting, with the periodicity deemed appropriate, reports on measures and action related to implementation of the Declaration from the following inter-American and international bodies:

i. OAS organs, agencies, entities, and mechanisms related to the various aspects of security and defense in the Hemisphere; and

ii. Other subregional, regional, and international institutions and mechanisms related to the various aspects of security and defense in the Hemisphere;

d. Conducting an ongoing assessment of the progress achieved in the implementation of the Declaration at the national, subregional, regional, and international levels, taking into account the particular circumstances of each subregion and state, with the participation of the organs, agencies, entities, and mechanisms of the OAS, relevant international and subregional organizations, and, when appropriate, civil society, to be reflected in the annual report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly;

e. Preparing, in coordination with the relevant organs, agencies, and entities of the OAS, including among others the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE), and the Consultative Committee of the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (CIFTA), coordinated strategies and integrated action plans related to the new threats, concerns, and other challenges to hemispheric security, in accordance with the Declaration on Security in the Americas;

f. Considering in its work plans and, when appropriate, in developing coordinated strategies and integrated action plans, the recommendations
formulated by specialized meetings and conferences of the inter-American system related to the subject of security in the Hemisphere; and

g. Considering in its work related to the new threats, concerns, and other challenges to hemispheric security, the contributions and cooperation of civil society in this area, where appropriate.

3. To request that the Permanent Council, through the Committee on Hemispheric Security, convene a meeting in the first half of 2007 to review progress by member states in implementing the Declaration on Security in the Americas and to assess the progress achieved to date.

4. To request the Secretary General to transmit the conclusions of the meeting mentioned in operative paragraph 3 to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Secretary General of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), and the President of the Association of South-East Asian Nations Regional Forum (ARF), as well as to other relevant regional organizations.

5. To reiterate its request to the General Secretariat to prepare a report on how member states can support efforts, agreements, and mechanisms to prevent conflicts and bring about the peaceful settlement of disputes.

6. To instruct the Permanent Council to carry out the activities mentioned in this resolution in accordance with the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

7. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session on the implementation of this resolution and to present any recommendations it deems appropriate.
AG/RES. 2186 (XXXVI-O/06)

INTER-AMERICAN SUPPORT FOR THE
COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly, in particular the section on the Committee on Hemispheric Security (AG/doc.4548/06 add. 2);

RECALLING resolutions AG/RES. 1747 (XXX-O/00), AG/RES. 1791 (XXXI-O/01), AG/RES. 1876 (XXXII-O/02), AG/RES. 1938 (XXXIII-O/03), AG/RES. 2008 (XXXIV-O/04), and AG/RES. 2111 (XXXV-O/05), “Inter-American Support for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty”;

RECOGNIZING that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones is an effective and concrete mechanism which contributes to the maintenance of international peace and security;

BEARING IN MIND:

That paragraph 8 of the Joint Ministerial Statement in support of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), issued at United Nations headquarters on September 23, 2004, appeals to all states to make maximum efforts toward the early entry into force of the Treaty; and

The commitment by nuclear-weapon member states to undertake effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament, in accordance with Article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT);

RECOGNIZING the value of the CTBT in strengthening the nuclear nonproliferation and nuclear disarmament regimes and its contribution to the consolidation and maintenance of international peace and security;

REAFFIRMING the need for universal adoption of the CTBT, negotiated within the United Nations framework;

NOTING that the CTBT has, thus far, been signed by 30 member states of the Organization of American States and ratified by 25 of them; and, in particular, that it has now been ratified by six of the eight states of the Hemisphere whose ratification is required for the Treaty to enter into force; and

1. The United States does not support the CTBT and does not intend to become a party to it. The United States will continue to work, as appropriate, with working groups of the CTBTO PrepCom and with its Provisional Technical Secretariat on the International Monitoring Systems (IMS) and IMS-related activities. The United States continues to observe its nuclear testing moratorium and has no plans to conduct a nuclear explosive test.
RECALLING that in the Declaration on Security in the Americas the states of the Hemisphere reaffirmed their commitment to arms control, disarmament, and the nonproliferation of all weapons of mass destruction,

RESOLVES:


2. To call upon all states of the Hemisphere to attend and participate fully in the next Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, scheduled to take place in September 2007.

3. To call upon those states of the Hemisphere that have not yet done so, in particular the states listed in Annex 2 to the Treaty, to sign and/or ratify the CTBT, as the case may be, so that it may enter into force as soon as possible.

4. To promote cooperation between the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) and the member states experiencing difficulties in ratifying the CTBT, in order to make progress in the number of ratifications required for this instrument to enter into force.

5. To recognize regional efforts to promote the signature and ratification of the CTBT by states of the Hemisphere.

6. To call upon the states of the Hemisphere to refrain, until the Treaty comes into force, from contravening the spirit of the obligations set forth therein, and to maintain, in particular, the moratorium on all kinds of nuclear tests, in accordance with the commitments undertaken during the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference, held in 2000.

7. To invite all states of the Hemisphere that have International Monitoring System facilities to take the appropriate measures to facilitate the preparatory work for the CTBT’s verification regime, which will become operational when the Treaty enters into force.

8. To entrust the Permanent Council with holding, through its Committee on Hemispheric Security, a special meeting, in 2006, on a worldwide comprehensive nuclear test ban, with the participation of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL), the United Nations, the Preparatory Commission for the CTBTO, and other international institutions with competence in this area.

9. To instruct the Permanent Council to carry out the activities mentioned in this resolution in accordance with the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.
10. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session on the implementation of this resolution.

11. To request the Secretary General to transmit this resolution to the United Nations Secretary-General and to the Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the CTBTO.
AG/RES. 2187 (XXXVI-O/06)
SPECIAL SECURITY CONCERNS OF THE SMALL ISLAND STATES
OF THE CARIBBEAN
(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly, in particular the section on the matters entrusted to the Committee on Hemispheric Security (AG/doc.4548/06 add. 2);

RECALLING that the ministers of foreign affairs and heads of delegation recognized, as stated in the Declaration of Bridgetown, that the security threats, concerns, and other challenges in the hemispheric context are diverse in nature and multidimensional in scope, and that the traditional concept and approach must be expanded to encompass new and nontraditional threats, which include political, economic, social, health, and environmental aspects;

REITERATING that the security of small island states has peculiar characteristics which render these states specially vulnerable and susceptible to risks and threats of a multidimensional and transnational nature, involving political, economic, social, health, environmental, and geographic factors; and that multilateral cooperation is the most effective approach for responding to and managing the threats and concerns of small island states;

AWARE that the small island states remain deeply concerned about the possible threats posed to their economies and maritime environment should a ship transporting potentially hazardous material, including petroleum and radioactive material and toxic waste, have an accident or be the target of a terrorist attack while transiting the Caribbean Sea and other sea-lanes of communication in the Hemisphere;

RECOGNIZING that the Second High-Level Meeting on the Special Security Concerns of Small Island States, held in Kingstown, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, in January 2003, and resolution AG/RES. 1970 (XXXIII-O/03), which endorsed the recommendations of the said Second High-Level Meeting as set out in the Declaration of Kingstown on the Security of Small Island States, both reaffirmed that the political, economic, social, health, and environmental integrity and stability of small island states are integral to the security of the Hemisphere;

MINDFUL of the potentially disastrous impact of acts of terrorism on the stability and security of all states in the Hemisphere, particularly the small and vulnerable island states;

NOTING WITH SATISFACTION the decisions adopted by the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) at its sixth regular session (Bogotá, Colombia, March 22-24, 2006) on actions related to improving the security of tourism and recreational facilities in the Americas, as set out in the Declaration of San Carlos on Hemispheric Cooperation for Comprehensive Action to Fight

BEARING IN MIND the need to support member states of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) with security preparations for the upcoming Cricket World Cup 2007;

UNDERSCORING the importance of sustained dialogue on the multidimensional aspects of security and their impact on the small island states of the Caribbean, and in this context, noting with satisfaction the significant contribution by the First and the Second High-Level Meeting on the Special Security Concerns of Small Island States to strengthening confidence and security in the Hemisphere;

NOTING WITH SATISFACTION the ongoing dialogue among the states of the Hemisphere to address the security concerns of the small island states, such as the recent United States-CARICOM Ministerial (March 22, 2006), which agreed to support subregional efforts to enhance law enforcement and security cooperation, air safety, and oversight and disaster preparedness, and confirmed their intention to collaborate on an arrangement against the illicit trade in firearms;

RECALLING:


Its resolutions AG/RES. 2114 (XXXV-O/05), “Natural Disaster Reduction and Risk Management”; and AG/RES. 2184 (XXXVI-O/06), “Natural Disaster Reduction, Risk Management, and Assistance in Natural and Other Disaster Situations”;

That at the Special Conference on Security, held in Mexico City on October 27 and 28, 2003, member states addressed, in paragraphs 2 and 4 of the Declaration on Security in the Americas, the multidimensional scope of security and the new threats, concerns, and other challenges and, in paragraph 8 of that Declaration, called for “renewed and ongoing attention to, and the development of appropriate instruments and strategies within the Inter-American system to address the special security concerns of small island states as reflected in the Declaration of Kingstown on the Security of Small Island States,” and noting also paragraphs 43 and 44 of the Declaration on Security in the Americas; and

That in the said Declaration on Security in the Americas member states emphasized the need to reinforce existing efforts in the Hemisphere with regard to transportation security, without prejudice to the flow of trade;

RECOGNIZING the international obligations of member states, particularly obligations of the states parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and relevant instruments of the International Maritime Organization; and
NOTING that at the Fourth Summit of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), held in Panama City, Panama, in July 2005, the Heads of State and/or Government of the ACS member states urged those countries currently involved in the production or shipment of nuclear waste to adopt measures aimed at strengthening international cooperation in order to comply with security measures on the transportation of radioactive materials, especially those adopted at the Forty-seventh General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) (Austria 2003),

RESOLVES:

1. To reemphasize the importance of strengthening and enhancing the agenda of the Organization of American States and the hemispheric security architecture by addressing the multidimensional nature of security as it relates to the security of the small island states of the Caribbean.

2. To renew its appeal to member states to continue collaborating with the small island states of the Caribbean in the development of effective ways of addressing the security issues of these states.

3. To instruct the Permanent Council to remain seized of the issues which impact the security of small island states, and, to this end, through its Committee on Hemispheric Security (CSH), to evaluate progress made in addressing the security concerns of those states and the development of strategies for advancing the implementation of the related General Assembly resolutions.

4. To request that, in support of the small island states’ efforts to address their special security concerns, the CSH coordinate and maintain the necessary liaison with the organs, agencies, entities, and mechanisms of the Organization and other institutions and mechanisms related to the various aspects of security and defense in the Hemisphere, respecting the mandates and areas of competence of each, in order to achieve the application, evaluation, and follow-up of those provisions pertaining to the special security concerns of small island states in the Declaration on Security in the Americas.

5. To reiterate its request that the General Secretariat, through the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security and the relevant organs, agencies, and entities of the inter-American system, such as the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI), the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE), the Inter-American Committee on Ports (CIP), the Consultative Committee of the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (CIFTA), the Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction (IACNDR), and the Inter-American Defense Board (IADB), support, within their areas of competence and programming, the continued efforts of the small island states to address their security and defense concerns, particularly with respect to:

i. Developing training programs and proposals for strategic plans and cooperation to enable existing security entities in the small island states to meet the new security threats, concerns, and challenges;
ii. Assisting border control authorities in the small island states in accessing critical information; enhancing their border control systems and transportation security, including airport and seaport security; and strengthening their border control capacities;

iii. Strengthening the capacity of small island states to fight against illicit trafficking in drugs and firearms;

iv. Carrying out simulation exercises to strengthen the disaster response capacity of these states; and

v. Improving the security of tourism and recreational facilities.

6. To request the Permanent Council and the General Secretariat to carry out the measures envisaged in this resolution within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

7. To instruct the Permanent Council and the Secretary General to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session on the implementation of this resolution.
AG/RES. 2188 (XXXVI-O/06)

LIMITATION OF MILITARY SPENDING AND THE PROMOTION OF GREATER TRANSPARENCY IN THE ACQUISITION OF ARMS IN THE AMERICAS

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly, in particular the section on the Committee on Hemispheric Security (AG/doc.4548/06 add. 2);

BEARING IN MIND:

That among the essential purposes of the Organization of American States set forth in its Charter are to strengthen peace and security in the Hemisphere; guarantee the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of the states; eradicate extreme poverty, which constitutes an obstacle to the full democratic development of the peoples of the Hemisphere; and achieve an effective limitation of conventional weapons that will make it possible to devote the largest amount of resources to the economic and social development of the member states; and

That, in the Declaration of Quebec City, the Heads of State and Government stated that they would strive to limit military expenditures while maintaining capabilities commensurate with legitimate security needs and would promote greater transparency in the acquisition of arms, and undertook to develop effective, practical, and compassionate solutions for the problems that confront the societies of the Hemisphere;

CONSIDERING that in the Declaration on Security in the Americas, adopted in Mexico City, on October 28, 2003, the states of the Hemisphere reaffirmed their commitment to continue to strive to limit military spending while maintaining capabilities commensurate with their legitimate defense and security needs and fostering transparency in arms acquisitions, and declared that continued implementation of confidence- and security-building measures is conducive to the creation of a favorable environment for this purpose;

RECOGNIZING that the above-mentioned Declaration on Security in the Americas emphasizes that transparency in defense and security policies contributes to increasing stability, safeguarding hemispheric and international peace and security, and consolidating democracy;
CONSIDERING:

That confidence- and security-building measures contribute to enhancing security, safeguarding peace, and consolidating democracy in the Americas, as well as to building transparency, dialogue, and trust in the Hemisphere;

That the study “Common Standardized Methodology for the Measurement of Defense Expenditures,” prepared by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) at the request of the Governments of Argentina and Chile, is a step forward in the area of confidence- and security-building measures; and that there are other initiatives under way in the region for the same purpose, such as in Chile and Peru, which include the participation of ECLAC and the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UN-LiREC); and

That the United Nations Standardized Reporting of Military Expenditures is a contribution to transparency and confidence-building;

COMMENDING the contributions to disarmament, nonproliferation, and arms limitation and control in the region made by the states of the Hemisphere, especially in the 1974 Declaration of Ayacucho; the 1987 Esquipulas Agreements; the 1995 Framework Treaty on Democratic Security in Central America; the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaties (START I and II); the September 1991 Mendoza Commitment; the Agreement of December 1991 between Brazil, Argentina, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials (ABACC) for the application of safeguards, in December 1991; the 1991 Declaration of Guadalajara and 2001 Declaration of Lima of the Ibero-American Summits; the 1999 Political Declaration of MERCOSUR, Bolivia, and Chile as a Zone of Peace (Declaration of Ushuaia); the study “Common Standardized Methodology for the Measurement of Defense Expenditures,” prepared by ECLAC at the request of the Governments of Argentina and Chile; the 2002 Lima Commitment: Andean Charter for Peace and Security and the Limitation and Control of the Expenditure on Foreign Defense; the 2003 Consensus of Miami: Declaration by the Experts on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures: Recommendations to the Summit-Mandated Special Conference on Security; and the Declaration on Security in the Americas, adopted in Mexico City, on October 28, 2003, which are exemplary initiatives of historic leadership;

TAKING NOTE of the First Meeting of the Forum on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures, held in Washington, D.C., on April 25 and 26, 2005, and of the Rapporteur’s Report and the Chairman’s Conclusions of that meeting;

NOTING WITH SATISFACTION that the Governments of Argentina, Canada, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela have deposited their instruments of ratification of the Inter-American Convention on Transparency in Conventional Weapons Acquisitions and that, to date, 20 member states have signed it; and

RESOLVES:

1. To continue promoting in the Hemisphere an environment conducive to arms control, the limitation of conventional weapons, and the nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction, making it possible to devote a larger amount of resources to the economic and social development of the member states, which is an essential purpose set forth in the Charter of the Organization of American States, bearing in mind the fulfillment of international commitments and the legitimate security and defense needs of the member states.

2. To urge member states to continue to implement confidence- and security-building measures that contribute to transparency so as to attain the goals indicated in the preceding paragraph, which represent a concrete step forward in strengthening peace and security in the Hemisphere.

3. To urge member states to participate in the United Nations Standardized International Reporting of Military Expenditures, in accordance with the pertinent United Nations General Assembly resolution.

4. To encourage member states to continue to make progress on subregional and bilateral efforts for the development of a common standardized methodology for the measurement of defense expenditures.

5. To request member states to provide to the Permanent Council their views on the topic of limitation of military expenditures and the promotion of greater transparency in the acquisition of arms, bearing in mind, among other elements, the legitimate defense and security needs of the states, prior to the Meeting on Limitation of Military Spending and the Promotion of Greater Transparency in the Acquisition of Arms convened by the Permanent Council for December 1, 2006.

6. To instruct the Permanent Council to continue considering, in the context of the work of the Committee on Hemispheric Security and in compliance with the mandate contained in the Declaration adopted at the Third Summit of the Americas (Quebec City, 2001), the topic of limitation of military expenditures and the promotion of greater transparency in the acquisition of arms, bearing in mind, among other elements, the legitimate security and defense needs of states and unilateral, bilateral, subregional, and hemispheric perspectives of the topic.

7. To express its pleasure at the convocation, by the Permanent Council, of the Meeting of Government Experts on Limitation of Military Spending and the Promotion of Greater Transparency in the Acquisition of Arms, with representatives of subregional and international organizations as guests, for December 1, 2006.

8. To encourage member states to hold subregional meetings on the subject under the aegis of the General Secretariat and with the participation of subregional and regional entities, specialized international organizations, and civil society organizations in preparation for the abovementioned Meeting on Limitation of Military Spending and the Promotion of Greater Transparency in the Acquisition of Arms.
9. To instruct the General Secretariat to support, within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources, the activities of the Permanent Council that may be required for implementation of this resolution.

10. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session on the implementation of this resolution.
AG/RES. 2189 (XXXVI-O/06)

FIGHTING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME IN THE HEMISPHERE

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

CONCERNED that the security of the states of the Hemisphere is affected, in various ways, by traditional threats and by new threats, concerns, and other challenges of diverse types, such as transnational organized crime, as well as by the growing complexity and diversity of the activities of organized criminal groups;

RECALLING that in the Declaration on Security in the Americas, adopted at the Special Conference on Security, held in Mexico in October 2003, the member states condemned transnational organized crime, since it constitutes an assault on institutions in our countries and negatively affects our societies, and renewed the commitment to fighting it by strengthening the domestic legal framework, the rule of law, and multilateral cooperation, respectful of the sovereignty of each state;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the three supplementary Protocols thereto—the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air; the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children; and the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition—constitute the legal framework which the Hemispheric Plan of Action against Transnational Organized Crime should follow and on which it should be based;

BEARING IN MIND:

Resolution AG/RES. 2116 (XXXV-O/05), “Fighting Transnational Organized Crime in the Hemisphere,” which called for the establishment of the Special Committee on Transnational Organized Crime to prepare a draft hemispheric plan of action against transnational organized crime and to follow up on the related activities of the Organization and its organs, agencies, and entities;

The establishment, by Executive Order 05-13 Rev. 1, of the Department for the Prevention of Threats against Public Security, which is responsible for coordinating, inter alia, the efforts of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (OAS) in areas related to the prevention of and the fight against transnational organized crime; and

The report of the Chair of the Special Committee on Transnational Organized Crime, presented to the OAS Permanent Council on March 1, 2006 (CE/DOT-32/06 rev. 1); and the report on the status of the Hemispheric Plan of Action against Transnational Organized Crime (REMJA-VI/doc.18/06), presented to the Sixth Meeting of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA-VI) by the Chair of the Special Committee;
NOTING WITH SATISFACTION the conclusions and recommendations of REMJA-VI in relation to this matter, contained in document REMJA-VI/doc.21/06 rev. 1, in which, among other things the Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas expressed their satisfaction with the progress made in drafting the Hemispheric Plan of Action against Transnational Organized Crime and urged states to continue making headway so that the negotiations can be concluded as soon as possible; and

HAVING SEEN the Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly, in particular the section on the topics assigned to the Special Committee on Transnational Organized Crime (AG/doc.4548/06 add. 4), among them the implementation of resolutions AG/RES. 2026 (XXXIV-O/04) and AG/RES. 2116 (XXXV-O/05), “Fighting Transnational Organized Crime in the Hemisphere,”

RESOLVES:

1. To invite those member states that have not yet done so to consider ratifying, acceding to, accepting, or adopting, as the case may be, and implementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the three supplementary Protocols thereto— the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air; the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children; and the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition.1

1. The delegation of Colombia wishes to make the following declaration on operative paragraph 1 of the resolution “Fighting Transnational Organized Crime in the Hemisphere.” Colombia has ratified the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Additional Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and is fully committed to their application. However, Colombia has stated that it will not ratify the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, or the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air. Colombia does not agree with the text of Article 4, paragraph 2, of the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, concerning its scope of application. Colombia would have preferred that the Protocol apply to all transfers of firearms, their parts and components, and ammunition, in order to make a real contribution to preventing and combating illicit trafficking therein, and in order that transfers between states, like all other transfers, be subject to the control mechanisms set out in the Protocol. The definition of “illicit trafficking” contained in Article 3, section (e), of the Protocol must be borne in mind: it states that, for a transfer to be licit, the authorization of all states parties involved in it is required. An escape clause, such as that appearing in Article 4, runs counter to that definition inasmuch as it implies that a state may transfer arms without the authorization or consent of one of the other states concerned. This would not only make such a transfer illicit but also open up the possibility for arms to be transferred to non-state actors. Colombia, a country that has been seriously affected by the illicit trafficking in arms, cannot accept that certain arms transfers, such as transfers to non-state actors—which in our view constitute a grave crime—and transfers between states be excluded from the Protocol’s control measures, and therefore, in accordance with the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, took the sovereign decision not to ratify this Protocol. With reference to the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, Colombia has stated that it will not ratify this instrument inasmuch as it considers that it contains provisions designed
2. To urge member states to adopt and strengthen their legislation and measures for cooperation in order to combat the various manifestations of transnational organized crime in the Hemisphere.

3. To instruct the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States to conclude, through its Special Committee on Transnational Organized Crime, its efforts to draw up the Hemispheric Plan of Action against Transnational Organized Crime, by October 31, 2006.

4. To authorize the Permanent Council to adopt the Hemispheric Plan of Action against Transnational Organized Crime.

5. To request the General Secretariat to take the necessary measures, once the Plan of Action has been adopted, to implement those aspects of the Plan entrusted to it.

6. To instruct the Permanent Council to present a report on the implementation of this resolution to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session.

7. To instruct the Permanent Council and the General Secretariat to carry out, as appropriate, the activities mentioned in this resolution, within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources, such as voluntary contributions.

to legitimize the forced repatriation of migrants who have not necessarily been smuggled. That approach was promoted during the negotiation of the Protocol by the destination countries, none of which has ratified the 1990 United Nations Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

Colombia believes that the clause contained in Article 6, paragraph 4, could lead to the criminalization of migrants, whereas the purpose of the Protocol is to pursue criminal groups, not migrants.

Pursuant to the above, and in compliance with the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, Colombia took the sovereign decision not to ratify the Protocol.
AG/RES. 2190 (XXXVI-O/06)

SUPPORT FOR AND FOLLOW-UP TO THE
SUMMITS OF THE AMERICAS PROCESS

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly on the activities of the Committee on Inter-American Summits Management and Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities (AG/doc.4548/06 add. 3);

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the initiatives emanating from the First Summit of the Americas (Miami, 1994); the Summit of the Americas on Sustainable Development (Santa Cruz de la Sierra, 1996); the Second Summit of the Americas (Santiago, 1998); the Third Summit of the Americas (Quebec City, 2001); and the Special Summit of the Americas (Monterrey, 2004);

BEARING IN MIND the Declaration of Mar del Plata and the Plan of Action of the Fourth Summit of the Americas, held in Argentina, on November 4 and 5, 2005;

RECALLING that, through resolution AG/RES. 1349 (XXV-O/95), the General Assembly established a special committee of the Permanent Council on inter-American summits management, and that, at its meeting of July 31, 2002, the Permanent Council decided to merge it with the Committee on Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities, thereby creating the Committee on Inter-American Summits Management and Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities (CISC), in order to ensure effective, timely, and appropriate follow-up of the activities assigned to the Organization by the Summit of the Americas and to coordinate the Organization’s preparation, participation, and follow-up with regard to future Summits;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the mandates arising from the Plan of Action of the Third Summit of the Americas and, in particular, those contained in the section “Follow Up to the Plan of Action,” which also contains an acknowledgment of the function that the CISC fulfills in coordinating OAS activities in this regard and in serving as a forum for civil society to contribute to the Summits of the Americas process; as well as the establishment of the Summits Secretariat;

RECALLING that the Summits of the Americas recognize the central role of the OAS as technical secretariat, the significant results of the ministerial meetings held in support of the Summit mandates, and the importance of full participation by civil society, the academic sector, and the private sector in the Summits of the Americas process;

RECOGNIZING the work of the Joint Summit Working Group, comprising the Organization of American States, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the World Bank, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the Andean Development Corporation (CAF), the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), the Central American
RECOGNIZING ALSO the importance of coordinated, timely, and effective follow-up of the Plan of Action of the Third Summit of the Americas (Quebec City), the Declaration of Nuevo León, the Declaration and Plan of Action of the Fourth Summit of the Americas (Mar del Plata, Argentina), and prior Plans of Action, and the central role of the inter-American system, and of the OAS in particular, in this effort,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge member states to continue to implement the commitments of the Summits of the Americas and to promote and disseminate them within their respective national administrations.

2. To renew the mandate to the Permanent Council to coordinate the activities assigned to the Organization of American States (OAS) by the Summits of the Americas.

3. To instruct the organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization to continue to give the highest priority to carrying out the initiatives assigned to them by the General Assembly, in accordance with the mandates of the Summits of the Americas, and to report regularly on these activities, as appropriate, to the Permanent Council, the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI), and the Committee on Inter-American Summits Management and Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities (CISC).

4. To request that the General Secretariat, through the Summits Secretariat, continue to serve as the institutional memory and secretariat of the Summits of the Americas process, in accordance with the Plan of Action of the Third Summit of the Americas (Quebec City), the Declaration of Nuevo León, and the Declaration and Plan of Action of the Fourth Summit of the Americas (Mar del Plata, Argentina), continue to support the follow-up and dissemination of mandates, and continue to offer support to member states in implementing the mandates of the Declaration of Mar del Plata, its Plan of Action, and future summits, as well as support the preparatory efforts and technical coordination for the next Summit of the Americas.

5. To instruct the Permanent Council to continue to promote and facilitate civil society participation in the Summits of the Americas process and in activities related to topics assigned to the OAS by that process, as well as the efforts of member states to foster such participation.

6. To request the General Secretariat to report to the CISC and to the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG) on the implementation and follow-up of the commitments undertaken in the Plan of Action of the Third Summit of the Americas, the Declaration of Nuevo León, and the Declaration and Plan of Action of the Fourth Summit of the Americas.

7. To instruct the General Secretariat to continue, through the Joint Summit Working Group, chaired by the OAS Summits Secretariat, to coordinate and promote the implementation and follow-up, in all agencies, of the Plans of Action of the Summits of the Americas, the Declaration of Nuevo León, and the Declaration of Mar del Plata. To request, further, that it hold at least one
meeting of agency heads each year to review progress made and plan joint activities, as a complement to the regular interagency meetings and provide assistance in the preparatory activities for the next Summit of the Americas.

8. To request the General Secretariat to continue providing the necessary support for ministerial and sectoral meetings related to the implementation of Summit mandates and commitments on topics of interest to the OAS.

9. To request the General Secretariat to make efforts, through the Summits Secretariat, to promote and disseminate among the various social actors the mandates and commitments emanating from the Summits of the Americas so that these actors may contribute to their implementation.

10. To urge member states to continue contributing to the Specific Fund for the Summit Implementation Review Group in order to provide financial support for the Group’s activities.

11. To request the General Secretariat to submit to the Permanent Council, through the Summits Secretariat, systematic and detailed information on the budgetary and financial management of said Specific Fund.

12. To request the General Secretariat to strengthen the Summits Secretariat by providing it with the human and financial resources it needs to support follow-up and dissemination of the mandates of the Summits of the Americas.

13. To instruct the General Secretariat to carry out the activities mentioned in this resolution within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources; and to instruct the Secretary General to seek additional voluntary funds to carry out the activities mentioned in this resolution.

14. To instruct the General Secretariat to report to the Permanent Council before the thirty-seventh regular session of the General Assembly on the implementation of this resolution.
AG/RES. 2191 (XXXVI-O/06)

APPOINTMENT OF WOMEN TO SENIOR MANAGEMENT POSITIONS AT THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING its resolutions AG/RES. 1627 (XXIX-O/99), AG/RES. 1790 (XXXI-O/01), AG/RES. 1872 (XXXII-O/02), AG/RES. 1954 (XXXIII-O/03), AG/RES. 1977 (XXXIV-O/04), and AG/RES. 2096 (XXXV-O/05), “Appointment of Women to Senior Management Positions at the OAS,” in which it urged the Secretary General to establish as an objective that, by the year 2005, women should occupy 50 percent of posts in all categories of the system of the Organization of American States (OAS);

BEARING IN MIND Article 137 of the OAS Charter, which states that the Organization does not allow any restriction based on race, creed, or sex with respect to eligibility to hold positions in the Organization and to participate in its activities; and Article 120 of the Charter and Article 37 of the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat, which stipulate that first consideration shall be given to efficiency, competence, and integrity in the recruitment of General Secretariat personnel, but that importance shall also be attached to the criterion of the widest possible geographic distribution in hiring personnel at all grade levels;

CONSIDERING that the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women’s Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality, which was adopted by the OAS General Assembly, by resolution AG/RES. 1732 (XXX-O/00), calls for the OAS General Secretariat to “implement measures to ensure full and equal access by men and women to all categories of posts in the OAS system, particularly in decision-making positions”;

REAFFIRMING the commitment expressed at the highest levels in the Plan of Action of the Third Summit of the Americas, held in Quebec City, to promote gender equity and equality and women’s human rights by strengthening and fostering women’s full and equal participation in decision-making at all grade levels, women’s empowerment, and their equal opportunity to exercise leadership;

REAFFIRMING ALSO that the Declaration of Nuevo León recognized that “the empowerment of women, their full and equal participation in the development of our societies, and their equal opportunities to exercise leadership are fundamental for the reduction of poverty, the promotion of economic and social prosperity, and for people-centered sustainable development”;

RECALLING that in the Plan of Action of the Fourth Summit of the Americas, held in Mar del Plata, Argentina, the member states committed “to eliminate discrimination against women at work through, among other measures, the implementation of a range of policies that will increase women’s access to decent, dignified, and productive work, including policies addressing training and education and protection of the rights of women, as well as proactive policies to ensure that men and women enjoy equality in the workplace;
ACKNOWLEDGING that ensuring equal opportunity for women—taking their diversity into account—in leadership and decision-making positions is only one important element of a continuum of actions, policies, and activities required to achieve gender equality in the workplace and improve gender mainstreaming throughout the OAS;

EMPHASIZING the importance of the need to effectively integrate gender balance considerations throughout the human resources management policies of the OAS;

NOTING WITH SATISFACTION the advances made in meeting the goal of having women occupy 50 percent of posts at all levels, especially at those grade levels where the goal has been met or exceeded; and

AWARE that despite this progress, the goal of 50/50 gender distribution in senior management positions has not been met,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge the Secretary General to:
   a. Develop, in coordination with the Department of Human Resources of the Secretariat for Administration and Finance, and the Permanent Secretariat of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), a human resources policy based on the principle of gender equity and equality;
   b. Redouble his efforts to achieve, as a matter of priority, the goal of having women, including indigenous women, occupy 50 percent of posts at each grade level within the organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization of American States (OAS), particularly at the P-5 grade level and above, bearing in mind the criterion of geographic distribution in professional positions;
   c. Continue his work to establish policies of gender equality in the workplace and to make each manager accountable for the application of these policies;
   d. Appoint women as representatives and special envoys to represent the Secretary General in matters relating to all areas and sectors, and as heads of electoral observation missions; and
   e. Enable the Permanent Secretariat of the CIM to effectively contribute to and facilitate the integration of the principle of gender equity and equality in human resource action plans.

2. To urge all member states to support the efforts of the Secretary General and of the CIM by identifying and, through their permanent missions to the OAS, regularly submitting the candidacies of women to occupy positions of trust within the OAS, and to encourage more women to apply for vacant positions, which will have been widely publicized in all member states.
3. To call on the organs, agencies, and entities of the OAS to:

a. Redouble efforts to meet the goal of having women occupy 50 percent of posts at each grade level, particularly at the P-5 grade level and above, and to continue to accelerate their recruitment of women for vacant positions;

b. Include the objective of having women occupy 50 percent of posts at each grade level, particularly at the P-5 grade level and above, in their human resource management action plans; and

c. Encourage specific activities to address gender issues in the workplace, according to the individual circumstances of departments and offices, as one of the follow-up actions concerning the gender mainstreaming project undertaken by the General Secretariat of the OAS.

4. To request the Secretary General to monitor closely the progress made by the organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization in meeting the goal of women’s occupying 50 percent of posts at all grade levels, to keep the Permanent Council informed with respect to the implementation of this resolution, providing an annual update with relevant statistics from the Department of Human Resources and detailed information on the strategies and actions taken to implement this resolution and reach that goal, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session.
AG/RES. 2192 (XXXVI-O/06)

PROMOTION OF WOMEN’S HUMAN RIGHTS AND GENDER EQUITY AND EQUALITY

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the report of the Secretary General on the implementation of the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women’s Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality (CP/doc.4122/06);

BEARING IN MIND that gender mainstreaming is the decisive strategy of the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women’s Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality (IAP), adopted by means of resolution AG/RES. 1732 (XXX-O/00), for attaining the ultimate goal of promoting and protecting women’s human rights and gender equity and equality and for achieving equality of rights and opportunities between women and men; and

CONSIDERING:

The commitment made by the Organization of American States (OAS) in the aforementioned resolution to facilitate integration of a gender perspective into the work of all its organs, agencies, and entities, by developing training programs and disseminating information on women’s human rights, and to support governments in the systematic compilation and dissemination of statistical data disaggregated by sex;

The endorsement of the IAP by the Heads of State and Government in the Plan of Action of the Third Summit of the Americas, held in Quebec City, and their commitment, expressed in the Declaration of Nuevo León of the Special Summit of the Americas, held in Monterrey, to continue promoting gender equity and equality and the mandates of the Summits of the Americas on this matter;

The role of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) as the principal forum for generating hemispheric policy on gender equity and equality and the promotion of women’s human rights; for promoting sector-wide gender mainstreaming in the areas of labor, justice, education, and science and technology; and for following up on the pertinent mandates of the Summits of the Americas process, including the Fourth Summit of the Americas, held in Mar del Plata, Argentina;

The activities carried out by the General Secretariat, in coordination with the CIM, to train OAS staff in the systematic integration of a gender perspective into the policies, programs, projects, and activities of the Organization; and
Resolutions AG/RES. 1777 (XXXI-O/01), AG/RES. 1853 (XXXII-O/02), AG/RES. 1941 (XXXIII-O/03), AG/RES. 2023 (XXXIV-O/04), and AG/RES. 2124 (XXXV-O/05), by which the General Assembly received the successive reports of the Secretary General on the fulfillment of the IAP and issued mandates for its implementation,

RESOLVES:

1. To take note of the Secretary General’s sixth report on the implementation of the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women’s Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality (IAP), submitted in fulfillment of resolution AG/RES. 2124 (XXXV-O/05); and to urge him to continue with its implementation.

2. To reaffirm its support for the work of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) as the principal forum for generating hemispheric policy on gender equity and equality and the promotion of women’s human rights; and to continue to support its efforts in the follow-up to and implementation of the Inter-American Program, including activities to continue promoting gender mainstreaming in the ministerial meetings on labor, justice, education, and science and technology, as well as in the follow-up to the mandates of the Summits of the Americas process, in particular, the Fourth Summit of the Americas.

3. Once again to request the Permanent Council, in fulfillment of the mandates handed down by this Assembly, by the Summits of the Americas, and by the Inter-American Program, to:
   a. Continue its efforts to integrate a gender perspective into its resolutions, activities, and initiatives, as the case may be, to ensure that they benefit women and men on an equal and equitable basis, drawing upon the expertise of the CIM; and
   b. Consider increasing the resources allocated to the CIM in the program-budget, enabling it fully to carry out its mandates.

4. To urge the member states to:
   a. Continue their efforts to develop public policies and strengthen institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women and to enforce laws that promote women’s human rights and gender equity and equality, including equal opportunity for women and men at all levels;
   b. In fulfillment of the mandates of the Fourth Summit of the Americas:
      i. Develop support programs that take into account the different impact of labor and social policies on women and men and that can contribute to the elimination of discrimination against women in the workplace and help increase their full and equal access to decent, dignified, and productive work; and
ii. Produce statistics disaggregated by sex and race, particularly in the labor area, that may make it possible to develop labor policies based on gender equity and equality.

5. To urge the Secretary General to:

a. Continue promoting, with support from the CIM, full implementation of the IAP so as to achieve integration of a gender perspective into all programs and policies of the Organization of American States;

b. Allocate additional human, technical, and financial resources to the CIM to enable it to continue working on implementation of the IAP;

c. Continue working with the CIM to ensure the incorporation of a gender perspective in developing the programs and actions of all the organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization;

d. Promote follow-up and support activities in the OAS gender-analysis training program, in particular for new staff, and training for trainers;

e. Reiterate the request to the organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization to include in their annual reports to the General Assembly their initiatives to mainstream the gender perspective into their policies, programs, projects, and activities;

f. Report to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session, in coordination with the CIM, on the implementation of the Inter-American Program and of this resolution by the organs, agencies, and entities of the inter-American system; and

g. Convene the first meeting of the Inter-Institutional Forum on Gender Equity and Equality (IIFGEE).
AG/RES. 2193 (XXXVI-O/06)

CREATION OF THE FUND FOR CHILDREN OF THE AMERICAS

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

CONSIDERING:

That the Organization of American States (OAS) is resolutely committed to the promotion and protection of the human rights of children and adolescents in the region;

That the Inter-American Children’s Institute (IIN) is the specialized organization of the Organization of American States responsible for promoting the study of issues relating to children and the family in the Americas, as well as for designing technical instruments that will contribute to solving the problems affecting them;

That the principal purpose of the Institute is to cooperate with the governments of the member states, their institutions, and their authorities responsible for children’s issues, with the other agencies of the inter-American system, with other international institutions, and with civil society organizations working on behalf of the well-being of children in the region in the development of technical activities and instruments that contribute to the integral protection of children and to raising awareness concerning all issues relating to children, the family, and the community, as well as a feeling of social responsibility in the face of such issues by providing advice in the search for solutions;

That, by resolution AG/RES. 1951 (XXXIII-O/03), “Promotion and Protection of the Human Rights of Children in the Americas,” the General Assembly reaffirmed its commitment to creating a world fit for children, in which sustainable human development, taking into account the best interests of the child, is founded on principles of democracy, equality, nondiscrimination, peace, and social justice; and

The important work that the IIN is called upon to perform, in particular in the framework of the promotion and protection of children’s well-being. Furthermore, as a specialized agency, the IIN seeks to channel the activities of the OAS in the different countries in the region through the development of technical tools, the provision of training, the implementation of targeted public policies, the improvement of legal frameworks, information systems, the promotion of human rights, and the implementation of good practices, among the most important tasks; and

BEARING IN MIND:

That the XIX Pan American Child Congress, held from October 27 to 29, 2004, in Mexico City, adopted resolution IIN/RES. 7 (XIX-04), “Funding of Resolutions Adopted by the Congress,” operative paragraph 1 of which reads: “To request the Office of the Director General of the Inter-American Children’s Institute to take the necessary steps before the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States for the creation of a specific account to fund the preparation and presentation of an Inter-American Project for Strengthening the Family and other resolutions adopted by the Congress”;

That the Annual Report of the Institute (CP/doc.4084/06) indicates that the new IIN officers are facing a true challenge in designing various strategies to reverse the shortage of human and material resources within the Institute;

That the IIN requires resources in addition to those allocated to it in the OAS Regular Fund program-budget in order to finance and carry out the activities entrusted to it by its organs and by those of the OAS, so that it might effectively implement, in the 2006-2009 term, the 2005-2008 Strategic Plan adopted by its Directing Council, in resolution CD/RES. 01 (E/05), in August 2005 in Mexico City; and

That said Strategic Plan is a valuable tool for the institutional management of the Institute and is considered wholly compatible with the new procedures established in the OAS for planning, budget programming, monitoring, evaluation, and resource mobilization,

RESOLVES:

1. To request the Secretary General to create a specific fund of voluntary contributions, to be called the “Specific Fund for Children of the Americas” (FENAA), in keeping with the proposal made by the Inter-American Children’s Institute (IIN) pursuant to the mandate issued by the XIX Pan American Child Congress.

2. To determine that the specific purpose of the FENAA is to foster solidarity and to create a development fund to provide financing for projects, programs, and activities in the promotion and protection of the human rights of the children of the Americas, combat all forms of violations of their human rights, and contribute to the achievement of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals as they pertain to children.

3. To invite member states, permanent observers, international financial institutions, regional organizations, and civil society organizations to contribute to this Fund, so as to enable the IIN to effectively carry out the mandates it has received from its constituent bodies, the organs of the Organization of American States, and the Summits of the Americas.

4. To request the IIN to include in its annual report to the General Assembly information on contributions received, objectives attained, and activities financed by the FENAA.

5. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session on the implementation of this resolution.
AG/RES. 2194 (XXXVI-O/06)

PROMOTION OF CORPORATE
SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY IN THE HEMISPHERE

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN General Assembly resolution AG/RES. 2013 (XXXIV-O/04), “Promotion of Corporate Social Responsibility in the Hemisphere,” and reiterating the importance of all its preambular paragraphs;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT its resolution AG/RES. 2123 (XXXV-O/05), “Promotion of Corporate Social Responsibility in the Hemisphere; and

BEARING IN MIND that, in the Declaration of Mar del Plata, the Heads of State and Governments recognized that “[s]ustained economic growth, with equity and social inclusion, is an indispensable condition to create jobs, fight extreme poverty, and overcome inequality in the Hemisphere. To achieve these ends, it is necessary to improve transparency and the investment climate in our countries, build human capital, encourage increased incomes and improve their distribution, promote corporate social responsibility, and foster a spirit of entrepreneurship as well as strong business activity,”

RESOLVES:

1. To recognize the achievements of the III Inter-American Conference on Corporate Social Responsibility: “Who is Responsible for the Responsibility?”, held in Santiago, Chile, from September 25 to 27, 2005, in which international experts in various aspects of corporate social responsibility (CSR) participated, along with business associations, business leaders, government representatives, and civil society, creating an important platform for dialogue and the exchange of experiences to advance the implementation of CSR and environmental policies.

2. To note that the IV Inter-American Conference on Corporate Social Responsibility: “Good Business for All” will be held in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil, from December 10 to 12, 2006; and to encourage the participation of member states. Likewise, to instruct the General Secretariat to participate in the event and subsequently to prepare the corresponding report, inviting representatives of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) to report on the Conference’s results.

3. To urge member state governments to promote corporate social responsibility programs and initiatives and to become more knowledgeable about existing internationally recognized voluntary principles and guidelines, as well as private sector initiatives in this area, and, as appropriate to their circumstances, to support such principles and initiatives.

4. To encourage member states to develop, promote, and encourage broader dissemination, exchange of experiences and information, training, and outreach in the area of
corporate social responsibility. Likewise, to encourage them to facilitate appropriate participation and cooperation in these efforts by the private sector, business associations, trade unions, academic institutions, and civil society organizations.

5. To instruct the Secretary General to work through the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) to join the efforts of the IDB, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), and other international organizations and contribute to information exchange and capacity-building, to enable member states to be in position to promote CSR in their own private sector communities.

6. To recommend to the member state governments that they consider taking an active role in the negotiations under way in the International Organization for Standardization to establish a standard for corporate social responsibility (ISO 26000).

7. To instruct the General Secretariat to support, with any external resources than can be mobilized, the provisions of operative paragraphs 4 and 6 of this resolution.

8. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session on the implementation of this resolution.
AG/RES. 2195 (XXXVI-O/06)

STRENGTHENING POLITICAL PARTIES AND OTHER POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS FOR DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

BEARING IN MIND that the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS) recognizes that representative democracy is an indispensable condition for the stability, peace, and development of the region;

CONSIDERING that Article 3 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter states that the essential elements of representative democracy include, among other things, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms; access to power and its exercise in accordance with the rule of law; the holding of regular, free, and fair elections, based on secret balloting and universal suffrage as an expression of the sovereignty of the people; the pluralistic system of political parties and organizations; and the separation of powers and independence of the branches of government;

CONSIDERING ALSO that Article 5 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter stipulates that the strengthening of political parties and other political organizations is a priority for democracy;

RECALLING that in the Declaration of Nuevo León, adopted during the Special Summit of the Americas, held in Monterrey, Mexico, the member states recognized that political pluralism and sound political parties are essential elements of democracy; underscored the importance of rules to ensure the transparency of party finances, to prevent corruption and the risk of undue influence, and to encourage a high level of electoral participation; and consequently agreed to promote the conditions that enable political parties to thrive, autonomous of government control;

RECOGNIZING the important role played by political parties in democratic governance by mediating and channeling citizens’ demands and by serving as government and opposition;

RECALLING the hemispheric mandates regarding the strengthening and modernization of political parties handed down by the member states in both the Plan of Action of the Third Summit of the Americas and the Inter-American Democratic Charter;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the activities carried out by the Inter-American Forum on Political Parties (FIAPP); and that, at the subregional and regional levels, the member states concerned have fostered actions aimed at developing democratic institutions and strengthening political parties, such as the efforts of the Rio Group and the Latin American Parliament (PARLATINO);

BEARING IN MIND the proposals for strengthening political parties adopted at the international meeting on “Democracy, Governance, and Political Parties in Latin America,” organized by PARLATINO, that were conveyed to the XVIII Presidential Summit of the Rio Group;
RECOGNIZING the role assigned to the Department for the Promotion of Democracy and the Department for the Promotion of Good Governance of the Organization to work with member states and civil society to strengthen political parties and citizen participation in political life; and

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that, in compliance with the mandates conferred by the Inter-American Democratic Charter and the Declaration of Nuevo León, the General Secretariat has concluded its comparative study of how electoral campaigns and political parties are funded,

RESOLVES:

1. To underscore the importance of consolidating the role of political parties, and of having solid, relevant, and transparent political parties, to guarantee the proper exercise and functioning of democracy.

2. To urge member states to consider the adoption of measures aimed at strengthening political parties under a pluralistic system of political parties and organizations, including the passage and/or amendment of electoral legislation.

3. To encourage transparent handling of political party funds, the fight against corruption and influence-peddling, and the promotion of equal opportunities among the members of political parties.

4. To acknowledge the work carried out by the Inter-American Forum on Political Parties (FIAPP) and the Department for the Promotion of Democracy of the General Secretariat; and to urge them to continue providing assistance to those member states and regional parliamentary bodies that so request, thus contributing to strengthening and reforming the Hemisphere’s political parties and party systems, including technical assistance for political parties and/or national parliaments in the field of political funding, and the dissemination of some common principles identified related to the funding of electoral campaigns and political parties.

5. To instruct the Permanent Council and the General Secretariat to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session on the implementation of this resolution.
AG/RES. 2196 (XXXVI-O/06)


(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the report of the Secretary General on the implementation of resolution AG/RES. 2102 (XXXV-O/05), “Cooperation between the Organization of American States and the United Nations System, the General Secretariat of the Central American Integration System, and the General Secretariat of the Caribbean Community” (CP/doc.4129/06),

RESOLVES:

1. To take note of the report of the Secretary General on the implementation of resolution AG/RES. 2102 (XXXV-O/05), which outlines the activities carried out under the cooperation agreements between the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (OAS) and the secretariats of the United Nations, the Central American Integration System (SICA), and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

2. To request the General Secretariat to implement, within available resources, the recommendations of previous general meetings and to consider the possibility of holding similar meetings in 2007 with the United Nations, with SICA, with CARICOM, and with the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) in an effort to define new and updated modalities for cooperation between the General Secretariat and the secretariats of these organizations.

3. To request the Secretary General to continue and to strengthen activities involving cooperation between the OAS General Secretariat and each of the following organizations: the United Nations system, the General Secretariat of SICA, the General Secretariat of CARICOM, and the Secretariat of the ACS.

4. To request the Secretary General to facilitate increased intersectoral contacts with the heads of the technical areas of the four organizations mentioned above.

5. To request the Secretary General to present a report on these actions to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session.
AG/RES. 2197 (XXXVI-O/06)

OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE ANNUAL REPORTS
OF THE ORGANS, AGENCIES, AND ENTITIES OF THE ORGANIZATION

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the observations and recommendations of the Permanent Council (AG/doc.4548 add. 5) on the annual reports presented by the following: the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) (CP/doc.4/06 rev. 1), the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) (CP/doc.4089/06), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) (CP/doc.4097/06), the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) (CP/doc.4081/06 corr. 1), the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL) (CP/doc.4076/06 add. 1 corr.1), the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) (CP/doc.4126/06 rev. 1), the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) (CP/doc.4110/06), the Inter-American Children’s Institute (IIN) (CP/doc.4084/06), the Inter-American Indian Institute (III) (CP/doc.4077/06), the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) (CP/doc.4101/06), the Justice Studies Center of the Americas (JSCA) (CP/doc.4072/06), and the Administrative Tribunal of the Organization of American States (TRIBAD) (CP/doc.4074/06);

CONSIDERING that the Permanent Council’s observations and recommendations recognize the successful endeavors of the organs, agencies, and entities in furtherance of the principles and objectives of the Organization and of the inter-American system; and

UNDERSCORING that these reports have been submitted in keeping with the provisions of Article 91.f of the Charter of the Organization of American States,

RESOLVES:

1. To take note of the observations and recommendations of the Permanent Council on the annual reports; and to transmit them to the organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization of American States (OAS).

2. To thank the organs, agencies, and entities that complied with the statutory deadline for the presentation of annual reports; and once again to urge all organs, agencies, and entities to include a section on quantifiable results obtained, in keeping with the provisions of resolution AG/RES. 1952 (XXXIII-O/03).

3. To remind all organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization that annual reports must be submitted by the statutory deadline, which is 90 days prior to the start of the regular session of the General Assembly.
4. To urge all organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization to approve their annual reports, in accordance with the procedures applicable for each report, at least 120 days prior to the General Assembly session.

5. To reiterate to all organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization that, in presenting their annual reports, they must take into account the provisions of its prior resolutions, in particular resolutions AG/RES. 1452 (XXVII-O/97), AG/RES. 1669 (XXIX-O/99), AG/RES. 1839 (XXXI-O/01), AG/RES. 1853 (XXXII-O/02), AG/RES. 1883 (XXXII-O/02), AG/RES. 1952 (XXXIII-O/03), AG/RES. 2025 (XXXIV-O/04), and AG/RES. 2136 (XXXV-O/05).

6. To recognize the important activities carried out by the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) and its subsidiary bodies, underscoring the adoption of the Strategic Plan for Partnership for Integral Development 2006-2009; and to request it to continue promoting hemispheric dialogue and to redouble its efforts to promote partnership for development among the member states to support their integral development and, in particular, to contribute to the elimination of poverty.

7. To underscore the important activities conducted by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) in fulfillment of its purposes and objectives, geared toward improving health and living standards in the Americas.

8. To commend the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) for its service in promoting women’s rights in the Americas; and to support its efforts to implement the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women’s Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality, especially its collaboration on the gender mainstreaming project at the General Secretariat, as well as the process of study and preparation of a follow-up mechanism to the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, “Convention of Belém do Pará,” and the study on trafficking in persons.

9. To renew its recognition of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA); and to encourage it to continue its efforts to support member states in their quest for progress and prosperity in the Hemisphere, through the rural sector, promotion of food security, and development of a competitive, technologically trained, environmentally managed, and socially equitable agricultural sector for the peoples of the Americas.

10. To renew its recognition of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL) for its important activities in pursuit of its purposes and objectives and in fulfillment of the mandates of the Summits of the Americas and the OAS General Assembly.

11. To commend the Inter-American Children’s Institute (IIN) for the projects it has been carrying out pursuant to its Strategic Plan; and to urge it to continue its efforts to raise the resources needed to execute the projects agreed upon in the plan for 2005-2008.

12. To recognize the work of the Inter-American Indian Institute (III); and to express the support of the member states for its restructuring process, considering the importance of the topic of indigenous peoples on the agenda of the Organization.
13. To commend the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) for the activities it has carried out, especially in support of border demarcation.

14. To underscore the efforts of the Justice Studies Center of the Americas (JSCA) to generate and disseminate instruments to improve awareness of justice in the Americas; and to express its satisfaction with the measures taken to increase cooperation and the exchange of experiences among key actors in the justice sector at the regional level.

15. To recognize the important activities carried out by the OAS Administrative Tribunal (TRIBAD), underscoring the initiative to maintain ongoing dialogue for cooperation and coordination with the other organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization.
The General Assembly,

Having seen the observations and recommendations of the Permanent Council (AG/doc.4548/06 add. 5) on the annual report of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) (CP/doc.4126/06 rev. 1);

Conscious of the need for continued progress in the fight against the production of illicit crops, drug trafficking, and related crimes, such as money laundering, illicit trafficking in arms, and the diversion to illicit channels of pharmaceutical products and chemical substances;

Deeply concerned over the existence of armed groups related to drug trafficking in certain countries, giving rise to situations that can destabilize the institutional order and undermine democratic governance;

Reaffirming its commitment to the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) as an objective instrument for measuring the progress made by member states in controlling the illicit drug problem and strengthening hemispheric solidarity and cooperation, as also set forth in resolution AG/RES. 2200 (XXXVI-O/06), “Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission”;

Recognizing that drug use is a public health problem that affects society as a whole; that the member states attach great importance to early prevention of substance use and abuse in the family, school, workplace, and community, including programs that strengthen values and life skills in children and youth; and that the treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers is an essential part of national health care systems; and

Noting with satisfaction that CICAD has strengthened its cooperation and exchange of information with all pertinent subregional, inter-American, and international bodies,

RESOLVES:

1. To thank the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) for its presentation to the General Assembly of its annual report for 2005 (CP/doc.4126/06 rev. 1); and to congratulate it on the progress made in all aspects of the control of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.
2. To urge member states to:
   
a. Continue strengthening their national drug control systems, including the national drug commissions, national drug control strategies and plans, with, as appropriate, decentralization of those plans to local and municipal governments, and, in general, their framework of laws and regulations adapted to the current characteristics of the problem in each country;

b. Expand their long-term programs in substance-abuse prevention and treatment for different age groups, and take steps to ensure adequate resources for such programs;

c. Continue to strengthen their national controls over chemicals that can be used to produce illicit drugs and, in this effort, make full use of the pre-export notification (PEN) mechanism;

d. Promote the development of technologies that can be applied to improving the control of drug trafficking and diversion of chemical precursors, and strengthen the resources appropriated for the national agencies involved in this work;

e. Establish or strengthen their Financial Intelligence Units to investigate potential money laundering crimes, particularly those related to drug trafficking;

f. Seek to involve, as appropriate, nongovernmental organizations, the private sector, community service organizations, religious institutions, and the media in relevant aspects of their national drug programs;

g. Consider the possibility of adopting alternative measures that are geared to drug treatment to replace prison for cases of crimes of drug possession for personal use, in accordance with the legislation of each country;

h. Strengthen horizontal cooperation among member states to further the work of CICAD in both demand reduction and supply reduction;

i. Continue to work actively in the CICAD expert groups that address demand reduction, arms control, pharmaceuticals, chemical substances, money laundering, and maritime drug trafficking, in order to facilitate and increase cooperation and coordination, as well as information exchange;

j. Advance the work of the CIFTA-CICAD Expert Group to prepare model legislation on the marking of firearms, and to continue the second phase, which is the drafting of model legislation to strengthen controls at points of export;
k. Consider the use of specialized investigative techniques such as controlled deliveries and undercover operations as part of their efforts to tackle drug trafficking, arms trafficking, and the diversion of chemicals used in the production of illegal drugs;

l. Endeavor to ensure that sustainable social development and alternative development policies and projects support the ongoing economic viability of communities and families in those countries most affected by the production of drugs and the presence of illicit crops, as well as those countries most vulnerable to the appearance of such crops;

m. Provide, maintain or increase, to the extent possible, their financial and in-kind contributions to CICAD so that it can increase its assistance to member states in their national efforts to comply with the recommendations of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM). And at the same time, thank those permanent observers and international financial institutions that have contributed to the work of CICAD; and

n. Increase to the extent possible the resources devoted to all areas of the drug problem, introducing innovative financing initiatives.

3. To acknowledge the progress made by the countries of the Hemisphere in combating the drug problem; and to urge them to continue their efforts.

4. To urge the permanent observers and international financial institutions to initiate, maintain, or increase their contributions to CICAD activities.

5. To instruct the CICAD Executive Secretariat to:

   a. In accordance with the Antidrug Strategy in the Hemisphere of 1996, continue to support the policies and programs corresponding to areas identified by the MEM according to the needs of each country in relation to efforts to control illicit drugs and related crimes;

   b. Working through the Inter-American Observatory on Drugs, support member states in their efforts to develop and maintain uniform national data collection systems on the problem of drug use and related crimes at the national level, enabling them to measure the dimensions of the problem and track new trends in substance abuse. Likewise, develop and maintain information systems at the hemispheric level, and expand to other member states the CICAD Program to Estimate the Human, Social, and Economic Cost of Drugs in the Americas, as mandated by the Fourth Summit of the Americas;

   c. Continue to support the work of the MEM and the expert groups dedicated to progress in the following thematic areas: demand reduction, arms control, pharmaceuticals, chemical precursors, money laundering, and maritime
cooperation, which provide the Commission with an informed opinion to guide its decisions;

d. Continue to support the creation or strengthening of Financial Intelligence Units in the member states, to enable them to track and investigate possible money laundering crimes, since these are often linked to the proceeds of drug trafficking;

e. Make every effort to diversify sources of contributions to CICAD’s Specific Fund, which finances CICAD activities and programs; and strive to increase the amount of such contributions in real and nominal terms;

f. Explore new technologies and other measures to reduce costs in carrying out CICAD’s programs; and

g. Strengthen its cooperation and exchange of information with the various subregional, inter-American, and international committees and mechanisms that are pertinent to achievement of its mission.
AG/RES. 2199 (XXXVI-O/06)

AMENDMENTS TO THE MODEL REGULATIONS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE CONTROL COMMISSION CONCERNING LAUNDERING OFFENSES CONNECTED TO ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING AND OTHER SERIOUS OFFENSES

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the final reports of the meetings of the Group of Experts to Control Money Laundering of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), held in Washington, D.C., from July 13 to 15, 2004, and in Bogotá, Colombia, from November 14 to 18, 2005, which contained proposals for amending the Model Regulations concerning Laundering Offenses Connected to Illicit Drug Trafficking and Other Serious Offenses that were approved by CICAD at its thirty-sixth and thirty-eighth regular sessions, held in Washington, D.C., in December 2004 (CICAD/doc.1365/04) and December 2005 (CICAD/doc.1482/05), respectively; and

CONSIDERING:

That the CICAD Groups of Experts are open to all member states and provide an opportunity to share experiences, present initiatives, and promote cooperation;

That the aforementioned CICAD Model Regulations are an important instrument for developing a coordinated response to illicit drug trafficking and related offenses;

That the CICAD Model Regulations depend on the contributions of the experts in the member states in order to remain dynamic, timely, and relevant; and

That CICAD has approved the proposals for amending the aforementioned Model Regulations,

RESOLVES:

1. To take note with satisfaction of the final reports of the meetings of the Group of Experts to Control Money Laundering of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), which were held in Washington, D.C., from July 13 to 15, 2004, and in Bogotá, Colombia, from November 14 to 18, 2005.

2. To adopt the amendments to the Model Regulations concerning Laundering Offenses Connected to Illicit Drug Trafficking and Other Serious Offenses that are set forth in the Appendix to the present resolution and that were approved by CICAD at its thirty-sixth and thirty-eighth regular sessions, held in Washington, D.C., in December 2004 (CICAD/doc.1365/04) and December 2005 (CICAD/doc.1482/05), respectively; and to recommend to the member states that they adopt them in due course, in accordance with their respective domestic legislation.
3. To urge member states to provide firm political support to the CICAD Model Regulations concerning Laundering Offenses Connected to Illicit Drug Trafficking and Other Serious Offenses and to lend the institutional support needed for appropriate implementation thereof in accordance with their domestic laws.
APPENDIX

AMENDMENTS TO THE MODEL REGULATIONS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE CONTROL COMMISSION CONCERNING LAUNDERING OFFENSES CONNECTED TO ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING AND OTHER SERIOUS OFFENSES

According to the Final Report of the Meeting of the CICAD Group of Experts to Control Money Laundering, held in Washington, D.C., from July 13 to 15, 2004, which was approved by the Commission at its thirty-sixth regular session, held in Washington, D.C., from December 7 to 9, 2004 (CICAD/doc.1365/04), it was agreed to amend the following articles:

New Article

Article 3bis SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES

In order to conduct an effective investigation against money laundering and serious criminal activities, as well as for purposes of forfeiture, specialized investigative techniques, such as wire tapping, undercover agents, informants, controlled delivery, and any other technique established in accordance with national law, should be developed and utilized in application of relevant international conventions.

Amendment to Article 2

Article 2 LAUNDERING OFFENSES

6. The offenses referred to in this article shall be defined, investigated, tried and sentenced by a court or competent authority as autonomous offenses distinct from any other offenses. *It shall not be necessary to establish that a criminal process with respect to a possible serious criminal has occurred.*

7. *A person who commits a laundering offense and a related serious criminal activity can be convicted for the commission of both offenses.*

According to the Final Report of the Meeting of the CICAD Group of Experts to Control Money Laundering, held in Bogotá, Colombia, from November 14 to 18, 2005, which was approved by the Commission at its thirty-eighth regular session, held in Washington D.C., from December 5 to 9, 2005 (CICAD/doc.1482/05), it was agreed to amend the following articles:

Article 4 ter ADMINISTRATION OF SEIZED ASSETS

1. A specialized administrative authority shall be designated with the responsibility for administration, inventory and reasonable preservation of the economic value of assets that are the subject of precautionary measures as set forth in Article 4.

2. Assets that have been made subject to precautionary measures shall be immediately placed at the disposal of and under the responsibility of the specialized administrative authority.
3. In order to comply with its obligation reasonably to preserve the economic value of assets subject to precautionary measures, as well as their revenue, yields or other benefits, and in exercise of its administrative powers, the specialized administrative authority may execute any agreements or contracts that it considers necessary for this purpose in accordance with the law.

4. The specialized administrative authority may order the liquidation of assets that are perishable or susceptible to near-term deterioration; assets whose maintenance, or administration may be excessively onerous; and assets whose maintenance would cause a significant diminution in their value.

5. In the event of the liquidation of seized assets, the proceeds from the liquidation shall be deposited and maintained in a special fund that guarantees the reasonable preservation of its economic value, until such time as a final judicial decision is issued. Income, yields or other benefits that are derived from the deposited value, shall accompany the legally determined destination for the assets.

6. Seized assets that are under the administration of the specialized administrative authority shall not be used.

   In the exception, when advance liquidation is not possible or would be detrimental to the interests of the State, such assets may be placed into provisional use. Such use shall be regulated by a legal framework establishing:

   a. the categories of seized assets that may be destined for provisional use under the responsibility of the State;
   b. the time limits for the provisional use;
   c. the institutions that may request provisional use from the specialized administrative authority;
   d. the specific purposes or ends for which such use shall be permitted;
   e. the appropriate control mechanisms for compliance with such purposes; and
   f. the protection of the rights of the accused or of affected third parties.

   In these cases, the specialized administrative authority shall set forth the responsibilities of the entity receiving the assets, with respect to their use, maintenance and the reasonable preservation of their economic value.

   The national legal system also may determine not to establish any exception permitting provisional use of seized assets.

ARTICLE 5: FORFEITURE OF PROPERTY, PROCEEDS, OR INSTRUMENTALITIES

1. When a person is convicted of a money laundering offense, the financing of terrorism, or an offense included in the definition of serious criminal activity, the court shall order that the property, proceeds or instrumentalities connected to such an offense be forfeited and disposed of in accordance with the law.
2. *When the objective circumstances of the case permit the competent authority to reasonably infer the illicit origin or destination of assets, it shall also order in the sentence of conviction the forfeiture of such assets, unless the convicted person has demonstrated their legal origin.*

Objective circumstances of the case shall include, among others, those circumstances relating to the time or manner of acquisition, personal characteristics, economic characteristics, the convicted person’s ordinary sphere of activities, or any other circumstances deemed relevant.

3. When, as a result of any act or omission of the person convicted, any of the property, proceeds or instrumentalities described in this article cannot be forfeited, the court shall order the forfeiture of any other property of the person convicted, for an equivalent value, or shall order the person convicted to pay a fine of such value.

**Article 20 BIS  COMPLIANCE WITH FOREIGN JUDGMENTS**

1. Concerning international cooperation in cases of money laundering, the financing of terrorism, or serious criminal activities based upon treaties, agreements or in accordance with law, the court or competent authority may order measures permissible in accordance with Articles 4, 4 ter or 5, in order to:

   a. Enforce the precautionary measures ordered by a court or competent authority of another country with regard to property that may be subject to forfeiture;

   b. Enforce a final order of forfeiture issued by a foreign court or competent authority;

   c. Provided its national legal system so permits, enforce any other equivalent measure ordered by a competent foreign authority that results in the suspension of the power to dispose of assets or loss of the right of ownership of assets.

2. The court or competent authority shall enforce the foreign order or measure in accordance with paragraph 1, unless the court or competent authority specifically finds that:

   a. The order or measure originates from a court or competent authority that did not have jurisdiction or competence; or

   b. The order or measure infringes on fundamental or constitutional rights.
AG/RES. 2200 (XXXVI-O/06)

MULTILATERAL EVALUATION MECHANISM
OF THE INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE CONTROL COMMISSION

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the observations and recommendations of the Permanent Council on the annual reports of the organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization (AG/doc.4548/06 add. 5), in particular with reference to the annual report of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) (CP/doc.4126/06 rev. 1);

RECALLING the importance that the Heads of State and of Government have accorded to the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) since the Second Summit of the Americas (Santiago, 1998), and their reiterated commitment to this evaluation process as a central pillar of assistance toward effective hemispheric cooperation in the struggle against drug problem;

RECOGNIZING that the MEM is a fundamental tool for obtaining a multilateral, objective, and transparent diagnostic assessment of the manner in which states confront the drug problem in the Hemisphere; that it also seeks to enhance inter-institutional coordination internally and internationally, dialogue among the competent authorities, guidelines and encouragement for action, and the optimization of resources devoted to cooperation among states, in order to address the drug problem and related offenses more effectively;

CONSCIOUS that the changing nature of the world drug problem requires the MEM to evolve in a dynamic way so that its capacity to identify trends and follow up on individual and collective progress on the drug problem in the Hemisphere may be strengthened with each evaluation exercise;

STRESSING the value of the information provided by the MEM process and its potential as a source for further research and academic studies;

TAKING NOTE of the results of the meeting of CICAD’s Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG), held in Washington, D.C., in February 2006, at which the MEM process and indicators were adapted and improved, and of CICAD’s decision at its thirty-ninth regular session, held in Washington, D.C., in May 2006, to approve those results; and

NOTING that the hemispheric report and the 33 national reports on implementation of the recommendations of the third round of the MEM were approved by CICAD at its thirty-ninth regular session,
RESOLVES:

1. To note with satisfaction the approval by the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) at its thirty-ninth regular session, held in Washington, D.C., in May 2006, of the hemispheric report and the 33 national reports of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) on implementation of the recommendations of its third evaluation round 2003-2004.

2. To endorse the recommendations contained in the national reports of the MEM; to urge the countries to implement those recommendations; and to request CICAD to present a report on compliance therewith to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session.

3. To urge member states to disseminate the MEM national and hemispheric reports, through their appropriate authorities, to their legislative and judicial branches and government institutions, the media, academic institutions, and civil society, so as to spread knowledge of the MEM and thereby strengthen the human and financial commitment of each member state and of the Hemisphere in the fight against the drug problem and related offenses.

4. To recognize with satisfaction the important progress made in national antidrug policies since the first MEM evaluation round 1999-2000 and their impact on the different aspects of the problem in the Hemisphere, which has made it possible to foster trust and dialogue among states; facilitated the exchange of information and best practices among governments in the Hemisphere; strengthened domestic legal frameworks in the member states, as well as the international legal framework by promoting a significant increase in the ratification of important international instruments; and helped optimize resources for hemispheric cooperation by channeling them to areas identified by the MEM.

5. To urge member states to renew the commitment they showed during the three MEM evaluation rounds, and to continue participating actively, fully, and in a timely manner in the fourth round, in particular by providing the introductory material required on the status of the drug problem and related offenses in each national report, and by giving complete answers to the questionnaire and other requests for information from the Governmental Experts Group (GEG), and assuring the full participation of their governmental experts in the different phases of the process.

6. To thank the Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG) for its excellent work in adapting and improving the MEM process and indicators for the fourth evaluation round; and to endorse CICAD’s decision to approve the IWG’s conclusions.

7. To recognize the dedicated work of the GEG, entrusted with preparing the reports during the third evaluation round; and to congratulate the National Coordinating Entities (NCEs), the institutions, and the numerous national agencies that cooperated by providing ample information for the process.

8. To urge member states and permanent observers to initiate, maintain, or increase their voluntary financial and in-kind contributions to the MEM, in order to ensure that it continues and is strengthened, which is of particular importance since the MEM has had a measurable positive impact on combating drugs in the Hemisphere.
9. To ensure that the necessary resources are provided for the efficient operations of the MEM; and to request the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) to allocate budgetary resources for the MEM evaluation activities.

10. To urge CICAD to take the MEM reports increasingly into consideration in the planning of its strategies, programs, and projects.

11. To instruct the Executive Secretariat of CICAD to continue to support the member states in their national efforts to implement the recommendations made in the MEM process, and to continue to undertake MEM promotional activities internationally, regionally, and nationally, in order to increase public knowledge of it.
AG/RES. 2201 (XXXVI-O/06)

STRATEGIC PLAN FOR PARTNERSHIP FOR INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT 2006-2009

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN resolution CIDI/RES. 178 (XI-O/06), “Draft Strategic Plan for Partnership for Integral Development 2006-2009”; and

CONSIDERING:

That Article 95 of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS) requires the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) to “[f]ormulate and recommend to the General Assembly a strategic plan which sets forth policies, programs, and courses of action in matters of cooperation for integral development within the framework of the general policy and priorities defined by the General Assembly”;

That Article 29 of the CIDI Statutes further provides that the Plan shall be “structured around inter-American cooperation programs” and “shall have a four-year planning target period, subject to adjustment when the General Assembly considers it appropriate”;

That Articles 3.a and 23.c of the CIDI Statutes charge CIDI with formulating and recommending the Strategic Plan to the General Assembly, and with examining and, if appropriate, adopting proposals for preparing and updating it;

That, by resolution AG/RES. 1 (XX-E/94), the General Assembly established guidelines for the preparation of the Plan;

That by resolution CIDI/RES. 105 (VI-O/01), CIDI adopted the Strategic Plan for Partnership for Development 2002-2005, for implementation on January 1, 2002, ad referendum of the General Assembly; that the General Assembly subsequently ratified and adopted the Plan in June 2002 by resolution AG/RES. 1855 (XXXII-O/02); and that the four-year planning target period for the 2002-2005 Strategic Plan ended on December 31, 2005;

That, by resolution CIDI/RES. 162 (X-O/05), CIDI instructed its Permanent Executive Committee (CEPCIDI) to begin consideration of the new Strategic Plan for Partnership for Development, for 2006-2009, and to approve it ad referendum of the thirty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly, and that, by resolution AG/RES. 2077 (XXXV-O/05), the General Assembly endorsed that decision; and

That it is essential to have a Strategic Plan in force to guide the 2006 programming cycle of the Special Multilateral Fund of CIDI (FEMCIDI) and decisions regarding projects supported by other funds,
RESOLVES:

1. To adopt the Strategic Plan for Partnership for Integral Development 2006-2009 attached to this resolution, for implementation effective as of the date of this resolution.

2. To instruct the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CEPCIDI) to hold consultations with the other entities of the inter-American system and the private sector to explore the establishment of strategic partnerships to contribute to the implementation of this Plan.
Preamble

The struggle against poverty and inequality, and especially the elimination of extreme poverty, are a common and shared responsibility of the member states and are essential factors in promoting and consolidating democracy. Furthermore, the need to achieve integral, equitable, and sustainable social and economic development continues to pose a daunting challenge to the Hemisphere.

These principles have been front and center on the agenda of the Organization of American States (OAS) since the establishment of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) and of the Summits of the Americas process in 1994 and, especially, at the Third Summit of the Americas (Quebec City, April 2001), where the Heads of State and Government placed emphasis on the development of a coherent, results-oriented political, economic, and social agenda, with a focus on people and social equity. The Heads of State and Government placed special emphasis on the need to develop social initiatives to ensure a balanced plan of action. In this context, on the basis of the principles of the Charter of the OAS, General Assembly and Summit mandates, the priorities set out at inter-American meetings of ministers, and the Strategic Plans for Partnership for Development for the years 1997-2001 and 2002-2005, the member states have adopted this Strategic Plan, which will guide the Organization’s partnership-for-development activities during the 2006-2009 period.

Partnership for development embraces all member states, regardless of their levels of development. It entails abandoning the traditional aid-oriented approach and developing instead cooperation programs based on a partnership which, without attempting to impose models, would support the economic and social measures taken by countries, particularly those to combat poverty. It pays attention to horizontal and multilateral cooperation, and to the participation of communities, civil society, and the private sector in solving problems. This concept also means that limited OAS resources will be effectively targeted at the most pressing needs of the member states, especially those with smaller and more vulnerable economies.

I. Goal

The principal goal of this Strategic Plan is to support member states in their efforts to reduce poverty and inequity, to provide equality of opportunities, and to eradicate extreme poverty through capacity-building of human resources and strengthening of institutions.
II. Objectives

This Strategic Plan establishes a framework for action at two strategic levels. The first, the policy level, aims at strengthening the dialogue as well as the institutional arrangements and mechanisms that are critical to the ability of both governments and the General Secretariat to implement the Plan. The second, the programmatic level, identifies a number of priority areas to ensure a focused and effective implementation of the Plan that are of special concern to member states and in which the OAS enjoys a comparative advantage. These objectives are a combination of new practices and a consolidation of existing ones. They are intended to generate and implement policies and programs for reducing poverty and inequality, and to follow up on and implement the mandates of the General Assembly, the Summits of the Americas, the sectoral meetings of CIDI, and the inter-American committees.

Strategic Objective 1: Improvement of Mechanisms for Policy Dialogue

Promote policy dialogue to share information and best practices among member states and assist in developing effective and efficient government policies.

Strategies

- Collaborate with member states in facilitating and, where appropriate, organizing relevant forums for constructive dialogue and the exchange of experiences regarding public policies and programs.
- Provide the ministerial, sectoral, and inter-American committee meetings with research and in-depth background papers on current and emergent issues in the priority areas of interest to facilitate formulation of appropriate policies.
- Assist member states, at their request, in developing policies to address national challenges.
- Identify or create the appropriate institutional framework for follow-up and implementation of the activities and actions identified and agreed to at these meetings and provide it with necessary support.
- Enhance the process for evaluating the results of the meetings and monitoring the implementation of the activities arising from them.

Strategic Objective 2: Building and Strengthening of Partnerships

Establish new and strengthen existing strategic partnerships with governmental, nongovernmental, national, regional, and multilateral development institutions, including international financial institutions, as well as with the private sector and civil society, to enhance the capacity to address development challenges in the member states as well as to implement this Plan.

Strategies

- Assist member states, at their request, in establishing relevant strategic partnerships to implement national programs or policies.
- Promote the exchange of information, experiences, best practices, and expertise.
Facilitate consultation, collaboration, and coordination for the purpose of programming joint cooperation activities.

- Establish and consolidate networks in priority areas of the Strategic Plan.
- Increase and enhance the General Secretariat’s responsibility for establishing and developing partnerships.
- Maximize the use of information and communication technology in the activities related to the building and strengthening of partnerships.

Strategic Objective 3: Capacity-Building

Enhance individual and institutional capacities in the member states to design and implement cooperation programs, projects, and activities and strengthen the capacity of individuals to contribute to the social and economic development of their countries.

Strategies:

- Design and implement programs, projects, and activities to develop human resources and strengthen institutions in the member states.
- Develop training programs and workshops in the various disciplines using appropriate methodologies.
- Promote and convene coordination meetings to ensure that relevant and appropriate institutions of member states are actively engaged in the design and implementation of projects.
- Promote and convene meetings to exchange experiences and best practices to ensure the transfer of lessons learned and the successful development and execution of projects and programs by member states.
- Promote the use of appropriate information and communication technologies.
- Organize meetings and workshops to contribute to the effective preparation of multilateral projects.

Strategic Objective 4: Resource Mobilization

Secure increased financial and non-financial resources from diverse sources, with special emphasis on nonreimbursable funding, for implementation of this Plan.

Strategies:

- Secure a continuing base of support from donors already committed to partnership for development and develop strategies to expand the donor base.
- Promote cooperation by national and multilateral agencies, private and public foundations, international financial institutions, and corporations.
- Develop relationships with the private sector to obtain resources, technical cooperation, and other forms of collaboration.
III. Areas for action

Based on the above-mentioned objectives and the experience acquired in the implementation of the Strategic Plans for Partnership for Development for 1997-2001 and for 2002-2005, and taking into account the mandates from the General Assembly, the Summits of the Americas, the sectoral meetings of CIDI, and the inter-American committees as guides for the formulation of this Strategic Plan, partnership-for-development activities for the 2006-2009 period will focus on the following areas:

- Social development and creation of productive employment
- Education
- Economic diversification and integration, trade liberalization, and market access
- Scientific development and the exchange and transfer of technology
- Strengthening of democratic institutions
- Sustainable tourism development
- Sustainable development and environment
- Culture

Sectoral authorities, through decisions adopted at meetings held within the framework of CIDI, may recommend modifications to the actions in the areas defined above. The proposed modifications will be considered by CIDI for adoption and subsequent incorporation into the Strategic Plan.

Crosscutting Themes

It is recognized that the participation of civil society, through democratic processes, is a vital element to the success of development policies carried out by governments. Furthermore, environmental protection and the sustainable use of natural resources are essential to sustainable development.

The development of human resources is key to achieving economic growth and reducing poverty. Gender equality and equity are key to addressing the “feminization of poverty,” and are therefore recognized as an important theme to be considered in all partnership-for-development programming. In this regard, the empowerment of women, their full and equal participation in the development of our societies, and equal opportunities for them to exercise leadership are all central to integral development and the elimination of the broad range of inequalities that still exist.

Therefore, the partnership-for-development programs, projects, and activities (hereinafter, “cooperation activities”) in the above-mentioned priority actions should incorporate, to the extent possible, in their formulation, implementation, and evaluation, the following: (a) civil society participation; (b) environmental considerations; (c) the development of human resources; and (d) gender equality and equity.

Social Development and the Creation of Productive Employment

In the area of social development, priority will be given to strengthening the procedure for designing policies, enhancing their implementation, and developing programs which will measurably
and significantly improve access for the poor to employment, education, health, and housing and other sustainable social services. In this sense, efforts will be concentrated in the following actions:

- Developing and implementing networks to share knowledge, experiences, and lessons learned in the following areas:
  - Social development, in those areas identified as priorities by the Summits of the Americas and by hemispheric forums of ministers and high-level authorities in social development; and
  - Labor, in those areas identified as priorities by the Summit of the Fourth Summit of the Americas, held in Mar del Plata, Argentina, and the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor (IACML).

- Supporting member states’ efforts to strengthen the institutional capacity of their labor ministries to develop and implement policies aimed at the generation and promotion of decent work;

- Supporting member states’ efforts to strengthen the capacity of their institutions for social development by means of the promotion and improvement of the design and implementation of integral social policies to significantly reduce inequality and poverty;

- Contributing to the promotion of initiatives in support of the development and enhanced productivity of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises, and other production units, particularly as a strategy for employment generation and poverty reduction;

- Promoting and implementing international cooperation strategies with other related entities, such as the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), in order to support national efforts aimed at complying with their social development programs and meeting the Millennium Development Goals.

Education

Education is the foundation of economic growth, social inclusion, and the development of a democratic and productive citizenry. While the countries of the Americas have made significant strides in enrolling more children and young people in school, progress has been slow in improving the quality of education and in reducing disparities in access and quality between more and less advantaged groups. In this context, and in light of the mandates and priorities established by the meetings of ministers of education and the Inter-American Committee on Education, efforts will focus on the following actions:

- Supporting member states’ efforts to achieve and evaluate educational equity and quality at all levels of the education system, including through the development of
regional education indicators and by sharing consolidated experiences to improve educational outcomes for the less advantaged and most vulnerable groups, including strategies to combat school dropout and grade repetition;

- Strengthening the effectiveness of the teaching profession in member states, promoting cooperation and sharing with respect to successful policies and practices that help educational systems prepare, develop, recruit, and certify high-quality teachers;

- Supporting member states’ efforts to foster the development of a democratic culture through education by implementing the Inter-American Program on Education for Democratic Values and Practices;

- Supporting member states’ efforts to prepare people for work, including expanding and strengthening technical and professional training, and other means to provide greater opportunities for people to acquire the knowledge and skills that meet the demands of a constantly evolving labor market;

- Supporting member states in developing effective policies and practices in priority areas such as early childhood education, adult education, and lifelong learning, including the appropriate use and adaptation of new technologies, and online and distance courses and materials to support learning, as well as in creating conditions to improve completion rates in secondary education;

- Supporting the efforts of member states to reduce high levels of illiteracy so as to ensure a democratic citizenry, facilitate decent work, fight against poverty and achieve greater social inclusion for the entire population.

Economic Diversification and Integration, Trade Liberalization, and Market Access

The promotion of economic diversification and integration, trade liberalization, and market access can lead, through expanded market and investment opportunities, to enhanced economic development, job creation, and poverty reduction in member states. In this framework, the focus will be on:

- Providing support to member states, particularly smaller economies, focusing on those trade capacity-building priorities identified by member states in their national strategy plans that fall within the areas of expertise of the OAS in order to build each member state’s capacity to benefit from trade and promote economic growth, job creation, and poverty reduction;

- Providing support to the economic integration and trade processes at the hemispheric, regional, subregional and/or bilateral levels, as agreed upon among our respective authorities responsible for trade in the Hemisphere; and strengthening horizontal and inter-institutional cooperation, including through the OAS-IDB-ECLAC Tripartite Committee;
Providing support to member states aimed at promoting a dialogue with civil society on trade and economic integration;

Promoting cooperation to support activities that enhance the competitiveness of member states, particularly those with smaller economies, including a multilateral policy dialogue on the issue of competitiveness and the promotion of public-private partnerships;

Promoting and supporting actions to facilitate the participation of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises in domestic markets and international trade, and coordinating efforts in this direction, when pertinent, with the World Bank, the IDB, and other regional development banks; and supporting the SME Congress of the Americas and encouraging wider participation in this initiative, stressing the importance of opening new markets for the goods and services of small and medium-sized enterprises (SME);

Continuing, through the Foreign Trade Information System (SICE), to provide trade and trade-related information to the Hemisphere through its Web page; and continuing its contribution to the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) by maintaining the FTAA public Website and managing, as a member of the Tripartite Committee, the Document Distribution Service (DDS).

Scientific Development and the Exchange and Transfer of Technology

Science, technology, engineering, innovation, and science education are fundamental for the integral development of member states. In this context, and as a follow-up on those areas identified as priorities by the Fourth Summit of the Americas, held in Mar del Plata, Argentina, and by the Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Science and Technology of the Hemisphere, efforts will be made to promote dialogue, facilitate cooperation and technical assistance, foster experience sharing, and support member states in their activities, including the following:

- Strengthening the development of scientific, technological, and innovation capacities in member states, particularly in connection with human capital development, in fields such as engineering, metrology, science education, information technologies, and communications;

- Supporting the efforts of member states to formulate and apply policies, programs, and projects aimed at advancing, strengthening, and using their scientific, technological, and innovation capacities, taking into account the gender perspective;

* Venezuela reiterates the content of its reservations to the FTAA formulated in the Declarations and Plans of Action of the Summit of the Americas (paragraph 15 of the Declaration of Quebec City and paragraph 6-A of the Plan of Action; and paragraph 12 of the Declaration of Nuevo León), as well as in resolution AG/RES. 2014 (XXXIV-O/04), “Trade and Integration in the Americas,” and previous resolutions with the same title.
Promoting the development, research, and application of frontier science and technology in member states, *inter alia*, in the areas of biotechnology, material sciences, nanotechnology, spatial digital image processing, and advanced manufacturing processes;

Supporting ongoing dialogue with civil society organizations involved in science, technology, engineering, and innovation, in order to facilitate their contribution for the advancement and understanding of these areas in the member states;

Creating and strengthening specialized networks on science and technology, to facilitate the generation and dissemination of new knowledge, technology transfer, and experience sharing, as well as hemispheric and global cooperation; and supporting the popularization of science in all its different aspects.

Strengthening of Democratic Institutions

Democracy and social and economic development are interdependent and mutually reinforcing. Effective and efficient government institutions, transparency, public accountability, and the separation of powers are cornerstones of integral development. In this framework, the focus will be on the following actions:

Promoting the use of technology, cooperation, and the sharing of information, experiences, and best practices to facilitate public participation and transparency in governmental decision-making processes;

Contributing to the efforts of member states in the development of educational programs on democracy and human rights, including the human rights of women;

Promoting cooperation among member states for the implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption, particularly through government officials responsible for ethics and representatives of civil society;

Promoting policies, processes, and mechanisms, such as statements of personal net worth by public officials, conducive to protecting the public interest.

Sustainable Development of Tourism

Tourism’s potential as an engine of sustainable economic growth and development in the member states is widely recognized. Enhancing the region’s competitiveness in this sector requires continuous diversification, innovation, and upgrading of the tourism product. In this framework, and based on the recommendations of the Inter-American Travel Congress, efforts will be concentrated in the following actions:

Supporting member states in their efforts to develop a sustainable tourism sector, particularly as they relate to the design and implementation of strategies beneficial to the environment and to local communities, which emphasize quality, marketing, and the creation of an enabling environment for the growth of the tourism industry,
particularly for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises and other production units;

- Strengthening tourism product development especially for targeting niche markets and adopting harmonized product standards which meet international market requirements;

- Supporting private and public human resource capacity-building through training, and encouraging the use of information and communication technologies in the development of the tourism industry;

- Promoting the sustainable development of tourism in order to mitigate possible negative environmental impacts, increasing public awareness of the importance of maintaining the environmental balance of tourist sites, and fostering the development of linkages between tourism and other economic sectors; particularly through dialogue between the public and private sectors in supporting eco-tourism and sustainable tourism;

- Ensuring that disaster planning is also extended to the area of tourism, as part of the Organization’s multisectoral approach to reducing the impact of natural and man-made disasters on member states, by developing mechanisms to prepare for and recover from disasters affecting tourism infrastructure, particularly in small economies, as well as ensuring visitor safety and security.

Sustainable Development and the Environment

Economic growth, social development, and environmental protection are interdependent and mutually reinforcing. Member states recognize the need to balance these three themes within the rubric of sustainable development, as was articulated in the 1987 report “Our Common Future” of the World Commission on Environment and Development, and advanced in the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the 1996 Summit of the Americas on Sustainable Development, and the 2002 United Nations World Summit on Sustainable Development.

In that sense, sustainable development has been highlighted as a priority of member states in the Inter-American Committee on Sustainable Development (CIDS) and the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development (PIDS), and consequently, efforts will be concentrated in the following actions:

- Supporting member states in their efforts to integrate environmental protection within policies, regulations, and projects on natural resource management;

- Strengthening the capability of member states to identify and mitigate the risks of natural and man-made disasters, in order to mainstream planning of both areas within economic development policies, working at the sector-specific levels with the private sector and civil society;
Supporting public-private collaboration in human resource capacity-building in the sharing of scientific information, best environmental management practices, regulatory standards, and enforcement issues, and encouraging the use of information and communication technologies in support of sustainable development;

Promoting the development of sustainable energy policies and projects, in cooperation with the private sector, in order to expand renewable energy, energy efficiency, and energy security in the region;

Ensuring that sustainable development policies and projects help reduce poverty, particularly in rural areas, identify and support new competitive and investment opportunities, and create and sustain jobs and livelihoods.

These actions will be developed through policies and projects, as well as a number of regional networks, including the Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction, the Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network, the Renewable Energy of the Americas Initiative, the Inter-American Forum on Environmental Law, and others.

Culture

The Americas constitute a culturally rich and remarkably diverse hemisphere in which culture can be a source of identity, social cohesion, and economic growth. In light of the mandates and priorities agreed upon by the Inter-American Meetings of Ministers and Highest Authorities in Culture and the Inter-American Committee on Culture, efforts will be concentrated in the following actions:

Supporting member states in their efforts to preserve, protect, manage, and promote cultural heritage through cooperation and capacity-building to combat pillaging, illicit trafficking, destruction, and unauthorized possession of cultural objects; promoting educational public awareness campaigns; fostering international partnerships among cultural heritage sites and agencies; and documenting and promoting research on cultural heritage, both tangible and intangible;

Supporting member states in their efforts to strengthen the cultural content of their educational programs, particularly those directed at young people, to assist in developing cultural identity; promoting intercultural dialogue, creativity, and artistic expression; and enhancing awareness and respect for cultural and linguistic diversity;

Supporting job creation in the cultural sector through regional forums that address the challenges and opportunities of artists, artisans, and cultural industries; horizontal cooperation pilot projects aimed at developing management and commercial skills in the culture sector; and programs and incentives to ensure an environment in which creative expression and cultural industries may flourish;

Supporting member states in their efforts to build capacity to measure the social and economic impact of cultural activity, and to gather, analyze and disseminate information on culture through the exchange of information and practices in cultural information systems, by supporting networks of cultural policymakers and of persons
involved in the area of culture and by serving as a bridge with specialized organizations active in the field;

- Fostering respect for cultural diversity, as well as promoting and preserving ethnic and linguistic heritage and traditions.

IV. Mechanisms

In order to achieve the partnership-for-development objectives mentioned above, the following execution and financing mechanisms are to be used:

1. Execution Mechanisms:

   a. Political Dialogue: The Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI)

      CIDI serves as the main forum for inter-American dialogue within the OAS in areas related to social, economic, and cultural development. It also generates mechanisms for strengthening partnership for development and acts as a catalyst in mobilizing human, technical, and financial resources and as a coordinator in implementing the mandates of the Summits of the Americas in its particular areas of competence.

      CIDI will promote, facilitate, and guide hemispheric dialogue on sectoral and specialized policies on topics related to the social, economic, and cultural development of the Hemisphere. In so doing, it will give priority to commitments made by the Heads of State and Government at the Summits of the Americas. To this end, CIDI will create and promote mechanisms for preparing dialogues, support ministerial meetings within its sphere of competence, implement their relevant mandates, and promote coordination among different regional or subregional financial and development institutions and agencies working in the field.

      In this context, CIDI will be guided by the basic need to provide maximum support for ministerial, specialized, or sectoral meetings that define policies and activities in the areas for action of the Strategic Plan, particularly those derived from the OAS General Assembly and the Summits of the Americas. The Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) will be responsible for providing support for these meetings, including steps to ensure that the meetings are adequately prepared and fully support the implementation of their decisions. To this end, SEDI will coordinate with the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD), as well as supervise the work of its departments, coordinating with the pertinent dependencies of the General Secretariat and with multilateral organizations related to cooperation.

   b. Programs, Projects, and Activities

      Cooperation activities carried out in the framework of the OAS must be consistent with this Strategic Plan and maintain an appropriate geographic balance and, to the extent possible, promote horizontal cooperation, a multilateral focus, the exchange of best practices, and the development and strengthening of strategic partnerships. In the case of those areas where the technical support of
several departments is required, SEDI will promote appropriate coordination among them in order to ensure the best use of available resources and avoid duplication of efforts.

As a subsidiary organ of CIDI, the main purpose of the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD) is to collaborate in the promotion, coordination, management, and facilitation of planning, financing, and execution of programs, projects, and activities, in accordance with its own Statutes, within the framework of this Strategic Plan.

c. Training Programs

The development of human potential was given the highest importance in the framework of the Third Summit of the Americas, held in Quebec City. The development of human resources is an indispensable component of partnership for development and is recognized as a crosscutting theme in this Strategic Plan.

Accordingly, the strengthening and improvement of the fellowship, scholarship, and training programs will be pursued by expanding the range of learning opportunities, as well as professional and academic exchanges, distance education, and other similar activities.

Advantage will also be taken of the different instruments provided by new information and communication technologies to benefit from distance learning, multimedia, and education by satellite systems.

2. Financing

a. Special Multilateral Fund of CIDI (FEMCIDI)

The voluntary contributions of member states to the activities carried out under the Strategic Plan are credited to FEMCIDI and placed in the sectoral accounts associated with the areas for action of the Plan and/or in the Integral Development Account, in accordance with the FEMCIDI Statutes.

The cooperation activities financed by this fund, should include, whenever possible, strategies for cofinancing, self-sustainability, and mobilization of external resources.

b. Specific and Trust Funds

Contributions or donations made for a specific purpose by any state or public or private entity for implementation of cooperation activities may go into a specific fund or a trust fund administered by the OAS General Secretariat. They will be allocated in accordance with the terms of written agreements between contributors and the OAS General Secretariat, pursuant to the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat.

Specific funds with multiple donors may develop new methods of programming and implementing projects that include the participation of all donors.
c. Regular Fund

The resources of the OAS Regular Fund are used to finance CIDI and its subsidiary organs and agencies and the regular operations of SEDI. They are also used to finance the technical supervision and administrative support for multilateral cooperation activities, in accordance with the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization.

d. Additional Resources for Financing Cooperation Activities

i. Nonreimbursable resources:

The IACD should take necessary measures to diversify sources of nonreimbursable financing for cooperation activities and increase existing resources. To this end, efforts will focus on:

a. Promoting an increase and greater use of specific funds to strengthen cooperation among member states;
b. Promoting contributions from permanent observers and the private sector for specific activities;
c. Seeking new methods of cofinancing which encourage direct participation by communities, including both the private and public sectors; and
d. Developing project formulation methodologies that can attract both direct funding and non-financial contributions, such as offers of training or experts.

ii. Reimbursable resources:

For the purpose of offering alternative sources of cooperation financing, the IACD will identify and facilitate for member states lines of credit and other mechanisms for reimbursable financing on concessional terms, subject to the policy guidance provided by the Management Board.

V. The Cooperation Actors

1. Member states

The member states define partnership-for-development policies through the decisions adopted by the OAS General Assembly, CIDI, the Permanent Executive Committee of CIDI (CEPCIDI), and the Management Board of the IACD, which will establish mechanisms for the identification, processing, programming, budgeting, execution, monitoring, and evaluation of cooperation activities with the intention of making them more effective and efficient.

Within the spirit of partnership for development, national institutions taking part in the development, organization, and execution of cooperation activities, will have to take into account the areas for action and guidelines contained in this Strategic Plan and ensure that the projects and activities related to the Plan are tied to General Assembly and Summits mandates and assign priority
to those of a multilateral character. Likewise, within their possibilities, they shall contribute complementary financial, human, or material resources.

Member states, through the exchange of information on best practices and experts in the priority areas, will cooperate in improving the design of proposed cooperation activities and in implementing them. The IACD will provide the necessary technical assistance to achieve that goal.

2. The OAS General Secretariat

The General Secretariat, through SEDI, will provide support to CIDI’s forums for dialogue and organs to generate and implement policies for integral development. The IACD will provide the technical support required by the member states for implementation of the present Plan. The General Secretariat will promote and support the implementation of cooperation activities and the execution of this Plan. SEDI will coordinate the cooperation activities of the different departments and other dependencies of the General Secretariat related to the priority areas covered by the Plan, in keeping with the mechanisms for coordination established by the Secretary General.

Recognizing the fundamental role of the National Liaison Offices (ONEs) and with a view to contributing in an effective and synergistic manner to the success of the activities in the framework of this Strategic Plan, SEDI and the IACD shall maintain—when pertinent and without prejudice to maintaining the official channels—close contact, communication, and coordination with the national bodies, in particularly throughout all stages of the project life cycle.

VI. Evaluation and Monitoring of the Strategic Plan

The Inter-American Council for Integral Development is responsible for monitoring and evaluating implementation of the Strategic Plan. In the framework of its regular meetings, CIDI shall evaluate cooperation activities and monitoring of the policies defined. To this end, SEDI shall present to CIDI, through CEPCIDI, a qualitative and quantitative report on the implementation of the Strategic Plan. That report should contain an evaluation of (a) policy implementation; (b) the results of cooperation activities, their impact, efficacy, and efficiency; (c) the use of resources; and (d) the quality of the technical cooperation services rendered.

The IACD is to implement mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating execution of the projects financed with funds entrusted to the Agency’s management, so that they contribute to increasing its efficiency, effectiveness, impact, and sustainability. These mechanisms will define, where appropriate, the participation of the units, offices, and other dependencies of the General Secretariat, as well as the frequency with which the institutions must present reports on the projects they execute.

On the basis of the evaluation reports presented, CIDI may adjust the Strategic Plan in terms of its execution and objectives.
AG/RES. 2202 (XXXVI-O/06)

MEETINGS OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
FUNDING CRITERIA AND BUDGETARY GUIDELINES

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING its resolutions AG/RES. 457 (IX-O/79), AG/RES. 1230 (XXIII-O/93), AG/RES. 1277 (XXIV-O/94), AG/RES. 1317 (XXV-O/95), AG/RES. 1381 (XXVI-O/96), AG/RES. 1531 (XXVII-O/97), AG/RES. 1757 (XXX-O/00), AG/RES. 2059 (XXXIV-O/04), and AG/RES. 2157 (XXXV-O/05), which set forth guidelines and standards to be applied when a meeting is convoked under the aegis of the Organization of American States;

REITERATING that resolution CP/RES. 872 (1459/04), “Update of Costs of Conferences and Meetings Funded by the OAS,” contains the current guidelines to be applied when calculating the costs of meetings at headquarters and away from headquarters and when determining the eligibility of unprogrammed meetings for financing;

BEARING IN MIND that the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs (CAAP) charged a working group with undertaking a careful and comprehensive analysis of programming needs for conferences and meetings for 2006, which should be conducted within the framework of the budgetary and financial realities of the Organization for 2006, and in that context, the programming and budgetary guidelines approved by the Permanent Council in 2002 (CP/CAAP-2597/02 rev. 2 corr. 1) should be revised and expanded, while taking into account the budgetary and financial implications of the mandates received, criteria already established, and the financial realities anticipated for the 2006 program-budget;

HAVING SEEN the Report of the Chair of the Working Group of the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs (CAAP) on Funding Criteria and Budgetary Guidelines for Subprogram 21C, “Unprogrammed Meetings” (CP/CAAP-2839/06 rev. 1);

CONSIDERING that the considerations and additional guidelines contained in the said report would enhance the process of approving funding for unprogrammed meetings and provide both member states and the General Secretariat with a procedure setting out an appropriate timetable to ensure that funding requests are not presented in an extemporaneous manner; and

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the budgetary situation of the Organization and the need to make more efficient use of the limited resources with which it must execute its mandates,

RESOLVES:

1. To adopt the document “Meetings of the Organization of American States – Funding Criteria and Budgetary Guidelines,” which appears as Appendix I to this resolution.
2. To request the General Secretariat (Office of Conferences and Meetings) to develop, a detailed classification of all meetings of the Organization, such as ministerial meetings, special meetings, meeting of experts, etc. and, within each category, list the meetings in chronological order by the date of the projected meeting, in order to further facilitate the decision-making process of the CAAP regarding the funding of meetings.

3. To instruct the General Secretariat to ensure that copies of the Report of the Chair of the Working Group (CP/CAAP-2839/06 rev. 1) and this resolution are provided to all member states that indicate an interest in offering to host meetings of the Organization.

4. Also to instruct the General Secretariat to remit copies of this resolution to all political bodies, organs, and entities, as well as to the various secretariats and departments of the General Secretariat, so that the information contained herein may be taken into account in their programming of meetings of the Organization.
APPENDIX I

MEETINGS OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
FUNDING CRITERIA AND BUDGETARY GUIDELINES

I. PURPOSE OF SUBPROGRAM 21C, “UNPROGRAMMED MEETINGS”

Subprogram 21C is intended to provide adequate conference services, financed by the Regular Fund, for meetings that, although mandated by the General Assembly or by the Permanent Council, were not programmed elsewhere in the program-budget at the time of its approval.

Subprogram 21C is not intended to finance meetings that can be programmed as part of the program-budget process, nor is it intended to finance preparatory and/or sequential meetings of OAS entities, unless there are substantial reasons for warranting funding approval by the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs (CAAP) for only one preparatory meeting.

II. CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL OF FUNDING FOR UNPROGRAMMED MEETINGS

Category I: Financing requests for meetings ranked in Category I, scheduled at headquarters or away from headquarters, will be considered by the CAAP, provided that all of the following conditions are met for each type of meeting.

A. Meetings at Headquarters

1. Have a mandate from the General Assembly or the Permanent Council;

2. Have a date approved by the General Assembly or by the Permanent Council; and

3. Are to be held at OAS headquarters.

B. Meetings away from headquarters

1. Pursuant to resolution AG/RES. 1757 (XXX-O/00), as amended by resolution AG/RES. 2157 (XXXV/O/05), only member states that are “Current A,” “Current B,” or “Considered Current” shall be eligible to host meetings (including, but not limited to, conferences, meetings of ministers and experts, workshops, and seminars) of the Organization directly funded, in whole or in part, by the Regular Fund.

The host country should remain in that status from the moment the meeting is approved for financing until the meeting is held;

2. Have a mandate from the General Assembly or the Permanent Council;

3. Have a date approved by the General Assembly or the Permanent Council;
4. Other requirements for the disbursement of funds under Subprogram 21C:

   a. The official announcement of the venue has been presented to the
      General Secretariat by the host country in order to convolve the
      meeting at least ninety (90) days prior to the start of its sessions.

   b. The Agreement between the government of the host country and the
      General Secretariat has been signed by all parties at least sixty (60)
      days before the start of the meeting [see resolution CP/RES. 872
      (1459/04)]; and

   c. Funds for the meeting contributed by the host country have been
      deposited with the General Secretariat at least sixty (60) days before
      the start of the meeting [see resolution CP/RES. 872 (1459/04)].

If all requirements listed above are not met, the General Secretariat (Office of
Conferences and Meetings) will report the situation to the Permanent Council, through the
CAAP, for consideration.

**Category II:** Meetings are mandated by the General Assembly but dates and/or venues are
not yet officially confirmed. Meetings ranked in Category II will remain in that category
until they meet all the requirements of Category I. Their financing will be considered once
they are moved into Category I.

**Category III:** Meetings ranked in Category III do not meet the criteria set forth in Category
I or II. These meetings should be financed by the area responsible for carrying out the
mandate or by specific funds.

**III. GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR EXECUTING SUBPROGRAM 21C, “UNPROGRAMMED
MEETINGS”:**

1. Pursuant to resolution AG/RES. 1757 (XXX-O/00), as amended by resolution
   AG/RES. 2157 (XXXV-O/05), only members that are “Current A,” “Current B,” or
   “Considered Current” shall be eligible to host meetings (including, but not limited to,
   conferences, meetings of ministers and experts, workshops, and seminars) of the
   Organization directly funded, in whole or in part, by the Regular Fund.

2. Pursuant to resolution AG/RES. 2157 (XXXV-O/05) [III. General Provisions, B.3.c],
   General Assembly resolutions mandating meetings that would require Regular Fund
   financing must be accompanied by an opinion, on the availability of funds, from the
   Subcommittee on Administrative and Budgetary Matters of the Preparatory
   Committee of the General Assembly or from the CAAP.

3. Meetings of the Organization financed by the Regular Fund should last no more than
   three days. When an exception is requested, the Office of Conferences and Meetings
   shall prepare a meeting budget, based on projected costs, for consideration by the
   CAAP and subsequent approval by the Permanent Council.
4. Priority for financing by Subprogram 21C will be given to meetings that cannot be financed elsewhere by an identifiable subprogram.

5. Subprogram 21C was not created to finance preparatory and/or sequential meetings. When there are substantial reasons to warrant the approval of funds for one preparatory meeting, the Office of Conferences and Meetings shall prepare a meeting budget, based on projected costs, for consideration by the CAAP and subsequent approval by the Permanent Council.

6. Special meetings of the Permanent Council and of its permanent committees and working groups should be financed by subprogram 21B, or by the member states that proposed such meetings.

7. Permanent Council draft resolutions convoking meetings mandated by the General Assembly or by any other political body should be considered by the CAAP in order to identify the appropriate sources of funding, prior to their approval. If a draft resolution convoking a meeting is submitted to the Permanent Council and is not accompanied by source of funding confirmation, the Permanent Council shall direct that the resolution be remitted to the CAAP for consideration.

8. The criteria described above and the guidelines provided in Appendix A should become policy for all meetings of the Organization that are financed by the Regular Fund.

IV. ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

Administrative measures to provide for the continuation of conference services between the closing of one fiscal year and the opening of the following fiscal year

Under extenuating circumstances only, on a case-by-case basis, and only when a meeting is to take place in January or February of any given year for which there is no other available funding, the CAAP, upon consultation with the General Secretariat, may approve funding for that meeting with unused appropriations from the previous fiscal year, in accordance with the last paragraph of Article 100 of the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat.

V. GUIDELINES FOR MEMBER STATES CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY OF HOSTING A MEETING OF THE ORGANIZATION

The Guidelines set forth in Appendix A are intended to assist member states that are considering hosting meetings of the Organization.
GUIDELINES FOR THE PRESENTATION OF PROPOSALS TO HOST MEETINGS OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES UNDER SUBPROGRAM 21C, “UNPROGRAMMED MEETINGS”

In order to streamline and facilitate the organization of conference services for meetings of the Organization of American States (OAS) financed by the OAS program-budget, the following guidelines are set forth for the benefit of member states that are considering hosting meetings of the Organization.

The application of these Guidelines will facilitate cost-containment measures and provide sufficient time for the General Secretariat (Office of Conferences and Meetings - OCM) and the host country to conclude the preparations for the meeting.

1. In accordance with resolution AG/RES. 1757 (XXX-0/00), as amended by resolution AG/RES. 2157 (XXXV-O/05), only member states that are “Current A,” “Current B,” or “Considered Current” shall be eligible to host meetings (including, but not limited to, conferences, meetings of ministers and experts, workshops, and seminars) of the Organization directly funded, in whole or in part, by the Regular Fund. The host country should remain in that status from the moment the meeting is approved for financing until the meeting is held.

2. If a member state is considering hosting an OAS meeting, it should communicate its interest in writing to the General Secretariat (OCM) at least one hundred twenty (120) days prior to the proposed beginning date of the meeting. This will enable the OCM to promptly provide the interested member state with an estimated budget, in line with the standards set out in resolution CP/RES. 872 (1459/04).

3. If a member state decides to host an OAS-mandated meeting, it should submit an official offer to the Secretary General at least ninety (90) days in advance of the starting date of the proposed meeting.

4. The Permanent Council will convocate the meeting once the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs (CAAP) has identified the appropriate source of funding. The General Secretariat will then submit to the CAAP an updated version of its report on “Mandates and Unprogrammed Meetings” (Subprogram 21C).

5. Once the proposed meeting has been included in Category I, the General Secretariat will prepare with the host country the Agreement for holding the event. As mandated

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1. The General Assembly instructed the Committee on Meetings and Organizations, in resolution AG/RES. 1531 (XXVII-O/97), to study the costs of meetings and to draft policies on cost-sharing that would clearly indicate the amount the Organization would finance when a member state or organization offers to host a meeting.
by resolution CP/RES. 872 (1459/04), this Agreement must be signed at least sixty (60) days before the starting date of the meeting.

6. No later than sixty (60) days in advance of the meeting, the government of the host country shall deposit with the General Secretariat its contribution as stipulated in the aforementioned Agreement and as mandated by resolution CP/RES. 872 (1459/04).

Notwithstanding the procedures outlined above and pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 6 of resolution CP/RES. 872 (1459/04), if any special or unexpected circumstance prevents the host country from complying with the established deadlines for the timely deposit of the contribution for a meeting scheduled away from headquarters, the host country must immediately inform the General Secretariat (OCM), in writing. The General Secretariat (OCM) will in turn report to the Permanent Council, and the event will be rescheduled at headquarters, as stipulated in resolution CP/RES. 872 (1459/04) or at a later date in the host country, if the Permanent Council so decides.

2. The General Assembly, in resolution AG/RES. 457 (IX-O/79), instructed the General Secretariat to base its calculation of the costs of conferences on the cost of holding them at headquarters.

3. “3. To establish that the official offer to host an OAS meeting should be issued formally by the host country and received in the General Secretariat prior to signature of the agreement between the host country and the General Secretariat, in accordance with operative paragraph 4 of this resolution.”

4. “4. To instruct the General Secretariat, when preparing agreements for the hosting of OAS meetings away from headquarters: (a) to verify compliance with requirements established in resolutions AG/RES. 457 (IX-O/79), AG/RES. 1531 (XXVII-O/97), AG/RES. 1757 (XXX-O/00), AG/RES. 1974 (XXXIII-O/03), and AG/RES. 2059 (XXXIV-O/04); (b) to specify clearly the financial commitments to be assumed by the Organization or by the host country and/or, when applicable, those which will be covered by specific funds; (c) to ensure that the agreements are signed by the parties at least 60 days before the beginning of the meeting.”

6. “6. To establish that all funds for the meetings deposited with the General Secretariat by the host country and, when applicable, by other donors, in keeping with the agreement, shall be administered by the General Secretariat and must be deposited with the General Secretariat at least 60 days before the beginning of the meeting; and that, should such resources not be deposited with the General Secretariat by the deadline established in the agreement, the General Secretariat will automatically inform the Permanent Council to instead schedule the meeting at headquarters.”
AG/RES. 2203 (XXXVI-O/06)

REITERATION AND RENEWAL OF COMMITMENTS AND MANDATES IN THE FRAMEWORK OF INTER-AMERICAN COOPERATION FOR INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

Resolution CIDI/RES. 179 (XI-O/06) “Reiteration and Renewal of Commitments and Mandates in the Framework of Inter-American Cooperation for Integral Development”; and


REAFFIRMING the content of each of the preambular and operative paragraphs of the resolutions mentioned in the preceding paragraph; and

CONSIDERING that the report of the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CEPCIDI) indicates that the execution of some mandates is still pending, and therefore, in order to strengthen inter-American cooperation for integral development, it is fully warranted to reiterate and renew them,

RESOLVES:


2. To recommend to the appropriate policymaking bodies of the Organization of American States (OAS), to international organizations, including those of the inter-American system,
whose cooperation is requested, and to the General Secretariat that, in accordance with the mandates contained in the above-mentioned resolutions, they abide by the established time limits or deadlines.

3. To instruct the General Secretariat to continue, through the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI), to support the efforts of the member states to fulfill the commitments set forth in those resolutions.

4. To include on the agenda for the thirty-seventh regular session of the General Assembly the topics identified in the titles of the aforementioned resolutions, which are reiterated by way of this resolution.

5. To request the Inter-American Council for Integral Development to prepare, for each of the resolutions, a report on measures adopted in compliance with the renewed mandates and on the results achieved, and to present the reports to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session.
AG/RES. 2204 (XXXVI-O/06)

ERADICATING ILLITERACY AND FIGHTING DISEASES
THAT AFFECT INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN resolution CIDI/RES. 180 (XI-O/06), “Eradicating Illiteracy and Fighting Diseases That Affect Integral Development”;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that achieving integral development entails the consolidation in the Americas of basic and essential goals upon which that development can be built, such as increasing the literacy of our populations and alleviating the diseases that undermine this objective;

CONSIDERING that the Fourth Summit of the Americas set out, in paragraph 13 of the Declaration of Mar del Plata, the commitment of the Hemisphere’s leaders to developing comprehensive policies to institutionalize the fight against poverty, consolidating more democratic societies, with opportunities for all, and promoting greater access to education, health care, labor markets, and credit;

RECALLING that, similarly, Article 34.h of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS) speaks of the rapid eradication of illiteracy and the expansion of educational opportunities for all, as one of the basic goals to be pursued in the process of attaining integral development;

RECALLING ALSO that achieving universal primary education and fighting HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases were topics expressly included in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals derived therefrom;

BEARING IN MIND:

That illiteracy and functional illiteracy are the cause that deprives a large number of people of the possibility of participating fully in processes aimed at integral development and of receiving its benefits;

That there are major shortcomings and precarious conditions in the health area and in health care provision in the Americas, particularly as regards chronic, emerging, and re-emerging diseases, which in some cases seriously affect the ability of people to participate in the aforesaid processes;

That, at the Special Summit of the Americas and the Fourth Summit of the Americas, the Heads of State and Government expressed their concern about chronic, emerging and re-emerging diseases, and pledged to strengthen cooperation and the exchange of information in the fight against these diseases, as well as to develop programs for their promotion, prevention, control, and treatment, with a view to implementing integral public health actions;
That the Declaration and Plan of Action of the Fourth Meeting of Ministers of Education of the Hemisphere, which are reflected in the Declaration and Plan of Action of the Fourth Summit of the Americas, highlight the importance of quality education at all levels and the promotion of literacy, to ensure a democratic citizenry, foster decent work, fight poverty, and achieve greater social inclusion, and that these have been recurring topics at the Summits of the Hemisphere; and

That the Plan of Action of the Fourth Summit of the Americas, held in Mar del Plata, Argentina, called for the development of the study of a literacy program within the framework of the OAS before 2008, taking into account successful experiences in the field, in order to advance towards the eradication of illiteracy;

CONVINCED that full literacy is a fundamental element in achieving more just and inclusive societies, in consolidating democracy in the Americas, and in transmitting such basic democratic values as respect for institutions and individual freedoms, tolerance, and human rights;

CONCERNED about the obstacles to integral development that arise from diseases principally from those that have a social impact and may be related to poverty or lack of education; and

UNDERSCORING its conviction that the difficulties and challenges posed by illiteracy, poor-quality education, and health problems in the Americas can be overcome only through an approach based on solidarity that involves governments and civil society as a whole, taking into account opportunities to incorporate modules on health into formal education curriculums,

RESOLVES:

1. To reiterate the determination of the member states, as reaffirmed in the Declaration and Plan of Action of the Fourth Summit of the Americas, to take measures and pursue specific programs to achieve full literacy of the Hemisphere’s populations, and to improve the quality of education at all levels, as well as to overcome diseases that represent obstacles to integral development.

2. To begin in September 2006, with a view to its conclusion in August 2007, the process of studying a program to move toward the elimination of illiteracy in the Hemisphere, taking into account successful experiences in the field; and, to that end, to instruct the General Secretariat to begin, through its relevant technical areas, a study of best practices in the member states, in order to share the results obtained.

3. To recommend to the national authorities in the area of education that they explore the possibility of setting a tentative date for the eradication of illiteracy in the Americas, bearing in mind the individual characteristics of each member state, in order to attain that goal as soon as possible.

4. To support the member states, through the technical areas of the General Secretariat with specific responsibility in the matter, in their efforts to eradicate illiteracy and to improve the quality of education, in coordination, where appropriate, with other regional or international
organizations with initiatives in the area, in particular the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

5. To strengthen formal dialogue with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), through a strategic partnership between the two organizations, in order to coordinate respective efforts, in the area of competence of each, with regard to health problems in the Americas and their social impact.

6. To request the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session on the progress made in implementing this resolution.
AG/RES. 2205 (XXXVI-O/06)

REPORT OF THE
XIV INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF LABOR

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN resolutions AG/RES. 1986 (XXXIV-O/04) and CIDI/RES. 159 (IX-O/04), “Report of the XIII Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor”; and resolutions CIDI/RES. 170 (X-O/04) and AG/RES. 2088 (XXXV-O/05), “XIV Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor”;

CONSIDERING:

That the XIV Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor (IACML) was held in Mexico City, Mexico, on September 26 and 27, 2005, with support from the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI), at which meeting Mexico was elected Chair pro tempore;

That the dialogue among the ministers of labor of the Americas was centered on the topic “People and Their Work at the Heart of Globalization”;

That the XIV IACML adopted the Declaration and Plan of Action of Mexico, which are contained in the Final Report of the XIV IACML (TRABAJO/doc.28/05), along with the Joint Declaration of the Trade Union Technical Advisory Council (COSATE) and the Business Technical Advisory Committee on Labor Matters (CEATAL), and the reports of Working Groups 1 and 2 of the Conference; and

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

That the ministers taking part in the XIV IACML examined issues relating to the social and labor dimensions of globalization in the Americas, recognizing the value of work and the dignity of those who perform it;

That meetings of the advisory bodies of XIV IACML—COSATE and CEATAL—were held during the XIV Conference;

That, at the Fourth Summit of the Americas, the Heads of State and Government acknowledged the important contributions of the ministries of labor to achieving its objectives of “Creating Jobs to Confront Poverty and Strengthen Democratic Governance” and to the promotion of decent work and social and labor policies that encourage investment and economic growth with equity; and
That the technical meetings of Working Groups 1 and 2 of the XIV IACML, held in Mexico City from April 4 to 6, 2006, continued to share experiences and refine their analysis of the priority issues addressed in the Declaration and the Plan of Action of Mexico, particularly the coordination of labor, social, and economic policies; the promotion of policies designed to generate decent work; the promotion of decent work in micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises, as well as other production units; the promotion of national and subregional employment policies and programs; employment services; efforts to combat child labor; enforcement of labor laws; strengthening of social dialogue; and the labor rights of migrant workers,

RESOLVES:

1. To endorse the Declaration and the Plan of Action of Mexico, adopted by the ministers of labor of the Hemisphere at the XIV Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor (IACML), which form part of this resolution.

2. To urge the ministers of labor to continue contributing to the attainment of the objectives established in the Declaration of Mexico of the XIV IACML and to carrying out its Plan of Action, in addition to helping develop and achieve the labor-related objectives set by the Heads of State and Government at the Fourth Summit of the Americas in the Declaration of Mar del Plata and its Plan of Action.

3. To take note of the offer by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago to host the XV Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor, slated to be held from September 11 to 13, 2007.

4. To instruct the General Secretariat to work together with labor sector officials, through the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI), to implement the activities and agreements adopted, and periodically to report on this process to the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CEPCIDI).
1. We, the Ministers participating in the XIV Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor (IACML) of the Organization of American States, met in Mexico City, Mexico, on September 26 and 27, 2005, to address issues related to the social and labor dimensions of globalization in the Americas, recognizing the value of work and the dignity of those who perform it. We celebrate the decision of our Heads of State and Government to adopt as the theme for the Fourth Summit of the Americas “Creating jobs to fight poverty and strengthen democratic governance,” to whose success we will contribute.

2. We reiterate that the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS) is a legal and political framework on which relations among the states of the Americas are based. We renew our commitment to respect and comply with all the purposes and principles set forth in the Charter. In particular we underscore the role of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) in promoting the principles of inter-American solidarity and cooperation, to pool our efforts to achieve integral development, which encompasses the economic, social, educational, cultural, scientific, and technological fields.

3. We recall the Inter-American Democratic Charter, adopted by the OAS in Lima, Peru, in September 2001, and, in particular, Article 10 thereof, which recognizes that the promotion and strengthening of democracy requires the full and effective exercise of workers’ rights and the application of core labor standards, as recognized in the International Labour Organization (ILO) Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and its Follow-up of 1998. Democracy is strengthened by improving working conditions and enhancing the quality of life of workers in the Hemisphere.

4. We reaffirm our commitment to respect, promote, and realize the principles of the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and its Follow-up. We consider that the implementation of this commitment provides the basis for sustainable economic growth with social justice. Further, we commit to continuing to strengthen the application of our national labor laws and to promote their effective and efficient enforcement, conscious that work is a right and a social duty, and will consider the ratification of the eight ILO Fundamental Conventions.

5. We recall that the Declaration of Margarita, adopted at the High-Level Meeting on Poverty, Equity, and Social Inclusion, expressed a commitment to the promotion of dignified, productive, and decent work; the improvement of labor conditions; the creation of job opportunities; and the enhancement of workers’ qualifications.

6. We recall the Salvador Declaration of the XIII Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor of the OAS, held in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil, in September 2003, in which we proposed
the establishment of a mechanism, under the auspices of the IACML, that would further the development, modernization, and strengthening of ministries of labor through technical assistance and horizontal cooperation. We also recall that the Salvador Declaration called for a more active role for the region’s labor ministries, taking into account the need for integration of social, labor, and economic policies. We note the value gained from our interactions with the ministers of trade and the ministers of health of the Americas and are committed to continuing to pursue these channels of communication.

7. We recognize the importance of implementing the labor commitments expressed by the Heads of State and Government in the Declarations of the Summits of the Americas, with special attention to the vital objectives of economic growth with equity for reducing poverty and enhancing social development and democratic governance.

8. We reaffirm our conviction that Decent Work, as embodied in the four main topics that constitute the strategic objectives of the ILO--promotion of fundamental principles and rights at work, employment, social protection, and social dialogue--is key to the improvement of living conditions for the peoples of our Hemisphere and for their participation in the benefits of human and material progress, given that decent work is necessary for sustainable development in each of our countries and can contribute to successful hemispheric economic integration.

9. The Fourth Summit of the Americas offers an opportunity to highlight the importance of ensuring that the jobs created by our economies are consistent with the objectives of decent work, and, further, to demonstrate the vital contribution of ministries of labor in this process. We strongly support the progress made by the Summits of the Americas process towards the promotion of policies aimed at ensuring that economic growth is accompanied by the creation of decent work.

10. We emphasize our firm commitment to the goals of the United Nations Millennium Declaration and, in particular, to fighting poverty and eradicating extreme poverty, through the promotion and creation of dignified employment. We remain committed to the objectives identified in the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development.

11. We note the report entitled “A Fair Globalization: Creating Opportunities for All” of the ILO World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization, as a contribution to hemispheric dialogue towards a fully inclusive and equitable globalization. Decent work is fundamental for human development. In a globalization that takes the human dimension into account, a policy is needed whereby government, the private sector, and society share responsibility for the creation of decent work. We recognize that the effects of globalization will vary within and among countries. In light of the asymmetries between developed and developing countries, different policy responses will be needed to address the challenges and reap the benefits of globalization, in the context of solidarity and cooperation.

12. We note with interest the mandate issued by the General Assembly of the OAS at its thirty-fifth regular session, which requested the Working Group in charge of drafting the Social Charter and its Plan of Action, to contribute to strengthening existing OAS instruments on
democracy, integral development, and the fight against poverty. We urge the Working Group to take into consideration the contributions from the Trade Union Technical Advisory Council (COSATE), the Business Technical Advisory Committee on Labor Matters (CEATAL), and other worker and employer organizations of the Hemisphere.

13. We underscore the right to work and that work is fundamental to human dignity, which is fully expressed if the rights and obligations of labor relations actors are respected and promoted in a context of decent work. Work affords people the opportunity to realize their potential, to foster social cohesion, and to advance economic, social, political, and cultural development, both individually and as members of society. We shall endeavor to advance a labor agenda in our region that promotes dignified employment, placing the person at the center of all economic activities, as both the creator and beneficiary of work.

14. We believe that economic growth is an indispensible but not sufficient condition to confront the high rates of unemployment, informal work, and labor precariousness that many of our societies face. Growth with equity requires a combination of economic expansion and social inclusion. Generating decent work and quality employment is an effective way to achieve social cohesion and inclusion. Work is a substantive component for the development of full citizenship and the consolidation of democratic governance.

15. We recognize the significant contribution that economic integration and trade liberalization, including the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA), will make to the achievement of the broad Summit objectives of creating jobs to fight poverty and strengthen democratic governance. At the national level and in our IACML work program, we will analyze and exchange information to improve the understanding of the labor dimensions of free trade agreements and regional integration processes, where they are applicable, and their impact on decent work. Exchange of information and cooperation in this area are of particular importance at the national and regional levels.

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1. Venezuela reiterates the reservation it entered to paragraph 15 of the Declaration of Quebec City and to paragraph 6.A of the Plan of Action, as concerns the entry into force of the FTAA in 2005. Venezuela reaffirms its reservation to paragraph 12 of the Declaration of Nuevo León, which reads as follows: “Venezuela enters a reservation with respect to the paragraph on the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) because of questions of principle and profound differences regarding the concept and philosophy of the proposed model and because of the manner in which specific aspects and established timeframes are addressed. We ratify our commitment to the consolidation of a regional fair trade bloc as a basis for strengthening levels of integration. This process must consider each country’s particular cultural, social, and political characteristics; sovereignty and constitutionality; and the level and size of its economy, in order to guarantee fair treatment.” Venezuela reiterates that negotiations for the establishment of any regional integration organization must take into account the broad social agenda of the peoples of the Americas, for the purpose of helping to eradicate poverty, raise the living standards of the marginalized sectors of our populations, generate jobs, improve the working conditions of workers, promote social inclusion, strengthen social dialogue and protection, improve health and education, and protect the environment, as well as respect and recognize the value of cultural diversity, as embodied in the Declaration and the Plan of Action of the 2001 Summit of the Americas.
16. We will promote the incorporation of the objectives of decent work into public policies with the objective of generating quality employment for the workers of the Hemisphere. Employment is a crosscutting theme that links economic, social, and labor policies.

17. We commit ourselves also to articulating active policies that put the individual at the center of work and the economy and that combine the creation of work and employment with the promotion of the dimensions of decent work: fairly-paid employment, with social protection and the promotion of a gender perspective and the full exercise of labor, occupational safety and health, and union rights. Mechanisms for collective bargaining and social dialogue should be promoted. We will also promote citizen participation in general in support of these objectives.

18. We reaffirm our commitment to promote and encourage local, national, and regional policies and programs for innovation in science, technology, and engineering, in support of entrepreneurship, particularly micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises and other production units, whose expansion, competitiveness, and global productivity will contribute to the growth of private investment and the generation of employment.

19. We recognize the importance of lifelong learning and professional training as essential tools for promoting the employability and productivity of individuals, responding to the challenges of competitiveness, and allowing technological innovations to contribute to the development of people and our nations. We emphasize that lifelong learning for professional training and civic education is part of a process leading to social inclusion. Those educational objectives should be geared toward training workers to deal with new working conditions, and should be integrated into broader policies to promote fairly paid employment, along with policies on education, sustainable development, innovation, and technological training policies. The impact of economic policies on employment should elicit the timely design of mechanisms for the effective promotion of employability. Additionally, we recognize the importance of labor market information in the effective planning of professional instruction and training. We recognize the importance of the effective participation of social actors in the design and implementation of these policies.

20. We will promote policies that encourage the re-entry of unemployed workers into the labor force. In a dynamic economic environment, we have a fundamental responsibility to develop policies to improve the functioning of our labor markets, in support of economic growth. In this regard, we will continue to explore options for building and strengthening the institutional capacity of ministries of labor, and respectfully request that attention be directed to this issue at the highest levels of our governments.

21. We recognize that the informal economy is a multidimensional phenomenon which, to be addressed, requires structural analysis and treatment, through a mix of policies and approaches. We will contribute to the development of public policies, recognizing the sector’s heterogeneity and seeking its future incorporation into the formal economy. We will endeavor to create a regulatory framework that facilitates the establishment of new enterprises, the promotion of an entrepreneurial spirit, and the creation of formal enterprises.
22. We reiterate the importance of protecting health and safety at work. We also recognize the importance of promoting a culture of prevention in this field, as well as the advisability of adopting an integrated approach that involves environmental and other public policies, particularly policies on employment, health, and social security.

23. We reiterate the importance of strengthening and expanding the coverage of social security systems with effective policies that seek to promote the principles of universality and solidarity and ensure their financial sustainability, fostering equity and social inclusion.

24. We recognize the fundamental importance of the principle of equality and nondiscrimination in employment, and we assume the responsibility of the states for the observance of these principles and their application to all workers. We will encourage the coordination of equal opportunity policies that combat all forms of discrimination at work and we will strive towards equal access to opportunities for decent work for all segments of our populations, with special attention to groups in a vulnerable situation, such as indigenous peoples, minorities, refugees, people with disabilities, youth, and the elderly.

25. We reaffirm that all migrants, regardless of their immigration status, should be accorded the full protection of human rights and the full observance of labor laws applicable to them, including the principles and labor rights embodied in the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work.

26. We reaffirm our commitment to design and apply labor policies that facilitate the full incorporation of women into the world of work, free from discrimination and with equal opportunities. We will promote the integration of a gender perspective into labor policies, especially in terms of pay, access, and advancement at work, aiming to eliminate existing disparities between men and women.

27. We commit to protecting children from economic exploitation and from the performance of tasks that may interfere with their education and integral development, in accordance with the principle of the effective abolition of child labor, which is in the ILO Declaration on the Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work. In addition we will take immediate and effective methods to prevent and eradicate the worst forms of child labor, pursuant to Convention 182 of the ILO (1999). Increased access to quality basic education for all children and adolescents is the way to ensure that today’s children have improved prospects of obtaining decent work as adults. We call upon international cooperation agencies to support, with financial or other resources, countries that so request in their efforts in this regard.

28. We recognize that social dialogue is a key factor in consolidating a democratic way of life in the area of labor and production, maintaining harmonious labor relations, facilitating conflict resolution, and, more generally, strengthening democracy. We commit ourselves to promoting and facilitating dialogue in the context of labor relations and at the national, subregional, and hemispheric levels.
29. We recognize the essential and unique advisory role played by employers’ and workers’ organizations in defining labor and employment policies, as well as the necessary role and advisory functions of COSATE and CEATAL, at the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor.

30. We underscore the great responsibility that we, as Ministers of Labor, have to our nations’ workers. We stress that the future of democracies will depend in large measure upon their capacity to generate productive, high-quality, decent, and sustainable jobs, which are essential to fighting poverty and strengthening democratic governance.

RESOLVE:

A. To implement a Plan of Action based on this Declaration, pursuing the activities and topics developed at previous Inter-American Conferences of Ministers of Labor, and to devote the necessary resources to that effort.

B. To rename the two Working Groups according to the functions assigned to them, as follows:


   Working Group 2: “Strengthening the Capacities of the Ministries of Labor to Respond to the Challenges of Promoting Decent Work in the Context of Globalization.”

C. To instruct the Working Groups to continue activities and actions that contribute to the objectives and commitments set out in the Declaration of Mexico.

D. In fulfillment of the commitments of this Declaration, we will continue to collaborate with regional and international organizations that exercise a role in the promotion of employment and in the betterment of working conditions, particularly the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), the Inter-American Children’s Institute (IIN), the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), the Andean Development Corporation (CAF), the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI), and the World Bank, among others.
PLAN OF ACTION OF MEXICO

1. We, the Ministers of Labor of the Americas, gathered in the city of Mexico City, Mexico, on September 26 and 27, 2005, on the occasion of the XIV Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor (IACML) of the Organization of American States (OAS), in order to fulfill the mandates set forth in the Declaration of Mexico, commit ourselves to implementing the following strategic objectives of this Plan of Action:

   a. To continue to strengthen the Summits process and implement the labor- and employment-related mandates of the Fourth Summit of the Americas in support of job creation to fight poverty and strengthen democratic governance.
   b. To promote policies that encourage investment and growth with equity for sustainable development, consistent with the concept of decent work.
   c. To continue to strengthen the capacities of the ministries of labor, in the context of globalization, in order to strengthen democratic governance, effectively enforce national labor laws, foster social inclusion, and promote social dialogue.
   d. To promote respect for, and effective application of, the core international labor standards contained in the Declaration on the Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work of the International Labour Organization and its Follow-up of 1998.

A. ORGANIZATION

2. The Chair pro tempore of the XIV Conference of Ministers of Labor (Mexico), in collaboration with the former Chair (Brazil) and the future Chair (Trinidad and Tobago), with the support of the Technical Secretariat and the Permanent Technical Committee on Labor Matters (COTPAL), and with the participation of the representatives of the Trade Union Technical Advisory Council (COSATE) and the Business Technical Advisory Committee on Labor Matters (CEATAL), will be responsible for promoting the implementation of the Plan of Action. For that purpose, the Chair pro tempore will continue improving collaboration and cooperation with the relevant regional and international organizations, such as the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), the Inter-American Children’s Institute (IIN), the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), the Andean Development Corporation (CAF), the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI), and the World Bank, among others.

B. RESOURCES

3. Member states should devote available economic, technical, and logistical resources to implementing the Plan of Action and to facilitating the participation of COSATE and CEATAL. In addition, the Chair pro tempore, with the support of the Technical Secretariat, will invite the relevant regional and international organizations to make voluntary contributions to support activities and projects included in this Plan, and to facilitate the participation of said worker and employer organizations.
C. WORKING GROUPS

4. The Working Groups are made up of representatives of the ministries of labor, COSATE, and CEATAL. Their Technical Secretariat is the General Secretariat of the OAS and they rely on the continuous support of relevant regional and international organizations. The fundamental objective of the Working Groups is to advise the IACML on the purposes of the Declaration of Mexico; as such, the Groups will examine in greater depth the topics identified in this Plan of Action, will provide pertinent information and studies, and will follow up on hemispheric initiatives.

D. WORKING GROUP 1: DECENT WORK AS AN INSTRUMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT AND DEMOCRACY IN THE CONTEXT OF GLOBALIZATION

5. Working Group 1 will consider decent work as a main focus of its activities, from a perspective that envisages greater integration of economic, social, and labor policies, in order to promote labor and employment as crosscutting themes of public policies. In this sense, the Working Group will continue to build on the work of former Working Group 1, “Labor Dimensions of the Summit of the Americas Process,” and will continue to examine the social and labor dimensions of globalization.

6. Working Group 1 will address the following priority topics, within the framework of the promotion of decent work:

- Coordination of economic, social, and labor policies;
- Analysis and promotion of active and passive policies on labor markets (information on labor markets, conditions for job creation, professional training, and labor intermediation, etc.) and support for businesses as an engine of growth with employment;
- Integration of a gender perspective in employment and labor policies;
- Promotion of nondiscrimination, with special attention to groups in a vulnerable situation;
- The fight against child labor, with special emphasis on the prevention and elimination of its worst forms;
- The fight against slave or forced labor and all work in degrading conditions;
- Incorporation of the informal sector into decent work;
- Support for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises and other production units;
- Labor rights of migrant workers.

7. Working Group 1 will carry out the following activities, taking into account the Final Report presented to the XIV IACML and establishing new initiatives:

a. Develop a work plan for the exchange of and cooperation on policies that generate decent work, with the objective of supporting national and regional policies that will fulfill the commitments from the Fourth Summit of the Americas and the XIV IACML.
b. Follow up on employment-related actions and initiatives implemented in the Hemisphere in recent years, in order to identify and exchange ideas and best practices on national and regional programs and projects on employment that promote social inclusion and decent work.

c. Analyze and exchange information to improve understanding of the labor dimensions of free trade agreements and regional integration processes, where they are applicable, and their impact on decent work.

d. Continue analyzing the possibility of strengthening the promotion of decent work through inter-American, regional, and national mechanisms, focusing on the more effective use of existing resources.

e. Promote increased communication between ministries of labor and other authorities at the national level with the objective of coordinating policies centered on employment. Ask the OAS and the ILO to support this effort, at the request of member states.

f. Analyze and contribute to the development of public policies aimed at incorporating the informal sector and non-registered work into the formal sector, recognizing the heterogeneity of the informal sector, in order to expand social protection and to improve the quality and productivity of work. To this end, analyze and exchange best practices regarding effective policy instruments and their use to address the challenges of informal employment and of non-registered work.

g. Identify good practices and innovative approaches for improving the efficiency of labor markets, aimed at enhancing the employability of individuals through the development and enhancement of employment services and better targeting and delivery of training and skills development, in cooperation with the private sector, employers, trade unions, and training providers, and with special attention to implementation at the local level.

h. Develop activities that promote decent work for migrant workers in the context of the Declaration of Nuevo León and in collaboration with the Inter-American Program adopted by the General Assembly in resolution AG/RES. 2141 (XXXV-O/05).

i. Conduct studies, develop proposals, and promote the exchange of successful practices on the incorporation of a gender perspective into public policies, especially in terms of pay, access, and advancement at work, aiming to eliminate existing disparities between men and women, such as equal pay for equal work.

j. Analyze policy instruments for the inclusion of and nondiscrimination against disadvantaged groups in the workplace due to age, gender, religion, HIV/AIDS, disabilities, and ethnicity, among other factors, promoting
innovative approaches that optimize the employability of individuals, in order to promote their incorporation into the labor market and their social inclusion.

k. Contribute to the analysis and promotion of measures aimed at strengthening the competitiveness and productivity of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises and other production units, in the areas of technical and financial assistance and professional training, considering the local level as a factor for development and employment generation.

l. Request that the ILO address, at its Sixteenth American Regional Meeting, the central topic of the XIV IACML: “People and their work at the heart of globalization,” with special emphasis on decent work.

E. WORKING GROUP 2: STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITIES OF THE MINISTRIES OF LABOR TO RESPOND TO THE CHALLENGES OF PROMOTING DECENT WORK IN THE CONTEXT OF GLOBALIZATION

8. Working Group 2 will continue making efforts to increase the institutional capacity of the ministries of labor, with a view to strengthening the promotion of decent work in the context of globalization. In this sense, the Group will continue to build on the work of former Working Group 2, “Building Capacity of Labor Ministries.”

9. In this regard, Working Group 2 will address the following priority topics:

- Development of mechanisms for capacity-building of labor administrations;
- Analysis and exchange of policies and actions geared toward the promotion of the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and its Follow-up, placing emphasis on the principle of the effective abolition of child labor;
- Strengthening and sustainability of both technical assistance and horizontal cooperation activities as a means of building the capacities of labor administrations;
- Study of the optimal use of international cooperation resources by strengthening relationships with international agencies.

10. Working Group 2 will carry out the following activities, taking into account the Final Report presented to the XIV IACML and establishing new initiatives:

a. Promote the enforcement and application of national labor laws, including:

- Promote activities to provide technical assistance to labor administrations for technical-institutional strengthening in their key functions.
- Promote specific actions to raise awareness and train employers, workers, and citizens in general, about existing rights, obligations,
and standards, as well as the legal processes they may use to defend their rights.

- Continue encouraging improvement of the capacity of ministries of labor to promote decent work, using, at the request of governments, the diagnostic services of specialized organizations.
- Promote in a tripartite manner the creation of an Inter-American Labor Award for good practices in micro, small, medium-sized, and large enterprises and other production units committed to innovation, productivity, and competitiveness, as well as the enhancement of quality employment.

b. Promote sustainability of cooperative activities in the framework of the IACML, by the following:

- Promote capacity-building of the departmental unit responsible for international cooperation within the ministry of labor.
- Inform ministries of labor of procedures required by donor countries for sourcing technical assistance.
- Encourage exchange for the dissemination of successful national experiences to promote coordination among hemispheric labor administrations in the bilateral and multilateral spheres.

c. Strengthen the Strategic Alliance of ministries of labor and ministries of health, education, and environment in order to advance the social protection of workers and develop national and subregional activities to promote healthy work environments, better conditions for workers’ health and safety, and joint initiatives for professional training. We request PAHO, together with the OAS, the ILO, and UNEP, to collaborate in this effort.

With regard to expansion of the current knowledge base and addressing emerging issues in industrial relations, Working Group 2 will undertake the following activities:

d. In the area of labor relations:

- Encourage tripartism in institutions and promote the creation and strengthening of social dialogue mechanisms by identifying best practices in social dialogue in the Hemisphere and their dissemination in the countries that lack these institutions.
- Request the ILO, in consultation with all members of the Working Group, to conclude the drafting of the practical guide “Good Labor Relations Practices in the Americas” and facilitate the holding of regional workshops for its dissemination and implementation.
e. In the area of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises and other production units:

- Request the OAS to continue upgrading its Portfolio of Programs to Support Micro, Small, and Medium-sized Enterprises.

- Exchange information on Summit activities related to micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises and continue to support the activities of the SME Congress of the Americas whose first meeting took place in Chile in 2004.

- Request the OAS to facilitate, in consultation with all members of the Working Group, activities to continue moving forward in the promotion of innovation and entrepreneurship in this sector.

d. In the area of employment services systems:

- Examine alternatives to increase the efficient functioning of labor markets, including the development and improvement of employment services.

- Explore the development of a self-diagnostic template for employment services and consider various aspects linked to the improvement of said services.

With regard to promotion of the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work:

g. Collaborate with the ILO in the promotion of its Declaration on the Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and its Follow-up in society at large, and explore initiatives for raising awareness within the education systems.

With regard to identification of the best means for increasing technical assistance and horizontal cooperation in support of capacity-building of labor ministries, Working Group 2 will:

h. Continue discussions to determine the functioning of an Inter-American Network for Labor Administration (components 3 to 6 of document OAS/Ser.K/XII.14.1- TRABAJO/RTP/doc.7/05), requesting the Technical Secretariat to explore potential funding sources.

F. DIRECTIVES FOR THE FUNCTIONING OF THE WORKING GROUPS

11. The Working Groups will be coordinated by the following Ministers of Labor, elected by this Conference, who can perform the functions assigned directly or through a representative:
Working Group 1: Ministers of Labor of Argentina (Chair), Costa Rica (Vice Chair), and Chile (Vice Chair).

Working Group 2: Ministers of Labor of El Salvador (Chair), Uruguay (Vice Chair), and the United States (Vice Chair).

12. The Working Groups should decide on a timetable for the activities contained in this Plan of Action and establish, by February 2006, procedures and methodologies for their meetings, based on the earlier experiences of the Working Groups. The Working Groups shall meet at least twice before the XV Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor.

13. In the Working Group meetings, priority shall be given to dialogue among ministries of labor, with the participation of COSATE and CEATAL.

14. The Working Groups should consider the dissemination of any public information, jointly with COSATE, CEATAL, and governments, in the framework of their activities.
AG/RES. 2206 (XXXVI-O/06)

REPORT OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF MINISTERS OF EDUCATION
WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF CIDI

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN resolution CIDI/RES. 182 (XI-O/06), “Report of the Fourth Meeting of Ministers of Education within the Framework of CIDI”;

NOTING WITH SATISFACTION that the Fourth Meeting of Ministers of Education within the Framework of CIDI took place in Scarborough, Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, from August 10 to 12, 2005, with the technical support of the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development; and

CONSIDERING:

That it is the responsibility of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development, within the framework of the Strategic Plan for Partnership for Development 2002-2005, to foster dialogue to promote development in education as one of its priority areas; and

The final report of the Fourth Meeting of Ministers of Education within the Framework of CIDI (CIDI/RME/doc.12/05), which includes the Declaration of Scarborough and Commitments to Action [CIDI/RME/DEC. 5 (IV-O/05)],

RESOLVES:

1. To endorse the Declaration of Scarborough and Commitments to Action, appended to this resolution, and to entrust the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CEPCIDI) and the General Secretariat, through the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI), with collaborating with the authorities in the education sector in the fulfillment of and follow-up to the commitments and activities agreed upon.

2. To entrust the General Secretariat with continuing, through SEDI, to support the process of preparation and follow-up of meetings in the education sector.
We, the Ministers of Education of the member states of the Organization of American States (OAS), gathered together in the city of Scarborough on the island of Tobago from August 10 to 12, 2005, for the Fourth Meeting of Ministers of Education, to consider how we may offer quality education that promotes social inclusion, the development of a democratic citizenry, and preparation for productive work, based on the principles of the Charter of the OAS, the Inter-American Democratic Charter, and the Declaration of Margarita. After varied discussions and the consideration of different proposals, we resolve the following:

1. Education must play a fundamental role in developing a democratic and productive citizenry and in promoting social inclusion in order to find collective solutions to problems and to ensure that future generations enter a world filled with opportunity and hope. In this regard, we reaffirm the commitment assumed at the Meeting of Ministers of Education in Mexico in 2003 to strengthen a true partnership of the Americas for education. In the spirit of this partnership, the economic development policies of each country should support its education policies. In this way, education can become the key to the advancement of our societies and civilization.

2. Quality education that is relevant to local contexts and global realities is first and foremost a human right and a public good that forms a central pillar of our societies. Ensuring that all our citizens receive the best education possible requires adequate funding, good management, and the genuine participation of students, families, teachers, administrators, and civil society.

3. We are committed to attaining the education goals of the Summits of the Americas, namely: “to promote the principles of equity, quality, relevance and efficiency at all levels of the education system and ensure, by 2010, universal access to and completion of quality primary education for all children and to quality secondary education for at least 75 percent of young people, with increasing graduation rates and lifelong learning opportunities for the general population.” In conjunction with these objectives, we emphasize the need to make efforts to offer the same opportunities for success to both genders at all levels of education.

4. We agree that ensuring a quality education for all citizens requires us to evaluate our efforts based on clearly defined standards and to promote accountability for results. Following on the commitment made by our heads of state at the Monterrey Summit, we agree to expand the dissemination of student assessment results and other useful information about our education systems to policy-makers, educators, families, and the general public.

5. We recognize that many countries in the Western Hemisphere suffer from significant levels of income inequality. Education offers us the single best opportunity for improving the lives of the millions of people who find themselves in poverty and therefore we prioritize equity with quality.
6. We recognize the fundamental role of teachers and we prioritize their professional
development as a key factor for learning and the development of our societies. We
therefore encourage countries to work together to ensure that mechanisms are
adopted to assist developing countries in the training and retention of teachers. We
strongly urge our Heads of State and Government or highest appropriate authorities
as well as our legislators to continue to guarantee the conditions commensurate with
the noble profession of teaching and the principles of the Declaration of the
International Labour Organization on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work.

7. We recognize the need to broaden the structure of education beginning with early
childhood education, given its very positive impact on the quality of education and
on the reduction of inequality.

8. We recognize the need to work on the high illiteracy rates in the countries of the
region; therefore, we propose that the design of a regional literacy program be
considered and we entrust the OAS with studying this possibility.

9. We will increase our attention to secondary education and technical preparation for
the development of employment and other key competencies relevant to the
development needs of our countries, because we recognize that our greatest
opportunity to create local and regional capacity for innovation, creativity, and
increased productivity is a well-educated, well-informed, and democratic workforce.

10. We recognize the importance of increasing access to and the quality of higher
education in our countries, and of incorporating pertinent technology into higher
education as a factor that will help enable our citizens to enter the productive sector.

11. We recognize that information and knowledge are fundamental to social inclusion,
employment, and democracy, and that the promotion of equal access to new
technologies and of their use and incorporation in our educational systems is
essential to prepare students for the information society. We recognize the
fundamental importance of science, technology, engineering, innovation, and
education as major driving forces behind economic and social development. We also
recognize the importance of promoting them in national and regional development
plans. We are committed to promoting the development of science education in our
countries at all levels, in order to develop human capacity, eliminate gender
disparities, reduce technology gaps, and foster the development of a competitive and
knowledge-based workforce.

12. We recognize the impact that health and environmental issues have on human
development and we recognize the role that education plays in promoting healthy
lifestyles, decreasing the incidence of HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases
(STDs), and valuing and caring for the environment.

13. We are cognizant of the challenges and responsibilities our educators face due to
increasing individual and group violence in our societies. Schools and institutions of
higher education must be safe places that promote emotional, mental, and physical
health for both students and staff.
14. We have fulfilled our commitment to create an Inter-American Program on Education for Democratic Values and Practices. We recognize that peace and democracy are necessary conditions for the full exercise of fundamental freedoms and for the growth and development of our nations.

15. We acknowledge that the Hemisphere’s cultural diversity and ethnic plurality have tremendous potential for enriching the quality of life of the people of our countries and we strongly advocate the development, at all levels of schooling, of pedagogical practices that cater to the needs of all students. In particular, we recognize the importance of multilingualism in promoting better understanding and a greater level of cohesion within the Hemisphere.

16. We recognize the need to give particular attention to children and youth with special educational needs, as a means of achieving their effective social inclusion.

17. We recognize that the achievement of the Summit mandates regarding education and the goals contained in the Millennium Declaration and the Dakar Framework for Action will require substantial financial outlays by the governments of member states as well as international financial institutions. We also acknowledge that member states experience ever-increasing difficulty in financing education during periods of economic crisis, natural disasters, political instability, and social unrest. Nevertheless, we fully recognize that despite these and other difficulties, our commitment to improving access to quality education must remain a priority. We reiterate that education requires significant public investment and that we must continue to use our resources efficiently for the provision of quality education for all. In the pursuit of high-quality education for all citizens, all countries must take action to ensure adequate funding of education.

18. We support the efforts of governments of the Hemisphere that are exploring new ways to mobilize national and international financing for public and private investment in education. In that sense, we note with interest the advances made since our last meeting in the definition of mechanisms that allow debt swaps for education in the region, such as the strides made by Spain and Argentina in this regard. We recognize that such initiatives must be developed in coordination with our ministries of finance and with respect to our countries’ legislation.

19. We follow with great interest the creation of a Social Charter and its respective Plan of Action by the OAS and we request that the present Declaration and its Commitments to Action be presented as input for the working group drafting the Social Charter.

20. We realize that there are many important ongoing efforts to meet the hemispheric educational challenges. Of these we offer special recognition to:

- The Regional Educational Indicators Project (PRIE), led by Mexico, and the Hemispheric Forum for the Assessment of Education Quality, coordinated by Brazil, both mandated by the Summits of the Americas
Efforts to increase transparency in the reporting of education information, as mandated by the Declaration of Nuevo León and as undertaken through a survey and seminar sponsored by the United States of America.

- The hemispheric project on the prevention of school failure, coordinated by Argentina.
- The hemispheric project on teacher education, coordinated by Trinidad and Tobago.
- The hemispheric project on secondary education and the development of key and labor competencies, coordinated by Costa Rica.
- The progress made in the use of new technologies, especially through the Latin American Network of Educational Portals, the Education Portal of the Americas, the EDUSAT satellite network, the Computers for Schools Program, and the College of the Americas (COLAM) of the Inter-American Organization for Higher Education.
- The Centers for Excellence in Teacher Training.
- The agreement reached among Commonwealth countries to address issues regarding teacher recruitment and retention through the Commonwealth Teacher Recruitment Protocol.

21. We express our satisfaction that the Inter-American Committee on Education (CIE) has made a positive contribution to the development and improvement of educational policy in member states. It has served as a valuable forum for ensuring that political mandates emanating from this and prior meetings of ministers receive appropriate technical support and follow-up. It is our wish that the CIE will continue to develop so that it provides a main venue for technical and political follow-up on the mandates we entrust to it.

22. We recognize and appreciate the work done by the OAS General Secretariat and Executive Secretariat for Integral Development, particularly the Office of Education, Science, and Technology (OEST) in its capacity as technical secretariat of the CIE and the Knowledge Sharing and Advisory Network and in support of the Summit and Hemispheric Projects. The OEST should continue to assist member states in sharing programs that have demonstrated their effectiveness, facilitating communication and advising our member states so that horizontal cooperation continues to grow and strengthen.

23. We thank the Government and people of Trinidad and Tobago for the special welcome they have extended to us during this Fourth Meeting of Ministers of Education. In particular, we would like to acknowledge the work of Trinidad and Tobago’s Ministry of Education in ensuring the success of this event.

24. The democratically elected Heads of State and Government of our countries have adopted mandates which provide guidelines for our education policy-makers and planners. These guidelines represent our hemispheric commitment to proceed in a manner that ensures all of our citizens the right to a high-quality education. We ask our leaders to consider this Declaration in their deliberations at the Fourth Summit of the Americas in Mar de Plata in November 2005. In order to attain the Summit goals...
pertaining to education and follow up on the above Declaration, we submit the following:

COMMITMENTS TO ACTION

To ensure that this Declaration leads to concrete and effective actions, we, the Ministers of Education of the Americas, adopt the following Commitments:

1. To redouble efforts in our respective countries to achieve the education goals of the Summits of the Americas, by joining the will and efforts of all sectors of society to achieve educational quality, equity, relevance, and efficiency and by keeping education in a prominent position in public debate, public policy decisions, and public and private investment.

2. To request that education’s important role in creating jobs, fighting poverty, and strengthening democratic governance be reflected in the Declaration and Plan of Action of the Fourth Summit of the Americas; to that end we are submitting the text contained in resolution CIDI/RME/RES. 11 (IV-O/05) for consideration by our Heads of State and Government through the Summit Implementation Review Group.

3. To urge cooperation, development, and financing agencies to join efforts to support countries in achieving the education-related goals of the Summits and the inter-American meetings of ministers of education.

4. To support and strengthen the teaching force in the countries of our Hemisphere, and to examine and build upon the results of research and initiatives in the Hemisphere designed to provide such support, such as the Centers for Excellence in Teacher Training and the hemispheric project on teacher preparation, development, and evaluation.

5. To support the initiative to organize an inter-agency forum on educational financing and management, and to suggest including as one of its topics the analysis of mechanisms to conduct debt swaps for education.

6. To promote the development of science education in our countries at all levels, in order to develop human capacity, eliminate gender bias, reduce technology gaps, and foster a knowledgeable workforce.

7. To determine ways to maximize the use of information and communication technology to improve learning, promote equity, and support cross-national cooperation in our Hemisphere, using strategies and tools such as:

   i. Exploring ways to focus the content of the Educational Portal of the Americas on the Summit and ministerial priorities in education.

   ii. Considering the role that the Latin American Network of Education Portals can play in expanding high-quality educational resources available to
schools, promoting the exchange of knowledge and experiences, and diminishing the costs of developing national portals.

iii. Promoting broader use of the EDUSAT satellite network to enrich content and pedagogy and promote equitable access to learning, even in remote areas, as well as to promote hemispheric dialogue on education with the support of partner organizations.

iv. Highlighting the Computers for Schools initiative, to provide access to refurbished computer equipment at low cost and promote technology skills among youth.

8. To strengthen the Inter-American Committee on Education (CIE) as the main forum for monitoring our progress in achieving the Summit mandates and for promoting inter-American cooperation in education, by ensuring that skilled education professionals represent us at CIE meetings and requesting that the Secretary General facilitate the Committee’s work by providing appropriate assistance through the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development.

We ask the CIE to undertake the following:

9. Monitor the progress made toward achieving the education goals of the Summits of the Americas, paying special attention to country progress on the goals from the Santiago Summit, and also taking into account the goals of the Dakar Framework for Action and those of Millennium Declaration, in particular by promoting analysis, dissemination, and use in decision-making of the information produced by the Regional Educational Indicators Project (PRIE).

10. Undertake a strategic review of Summit-related policies, programs, and activities of the OAS in the realm of education, with a view to prioritizing and coordinating work, strengthening capacity, and highlighting achievement.

11. Examine the education chapter of the OAS Strategic Plan for Partnership for Development 2002-2005 in order to consider the need for adapting it to hemispheric agreements, including the present Declaration and Commitments.

12. Support efforts by member states to eradicate gender disparities and achieve gender equity at all educational levels, especially in primary and secondary education, by focusing attention on persistent disparities and coordinating action with the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM).

13. Explore ways to increase the capacity to provide science and technology education at all levels, in partnership with the Inter-American Committee on Science and Technology.

14. Explore ways to strengthen the strategic alliance among ministries of education and ministries of health, labor, and the environment in partnership with the Pan American
Health Organization (PAHO), to ensure that schools become healthy, safe institutions for both teachers and students.

15. Exchange information on disaster-preparedness plans and contingency mechanisms for ensuring that education is returned to normalcy in the shortest time possible, especially given the use of school facilities during such occurrences.

16. Launch the Inter-American Program on Education for Democratic Values and Practices, by facilitating the development of a detailed and feasible work plan, benchmarks for progress, a proposed budget, and sources of financing for the program’s first phase. These items should be developed by a working group of interested member states led by Colombia, with assistance from the Office of Education, Science, and Technology (OEST) and the Office for the Promotion of Democracy (OPD) of the OAS, and with guidance from an advisory group composed of citizenship education officials from member states, academic and civil society experts, and other appropriate, interested partners. The work plan, including specific initial activities and proposed sources of financing, should be presented to the CIE Executive Committee and authorities, before the end of this year. Among the initial activities of the work plan is a meeting, in Mexico in the first quarter of 2006, of representatives of member states on successful experiences in citizenship education.

17. Support the efforts of member states to offer a high-quality education in multicultural, multilingual, and multiethnic contexts and to seek to enable more of our citizens to become competent in other languages, including the official languages of the OAS.

18. Develop a strategy to augment funding for education by increasing effective cooperation with the Trust for the Americas or other appropriate entities, to marshal resources from civil society, the private sector, and government to support and revitalize education in the region, particularly in those countries whose educational systems are the most vulnerable.

19. Explore with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and other relevant organizations ways to augment information exchange and develop cooperative strategies in the area of educational finance and management.

20. Explore ways to ensure that the recommendations presented at this meeting from consultation with civil society organizations can assist in developing partnerships with such organizations, in order to benefit from their experience, especially in educational areas pertaining to the most vulnerable sectors of society.

21. Provide input to the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States to ensure that the role of education in fighting poverty is considered in developing the Social Charter and its Plan of Action.

22. Help provide a Latin American and Caribbean dimension to the 2005 World Bank symposium on “Early Childhood Development – A Priority for Sustained Economic Growth and Equity,” and to the related follow-up, in cooperation with the IDB.
We ask the OEST to support the implementation of these Commitments to Action and to support the CIE by:

a. Promoting dialogue among education authorities and governmental institutions at the hemispheric, regional, national, and subnational levels, as well as with international and civil society organizations and others, aimed at meeting the challenges faced by education in the Hemisphere, both in person and by virtual means.

b. Undertaking diagnostic studies and policy analyses to support the actions established in this Declaration.

c. Supporting information exchange and other horizontal cooperation among countries regarding educational programs that have demonstrated their effectiveness or promise. In order for the OEST to continue to support the growth and expansion of the OAS virtual knowledge and consultancy network called KSAN (CONARED in Spanish), we specifically request continued support from the Development Grant Facility of the World Bank and from World Links.

d. Continuing to coordinate its activities with education-related programs and activities of other OAS offices to help meet Summit education goals. Examples include but are not limited to the Educational Portal of the Americas, the Institute of Advanced Studies for the Americas (INEAM), the Scholarship and Training Programs, the OPD, and education projects supported by the Special Multilateral Fund of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (FEMCIDI).

e. Assisting the CIE to monitor, analyze, and disseminate progress on achievement of our goals and mandates.
AG/RES. 2207 (XXXVI-O/06)

REPORT OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON PORTS

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN resolutions CIDI/CIP/RES. 71 (IV-05) and CEPCIDI/RES. 113 (CXI-O/05), “Fourth Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Ports (CIP)”; and CIDI/RES. 183 (XI-O/06), “Report of the Fourth Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Ports”;

CONSIDERING:

That the Fourth Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Ports (CIP), organized by the National Institute of Water and Island Areas (INEA) of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, with the technical support of the General Secretariat, was held from September 13 to 16, 2005, in the city of Maracaibo, Zulia State, Venezuela; and

The Final Report of the Fourth Meeting of the CIP (CIDI/CIP/doc.163/05), which sets out the main issues that were considered: (i) the need for efficient, competitive, safe, and modern ports that contribute to the economic and social development of member countries and take into account sustainable development of the environment; (ii) the role of ports as transportation connection points at the service of hemispheric and international trade; (iii) strengthening of public-private partnerships for the development and management of port infrastructure and the efficient provision of services; (iv) adoption of a strategic framework for inter-American cooperation in the field of port protection; and (v) the holding of specialized hemispheric conferences on port security, in Venezuela in October 2006, and on environmental protection in ports, in Panama in April 2007; and

BEARING IN MIND that, at the Fourth Meeting of the CIP, a constructive dialogue was held on strengthening cooperation to facilitate the development of the Hemisphere’s ports,

RESOLVES:

1. To take note of the Final Report of the Fourth Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Ports (CIDI/CIP/doc.163/05).

2. To entrust the General Secretariat with continuing, through the Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee on Ports, to support the process of meetings in the port sector area and to follow up on them, and with periodically reporting to the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CEPCIDI) on that process.

3. To thank the Government of Brazil for its offer to host the Fifth Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Ports, in 2007.

4. To request the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) to report on this resolution to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session.
AG/RES. 2208 (XXXVI-O/06)

THIRD INTER-AMERICAN MEETING OF MINISTERS OF CULTURE AND HIGHEST APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF CIDI

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN resolution CIDI/RES. 184 (XI-O/06), “Third Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Culture within the Framework of CIDI”;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

The Final Report of the Second Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Culture (CIC), (CIDI/CIC/doc.9/05) and the Final Report of the Special Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Culture (CIDI/CIC/doc.7/06);

That the Second and the Special Meeting of the CIC developed and approved the CIC Work Plan 2006-2007 and reached an agreement on Canada’s proposal for the ministerial meeting; and

That it is the responsibility of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) to stimulate regional dialogue and cooperation activities in favor of integral and sustainable development in the culture sector,

RESOLVES:

1. To thank the Government of Canada for its offer to host the Third Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities within the Framework of CIDI, to be held in Montreal, from October 11 to 13, 2006.

2. To stress the importance of continuing regional ministerial dialogue on culture within the framework of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI).

3. To instruct the General Secretariat to support, through the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI), the preparatory and organizational work for the Third Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities within the Framework of CIDI.

4. To take note of the final reports of the Second and the Special Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Culture (CIC) (CIDI/CIC/doc.9/05 and CIDI/CIC/doc.7/06, respectively); and to instruct the General Secretariat to support, through SEDI, the implementation of the CIC Work Plan 2006-2007.

5. To instruct CIDI to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session on the results of the Third Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities within the Framework of CIDI.
AG/RES. 2209 (XXXVI-O/06)

FIRST MEETING OF MINISTERS AND HIGH AUTHORITIES OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF CIDI

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN resolutions CIDI/RES. 160 (IX-O/04) and AG/RES. 1984 (XXXIV-O/04), “Inter-American Committee on Social Development”; and CIDI/RES. 172 (X-O/05) and AG/RES. 2085 (XXXV-O/05), “Report of the First Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Social Development”;

CONSIDERING that, at the First Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Social Development, held in April 2004 in Santiago, Chile, the Government of El Salvador officially offered to host the First Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Social Development; and

BEARING IN MIND that the Heads of State and Government gathered at the Fourth Summit of the Americas made the commitment to entrust the First Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Social Development within the Framework of CIDI with considering, among other subjects, progress with respect to the commitments made in the Plan of Action of the Fourth Summit of the Americas, held in Mar del Plata, Argentina, that pertain to the scope of their competence,

RESOLVES:

1. To thank the Government of El Salvador for its offer to host the First Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Social Development within the Framework of CIDI, from September 24 to 26, 2006, the main theme of which will be “Social Policies and the Fight against Poverty: Hemispheric Experiences.”

2. To acknowledge the particular importance of holding this year of First Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Social Development within the Framework of CIDI, following up on the mandates received from the Fourth Summit of the Americas, held in November 2005, whose theme was “Creating Jobs to Fight Poverty and Strengthen Democratic Governance.”

3. To instruct the General Secretariat to continue, through the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development, supporting the process of preparation for and follow-up of meetings in the social development sector.

4. To request the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) to report to the General Assembly on the implementation of this resolution at its thirty-seven regular session.
AG/RES. 2210 (XXXVI-O/06)

ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE
INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN resolutions CIDI/RES. 160 (IX-O/04) and AG/RES. 1984 (XXXIV-O/04), “Inter-American Committee on Social Development”; and CIDI/RES. 172 (X-O/05) and AG/RES. 2085 (XXXV-O/05), “Report of the First Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Social Development”;

CONSIDERING:

That the Declaration of Margarita of the High-Level Meeting on Poverty, Equity, and Social Inclusion, held on Isla Margarita, Venezuela, from October 8 to 10, 2003, underscored the importance of the Inter-American Committee on Social Development (CIDES);

That, in the Declaration of Nuevo León of the Special Summit of the Americas, the Heads of State and Government recognized the urgency of strengthening the mechanisms of the Organization of American States for fighting poverty, such as the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI), CIDES, and the Inter-American Program to Combat Poverty and Discrimination; and

That the purpose of CIDI’s Inter-American Committee on Social Development is to strengthen inter-American dialogue in support of the formulation of policies and the implementation of cooperative activities in the social area, in particular to overcome poverty and discrimination in the Hemisphere; and

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

That CIDES held its first meeting in Santiago, Chile, on April 5 and 6, 2004, at which work areas were identified and set forth in the final report (CIDI/CIDES/doc.12/04);

That, as a follow-up to that meeting, in December 2004, the Committee adopted a work plan for the next two years; and

That, under that work plan, the “International Workshop: Learning Communities, the Experience of the Program Puente-Chile Solidario” was held in Viña del Mar, Chile, from July 18 to 22, 2005,
RESOLVES:

1. To thank the Government of Chile for its contribution to holding the “International Workshop: Learning Communities, the Experience of the Program Puente-Chile Solidario.”

2. To urge the Inter-American Committee on Social Development (CIDES) to prepare an updated work plan based on the deliberations and decisions adopted by the First Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Social Development within the Framework of CIDI, to be held in El Salvador from September 24 to 26, 2006, the main theme of which is “Social Policy and the Fight against Poverty: Hemispheric Experiences.”

3. To instruct CIDES to work together with the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) to provide support for the First Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Social Development within the Framework of CIDI.

4. To instruct the General Secretariat to provide, through SEDI, appropriate follow-up to the first ministerial meeting on social development and to support the fulfillment and implementation of the updated CIDES work plan.

5. To request the Inter-American Council for Integral Development to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session on the implementation of this resolution.
AG/RES. 2211 (XXXVI-O/06)

FIRST INTER-AMERICAN MEETING OF MINISTERS AND HIGH-LEVEL AUTHORITIES ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF CIDI

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN resolutions CEPCIDI/RES. 104 (CVI-O/04), “Convocation of the First Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development within the Framework of CIDI”; and CEPCIDI/RES. 117 (CXX-O/06), “Confirmation of the Venue and Date of the First Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development,” and the progress report of the Working Group on Sustainable Development submitted to the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CEPCIDI) for consideration, related to the preparatory work for the First Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development (CEPCIDI/doc.739/06); and

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that, in the Declaration of the Fourth Summit of the Americas, held in Mar del Plata, the Heads of State and Government underlined the importance of holding, in the framework of the Organization of American States (OAS), the First Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development within the Framework of CIDI, encouraged the participation of member states, and called upon the OAS to continue to support the preparatory work necessary to make this meeting a success,

RESOLVES:

1. To take note of the progress report presented by the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CEPCIDI) on the status of the preparatory work for the First Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development within the Framework of CIDI (CIDI/doc.739/06).

2. To thank the Governments of Costa Rica and Jamaica for hosting the workshops on “Sustainable Agriculture, Forestry, and Tourism” and “Managing Risks of Natural Hazards,” respectively, and the Government of Ecuador for offering to host the workshop on “International Cooperation and Integrated Water Resource Management,” which, as part of the preparatory process for the First Ministerial Meeting, enhance and contribute to the development of the topics contained in its draft agenda.

3. To thank the Government of Bolivia for offering to host the First Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development within the Framework of CIDI, to be held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, on October 5 and 6, 2006.
4. To instruct the General Secretariat to continue, through the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development, to support CEPCIDI and the Working Group on Sustainable Development in the preparatory and follow-up work of the First Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development within the Framework of CIDI.

5. To request the Inter-American Council for Integral Development to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session on the implementation of this resolution.
AG/RES. 2212 (XXXVI-O/06)

FOSTERING THE DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,


RECOGNIZING the significant contribution of the tourism sector to the economies of several member states, the important role tourism plays in the creation of employment, entrepreneurship opportunities, and the development of small businesses, as well as its multiplier effect and excellent potential for long-term growth;

AWARE OF:

The need to continue to protect and promote tourism, which has become a viable economic alternative for many of the smaller economies of the Hemisphere; and

The significant contribution of the tourism sector to the gross domestic product of small states, particularly those of the Caribbean and Central America; and

CONSIDERING:

The need for continuous international and regional cooperation in the sustainable development of tourism; and

That partnership and increased dialogue between the private and public sectors are fundamental to the effective development and sustainability of tourism,

RESOLVES:

1. To instruct the General Secretariat to lend as much support as possible to the efforts by member states aimed at fostering and facilitating tourism development in the Americas.

2. To foster the cooperation, coordination, and harmonization of efforts among the Organization of American States (OAS), financial institutions, specialized agencies, regional and subregional organizations, and other entities that support tourism development in the OAS member states, addressing priority issues for the sector.

3. To continue to work in close collaboration with other multilateral and regional private- and public-sector agencies to build cross-sectoral linkages between tourism and other
economic sectors, as well as to develop and adopt professional training programs that meet the needs of the hospitality and tourism sectors.

4. To instruct the General Secretariat to continue, through the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI), to assist with preparations for the Inter-American Travel Congress, and to study the feasibility of creating an inter-American committee on tourism with a view to presenting the study to the member states for consideration and approval.

5. To instruct the General Secretariat to participate, through SEDI, in an inter-American travel meeting scheduled for December 2006 in Miami, Florida, during which members of the private and public sectors will discuss strategies and best practices for ongoing development of tourism in the Americas.

6. To instruct the General Secretariat to work with the organizers of the inter-American meeting of tourism experts to ensure the widest possible participation of all OAS member states and to make the recommendations emanating from the meeting available to the member states for their consideration and possible submission to the Inter-American Travel Congress.

7. To request the Inter-American Council for Integral Development to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session on the implementation of this resolution.
AG/RES. 2213 (XXXVI-O/06)


(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

CONSIDERING:

That Article 35 of the Statutes of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) and Article 21 of the Statutes of the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD) provide that CIDI may recommend amendments to those instruments for approval by the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS);

That Article 19 of the IACD Statutes requires CIDI, “on a regular basis … [to] conduct a comprehensive review of the functioning, operations, and financing of the IACD and … [to] present its recommendations to the General Assembly”;

That the IACD and CIDI Statutes should be reviewed, and modified, where necessary, to reflect fully changes in operations, structures, and practices since the establishment of the IACD in 1999;

That pursuant to his authority under Article 113 of the OAS Charter and resolutions AG/RES. 2156 (XXXV-O/05) and AG/RES. 2157 (XXXV-O/05), on December 15, 2005, the Secretary General issued Executive Order No. 05-13 reorganizing the General Secretariat and, on February 14, 2006, issued revision 1 thereto, in which the Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI), the Executive Secretariat for the IACD, is included; and

That the changes implemented under Executive Order No. 05-13, Rev. 1 are designed to improve political and administrative accountability in the administration of scholarships and cooperation projects, facilitate coordination, implement uniform evaluation criteria, and enhance the quality and level of service to the member states in technical cooperation and other programmatic areas of the General Secretariat,

RESOLVES:

To delegate to the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CEPCIDI) the authority to modify the Statutes of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) and the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD), ad referendum of their adoption by the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session.
AG/RES. 2214 (XXXVI-O/06)

CONTINUING PARTICIPATION IN THE INTER-AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT BY MEMBER STATES THAT HAVE NOT RATIFIED THE PROTOCOL OF MANAGUA

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN resolution AG/RES. 2 (XXII-E/96), “Participation of Member States That Have Not Ratified the Protocol of Managua in the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) When Said Protocol Enters into Force”; and resolutions AG/RES. 1442 (XXVI-O/96), AG/RES. 1507 (XXVII-O/97), AG/RES. 1575 (XXVIII-O/98), AG/RES. 1726 (XXX-O/00), AG/RES. 1815 (XXXI-O/01), AG/RES. 1863 (XXXII-O/02), AG/RES. 1910 (XXXIII-O/03), AG/RES. 1978 (XXXIV-O/04), AG/RES. 2090 (XXXV-O/05), CIDI/RES. 24 (II-O/97), CIDI/RES. 42 (III-O/98), CIDI/RES. 83 (IV-O/99), CIDI/RES. 94 (V-O/00), CIDI/RES. 4 (I-E/01), CIDI/RES. 116 (VI-O/02), CIDI/RES. 138 (VII-O/03), CIDI/RES. 141 (IX-O/04), CIDI/RES. 177 (X-O/05), and CIDI/RES. 191 (XI-O/06), on continuation of the aforementioned participation;

EMPHASIZING the amendments made to the Charter of the Organization of American States to incorporate the elimination of extreme poverty as a basic objective of integral development (Protocol of Washington) and to establish an Inter-American Council for Integral Development to promote cooperation among the American states for the purpose of achieving their integral development and, in particular, helping to eliminate extreme poverty (Protocol of Managua); and

CONSIDERING that as of the date of this resolution there are still member states that have not ratified the Protocol of Managua,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge the member states that have signed and not ratified the Protocol of Washington, which incorporates the elimination of extreme poverty as a basic objective of development, and the Protocol of Managua, which establishes the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI), to consider doing so as soon as possible.

2. To extend the period during which its resolution AG/RES. 2 (XXII-E/96), “Participation of Member States That Have Not Ratified the Protocol of Managua in the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) When Said Protocol Enters into Force,” will remain in force until the next regular session of the General Assembly, which will review the situation if at that time there are still member states that have not ratified the Protocol of Managua.
AG/RES. 2215 (XXXVI-O/06)

STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY AND
SOCIOECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN HAITI

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECOGNIZING that one of the essential purposes of the Organization of American States (OAS) is to promote and consolidate representative democracy and respect for democratic institutions, with due regard for the principle of nonintervention, as stated in its Charter;

REAFFIRMING the principles contained in the Inter-American Democratic Charter, in particular the principle that “[d]emocracy is essential for the social, political, and economic development of the peoples of the Americas;” that “[d]emocracy and social and economic development are interdependent and mutually reinforcing”; and that “[p]overty, illiteracy, and low levels of human development are factors that adversely affect the consolidation of democracy”;

RECALLING the resolutions of the Permanent Council and its own resolutions on the situation in Haiti, as well as the reports submitted by the Secretary General to the Permanent Council on developments in the situation in Haiti;

WELCOMING the peaceful holding of free and democratic presidential and legislative elections on February 7, 2006, as a result of which a new president of the Republic was elected, and noting the holding of the second round of legislative elections on April 21, 2006, which makes it possible to normalize the Parliament’s situation;

CALLING FOR the prompt organization of municipal and local elections, in a peaceful and safe environment, with respect for democratic inclusion and transparency;

REITERATING its support for the process of dialogue launched on April 7, 2005;

EXPRESSING its support for the work carried out by the OAS Special Mission for Strengthening Democracy in Haiti; and welcoming the role played by the OAS in preparing for and holding the elections, in particular the establishment, by means of national identity cards, of a solid foundation for a modern civil registry;

SEEKING to support effective governance by the newly elected officials, to help strengthen security in Haiti, and to promote the socioeconomic recovery of the Haitian people in a peaceful and stable political environment;

RECALLING that security, political reconciliation, and economic reconstruction efforts remain key to the sustainable development and the consolidation of democracy in Haiti;
RECALLING ALSO with appreciation the ministerial conference in Brasilia on May 23, 2006, and other meetings of donors in the context of the Interim Cooperation Framework; and urging the sustained engagement of the international community and international financial institutions in providing technical and financial support for the development of Haiti; and

NOTING:

The concerns about the situation of the Haitian justice and penitentiary systems, including prolonged pretrial detentions and the need to strengthen due process; as well as

The challenges faced by the Haitian National Police in protecting the human and constitutional rights of all Haitians,

RESOLVES:

1. To congratulate the people of Haiti on the holding of peaceful presidential and legislative elections; and to support the newly elected officials in the exercise of democratic, inclusive, representative, participatory, and effective governance.

2. To commend and express appreciation for the support extended to Haiti by the Organization of American States (OAS) and the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) in the context of the elections.

3. To request all actors involved in the electoral process, in particular the Provisional Electoral Council, to make all necessary arrangements for holding municipal and local elections as soon as possible.

4. To underscore the importance of the vision of inclusion and dialogue expressed by the newly elected officials and to encourage them to move forward expeditiously with the National Dialogue Initiative, designed to promote harmonious coexistence, peace, and national reconciliation.

5. To call upon all sectors in Haiti, without exception, to support the National Dialogue and to participate actively in it, with a view to strengthening democratic institutions and ensuring their proper functioning.

6. To encourage the increased capacity and the professionalization of the Haitian National Police, including the vetting and certification of new and existing officers, under the leadership of the Haitian authorities, in close collaboration with the OAS and MINUSTAH and with the support of the international community.

7. To continue to promote the process of disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration of former members of the Haitian armed forces and to stabilize conflictive areas by providing constructive alternatives for members of illegal armed groups, as an essential component for promoting peace and reconciliation in Haiti; and to reiterate the need for strengthening these efforts. Also to call upon the international community to assist Haitian authorities in their efforts against the proliferation of and illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons on Haitian soil.
8. To support the efforts undertaken jointly with the OAS to help combat trafficking in persons, by means of training, coordination, and on-site investigations.

9. To reaffirm support for the OAS Special Mission for Strengthening Democracy in Haiti and its activities, and the need to continue working in support of the strengthening of democratic institutions, including the establishment of a permanent electoral council and a modernized civil registry, the reform of the justice system, and the protection of human rights.

10. To urge the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) to continue to monitor and report on the human rights situation in Haiti and to work with the OAS Special Mission on the promotion and observance of those rights.

11. To urge the Government of Haiti to adopt all measures necessary for the reform of the judicial sector, which includes urgently accelerating judicial proceedings to ensure that the constitutional rights of detained persons are respected and to reduce, in accordance with due process, the high number of prisoners awaiting trial and the length of pre-trial detention.

12. To encourage the Government of Haiti to strengthen the judicial system to combat impunity, foster the rule of law, further promote confidence within Haitian society, and attain an equitable administration of justice in accordance with Haitian law, including through increased cooperation between Haitian judicial authorities and international experts.

13. To strongly express its solidarity with the Haitian people by supporting institutional development in Haiti, together with economic and social development; and to call on the international community to renew and maintain their commitment to strengthen democracy in Haiti by supporting economic and social programs, in order to alleviate poverty and promote economic and social development.

14. To promote further cooperation with the people and the Government of Haiti through effective support for the comprehensive implementation of the extended Interim Cooperation Framework and the new development plans that the Government of Haiti will present for financing to the international community.

15. To request the international financial institutions and Haiti’s partners to extend, as a matter of urgency, and consistent with the development priorities of the Government of Haiti, their full financial support for programs to create jobs, promote education, eradicate illiteracy, regenerate the environment, achieve appropriate standards for food security, expand available health care, restore and increase infrastructure, and promote investment.

16. To urge the international community, the international financial institutions, and Haiti’s partners to coordinate, inter alia through international donors’ conferences, significant technical and financial support for the Government of Haiti, with a view to the sustainable development of Haiti and the stability of its institutions in accordance with the newly elected officials’ commitment to good economic governance and deepening reforms.
17. To request the General Secretariat to support the Government of Haiti in the elaboration of development policies in coordination with the United Nations, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), and other international institutions and agencies, and in the extended Interim Cooperation Framework.

18. To request the General Secretariat to facilitate the provision and coordination of support from the inter-American institutions to the people and Government of Haiti.

19. To request the Secretary General to adopt all measures that he deems appropriate, in agreement with the Government of Haiti, to carry out the mandates contained in this resolution.

20. To request the Secretary General to submit a report twice a year on the situation in Haiti to the Permanent Council, which shall, on a regular basis, review the mandates of the OAS Special Mission and take all steps it deems necessary for the Mission’s optimal functioning.

21. To request the Secretary General to transmit this resolution to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.
AG/RES. 2216 (XXXVI-O/06)


(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the mandates assigned by the Third and the Fourth Summit of the Americas; resolution AG/RES. 1 (XXVI-E/99), which decided to establish the Justice Studies Center of the Americas (JSCA); resolution AG/RES. 2068 (XXXV-O/05), “Meeting of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas”; the Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly (AG/doc.4548/06 add. 6 corr. 1), especially with respect to the implementation of resolution AG/RES. 2068 (XXXV-O/05); and resolution AG/RES. 2228 (XXXVI-O/06), “Meeting of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas”;

BEARING IN MIND, in particular, the mandate issued by the Fourth Summit of the Americas and the request of the ministers of justice or ministers or attorneys general of the Americas at REMJA-V, held in Washington, D.C., in 2004, that the Justice Studies Center of the Americas (JSCA) prepare and submit a funding plan;

WELCOMING the presentation by the JSCA, at REMJA-VI, held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, in April 2006, of a funding plan that proposes a system of suggested voluntary contributions by member states to cover the JSCA’s basic costs;

NOTING that, according to that plan, the Center’s basic costs for central administration and for services provided on a regional basis through its Virtual Information Center and publications currently amount to US$675,000 a year;

CONSIDERING that, in the Conclusions and Recommendations of REMJA-VI, the ministers of justice and attorneys general recommended, with respect to the JSCA, that this suggested voluntary contribution plan proposed by the Center for the member states be presented to the OAS General Assembly for consideration at its thirty-sixth regular session, “taking into account that voluntary contributions by member states are indispensable to fund the Center’s basic operating costs”; and

APPRECIATING the report on the Center’s activities and its Report on Judicial Systems in the Americas 2004-2005, as well as the concrete initiatives fostered by the Center in recent years to strengthen justice systems in the Hemisphere,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge member states to consider making voluntary contributions to the Justice Studies Center of the Americas (JSCA) to cover its basic costs.
2. That for the purposes contemplated in the foregoing operative paragraph, member states shall continue considering the proposals presented by the JSCA at each Meeting of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA).

3. To encourage the JSCA to continue its work in research, dissemination, training, and technical assistance for justice reform projects in the Hemisphere.
AG/RES. 2217 (XXXVI-O/06)

SEVENTH INTER-AMERICAN SPECIALIZED CONFERENCE ON
PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL LAW

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly as it pertains to the Seventh Inter-American Specialized Conference on Private International Law (CIDIP-VII) (AG/doc.4548/06 add. 6 corr. 1);

CONSIDERING:

That the General Assembly, in resolution AG/RES. 1923 (XXXIII-O/03), convened the Seventh Inter-American Specialized Conference on Private International Law (CIDIP-VII) and, in resolution AG/RES. 2033 (XXXIV-O/04), instructed the Permanent Council to analyze the topics proposed by the member states for inclusion in the CIDIP-VII process;

That the General Assembly, in resolution AG/RES. 2065 (XXXV-O/05), agreed to two topics for the agenda of CIDIP-VII: Consumer Protection and Secured Transaction Registries, and requested the Permanent Council to establish a methodology for the preparatory work necessary to draft Inter-American instruments on these topics;

That the Permanent Council, though its Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP), agreed on the drafting of possible instruments on Consumer Protection (a Convention on Applicable Law, a Convention or Model Law on Jurisdiction, and a Model Law on Monetary Redress), as well as possible instruments on Secured Transactions Registries (Uniform Registration Forms, Guidelines for Movable Property Registries, and Guidelines for Electronic Registries); and

That the Permanent Council approved a methodology, as set forth in document CP/CAJP-2309/05, by which governmental and independent experts will participate in drafting these instruments on an Internet Discussion Forum developed and maintained by the Office of International Law of the Department of International Legal Affairs, at its Internet address,1 and that several states have designated governmental experts to participate in this preparatory work, which has started through the Discussion Forum,

RESOLVES:

1. To instruct the Permanent Council to continue carrying out the preparatory work it considers necessary to prepare draft instruments on Consumer Protection and Secured Transactions Registries for adoption during the Seventh Inter-American Specialized Conference on Private International Law (CIDIP-VII).

2. To express its satisfaction with the creation of a group of experts for each CIDIP-VII topic, consisting of governmental and independent experts, as well as experts from other international organizations and the Inter-American Juridical Committee; and to urge member states that have not yet done so to designate governmental experts to participate in said groups.

3. To express its satisfaction with the current preparatory work, including the creation and launching of the Internet Discussion Forum developed by the Office of International Law of the Department of International Legal Affairs, through which the groups of experts will participate in the preparatory work.

4. To instruct the General Secretariat, through the Office of International Law of the Department of International Legal Affairs, to organize the necessary consultations by the groups of experts on preparation of the draft Inter-American instruments to be considered by CIDIP-VII and, if necessary, seek external funding for the preparatory and final work of this Conference.

5. To take note of the methodology adopted by the Permanent Council by which the groups of experts will participate in the preparatory work through the Internet Discussion Forum; and to encourage member states to host meetings of experts, as needed, to finalize the drafting of the inter-American instruments to be considered by CIDIP-VII.

6. To instruct the Permanent Council to set a date for CIDIP-VII once the preparatory work has been completed, within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources, and to present a report on the implementation of this resolution to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session.
AG/RES. 2218 (XXXVI-O/06)

OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN JURIDICAL COMMITTEE

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the observations and recommendations of the Permanent Council on the Annual Report of the Inter-American Juridical Committee (CJI) (AG/doc.4636/06);

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the mandates issued in resolution AG/RES. 2069 (XXXV-O/05), “Observations and Recommendations on the Annual Report of the Inter-American Juridical Committee”;

CONSIDERING:

That Article 53 of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS) establishes the CJI as one of the organs of the Organization;

That Article 54.f of the OAS Charter provides that it is a function of the General Assembly to consider, inter alia, the observations and recommendations presented by the Permanent Council on the reports of the organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization, in accordance with Article 91.f of the Charter; and

That the Chair and the other members of the CJI presented the Committee’s annual report (CP/doc.4080/06 corr. 1) to the Permanent Council, which has forwarded its observations and recommendations thereon to the General Assembly,

RESOLVES:

1. To endorse the observations and recommendations of the Permanent Council on the Annual Report of the Inter-American Juridical Committee (CJI) (AG/doc.4636/06); and to forward them to the Juridical Committee.

2. To congratulate the CJI on the celebration of its centennial, in 2006; and to congratulate the Permanent Council on the meeting it held to commemorate that centennial, on March 29, 2006, which was attended by members of the CJI.

3. To note with satisfaction the inclusion in said annual report of document CJI/doc.199/05 rev. 1, “Legal Aspects of Compliance within the States with Decisions of International Courts or Tribunals or Other International Organs with Jurisdictional Functions,” appended to resolution CJI/RES. 96 (LXVII-O/05), pursuant to resolution AG/RES. 2069 (XXXV-O/05).
4. To note with satisfaction the report of the Juridical Committee on the topic “Joint Efforts of the Americas in the Struggle against Corruption and Impunity,” (CJI/doc.181/05 rev. 4), appended to resolution CJI/RES. 84 (LXVI-O/05), and the report of the Rapporteur on the topic, Dr. Ana Elizabeth Villalta (CJI/doc.177/05), all of which were forwarded to the Permanent Council and included in its annual report for 2005.

5. To note with satisfaction the report of the Juridical Committee on the topic “International Criminal Court” (CJI/doc.211/06), which was duly forwarded to the Permanent Council pursuant to resolution AG/RES. 2072 (XXXV-O/05) for submission to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth regular session; and to request that it continue to address the topic.

6. To note with satisfaction the progress made on the topic “Legal aspects of the interdependence between democracy and economic and social development”; and to request the CJI to include a final report thereon in its next annual report, based on the guidelines set forth in resolution AG/RES. 2042 (XXXIV-O/04).

7. To request the CJI to continue to consider the subject of the codification and harmonization of international law in the Americas and collaborate on preparations for the next Inter-American Specialized Conference on Private International Law (CIDIP-VII); and to encourage the rapporteurs for this topic to participate in the consultation mechanisms that are to be established for work on the topics proposed for that Conference.

8. To note the importance of the topic “Right to information: Access to and protection of information and personal data”; and to request the CJI to include an updated report on the protection of personal data, based on comparative law, in its next annual report.

9. To underscore once again the importance of holding the Course on International Law, organized each year in Rio de Janeiro by the CJI and the Office of International Law of the Department of International Legal Affairs of the Organization of American States (OAS); to highlight the importance of increasing the amount of OAS scholarship awards; and to urge member states to consider the possibility of paying directly for the participation of students and professors from their own countries.

10. To recognize the work of the CJI and of the Office of International Law in publishing the lectures given during the Course on International Law, and in publishing the topical series into which they have been arranged.

11. To reaffirm the importance of the close ties maintained by the CJI with the political bodies of the OAS, particularly the Permanent Council, taking into account the possibility, in special cases, of inviting the CJI rapporteurs to participate in meetings held at OAS headquarters to address topics on which they report; and to call attention to the holding of the 68th regular session of the Juridical Committee, at OAS headquarters, in Washington, D.C., in March 2006, which allowed a number of fruitful encounters between the CJI and the Permanent Council and its Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs.

12. To recommend to the CJI that it continue to focus its efforts on the matters which the competent organs identify as being of priority interest to the Organization.
13. To encourage member states to continue presenting qualified candidates for election to and participation in the CJI.

14. To emphasize the need to provide increased administrative and budgetary support to the CJI commensurate with its ability to provide studies and reports to the Organization so that it may continue to strengthen its capacity to address the current inter-American legal agenda and issue the corresponding recommendations.

15. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session on the implementation of this resolution, which will be carried out within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.
AG/RES. 2219 (XXXVI-O/06)

FOLLOW-UP ON THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION
AND ITS PROGRAM FOR COOPERATION

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly (AG/doc.4548/06 add. 6 corr. 1) as it pertains to this topic;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the “Declaration of Quito on Social Development and Democracy, and the Impact of Corruption” [AG/DEC. 36 (XXXIV-O/04)] and resolutions AG/RES. 2022 (XXXIV-O/04), AG/RES. 2064 (XXXV-O/05), AG/RES. 2071 (XXXV-O/05), and AG/RES. 2076 (XXXV-O/05);

CONSIDERING the importance of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption, the fact that it has been ratified by 33 member states of the Organization of American States (OAS), and that 28 of those states participate in the Follow-up Mechanism for the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (MESICIC), established through the Document of Buenos Aires;

WELCOMING the results of the First Meeting of the Conference of States Parties to the MESICIC, held in Washington, D.C., on April 1 and 2, 2004, and, in particular, the Conclusions and Recommendations on Concrete Measures to Strengthen MESICIC (SG/MESICIC/doc.103/04 rev. 6);

RECOGNIZING the work of the Committee of Experts of the MESICIC, which has been supported by the OAS General Secretariat in completing, in March 2006, the first round of review for the 28 states parties, and in finalizing preparations for the second round of review, covering Articles III (5) and (8), and Article VI of the Convention;

RECALLING the results of the Meeting of Experts on Cooperation with Respect to the Denial of Safe Haven to Corrupt Officials and Those Who Corrupt Them, Their Extradition, and the Denial of Entry and Recovery of the Proceeds of Corruption and Their Return to Their Legitimate Owners (REXCOR/doc.6/05);

BEARING IN MIND the Declaration on Security in the Americas, adopted at the Special Conference on Security, in Mexico City in October 2003;

WELCOMING the entry into force, on December 14, 2005, of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, adopted in Mérida, Mexico, on December 9, 2003; and that 10 OAS member states have ratified it;
UNDERSCORING the mandates on the fight against corruption set forth in the Plan of Action of the Third Summit of the Americas, held in Quebec City, and in the Declaration of the Special Summit of the Americas, held in Monterrey; and

BEARING IN MIND that the Heads of State and Government, in the Declaration of the Fourth Summit of the Americas, held in Mar del Plata, Argentina, in November 2005, stated: “Accountability is a key instrument to achieve transparency and efficiency in the use of resources administered by our governments. Fighting corruption is a key aspect of strengthening democracy and economic growth. For this reason, we call upon states to implement the Inter-American Convention against Corruption and participate fully in the Follow-up Mechanism for the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption. We stress the importance of the oversight role of legislatures, as appropriate, in the fight against corruption and the importance of promoting inter-parliamentary exchanges to encourage the development of national and international strategies to fight against corruption,”

RESOLVES:

1. To urge those states parties to the Inter-American Convention against Corruption that have not yet done so to participate in the Follow-up Mechanism for the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (MESICIC); and to urge all states parties to the Mechanism to fund it through voluntary contributions.

2. Also to urge those member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) that have not yet done so to consider signing and ratifying, ratifying, or acceding to, as the case may be, the United Nations Convention against Corruption (Mérida Convention), as well as the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo Convention).

3. To urge the states parties to the Inter-American Convention against Corruption to take any measures they deem necessary to adapt their domestic law in order to comply with the commitments they undertook upon ratification of or accession to the Convention.

4. To urge the states parties to the Inter-American Convention against Corruption to improve, on the basis of the Convention and applicable laws and treaties, regional and bilateral mechanisms for mutual assistance in criminal matters, and to apply them, in order to respond to requests made in accordance with the procedures established in these mechanisms in relation to the acts of corruption described in the Convention, with a view to combating impunity.

5. To express once again its support for strengthening the MESICIC and, in that regard:

a. To reaffirm its satisfaction over the agreement reached at the First Meeting of the Conference of States Parties to the MESICIC to strengthen the Conference of States Parties as a political forum for addressing topics in the area of hemispheric cooperation against corruption; and, in that regard, to invite it, with technical support from the Office of Legal Cooperation of the Department of International Legal Affairs of the OAS General Secretariat, to continue holding working meetings taking into account the Document of Buenos Aires and to evaluate the possibility of requesting from the
Committee of Experts recommendations and other contributions on the topics it is considering;

b. To identify, before December 2006, specific initiatives for cooperation and the exchange of experiences in the development of technical skills in our countries that contribute to the full application of the provisions of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption and to the strengthening of the MESICIC, giving special consideration to the recommendations to that effect arising from the first round of said Mechanism;

c. To invite the Conference of States Parties to the MESICIC to consider appropriate measures to strengthen cooperation in the context of this Follow-up Mechanism, taking into account, when appropriate, the new forms of cooperation established in the Mérida Convention; and to request the technical secretariat of the MESICIC to encourage dialogue, as appropriate, with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

d. To express its satisfaction with the progress made by the Committee of Experts of the MESICIC, with support from the OAS General Secretariat, reflected in the successful completion of the first round of review of implementation of the provisions of the Convention selected for that round in the 28 states participating in the MESICIC; in the adoption of the hemispheric report on that round; and in the adoption of the necessary decisions to initiate the second round of review;

e. To request the General Secretariat to continue identifying sources of funding within the OAS, such as the Regular Fund, and of external funding, such as international and regional financial institutions and national government agencies, among others, for the adequate funding of the MESICIC and, when applicable, for the full and effective implementation of its recommendations;

f. To invite the Conference of States Parties to the MESICIC to continue reporting to the Permanent Council on the implementation of the “Conclusions and Recommendations on Concrete Measures to Strengthen MESICIC” (SG/MESICIC/doc.103/04 rev. 6), adopted at the First Meeting of the Conference of States Parties to the MESICIC, as well as on other topics submitted to it for consideration; and

g. To support the holding of the meeting of the Conference of States Parties to the MESICIC, which will take place in the second half of 2006.

6. To request the Permanent Council, and invite the Conference of States Parties to the MESICIC, to continue, in their respective areas of competence, to follow up on progress related to the mandates set forth in both the Declaration and the Plan of Action of Managua (EPCICOR/doc.05/04 rev. 6 corr. 1 and EPCICOR/doc.04/04 rev. 5 corr. 1), and to the recommendations of the Meeting of Experts on Cooperation with respect to the Denial of Safe Haven to Corrupt Officials and Those Who Corrupt Them, Their Extradition, and the Denial of Entry and Recovery of the Proceeds of Corruption
and Their Return to Their Legitimate Owners (REXCOR/doc.2/05 rev. 1) and the final report (REXCOR/doc.6/05), which includes proposals that were not considered at that meeting.

7. To request the OAS General Secretariat to continue, through the Office of Legal Cooperation of the Department of International Legal Affairs, to provide technical secretariat services to the Conference of States Parties to the MESICIC and to the Committee of Experts of that mechanism, and support for follow-up on the progress referred to in the preceding operative paragraph.

8. To recommend that the next meeting of the Conference of States Parties to the MESICIC consider, review, update, and supplement, insofar as it considers this appropriate, the Inter-American Program for Cooperation in the Fight against Corruption, adopted by resolution AG/RES. 1477 (XXVII-O/97), and present its recommendations to the General Assembly, through the Permanent Council, for formal adoption at its thirty-seventh regular session; and to request the General Secretariat to draft a basic proposal for that purpose.

9. To request the General Secretariat to continue carrying out, in the execution of the Inter-American Program for Cooperation in the Fight against Corruption, technical cooperation activities to provide assistance in the ratification of, or accession to, the Inter-American Convention against Corruption and in its implementation, and in the exchange of information and experiences among government authorities responsible for this area, including those of the Inter-American Network for Cooperation against Corruption.

10. To instruct the Permanent Council to follow up on the activities stemming from this resolution, which will be implemented within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources, and to present a report on its implementation to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session.
AG/RES. 2220 (XXXVI-O/06)

STRENGTHENING OF HUMAN RIGHTS SYSTEMS
PURSUANT TO THE MANDATES ARISING FROM THE
FOURTH SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly as it pertains to this topic (AG/doc.4548/06 add. 6 corr. 1), as well as resolutions AG/RES. 1828 (XXXI-O/01), AG/RES. 1890 (XXXII-O/02), AG/RES. 1925 (XXXIII-O/03), AG/RES. 2030 (XXXIV-O/04), and AG/RES. 2075 (XXXV-O/05);

REAFFIRMING that the universal promotion and protection of human rights, including civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights, based on the principles of universality, indivisibility, and interdependence, as well as respect for international law, including international humanitarian law, international human rights law, and international refugee law, are essential to the functioning of democratic societies; and stressing the importance of respect for the rule of law, effective and equal access to justice, and participation by all elements of society in public decision-making processes;

REAFFIRMING ALSO the importance of the inter-American human rights system, whose organs have competence to promote the observance of human rights in all member states of the Organization, in accordance with the commitments undertaken by each state, and which operate in a manner subsidiary to national jurisdictional systems;

EXPRESSING that strengthening the autonomy of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), in the context of the Charter of the Organization of American States, the American Convention on Human Rights, and the Statute and the Rules of Procedure of said Commission, will lead to improvements in the inter-American human rights system;

CONSIDERING that the Organization can serve as a forum for contributing to the efforts of member states to develop and strengthen national systems for the promotion and protection of human rights; and

BEARING IN MIND the Declaration and Plan of Action of the Third Summit of the Americas, held in Quebec City, Canada, and of the Fourth Summit of the Americas, held in Mar del Plata, Argentina, in particular paragraphs 45 and 62 of the Plan of Action of the Fourth Summit, on the development of comprehensive economic and social policies and on the strengthening of the inter-American human rights system, respectively;
RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm the commitment of member states to continue strengthening and improving the inter-American system for the promotion and protection of human rights and, in that connection, to continue to take the following concrete measures aimed at implementing the respective mandates of the Heads of State and Government, arising from the Summits of the Americas, in particular the Third Summit, held in Quebec City, Canada, and the Fourth Summit, held in Mar del Plata, Argentina:

   a. Universalization of the inter-American human rights system by considering the signature and ratification or ratification of, or accession to, as soon as possible and as the case may be, all universal and inter-American human rights instruments;

   b. Compliance with the judgments of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and follow-up of the recommendations of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights;

   c. Improvement of access by individuals to the mechanisms of the inter-American human rights system;

   d. Adequate financing of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, including the fostering of voluntary contributions, so that they may continue to address their activities and responsibilities; and

   e. Examination of the possibility that the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights may come to operate on a permanent basis, taking into account, among other things, the views of those organs.

2. To recognize the following progress made in the specific areas of the inter-American human rights system, namely:

   a. The broad process of reflection on the inter-American system for the promotion and protection of human rights, within the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP) of the Permanent Council;

   b. The dialogue held, within the CAJP, between member states and the organs of the inter-American human rights system (Inter-American Court of Human Rights and Inter-American Commission on Human Rights), as recorded in the report of the meeting (CP/CAJP-2311/05 add. 2 and 2-a);

   c. The approval, through resolution AG/RES. 2074 (XXXV-O/05), of the “Standards for the Preparation of Periodic Reports pursuant to Article 19 of the Protocol of San Salvador”;


d. The deposit by Honduras of the instrument of ratification of the Inter-American Convention on Forced Disappearance of Persons, and the signing by Jamaica and deposit of the instrument of ratification of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, “Convention of Belém do Pará”; and

e. The voluntary contributions to facilitate the work of the organs of the inter-American human rights system made by Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, and Paraguay, and the European Union, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights; and by Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, the United States, France, Ireland, Italy, Spain, Sweden, the Commonwealth Secretariat, and the European Commission to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

3. To instruct the Permanent Council to meet the objectives mentioned in operative paragraph 1 and to complement and consolidate the progress referred to in operative paragraph 2, by:

a. Continuing the broad process of reflection on the inter-American system for the promotion and protection of human rights, initiated within the CAJP, in consultation with the member states, specialized agencies of the inter-American human rights system, nongovernmental organizations, national human rights institutes, academic institutions, and experts in the field, regarding:

   i. The major challenges facing the inter-American system for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Hemisphere;

   ii. Possible actions to strengthen and improve the system; and

   iii. The advisability of convening an inter-American human rights conference;

b. Continuing to examine, principally through the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs (CAAP) of the Permanent Council, ways to bring about adequate financing of the organs of the inter-American human rights system in the program-budget of the Organization;

c. Supporting any initiatives taken by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to request funding from international and regional agencies to further the activities of the organs of the inter-American system for the promotion and protection of human rights;
d. Encouraging, in addition, member states to contribute to the Specific Fund for Strengthening the Inter-American System for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights;

e. Continuing to consider ways to promote compliance with the judgments of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and follow-up of the recommendations of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights by member states;

f. Continuing to analyze the priorities for improvement of the inter-American human rights system, including consideration of the possibility that the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights may come to operate on a permanent basis, taking into account related information provided by the presidents of both organs;

g. Holding each year, within the CAJP, the dialogue between the member states and the members of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the judges on the Inter-American Court of Human Rights on how the inter-American human rights system operates. The CAJP will establish the agenda for said meeting at least two months in advance; and

h. Requesting the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to:

i. Continue to report on the correlation between, on the one hand, their respective Rules of Procedure and the amendments thereto that they adopt, and, on the other, the provisions of their respective Statutes and of the American Convention on Human Rights; and

ii. Continue to report on the impact and the meaning in practice of these regulatory reforms for the work of both organs and for the strengthening of the system.

4. To continue to promote the strengthening of national systems for the promotion and protection of human rights in member states; and, to that end, to urge the pertinent organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization to provide, in accordance with their capabilities and resources, cooperation and technical support to the member states that so request, in order to help enhance compliance with their international human rights obligations, and to develop cooperative relations and information exchange, inter alia, with the Network of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights of the Americas and the Ibero-American Federation of Ombudsmen.

5. To urge member states to consider signing and ratifying, ratifying, or acceding to, as the case may be, the Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the Area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights “Protocol of San Salvador.”
6. To request the Permanent Council to follow up on this resolution, which will be implemented within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources, and to present a report on its implementation to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session.
AG/RES. 2221 (XXXVI-O/06)

STRENGTHENING OF THE NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS SYSTEMS OF THE MEMBER STATES AND SUPPORT FOR THE WORK OF DEFENDERS OF THE PEOPLE, DEFENDERS OF THE POPULATION, AND HUMAN RIGHTS ATTORNEYS OR COMMISSIONERS (OMBUDSMEN)

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT resolution AG/RES. 2132 (XXXV-O/05), “Strengthening of the National Human Rights Systems of the Member States and Support for the Work of Defenders of the People, Defenders of the Population, and Human Rights Attorneys or Commissioners (Ombudsmen),” whereby it recognized the importance of national systems for the promotion and protection of human rights in safeguarding the rights of the individual;

HAVING SEEN the Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly (AG/doc.4548/06 add. 6 corr. 1);

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that in the Charter of the Organization of American States, as well as the American Convention on Human Rights and the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, the member states proclaimed the fundamental rights of the individual without distinction as to race, nationality, creed, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, economic status, birth, or any other social condition;

AFFIRMING that the member states, whether in their national constitutions or under their domestic law, have recognized the universal, indivisible, and interdependent nature of human rights and the obligation to respect and protect the rights and fundamental freedoms of human beings;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that the fundamental objective of national systems for the promotion and protection of human rights is to safeguard the rights of the individual;


REAFFIRMING the importance of the inter-American human rights system, whose organs have competence to promote the observance of human rights in all member states of the Organization, in accordance with the commitments undertaken by each state, and which operate in a manner subsidiary to national jurisdictional systems;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that all member states have the obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, without distinguishing among the specific national and regional characteristics and the different historical, cultural, and religious backgrounds of all
states, regardless of their political, economic, and cultural systems; and recognizing that democracy is a universal value and there is no single model of democracy;

RECALLING resolutions AG/RES. 1505 (XXVII-O/97), AG/RES. 1601 (XXVIII-O/98), and AG/RES. 1670 (XXIX-O/99), in which the General Assembly recognized the work of ombudsmen in the Hemisphere, a concept recognized in the law of member states with names such as defenders of the people, defenders of the population, human rights attorneys, and human rights commissioners, and also renewed its support for the work of the Ibero-American Federation of Ombudsmen;

RECALLING ALSO the message transmitted by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights through resolution 2005/74, “National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights,” which, in paragraph 12, “[w]elcomes the continuation of the practice of national institutions convening regional meetings” and encourages national institutions, in cooperation with the Office of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, “to continue to organize similar events with Governments and non-governmental organizations in their own regions”;

UNDERSCORING the work done by the Caribbean Ombudsmen’s Association, the Network of National Human Rights Institutions of the Americas, the Andean Council of Ombudsmen, and the Central American Ombudsman Council;

RECALLING the exhortation contained in the aforementioned resolutions that member states of the inter-American system adopt measures to ensure that the defenders of the people, defenders of the population, human rights attorneys, and human rights commissioners enjoy political, administrative, and financial independence; and

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION the Plan of Action of the Third Summit of the Americas, adopted in Quebec City, Canada, as it pertains to strengthening the capacity of national institutions responsible for the promotion and protection of human rights,

RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm the fundamental importance of national human rights systems for the promotion and protection of human rights in strengthening the rule of law and social justice for the consolidation of democracy.

2. To reiterate its support for the politically, administratively, and financially independent work of the ombudsmen or defenders of the people, defenders of the population, human rights attorneys, and human rights commissioners in the countries of the Hemisphere, in the promotion and protection of human rights.

3. To recommend to member states that do not yet have institutions of the kind to which this resolution refers that they consider the possibility of establishing and operating them within the framework of their legal order.

4. To encourage the governments and organs of the inter-American system to promote the establishment of forums for dialogue between the institutions of the kind to which this resolution
refers and the pertinent organs of the inter-American system, in order to strengthen their contribution to the democratic order in the Hemisphere.

5. To reaffirm the support of the Organization of American States for the work of the Ibero-American Federation of Ombudsmen, the Caribbean Ombudsmen’s Association, the Network of National Human Rights Institutions of the Americas, the Andean Council of Ombudsmen, and the Central American Ombudsman Council.

6. To reiterate to the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs of the Permanent Council that it should consider inviting the institutions of the kind to which this resolution refers to participate in the dialogue to be conducted among the member states on human rights topics, for the reason that their presence is necessary.

7. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session on the implementation of this resolution, which will be carried out within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.
AG/RES. 2222 (XXXVI-O/06)

COOPERATION AMONG THE MEMBER STATES
IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION AND IMPUNITY

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

REAFFIRMING that one of the purposes of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption is to promote, facilitate, and regulate cooperation among the states parties to ensure the effectiveness of measures and actions to prevent, detect, punish, and eradicate corruption in the performance of public functions and acts of corruption specifically related to such performance;

BEARING IN MIND that, since its inception, the Summits of the Americas process has been concerned with the fight against corruption and that this topic has merited the attention of the Heads of State and Government;

REAFFIRMING that transparency in government activities, probity, responsible public administration on the part of governments, respect for social rights, and freedom of expression and of the press are essential components of the exercise of democracy;

CONVINCED that fighting corruption strengthens democratic institutions and prevents economic distortions, dishonesty in public administration, and the erosion of moral standards in society;

RECALLING that, in the framework of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption, the member states acknowledged that corruption may have international repercussions, which require action by states to combat it effectively and to eradicate impunity;

REAFFIRMING the need to facilitate international cooperation in fighting corruption and, especially, in taking appropriate measures against persons who commit acts of corruption in the performance of their public duties;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT resolution AG/RES. 2022 (XXXIV-O/04), “Joint Efforts of the Americas in the Struggle against Corruption and Impunity,” adopted by the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth regular session, held in Quito, Ecuador, from June 6 to 8, 2004; and

NOTING resolution CJI/RES. 84 (LXVI-O/05), in which the Inter-American Juridical Committee respectively welcomed and adopted the study “Joint Efforts of the Americas in the Struggle against Corruption and Impunity” (CJI/doc.177/05) and the opinion attached thereto (CJI/doc.181/05 rev. 4),
RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm that fighting corruption and impunity is an essential commitment and a shared duty of the states of the Americas, as a guarantee of the exercise of democracy and the consolidation of its institutions, good governance, and the strengthening of the rule of law, because corruption, whether passive or active, poses a threat to the security of states, undermines public and private institutions, and hinders the development of peoples.

2. To call upon member states to seek, in accordance with their domestic laws and applicable treaties, including relevant provisions related to the extradition or nonextradition of nationals, to surrender and extradite accused persons to the requesting state, making it possible to prosecute those persons and, if they are found guilty, to punish them for acts of corruption, including those committed in the exercise of public office.

3. To call upon member states to effectively enforce the rules of international judicial cooperation, so that extradition and mutual legal assistance will be efficient, expeditious, and effective, through compliance with multilateral and bilateral treaties on extradition and mutual legal assistance.
AG/RES. 2223 (XXXVI-O/06)

OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the observations and recommendations of the Permanent Council on the Annual Report of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (AG/doc.4637/06);

CONSIDERING:

That in the Declaration of the Third Summit of the Americas, held in Quebec City, the Heads of State and Government stated that their “commitment to full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms is based on shared principles and convictions” and that they supported “strengthening and enhancing the effectiveness of the inter American human rights system, which includes ... the Inter-American Court of Human Rights”;

That in the Declaration and the Plan of Action of the Fourth Summit of the Americas, held in Mar del Plata, Argentina, the Heads of State and Government recognized that the promotion and protection of human rights, on the basis of the principles of universality, indivisibility, and interdependence, are essential to the functioning of democratic societies. Likewise, they undertook “[t]o continue supporting and strengthening the functioning of the bodies of the Inter-American System of Human Rights, promoting within the political bodies of the OAS, in the framework of the ongoing reflection process, concrete actions to achieve, among other objectives, greater adhesion to the legal instruments, an effective observance of the decisions by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and due consideration of the recommendations of the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights, and the improvement of access of the victims to the mechanisms of the system, and the adequate financing of the bodies of the System, including the fostering of voluntary contributions”;

That Article 54.f of the Charter of the Organization of American States establishes that it is a function of the General Assembly to consider the observations and recommendations presented by the Permanent Council on the reports of the organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization, in accordance with Article 91.f of the Charter;

That Article 65 of the American Convention on Human Rights establishes that “to each regular session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States the Court shall submit, for the Assembly’s consideration, a report on its work during the previous year. It shall specify, in particular, the cases in which a state has not complied with its judgments, making any pertinent recommendations”;

UNDERSCORING WITH SATISFACTION the efficient work done by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in the exercise of its contentious and advisory functions; and
EXPRESSING ITS APPRECIATION for the offers of the Governments of Chile, Paraguay, Argentina, Brazil, and El Salvador to host special sessions of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, as a means of promoting the inter-American human rights system,

RESOLVES:

1. To adopt the observations and recommendations of the Permanent Council on the Annual Report of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (AG/doc.4637/06); and to forward them to that organ.

2. To reaffirm the essential value of the work of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in enhancing the protection and defense of human rights in the Hemisphere.

3. To reiterate that the judgments of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights are final and may not be appealed and that the states parties to the American Convention on Human Rights undertake to comply with the decisions of the Court in all cases to which they are party.

4. To reiterate the need for states parties to provide, in a timely fashion, the information requested by the Court in order to enable it to fully meet its obligation to report to the General Assembly on compliance with its judgments.

5. To reaffirm the importance of:
   a. The advisory function of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights for the development of inter-American jurisprudence and international human rights law and, in that context, to take note of Advisory Opinion OC-19/05, “Control of Legality in the Exercise of the Functions of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights”; and
   b. The jurisprudence of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights for the effective exercise of and respect for human rights in the Hemisphere; and consequently the importance of the dissemination of its decisions by the member states, as they deem it appropriate.

6. To instruct the Permanent Council to:
   a. Continue its consideration of the issue of “Access of victims to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (jus standi) and its application in practice,” including its financial and budgetary implications, taking into account the report of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights entitled “Bases for a Draft Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights to Strengthen Its Mechanism for Protection – Volume II”; the proposal presented by the Government of Costa Rica, “Draft Optional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights”; the revised Rules of Procedure of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights; and taking into account the need to maintain procedural
equity and to redefine the role of the Commission in proceedings before the Court;

b. Continue to consider means of encouraging compliance by member states with the judgments of the Court; and

c. Instruct the Permanent Council to continue analyzing ways to achieve an effective increase of the financial resources allocated to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in the program-budget of the Organization. To that effect, to thank the Secretary General of the Organization for his work and urge him to continue his efforts and present additional proposals for achieving adequate funding for the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in the program-budget of the Organization.

7. To thank those member states (Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, and Paraguay) and institutions (the European Union, the Inter-American Development Bank – IDB, and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees – UNHCR) that have made voluntary contributions to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. In addition, to urge member states to contribute to the Specific Fund for Strengthening the Inter-American System for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights; and to encourage permanent observers and institutions to make voluntary contributions to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

8. To encourage member states to continue to invite the Inter-American Court of Human Rights to hold special sessions away from its headquarters.

9. To urge the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, and the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights to continue to hold specialized seminars on the inter-American system for the promotion and protection of human rights for government officials.

10. To invite the Inter-American Court of Human Rights to continue to participate, with its judges, in the dialogue with member states in the reflection process on strengthening the inter-American human rights system, within the context of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs.

11. To urge member states to consider the signature and ratification of, ratification of, or accession to, as the case may be, the American Convention on Human Rights and other instruments of the system, including acceptance of the binding jurisdiction of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

12. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session on the implementation of this resolution, which will be carried out within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.
AG/RES. 2224 (XXXVI-O/06)

THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF ALL MIGRANT WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the report on this topic included in the Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly (AG/doc.4548/06 add. 6 corr. 1);

EXPRESSING ITS SATISFACTION with the adoption of the Inter-American Program for the Promotion and Protection of the Human Rights of Migrants, Including Migrant Workers and Their Families, through its resolution AG/RES. 2141 (XXXV-O/05);

NOTING the special meeting of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP) of the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States (OAS), held on March 16, 2006, on the implementation of the Inter-American Program and proposals for new activities by the states, as well as the presentations of the organs, agencies, and entities of the OAS;

REAFFIRMING that the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man proclaims that all persons are equal before the law and have the rights and duties established therein, without distinction as to race, sex, language, creed, or any other factor;

EMPHASIZING that the American Convention on Human Rights recognizes that the essential rights of the human individual are not derived from the fact that a person is a national of a certain state, but are based upon attributes of the human personality;

REAFFIRMING that the principles and standards set forth in the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man and in the American Convention on Human Rights take on particular relevance with respect to protection of the human rights of migrant workers and their families;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

Its resolutions AG/RES. 1717 (XXX-O/00), AG/RES. 1775 (XXXI-O/01), AG/RES. 1898 (XXXII-O/02), AG/RES. 1928 (XXXIII-O/03), AG/RES. 2027 (XXXIV-O/04), and AG/RES. 2130 (XXXV-O/05); and

The Annual Report of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to the General Assembly, especially the chapter on the situation of migrant workers and members of their families in the Hemisphere (CP/doc.4088/06 add. 1);

CONSIDERING:

That the Heads of State and Government, gathered at the Third Summit of the Americas, recognized the cultural and economic contributions made by migrants to receiving societies as well as
to their communities of origin and committed to ensure dignified, humane treatment with applicable legal protections and to strengthen mechanisms for hemispheric cooperation to address their legitimate needs;

That in the Declaration of Nuevo León of the Special Summit of the Americas, the Heads of State and Government highlighted the importance of cooperation among countries of origin, countries of transit, and receiving countries to ensure full protection of the human rights of all migrants, including migrant workers and their families, the defense of human rights, and safe and healthy labor conditions for migrants, and to adopt effective measures against trafficking in persons;

That the Heads of State and Government, gathered at the Fourth Summit of the Americas, adopted the Declaration of Mar del Plata, “Creating Jobs to Confront Poverty and Strengthen Democratic Governance,” and its Plan of Action, in which they reaffirmed, *inter alia*, important commitments related to the human rights of migrant workers;

That practically all the countries in the Hemisphere are countries of origin, countries of transit, and receiving countries for migrants and have the authority to regulate the immigration of persons into their territories, in accordance with applicable international law, including international human rights law, international humanitarian law, and international refugee law;

The migrant programs adopted by some countries, which permit the integration of migrants into the receiving countries, facilitate family reunification, and promote a climate of harmony, tolerance, and respect;

The positive contributions often made by migrants, both to their countries of origin and to the transit or receiving countries, and their gradual incorporation into the receiving societies; as well as the efforts made by some transit or receiving countries to attend both to the needs of migrants and to those of the receiving or local community;

The entry into force of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, on July 1, 2003; the installation and initiation of work of the United Nations Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families; and the entry into force of the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, on January 28, 2004, and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo Convention);


Advisory Opinion OC-18/03, “Juridical Condition and Rights of the Undocumented Migrants,” issued by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights on September 17, 2003; and

The judgment issued by the International Court of Justice on March 31, 2004, in the case *Avena and Other Mexican Nationals*;
BEARING IN MIND:

That, in the Strategic Plan for Partnership for Development 2002-2005 of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI), support for vulnerable groups such as migrant workers was identified as a priority in the implementation of policies and programs to facilitate access to the labor market and to improve working conditions; and

That the Plan of Action of the Third Summit of the Americas provided for the establishment of an inter-American program within the OAS for the promotion and protection of the human rights of migrants, including migrant workers and their families, taking into account the activities of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) and supporting the work of the IACHR Special Rapporteurship on Migrant Workers and Their Families and of the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights;

CONCERNED over the extremely vulnerable situation in which many migrant workers and their families in the Hemisphere find themselves and over the persistent obstacles that prevent them from fully exercising their human rights;

BEARING IN MIND that migrants are often victims of crimes, mistreatment, discrimination, racism, and xenophobia in transit and receiving countries, and that women migrants who are unaccompanied or heads of household are especially vulnerable to gender-based violence and other forms of sexual and labor exploitation, which calls for broad cooperation to address these situations, as well as the potential vulnerability of migrants’ families in the countries of origin;

TAKING NOTE of the regional initiatives, activities, and programs of the Regional Conference on Migration (Puebla Process) in North America, the countries of Central America, and the Dominican Republic, as well as the ministerial dialogue among Mesoamerican countries, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, and Colombia; and

BEARING IN MIND that all migrants and their advocates have a duty and obligation to obey all the laws of sending, transit, and receiving countries,

RESOLVES:

1. To strongly condemn manifestations or acts of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related forms of intolerance against migrants, as well as all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related forms of intolerance with respect to access to employment, professional training, housing, instruction, health services, social services, and services to the public.

2. To reaffirm the duty of states parties to the 1963 Vienna Convention on Consular Relations to comply with that Convention, including the right to communication between consular officers and their nationals in cases of detention and the obligation of the states parties in whose territory the detention occurs to inform the foreign national of that right; and, in that connection, to call the attention of states to Advisory Opinion OC-16/99 of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and to the ruling of the International Court of Justice of March 31, 2004, in the case Avena and Other Mexican Nationals, on the obligation to comply with Article 36 of the Vienna Convention.
3. To call the attention of the states to Advisory Opinion OC-18/03 of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, which holds that “the migratory status of a person cannot constitute a justification to deprive him of the enjoyment and exercise of human rights, including those of a labor-related nature.”

4. To encourage member states to consider the adoption of programs aimed at integrating migrants into their societies, in order to promote a climate of harmony, tolerance, and respect.

5. To encourage constructive dialogue and cooperation among member states so as to improve their migration policies and practices with a view to providing adequate protection to all migrants, including migrant workers and their families, and in order to promote migration processes in keeping with the domestic legal system of each state and applicable international law.

6. To urge member states to consider the signature and ratification of, ratification of, or accession to the inter-American human rights instruments, as the case may be, and to take the necessary measures to guarantee the human rights of all migrants, including migrant workers and their families.

7. To call upon member states to consider the signature and ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

8. To instruct the Permanent Council to continue supporting the work of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) in this area and to take into account the efforts of other international organizations on behalf of migrant workers and their families, with a view to helping to improve their situation in the Hemisphere and, in particular and where applicable, the efforts of the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights and those of the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

9. To encourage the IACHR to give a presentation, through its Special Rapporteurship on Migrant Workers and Their Families, on the human rights of migrants, including migrant workers and their families, and on the Inter-American Program for the Promotion and Protection of the Human Rights of Migrants, Including Migrant Workers and Their Families, during the High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development of the United Nations General Assembly, to be held in September 2006.

10. To request that the Secretary General, pursuant to paragraph V.A of the Inter-American Program and in cooperation with the relevant organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization of American States (OAS), prepare and submit the work plan needed to keep track of the specific activities envisaged in that Inter-American Program.

11. To instruct the relevant organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization to support the execution of and, when appropriate, to implement the Inter-American Program for the Promotion and Protection of the Human Rights of Migrants, Including Migrant Workers and Their Families.
12. To encourage states to consider, in the design, execution, and evaluation of their migration policies, the activities recommended in the Inter-American Program for the Promotion and Protection of the Human Rights of Migrants, Including Migrant Workers and Their Families.

13. To convene, as established in the Inter-American Program, a meeting of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP) in the first half of 2007, with the participation of government experts and representatives of the organs, agencies, and entities of the inter-American system, other international organizations, and civil society, for the purpose of sharing best practices and activities carried out last year in support of the Program, as well as new proposals that might be incorporated into it.

14. To request the relevant organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization to include, in their annual reports to the General Assembly, their actions aimed at implementing the activities set out in the Program.

15. To request the CAJP to convene, periodically and as appropriate, the organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization with a view to facilitating free-flowing dialogue with the member states on implementation of the activities assigned to the Organization by the Inter-American Program.

16. To instruct the Permanent Council to constitute a specific fund composed of voluntary contributions, called the “Fund for the Inter-American Program for the Promotion and Protection of the Human Rights of Migrants, Including Migrant Workers and Their Families,” to contribute to funding of the activities assigned to the organs, agencies, and entities of the OAS in support of this Program; and to urge member states, permanent observers, regional organizations, international organizations, and civil society organizations to contribute to the Fund.

17. To urge the General Secretariat, working through the Department of International Legal Affairs, to disseminate, *inter alia*, the Inter-American Program for the Promotion and Protection of the Human Rights of Migrants, Including Migrant Workers and Their Families.

18. To request the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD) to strengthen communication and coordination with the IACHR, the IOM, the International Labour Organization (ILO), and other pertinent organizations, agencies, and entities and, in that context, to follow up in particular on IACD partnership-for-development activities, under the Strategic Plan for Partnership for Development 2002-2005, related to the situation of migrant workers and members of their families.

19. To entrust the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights with:

   a. Considering the advisability of participating in joint cooperation projects conducted by the IACD in this area;

   b. Providing its Special Rapporteurship on Migrant Workers and Their Families with the necessary and appropriate means to perform its duties, within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources; and
c. Presenting to the Permanent Council a report on the status of the rights of migrant workers and their families, prior to the thirty-seventh regular session of the General Assembly.

20. To invite member states; permanent observers; organs, agencies, and entities of the inter-American system; and others to contribute to the voluntary fund of the IACHR Special Rapporteurship on Migrant Workers and Their Families.

21. To urge member states to consider inviting the Special Rapporteur on Migrant Workers and Their Families to visit their countries to enable said Rapporteur to perform his or her functions effectively.

22. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session on the implementation of this resolution, which will be carried out within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.
AG/RES. 2225 (XXXVI-O/06)

COOPERATION AMONG THE MEMBER STATES OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES TO ENSURE THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FIGHT IMPUNITY

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

CONSIDERING the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, the American Convention on Human Rights, or “Pact of San José,” and the Inter-American Convention against Corruption;

CONSIDERING ALSO its resolutions AG/RES. 2072 (XXXV-O/05), AG/RES. 2039 (XXXIV-O/04), AG/RES. 1929 (XXXIII-O/03), AG/RES. 1900 (XXXII-O/02), AG/RES. 1771 (XXI-O/01), AG/RES. 1770 (XXI-O/01), AG/RES. 1706 (XXX-O/00), and AG/RES. 1619 (XXIX-O/99), which make reference to promotion of the International Criminal Court;

RECALLING resolution No. 1/03, “On Trial for International Crimes,” adopted by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) on October 24, 2003, as well as the jurisprudence of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights regarding impunity;


BEARING IN MIND that, in accordance with international human rights instruments to which they are party, states should respect and safeguard the human rights of all persons under their jurisdiction and that for that reason they should investigate, prosecute, and punish those responsible for all violations of said rights that constitute crimes;

RECALLING the importance of judicial cooperation among states to accomplish the purposes described in the previous paragraph, especially regarding international crimes such as genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes;

OBSERVING that, among other instruments, the Inter-American Convention to Prevent and Punish Torture and the Inter-American Convention on Forced Disappearance of Persons, in the framework of the Organization of American States, as well as the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the International Convention against the Taking of Hostages, the Convention on the Imprescriptibility of War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity, and the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, oblige the states parties thereto to take steps to try these crimes in their jurisdiction, or else to extradite the accused for trial; and
TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the Principles of International Cooperation in the Detection, Arrest, Extradition, and Punishment of Persons Guilty of War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity, and the Set of Principles for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights through Action to Combat Impunity,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge member states to combat impunity and to prosecute or extradite, in accordance with their obligations under international law, those responsible for all violations of human rights and international humanitarian law that constitute crimes, including genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes, in order to bring them to justice.

2. To urge member states to comply with their commitments to follow up on the recommendations of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) and to comply with the decisions of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.
PROMOTION OF AND RESPECT FOR INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING its resolutions AG/RES. 1270 (XXIV-O/94), AG/RES. 1335 (XXV-O/95), 1408 (XXVI-O/96), AG/RES. 1503 (XXVII-O/97), AG/RES. 1565 (XXVIII-O/98), AG/RES. 1619 (XXIX-O/99), AG/RES. 1706 (XXX-O/00), AG/RES. 1770 (XXXI-O/01), AG/RES. 1771 (XXXI-O/01), AG/RES. 1904 (XXXII-O/02), AG/RES. 1944 (XXXIII-O/03), AG/RES. 2052 (XXXIV-O/04), and AG/RES. 2127 (XXXV-O/05);

RECALLING ALSO that, under the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), and pursuant to all applicable provisions of international humanitarian law and international human rights law within their respective spheres of application, human rights and fundamental freedoms must always be respected, including in situations of armed conflict;

DEEPLY CONCERNED about the persisting violations of international humanitarian law that cause suffering to all victims of armed conflict;

RECALLING that it is the obligation of all member states, in all circumstances, to respect and ensure respect for the 1949 Geneva Conventions;

RECALLING ALSO that 33 and 32 OAS member states, respectively, are parties to the 1977 Additional Protocols I and II to the 1949 Geneva Conventions;

CONSIDERING that international humanitarian law contains provisions that reflect customary international law that states must observe;

WELCOMING the adoption on December 8, 2005, of Additional Protocol III to the 1949 Geneva Conventions, regarding approval of an additional emblem;

UNDERSCORING the need to strengthen the rules of international humanitarian law by means of their universal acceptance, their broader dissemination, and the adoption of national measures for their application;

EMPHASIZING the obligation of states to punish all violations of international humanitarian law;

RECOGNIZING the important contribution by the national committees or commissions on international humanitarian law that exist in various member states to the application and dissemination or the adoption, as the case may be, of national measures to implement international rules within internal legal systems;

EXPRESSING ITS SATISFACTION with the cooperation between the Organization of American States and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) with regard to promoting respect for international humanitarian law and the principles behind said law, one example of which was the holding of a special meeting of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs on current topics in international humanitarian law, at OAS headquarters on February 2, 2006; and taking note of the results of that meeting, contained in the rapporteur’s report (CP/CAJP-2326/06);

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that, in the Declaration of Mar del Plata, adopted in the framework of the Fourth Summit of the Americas, in November 2005, the Heads of State and Government recognized that “respect for international law, including international humanitarian law, international human rights law, and international refugee law are essential to the functioning of democratic societies”;

RECALLING that the Third Review Conference of the 1980 Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects will take place this year;

RECALLING ALSO that the Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects will take place this year; and

EMPHASIZING the special role of the ICRC as a neutral, impartial, and independent institution working to protect and assist the victims of armed conflicts and other situations of armed violence, as well as to promote respect for international humanitarian law and the principles underlying it,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge member states and the parties engaged in armed conflict to honor their obligations under international humanitarian law, including those pertaining to protection of the well-being and dignity of victims and the proper treatment of prisoners of war.

2. To urge member states that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the following treaties:


   b. The 1972 Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction (Biological Weapons Convention);
c. The 1977 Additional Protocols I and II to the 1949 Geneva Conventions; and the 2005 Additional Protocol III;
d. The 1980 Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, including the amendment to its Article I adopted in 2001 and its five Protocols;
f. The 1993 Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction (Chemical Weapons Convention);
g. The 1997 Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Antipersonnel Mines and on Their Destruction;
h. The 1998 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court;
i. The 1997 Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (CIFTA); and

3. To urge member states that are parties to Additional Protocol I of 1977 to consider recognizing the competence of the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission by means of the declaration contemplated in Article 90 of said Protocol, and those that have done so to take part in the election of the new members of the Commission.

4. To urge member states to bring about the widest possible dissemination of the rules of international humanitarian law, in particular by incorporating them into military doctrine and manuals, as well as among the entire civilian population.

5. To urge member states to adapt their criminal law in order to meet their legal obligations under the 1949 Geneva Conventions and the 1977 Additional Protocol I thereto with respect to the definition of war crimes, universal jurisdiction, and the responsibility of superiors.


7. To invite member states that are parties to the Rome Statute to cooperate fully with the International Criminal Court and to define under their criminal law the crimes that are within its jurisdiction.
8. To call upon member states to enact laws to prevent the misuse of the red cross and red crescent emblems and denominations, as well as the emblem adopted in Additional Protocol III, of December 8, 2005, as established in relevant treaties.

9. To urge member states to adopt effective measures to prevent the disappearance of persons in cases of armed conflict or other situations of armed violence, to determine the fate of those who have disappeared, and to attend to the needs of their family members.

10. To encourage member states to ensure the adoption of the necessary measures and mechanisms to protect cultural property from the effects of armed conflict, in accordance with their international obligations, and in particular to give consideration to the adoption of preventive measures related to the preparation of inventories, the planning of emergency measures, the appointment of competent authorities, and the enactment of laws to ensure respect for such property.

11. To urge those member states that are parties to the 1997 Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction to prevent and suppress any activity prohibited therein when it is carried out by persons or in territory under their jurisdiction or control and to pay attention to the needs of victims of antipersonnel mines and, where appropriate, victims of explosive remnants of war, considering, as part of those needs, medical care, rehabilitation, and economic reintegration of the victims.

12. To urge member states to enact laws punishing acts prohibited by the 1925 Geneva Protocol to the 1907 Hague Convention, the 1972 Biological Weapons Convention, and the 1993 Chemical Weapons Convention.

13. To call upon member states to prohibit the compulsory recruitment of children under 18 years of age into the armed forces or armed groups, and to take all feasible measures to prevent their direct participation in hostilities, in accordance with the 2000 Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflicts.

14. To urge member states to consider adopting the appropriate measures, at the national level, to address the grave humanitarian consequences of the unregulated availability of arms, including the enactment of domestic laws aimed at strengthening control over the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms and other related materials, and to bear in mind the Programme of Action adopted at the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (New York, July 9-20, 2001); and to invite them to play an active part in the Review Conference of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, to be held in New York from June 26 to July 7, 2006, in order to help strengthen the international commitment made in the area.

15. To encourage member states to establish procedures for determining, when studying, developing, acquiring, or adopting a new weapon or new means or methods of warfare, whether using, manufacturing, stockpiling, or exporting them would be contrary to international humanitarian law, and, in that event, to refrain from incorporating them for use by the armed forces or from manufacturing them for such purposes.
16. To invite member states to continue to support the work of national committees or commissions responsible for the dissemination and implementation of international humanitarian law; and to urge states where such bodies do not exist to consider establishing them.

17. To request the General Secretariat to consider, through the Office of International Law of its Department of International Legal Affairs, and in coordination with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), its Advisory Service in particular, organizing governmental conferences, as well as courses and seminars for staff of the permanent missions of the member states to the Organization of American States and General Secretariat staff, in order to disseminate international humanitarian law and related inter-American conventions and strengthen their implementation.

18. To instruct the Permanent Council to continue, with support from the Office of International Law of the Department of International Legal Affairs of the General Secretariat, and in cooperation with the ICRC, to organize special meetings on topics of current interest in international humanitarian law.

19. To instruct the Permanent Council to follow up on this resolution, which will be implemented within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources and to present a report to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session on the implementation of this resolution.
AG/RES. 2227 (XXXVI-O/06)

OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the observations and recommendations of the Permanent Council on the Annual Report of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (AG/doc.4638/06);

CONSIDERING:

That, in the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), the member states have proclaimed, as one of their principles, respect for the fundamental rights of the individual without distinction as to race, nationality, creed, or sex; and that, under the OAS Charter and the American Convention on Human Rights, the principal function of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) is to promote the observance and protection of human rights; and

That in the Declaration and Plan of Action of the Fourth Summit of the Americas, held in Mar del Plata, Argentina, the Heads of State and Government recognized that the promotion and protection of human rights, on the basis of the principles of universality, indivisibility, and interdependence, are essential to the functioning of democratic societies, as well as the need to continue the process of strengthening and enhancing the effectiveness of the inter-American human rights system to achieve, among other objectives, greater accession to the legal instruments, effective observance of the decisions of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and due consideration of the recommendations of the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights;

THANKING the Governments of Guatemala and Paraguay for the invitations they extended to the IACHR to hold special sessions in those countries, as a means of promoting the inter-American human rights system; and

THANKING ALSO the Government of Argentina, which extended an open and permanent invitation to the IACHR to visit its country, as of March 2006, and the Governments of Brazil, Colombia, and Mexico, which did so on prior occasions,

RESOLVES:

1. To adopt the observations and recommendations of the Permanent Council on the Annual Report of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (AG/doc.4638/06); and to forward them to that organ.

2. To reaffirm the essential value of the work carried out by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) to enhance the protection and promotion of human rights and the reinforcement of the rule of law in the Hemisphere.
3. To encourage member states to:
   a. Consider signing and ratifying, ratifying, or acceding to, as the case may be, all legal instruments of the inter-American human rights system;
   b. Follow up on the recommendations of the IACHR, including, *inter alia*, precautionary measures; and
   c. Continue to take appropriate action in connection with the annual reports of the IACHR, in the context of the Permanent Council and the General Assembly.

4. To note with satisfaction the decisions taken by the governments of member states to invite the IACHR to visit their respective countries; and to encourage all member states to continue this practice.

5. To encourage member states to continue inviting the IACHR to hold special sessions away from its headquarters.

6. To reiterate its request to the IACHR to present to the member states for their information a detailed report on the special session held in Mexico, with the participation of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, from July 19 to 23, 2004.

7. To urge the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, and the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights to continue to hold specialized seminars for government officials on the inter-American system for the promotion and protection of human rights.

8. To reiterate the importance of the application of the friendly settlement mechanism among parties concerned, in accordance with the American Convention on Human Rights and the Statute and Rules of Procedure of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

9. To take the following actions with regard to financing of the IACHR:
   a. Instruct the Permanent Council to continue analyzing ways to achieve an effective increase in the financial resources allocated to the IACHR in the program-budget of the Organization. To that effect, thank the Secretary General for his work and urge him to continue his efforts and to present additional proposals aimed at achieving adequate financing for the Commission in said program-budget;
   b. Thank member states, permanent observers, and institutions that have made voluntary contributions to the IACHR;
   c. Invite member states to contribute to the Specific Fund for Strengthening the Inter-American System for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights;
d. Suggest to donors that, to the extent possible, part of the voluntary contributions that they make not be earmarked for specific purposes, to give the Commission flexibility in allocating resources among its various activities and projects.

10. To invite the IACHR to:

   a. Continue to take into account the observations and recommendations of the member states on its annual report and to adopt such measures as it considers pertinent based on such observations and recommendations;

   b. Continue to publish on its Internet page, when member states so request, their observations and recommendations on its annual report to the General Assembly;

   c. Continue to strengthen existing rapporteurships and operational units, in the most equitable manner possible, within the limits of its available resources, and in accordance with Article 15 of its Rules of Procedure; and

   d. Continue to participate, through the members of the Commission, in the dialogue with member states, in the context of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP), so as to follow up on the observations and comments of the states set forth in the reports on the meetings held on October 26, 2004 (CP/CAJP/SA.412/04 corr. 1 and CP/CAJP/INF.17/04) and on March 9, 2006 (CP/CAJP-2311/05 add. 2 and 2-a), in particular those on the criteria used when applying its principal mechanisms for the protection of human rights and when applying its Rules of Procedure to the individual case system, as well as for general observation mechanisms and the publication of reports; and likewise on the role of the IACHR in proceedings before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

11. To instruct the CAJP, with a view to implementing operative paragraph 10.d, to schedule meetings to continue its dialogue with the members of the IACHR.

12. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session on the implementation of this resolution, which will be carried out within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.
AG/RES. 2228 (XXXVI-O/06)

MEETING OF MINISTERS OF JUSTICE OR OF MINISTERS OR ATTORNEYS GENERAL OF THE AMERICAS

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly (AG/doc.4548/06 add. 6 corr. 1), in particular as it pertains to the implementation of resolution AG/RES. 2068 (XXXV-O/05), “Meeting of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas” (REMJA);

RECALLING that, in the Plan of Action of the Third Summit of the Americas, held in Quebec City, Canada, in April 2001, the Heads of State and Government decided to continue to support the work done in the context of the Meetings of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJAs) and the implementation of their conclusions and recommendations;

RECALLING ALSO that in the Declaration of Nuevo León, adopted at the Special Summit of the Americas, held in Monterrey, Mexico, in January 2004, the Heads of State and Government urged all countries “to participate actively in the Network on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters,” which constitutes one of the concrete outcomes of the REMJAs;

BEARING IN MIND that in the Declaration on Security in the Americas, adopted in Mexico City in October 2003, the states of the Hemisphere reaffirmed “that the Meetings of Ministers of Justice or Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA) and other meetings of criminal justice authorities are important and effective fora for promoting and strengthening mutual understanding, confidence, dialogue, and cooperation in developing criminal justice policies and responses to address new threats to security”; and

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that REMJA-V recommended “that the Sixth Meeting of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA-VI) take place in 2006 and that the OAS General Assembly charge the Permanent Council of the OAS to set a date and site for REMJA-VI,”

RESolves:

1. To express its satisfaction with the outcomes of the Sixth Meeting of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA-VI), held in the city of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, from April 24 to 26, 2006, and with the results of the technical meetings held prior to it as part of the REMJA process.

2. To thank the Government of the Dominican Republic for successfully organizing the aforementioned ministerial meeting.
3. To endorse the Conclusions and Recommendations of the Sixth Meeting of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas, which are appended hereto and form an integral part of this resolution.

4. To instruct the Permanent Council to provide appropriate follow-up to the implementation of the conclusions and recommendations of REMJA-VI and to convene the meetings referred to therein, which will be carried out within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

5. To instruct the Permanent Council to present a report on the implementation of this resolution to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session.
CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

(Adopted at the fifth plenary session, held on April 26, 2006, and reviewed by the Style Committee at its meetings of July 19 and 21 and August 3, 2006)
EXPLANATORY NOTE OF THE STYLE COMMITTEE

These “Conclusions and Recommendations of REMJA-VI” were reviewed by the Style Committee at its meetings of July 19 and 21 and August 3, 2006.

The Style Committee highlights that, with respect to chapter X of these Conclusions and Recommendations, the Final Report of REMJA-VI (REMJA-VI/doc.24/06 rev. 1) contains an account of the considerations expressed on this topic at the third plenary session, and transcribes verbatim the interventions made with respect to the creation of a coordinating group composed of the current Chair of the REMJA, together with a representative of the country that was the previous Chair and a representative of the country that will host the next REMJA.
CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF REMJA-VI

Having concluded its deliberations on the various items on its agenda, the Sixth Meeting of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA-VI), convened under the auspices of the Organization of American States (OAS), adopted the following conclusions and recommendations for transmission, through the Permanent Council, to the General Assembly of the OAS at its thirty-sixth regular session.

I. DRAFT HEMISPHERIC PLAN OF ACTION AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME

1. To express its satisfaction with the progress made in preparing the Draft Hemispheric Plan of Action against Transnational Organized Crime, and to urge states to continue making headway so that the negotiations can conclude as soon as possible.

2. Once the negotiation process concludes, to transmit the text agreed upon for the Draft Hemispheric Plan of Action against Transnational Organized Crime to the OAS General Assembly at its next regular session, pursuant to resolutions AG/RES. 2026 (XXXIV-O/04) and AG/RES. 2116 (XXXV-O/05), for adoption, and to move ahead with its implementation.

3. To keep the subject of hemispheric cooperation against transnational organized crime on the REMJA agenda and to report to REMJA-VII on the contents of the Plan of Action agreed to on this subject and on the specific actions undertaken under that Plan.

4. To take special care not to duplicate the efforts of other international bodies addressing this issue, especially at the United Nations. Accordingly, to encourage member states to take part in the next session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, pursuant to paragraphs “g” and “h” of Decision 2/2 of its second session.

II. PENITENTIARY AND PRISON POLICIES

1. To continue consolidating the exchange of information and cooperation among the authorities responsible for penitentiary and prison policies in the OAS member states. Likewise, to strengthen the exchange of information on the programs, methodologies, and training systems of the schools of criminological and penitentiary sciences in the member states, in order to facilitate the coordination of their activities and to plan joint training activities.

2. To convene, as soon as possible and prior to REMJA-VII, the Second Meeting of Officials Responsible for Penitentiary and Prison Policies of the OAS Member States.
3. To enhance, in the framework of the next meeting of those officials, the exchange of information and experiences as well as the strengthening of mutual cooperation on practical solutions for the problems of the states in the following areas, among others, agreed upon at the First Meeting (Recommendation 3): prison overcrowding; private sector participation in prison construction and maintenance, and private sector and NGO participation in provision of goods and services; inmate training, rehabilitation, and re-socialization programs; prison staff training and rules with an emphasis on transparency, the rule of law, and respect for human rights; crime in prisons; alternatives to imprisonment; and integration of penitentiary policies in criminal justice policies. In addition, pursuant to Recommendation 4 of the First Meeting, to consider and formulate recommendations for consolidating and perfecting the Internet-based information system in this field.

4. That, in the framework of the Second Meeting of Officials Responsible for Penitentiary and Prison Policies, member states begin considering, inter alia, the following topics:

a. Starting, with support from the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights through its Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons Deprived of Freedom, an analysis of actual conditions in penitentiaries and coordination regarding best practices and minimum prison standards;

b. The feasibility of preparing a hemispheric manual on penitentiary rights taking as a basis the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners;

c. Actions to promote the exercise by foreign inmates serving a sentence in a member state’s penitentiary of the rights and benefits to which they are entitled under bilateral and multilateral treaties regarding the transfer of sentenced persons, especially the Inter-American Convention on Serving Criminal Sentences Abroad and the Council of Europe’s Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons, and to carry out a study of the best way to extend the practice of serving criminal sentences not involving imprisonment in the convicted person’s country of origin or habitual residence;

d. The rights, duties, and care of persons subject to any form of detention or imprisonment, with a view to considering a possible inter-American declaration on the subject;

e. Evaluation of the role of judges responsible for monitoring the execution of sentences.

5. To take note of the presentation by the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons Deprived of Freedom of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights on best practices and penitentiary reform in the Hemisphere, with a view to its being considered by the aforementioned meeting.
6. Taking into account respective legal systems and constitutional structures, to request, to the extent possible, that the judicial authorities in criminal matters examine current practices with respect to pre-trial detention and imprisonment.

III. CYBERCRIME

1. To express its satisfaction with the outcomes of the Fourth Meeting of the Group of Governmental Experts on Cyber-Crime, held at OAS headquarters, on February 27 and 28, 2006, pursuant to the agreement reached in REMJA-V.

2. To adopt the recommendations made by the Group of Governmental Experts (OEA/Ser.K/XXXIV.6, REMJA-VI/doc.10/06) and request that its Chair report to the next REMJA on progress with respect to their implementation.

3. That, bearing in mind the recommendations adopted by the Group of Governmental Experts and by REMJA-V, and the progress made between that REMJA and this one, efforts continue to strengthen cooperation with the Council of Europe so that the OAS member states can give consideration to applying the principles of the Council of Europe’s Convention on Cyber-Crime and to acceding thereto, and to adopting the legal and other measures required for its implementation. Similarly, that efforts continue to strengthen mechanisms for the exchange of information and cooperation with other international organizations and agencies in the area of cybercrime, such as the United Nations, the European Union, the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation Forum, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the G-8, the Commonwealth, and INTERPOL, in order for the OAS member states to take advantage of progress in those forums.

4. That member states establish specialized units to investigate cybercrime, and identify the authorities who will serve as the points of contact in this matter and expedite the exchange of information and obtaining of evidence. In addition, to foster cooperation in efforts to combat cybercrime among government authorities and Internet service providers and other private sector enterprises providing data transmission services.

IV. MUTUAL ASSISTANCE IN CRIMINAL MATTERS AND EXtradITION

1. To express its satisfaction with the outcomes of the Second Meeting of Central Authorities and Other Experts on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters and Extradition, held in Brasilia, Brazil, from September 1 to 3, 2005, and the meetings of the OAS/REMJA Working Group on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters and Extradition, held at OAS headquarters on May 5 and 6, 2005, and November 9 and 10, 2005, and in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, on April 5 and 6, 2006; and, to the extent specific conclusions and recommendations of the Second Meeting have not been overtaken by the acts of subsequent meetings of the Working Group on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters and Extradition, to recommend the adoption of the
Conclusions and Recommendations of the Second Meeting; and in that regard to specifically recommend:

a. That the member states that have not yet done so take the measures necessary for the effective implementation of the recommendations adopted at the First Meeting of Central Authorities and Other Experts on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters and Extradition, with the aim of fully implementing those recommendations before the Third Meeting of Central Authorities and Other Experts on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters and Extradition (Third Meeting), and that at that meeting member states report on the decisions that have been taken in this regard;

b. To accept Canada’s offer to continue to coordinate the work of the Working Group until the later of the next Meeting of Central Authorities, or such time as a new coordinator is named;

c. That member states, coordinated by the delegation of Argentina, continue to discuss and conclude the preparation of model legislation on mutual assistance in criminal matters, including provisions regarding the use of videoconferencing in this context; and that member states participating in this initiative should review and agree on the proposal at the Third Meeting, for presentation and consideration at REMJA-VII;

d. That the member states continue to advance in the work coordinated by the delegations of Brazil and Mexico with respect to the studies and guidelines aimed at strengthening hemispheric cooperation in the area of extradition; and that the Third Meeting receive a report and its Chair inform REMJA-VII on the progress of this project;

e. That member states, coordinated by the delegation of Trinidad and Tobago, continue to discuss the proposal regarding the preparation of model legislation for the “backing of warrants” in the area of extradition; and that the Chair of the Third Meeting report to REMJA-VII on the progress of this project;

f. That member states, coordinated by the delegation of Canada, continue to discuss and conclude the preparation of the Guide to Best Practices in Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters; that the proposal be considered at the Third Meeting; and that the Chair of the Third Meeting report to REMJA-VII on the progress of this project;

g. That member states that have not yet done so submit to the technical secretariat, before the Third Meeting, the information on the legal terms commonly used in their countries in the area of mutual assistance in criminal matters and extradition; that the technical secretariat continue systematizing that information and disseminating it through the private Internet Web pages of the Hemispheric Information Exchange Network for Mutual Legal
Assistance in Criminal Matters and Extradition; and that REMJA-VII be informed of progress in this area;

h. To express appreciation for and accept the offer made by the delegation of Colombia to host the Third Meeting of Central Authorities and Other Experts on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters and Extradition.

2. To continue consolidating and strengthening the Hemispheric Information Exchange Network for Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters and Extradition, in its public, private, and secure electronic communication system components and, in that connection, to:

a. Express its appreciation to Canada for taking the lead in efforts to make this Network a reality and for the support and financing provided for its establishment and operations;

b. Request the OAS General Secretariat, in coordination with the Working Group, to continue providing the services needed to continue completing and updating the Network’s public and private information components and to continue providing technical assistance and training in connection with the secure electronic communication system;

c. Recommend that the OAS General Secretariat identify means to finance and maintain the Network and explore permanent additional sources of funding, and call on member states to consider making contributions, to ensure the continuity and enhancement of this important and useful initiative;

d. Encourage the Third Meeting to consider formulating recommendations for developing reciprocal cooperation between the Network and other information exchange networks, including “IberRED.”

V. DEVELOPMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF JUSTICE SYSTEMS IN THE REGION

REMJA-VI expresses its satisfaction with the Report on Judicial Systems in the Americas 2004-2005, prepared and presented by the Justice Studies Center of the Americas (JSCA), and requests the Center to continue contributing to the processes of reform and strengthening of the criminal justice systems of the member states, through its activities of research, evaluation, dissemination, training, and technical support. In this regard REMJA-VI urges the Center to continue publishing the above-mentioned Report.

VI. JUSTICE STUDIES CENTER OF THE AMERICAS (JSCA)

1. To recognize the efforts and activities of the JSCA reflected in its Report of Activities and encourage the Center to continue its valuable work.
2. To recognize that the Funding Plan presented by the Center at the request of REMJA-V envisions a program of suggested voluntary contributions by member states.

3. To recommend that this proposed plan of voluntary contributions be presented to the General Assembly at its next regular session for consideration, taking into account that voluntary contributions by member states are indispensable to fund the Center’s basic operating costs.

4. To request that the Center include in its work plan additional activities contemplated by the REMJA, to the extent that additional resources are provided for such activities.

VII. HEMISPHERIC COOPERATION AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

1. To express its satisfaction with the holding of the Meeting of National Authorities on Trafficking in Persons, on Isla Margarita, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, from March 14 to 17, 2006, pursuant to the recommendation of REMJA-V and the mandates of the OAS General Assembly, contained in resolutions AG/RES. 2019 (XXXIV-O/04), AG/RES. 2026 (XXXIV-O/04), and AG/RES. 2118 (XXXV-O/05). To express its appreciation to the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela for hosting that meeting, and to acknowledge its Conclusions and Recommendations, as set forth in document OEA/Ser.K/XXXIV.6, REMJA-VI/doc.8/06. OAS organs, agencies, entities, and mechanisms executing the various recommendations should adopt an integrated and crosscutting approach to this matter, as with other manifestations of transnational organized crime.

2. To keep the subject of trafficking in persons on the REMJA agenda, and to request that REMJA-VII be informed of progress with respect to the Conclusions and Recommendations of the Meeting of National Authorities on Trafficking in Persons.

3. That those states that have not yet done so consider signing, ratifying, or acceding to, as the case may be, the international instruments related to combating trafficking in persons, especially the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children; and that, as a first step toward implementing it, they define the crime of trafficking in persons in their domestic legislation.

VIII. HEMISPHERIC COOPERATION ON FORENSIC RESEARCH

1. To call on the OAS General Secretariat to coordinate training, skills-building, and cooperation in the area of forensic research, as duly requested by member states. Among other topics in this area, member states could focus on:
a. Managing issues, practices, and needs related to forensic research;

b. Establishing inter-institutional cooperation mechanisms in the area of forensic sciences, including exchange among member states of forensic evidence and acquired technical skills;

c. Training and skills-building in various fields of forensic science, including forensic chemistry, forensic information technology, forensic analysis, and forensic medicine;

d. Convening, as soon as possible and before REMJA-VII, a meeting of forensic specialists to assess the state of forensic science advances in the Hemisphere with the aim of promoting, among other issues, information sharing and practical cooperation in this field and the possible preparation of a database on industries specializing in the sale of forensic laboratory equipment, in order to take advantage of the most affordable purchasing options.

IX. HEMISPHERIC LEGAL COOPERATION ON CIVIL, TRADE, AND FAMILY LAW ISSUES: THE ROLE OF CENTRAL AUTHORITIES

1. To consider promoting the exchange of national experiences and legal and judicial cooperation in the framework of the inter-American system, for those member states that are parties to the various inter-American conventions on civil, trade, and family law issues.

2. To recommend to member states that they designate central authorities under the various conventions of the inter-American system that so require and to which they are a party.

3. To request the OAS General Secretariat to collect and post that information on the OAS Internet Website.

X. THE REMJA PROCESS

REMJA-VI recommends continuing progress toward strengthening the hemispheric cooperation processes developed in the REMJA framework and to that end agrees on the following:

1. Between successive REMJAs, the Chair of the most recent REMJA would continue to act in that capacity until the selection of his/her successor at the subsequent REMJA. The REMJAs should be held every two years.

2. The Chair of the REMJA will convene, together with the country that served as the previous Chair, a technical meeting open to all member states, with the support of the OAS General Secretariat, which will prepare a comprehensive draft document on the
REMJA process and submit it to REMJA-VII for consideration. This draft proposal should address, *inter alia*, the following matters:

a. The organization and modus operandi of the REMJA and the mechanisms and procedures for establishing its agenda and following up on its recommendations;

b. Relationships between the REMJA and the various groups that it has established, may establish, or may terminate, as appropriate. For each group the Regulations shall address, among other things, its respective sphere of competence;

c. Coordination and/or cooperation relationships with the pertinent organs, agencies, entities, and mechanisms of the OAS;

d. Coordination and/or cooperation relationships with other related cooperation processes, such as those between judicial authorities at the subregional level, or in the framework of other international organizations;

e. Relationship between the REMJA and the Justice Studies Center of the Americas (JSCA);

f. Technical secretariat and administrative support for the REMJA provided by the OAS General Secretariat.

3. To accept the delegation of Canada’s offer to convene a special meeting of the OAS/REMJA Working Group on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters and Extradition to consider how to order the work of REMJA related to the strengthening of mutual legal assistance and extradition in the Americas, recognizing as a source for the discussion, the recommendations of the Second Meeting of Central Authorities and Other Experts on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters and Extradition, and to report thereon to the technical meeting referred to in paragraph 2, or to REMJA-VII, whichever takes place earlier.

4. Subject to existing and extra-budgetary resources, that the technical and administrative support for the meetings referred to in paragraphs 2 and 3 be provided by the OAS General Secretariat.

XI. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

To thank the authorities of the Dominican Republic for the outstanding efforts and efficient work of the Chair of the plenary and of the Chair of the drafting working group, Ambassador Roberto Álvarez. Both tasks were diligently performed by the host country and were fundamental to the success of this meeting.
AG/RES. 2229 (XXXVI-O/06)

INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,


REITERATING the principles established in the Charter of the Organization of American States and in the Inter-American Democratic Charter, especially those referred to in its Chapter III, “Democracy, Integral Development, and Combating Poverty”;

RECALLING the pertinent rules of international law, including international human rights law, international humanitarian law, and international refugee law; and recognizing that the protection of internally displaced persons has been reinforced by the identification, reaffirmation, and consolidation of specific protective standards, in particular the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, prepared by the Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Internally Displaced Persons;

RECALLING ALSO that, according to those guiding principles, internally displaced persons are “persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border”;

EMPHASIZING that the states have the primary responsibility to provide protection and assistance to internally displaced persons within their jurisdiction, as well as to address, as appropriate, the causes of the internal displacement problem and to do so, when so required, in cooperation with the international community;

NOTING that several countries in the Hemisphere are using the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and including them in the development of national policies and strategies;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that the problem of internally displaced persons is of significant proportions and that their needs, particularly with regard to protection and assistance, require immediate attention;
EMPHASIZING the importance of implementing effective policies for preventing and averting forced internal displacement and for protecting and assisting displaced persons during displacement and during return or resettlement, and reintegration; and

UNDERSCORING that to promote enhanced protection for internally displaced persons, comprehensive strategies and lasting solutions are needed, which include, among other aspects, the safe, dignified, and voluntary return of internally displaced persons, promotion and protection of their human rights, and their resettlement and reintegration, either in their place of origin or in the receiving community and, in this context, reaffirming the importance of international cooperation,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge member states to include, as appropriate, in their sectoral plans, policies, and programs the special needs of internally displaced persons, in particular in the formulation of programs to foster development and fight poverty.

2. To urge member states to consider using the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, prepared by the Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Internally Displaced Persons, as a basis for their plans, policies, and programs in support of such persons, and, in accordance with international law, in support of, inter alia, indigenous communities and communities of African descent, and the specific needs of children, women, the elderly, and persons with disabilities.

3. In order to avert the internal displacement of persons, to encourage member states to address the factors that cause it and to establish policies, such as early warning, to prevent those factors, bearing in mind that dialogue with all the actors involved is essential to the achievement of lasting solutions.

4. To urge member states, in keeping with their responsibility to internally displaced persons, based on comprehensive strategies, to commit to providing them with protection and assistance during displacement, through competent national institutions; and to invite member states to commit to seeking lasting solutions, including the safe and voluntary return of internally displaced persons and their resettlement and reintegration, whether in their place of origin or in the receiving community.

5. To call upon states to protect the rights of internally displaced persons in natural and man-made disasters and to employ an approach to disaster relief and reconstruction, consistent with international human rights law and domestic law, taking into account the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and best practices.

6. To appeal to the appropriate agencies of the United Nations and inter-American systems, and other humanitarian organizations and the international community, to provide support and/or assistance, as requested by states, in addressing the various factors that cause internal displacement, and in assisting persons affected by internal displacement at all stages, where, should emergency humanitarian assistance be required, account should be taken of the Guiding Principles on strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance (United Nations General Assembly resolution 46/182).
7. To urge states to cooperate fully with the international community in addressing the situation of internally displaced persons, in particular with the Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Internally Displaced Persons, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and the Inter-Agency Internal Displacement Division of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

8. To urge member states to consider adopting and implementing in their domestic law the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, which reflect certain aspects of international human rights law and international humanitarian law.

9. To instruct the Permanent Council to follow up on this resolution as it deems appropriate.
AG/RES. 2230 (XXXVI-O/06)

PROGRAM OF ACTION FOR THE DECADE OF THE AMERICAS
FOR THE RIGHTS AND DIGNITY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (2006-2016)

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING its resolutions AG/RES. 1249 (XXIII-O/93) and AG/RES. 1356 (XXV-O/95), “Situation of Persons with Disabilities in the American Hemisphere”; and AG/RES. 1369 (XXVI-O/96), “Panama Commitment to Persons with Disabilities in the American Hemisphere”;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that, in the Plan of Action of the Fourth Summit of the Americas (Mar del Plata, Argentina, November 5, 2005), the Heads of State and Government instructed the Organization of American States (OAS) to “consider at the next OAS period of regular sessions of the General Assembly to be held in the Dominican Republic, a Declaration on the Decade of the Americas for Persons with Disabilities (2006-2016), together with a program of action”;

REITERATING the continuing need to promote the right of persons with disabilities to participate fully in the social life and the development of their societies and to enjoy living conditions on an equal basis with others, as well as the improvement of living conditions as a result of social and economic development, with respect for their special needs;

RECOGNIZING that our region has produced regional instruments and policies, such as the Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities and the Declaration of the Ibero-American Year of Persons with Disabilities, which need to be promoted and implemented through a region-wide program of action, which will also help to fight inequality in the region;

RECALLING other important international instruments, such as the Declaration on the Rights of Mentally Retarded Persons (United Nations General Assembly resolution 2856 (XXVI), December 20, 1971); the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Disabled Persons (United Nations General Assembly resolution 3447 (XXX), December 9, 1975); the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons (United Nations General Assembly resolution 37/52, December 3, 1982); the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (Disabled Persons) Convention of the International Labour Organization - ILO (Convention No. 159); Recommendation Nº 168 of the ILO (1983); the Principles for the Protection of Persons with Mental Illness and for the Improvement of Mental Health Care (United Nations General Assembly resolution 46/119, December 17, 1991); and the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities (United Nations General Assembly resolution 48/96, December 20, 1993); and recalling the ongoing work of the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities (2001), all of which provide a working basis for long-term efforts, in a framework of inclusive development and with a focus on rights;
BEARING IN MIND the “Declaration on the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities (2006-2016)” [AG/DEC. 50 (XXXVI-O/06)], adopted by the General Assembly at the present regular session, which will provide a genuine, meaningful impetus to activities related to equal opportunity for persons with disabilities, as well as to the prevention of disabilities and the rehabilitation of persons with disabilities at all levels; and

TAKING NOTE of the document entitled “Draft Program of Action for the Decade of the Americas for Persons with Disabilities (2006-2016),” presented by Peru (CP/CAJP-2362/06 corr. 1),

RESOLVES:

1. To request the Permanent Council to establish, in the framework of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs, a working group to prepare a Program of Action for the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities (2006-2016), taking into account the document entitled “Draft Program of Action for the Decade of the Americas for Persons with Disabilities (2006-2016),” presented by Peru (CP/CAJP-2362/06 corr. 1), as well as the inputs received at the special meeting referred to in operative paragraph 3 of this resolution. The final document will be submitted to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session for adoption.

2. To thank Peru for its presentation of the document entitled “Draft Program of Action for the Decade of the Americas for Persons with Disabilities (2006-2016),”

3. To request the Working Group to hold a special meeting during the second half of 2006 to receive inputs on the Draft Program of Action from the member states of the Organization of American States (OAS), from the pertinent OAS organs, agencies, and entities, from other regional and international bodies, and from civil society organizations, including organizations of persons with disabilities and their families.

4. To request the General Secretariat to provide, through the Office of International Law of the Department of International Legal Affairs, the broadest possible support for the Working Group’s activities.

5. To instruct the Permanent Council to follow up on this resolution, which will be implemented within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources, and to present a report on its implementation to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session.
AG/RES. 2231 (XXXVI-O/06)

PERSONS WHO HAVE DISAPPEARED AND ASSISTANCE TO MEMBERS OF THEIR FAMILIES

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING its resolutions AG/RES. 1904 (XXXII-O/02), AG/RES. 1944 (XXXIII-O/03), AG/RES. 2052 (XXXIV-O/04), AG/RES. 2127 (XXXV-O/05), and AG/RES. 2134 (XXXV-O/05);

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that the problem of missing persons and assistance to members of their families is addressed in both international humanitarian law and international human rights law within their respective spheres of application, their legal frameworks being distinct;

DEEPLY CONCERNED over the suffering caused both by the disappearance of persons as a result of armed conflict or other situations of armed violence and by forced disappearances;

RECOGNIZING the need to alleviate the anxiety and uncertainty suffered by the relatives of persons who are presumed to have disappeared;

MINDFUL of the need to prevent the disappearance of persons, to ascertain the fate of those who have disappeared, and to respond to the needs of members of their families, both in situations of armed conflict or other situations of armed violence and in cases of forced disappearances;


RECALLING the Declaration and Agenda for Humanitarian Action adopted by resolution 1 of the 28th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, held in Geneva, Switzerland, from December 2 to 6, 2003, which address the question of persons missing as a result of an armed conflict or other situations of armed violence;

RECALLING ALSO the Inter-American Convention on Forced Disappearance of Persons, adopted on June 9, 1994;

CONVINCED that compliance with international humanitarian law by all parties involved in an armed conflict would, in large measure, prevent disappearances, and also convinced that the member states are duty-bound to observe and protect human rights in order to prevent forced disappearances; and
CONVINCED ALSO of the need to continue to apply or to develop effective national mechanisms for preventing, and applying sanctions for, the disappearance of persons and for searching for and locating missing persons,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge all parties involved in armed conflict or other situations of armed violence to prevent the disappearance of persons, in accordance with the provisions of international humanitarian law, as applicable; and likewise to urge member states to observe and protect human rights, in order to prevent forced disappearances.

2. To encourage member states to continue moving forward in preventing the forced disappearance of persons by considering, where appropriate, the adoption of laws, regulations, and/or instructions requiring the establishment of official registries in which records will be kept of all detained persons, among other reasons to allow, as appropriate, family members, other interested persons, judicial authorities, and/or bodies that have a recognized mandate to protect detainees to learn, within a short period of time, of any detention that has taken place, all of the foregoing without interfering with appropriate communications between detainees and their families.

3. To urge member states to shed light on the fate of persons who have disappeared, to establish registry systems to collect and centralize information on persons presumed to have disappeared, to take appropriate measures to guarantee an impartial investigation by the competent authorities, and to involve the families of presumed disappearance victims in the efforts to clarify what has happened to them.

4. To encourage member states to address as fully as possible the psychological, social, legal, and material needs of the families of presumed victims of disappearances through measures including, where appropriate, provision of periodic information to relatives on the efforts to cast light on the fate of the disappeared and on their whereabouts.

5. To encourage member states to consider enacting, as applicable, domestic laws that recognize the situation of the families of disappearance victims, taking into account the specific needs and particular interests of women heads of household and children, including the consequences of disappearances on property management, child custody, parental rights, and marital status, as well as devising adequate compensation programs.

6. To urge member states to treat human remains appropriately, in compliance with the legal standards and professional ethics applicable to their handling and exhumation, in order to successfully identify them and issue death certificates.

7. To urge member states to punish those guilty of violating the provisions of international human rights law and international humanitarian law applicable to the disappearance of persons and, in particular, to forced disappearances.

8. To urge member states to guarantee adequate protection of the personal data gathered in connection with disappeared persons, in accordance with the law.
9. To urge member states to cooperate among themselves in addressing the problem of the disappearance of persons.

10. To encourage member states to request support in addressing this problem from international and civil society organizations.

11. To invite member states to continue their cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross, a recognized humanitarian institution, in its various areas of responsibility and to facilitate its work.

12. To urge those member states that have not yet done so to consider signing and ratifying, ratifying, or acceding to, as the case may be, the Inter-American Convention on Forced Disappearance of Persons.

13. To instruct the Permanent Council to follow up on this resolution.
AG/RES. 2232 (XXXVI-O/06)

PROTECTION OF ASYLUM SEEKERS, REFUGEES, AND RETURNEES IN THE AMERICAS

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING its resolution AG/RES. 2047 (XXXIV-O/04), “Protection of Asylum Seekers, Refugees, Returnees, and Stateless Persons in the Americas”; and its resolutions AG/RES. 1762 (XXX-O/00), AG/RES. 1832 (XXXI-O/01), AG/RES. 1892 (XXXII-O/02), and AG/RES. 1971 (XXXIII-O/03);

WELCOMING the fact that 28 member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) have acceded to the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and 30 to its 1967 Protocol, and that Bolivia, El Salvador, and Venezuela have adopted new domestic legal provisions for the protection of refugees, while Argentina, Mexico, Nicaragua, and Uruguay are in the process of adopting new domestic legislation on refugees;

RECOGNIZING the commitment assumed by OAS member states to continue extending protection to asylum seekers, refugees, and returnees, on the basis of the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, and to seek lasting solutions to their situation;

RECOGNIZING ALSO that efforts to provide protection and assistance and find lasting solutions for refugees in the region are inspired by humanitarian principles, are consistent with international refugee law, and are guided by the spirit of international solidarity and responsibility-sharing, as appropriate, with the support of international cooperation;

RECOGNIZING FURTHER the efforts that counties of origin have been making, with support from the international community, to deal with the circumstances that generate waves of persons seeking asylum, and the importance of persisting in those efforts;

EMPHASIZING the efforts made by some receiving countries of the region, faithful to their generous tradition of asylum even under difficult socioeconomic conditions, to continue extending protection to asylum seekers and refugees;

UNDERSCORING the presentation made by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs on February 17, 2005, entitled “International Protection of Refugees in the Americas: Recent Developments,” on the complexity and the dimensions of forced displacement in the Americas, which primarily affects refugees and internally displaced persons in Latin America and the Caribbean;

UNDERSCORING ALSO the importance of the consultative process carried out by the UNHCR, cosponsored by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights (IIHR), and the Norwegian Refugee Council, on the commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the 1984 Cartagena
Declaration on Refugees, which enabled the governments of Latin America, international organizations, regional experts, and civil society representatives to examine and discuss current challenges and opportunities for strengthening the international protection of asylum seekers, refugees, and returnees in the region;

WELCOMING the adoption by 20 Latin American states, on November 16, 2004, in Mexico City, of the Mexico Declaration and Plan of Action to Strengthen the International Protection of Refugees in Latin America, whose Plan of Action puts forward specific measures for strengthening the protection of refugees and achieving lasting solutions in Latin America;

WELCOMING ALSO the initiatives taken in accordance with that Plan of Action by Argentina and Brazil to establish a regional solidarity resettlement program; and

RECOGNIZING the responsibility of states to provide international protection to refugees, as well as the need for international technical and financial cooperation to find durable solutions within the framework of a commitment to consolidate the rule of law in Latin American countries, universal respect for human rights, and the principles of international solidarity and responsibility-sharing,

RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm its support for, and emphasize the relevance and fundamental importance of, the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and/or its 1967 Protocol, as the principal universal instruments for the protection of refugees; and to urge the member states that are parties thereto to continue to implement fully and effectively all of their obligations in that regard.

2. To urge those states parties that have not yet done so to consider, as the case may be, signing, ratifying, or acceding to the aforementioned instruments, in addition to promoting the adoption of procedures and institutional mechanisms for their effective application, in accordance with those instruments.

3. To support the Mexico Declaration and Plan of Action to Strengthen the International Protection of Refugees in Latin America; and to continue implementing it fully and effectively, with support, as appropriate, from the international community and from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

4. To urge member states and the international community to support and collaborate in the establishment and consolidation of the Regional Solidarity Resettlement Program, proposed in the Mexico Plan of Action, which constitutes an innovative regional solution based on the principles of international solidarity, responsibility-sharing, and international cooperation.

5. To call on member states and the international community to increase technical and economic cooperation to the countries of the Hemisphere that receive refugees and that so require, and to work in cooperation with the UNHCR to provide effective protection to asylum seekers and refugees in the region.
6. To urge member states to continue to apply protection measures that are consistent with international principles of refugee protection, including, *inter alia*, non-refoulement, family unity, and confidentiality in cases of asylum.

7. To recognize the efforts and the progress that the countries of origin have been making; and to urge them, to the extent of their ability and with support from the UNHCR and the international community, to continue making efforts to deal with the circumstances that generate waves of persons seeking asylum.

8. To recognize the efforts and the progress that the countries of the region that receive refugees have been making in implementing protective mechanisms, in accordance with international refugee law and the international principles of refugee protection.

9. To underscore the importance of cooperation among the organs of the inter-American system and the UNHCR, in an effort to ensure that innovative regional approaches are taken regarding refugee issues in the Americas.
AG/RES. 2233 (XXXVI-O/06)

STUDY OF THE RIGHTS AND THE CARE OF PERSONS UNDER ANY FORM OF DETENTION OR IMPRISONMENT

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the chapter on this topic in the Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly (AG/doc.4548/06 add. 6 corr. 1), as well as its resolutions AG/RES. 1897 (XXXII-O/02), AG/RES. 1927 (XXXIII-O/03), AG/RES. 2037 (XXXIV-O/04), and AG/RES. 2125 (XXXV-O/05);

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

That in the inter-American system the member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) undertake to respect and protect the human rights of persons who have been deprived of freedom, including all applicable rights established in the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man and those established in all other human rights instruments to which they are party;

That consultations with the member states on this subject have continued within the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs and that a number of them have replied to the questionnaire prepared for that purpose (CP/CAJP-1853/01 rev. 1);

The conclusions and recommendations of the Fifth Meeting of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA-V), contained in its Final Report (REMJA-V/doc.9/04), and, in particular, the recommendation that the states promote “modernization of prison infrastructure and extend the functions of rehabilitation and social integration of the individual, by improving conditions of detention and studying new penitentiary standards”;

The Conclusions and Recommendations of the Sixth Meeting of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA-VI), including those on a possible inter-American declaration on the rights, duties, and care of persons under any form of detention or imprisonment and those on the feasibility of preparing a hemispheric manual on penitentiary rights, taking as a basis the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (REMJA-VI/doc.21/06 rev. 1, paragraphs 4.d and b); and

The recommendations of the First Meeting of Officials Responsible for Penitentiary and Prison Policies of the OAS Member States (GAPECA/doc.04/03), held in Washington, D.C., on October 16 and 17, 2003;

NOTING WITH SATISFACTION the presentation by the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons Deprived of Freedom in the Americas of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, regarding the activities that were carried out by the Rapporteurship (CP/CAJP/INF.25/06); and
OBSERVING WITH CONCERN the critical situation of violence and overcrowding in places of deprivation of freedom in the Americas, and stressing the need to take concrete measures to prevent this situation and to ensure the exercise of the human rights of persons deprived of freedom,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge member states to comply, under all circumstances, with all applicable international obligations to respect the human rights of persons under any form of detention or imprisonment, including the rights established in the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man and those established in all other human rights instruments to which they are party.

2. To instruct the Permanent Council to continue studying the question of the rights and the care of persons under any form of detention or imprisonment, in cooperation with the competent organs and entities of the inter-American system and taking into account the conclusions and recommendations of the Sixth Meeting of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas, contained in the Final Report of that meeting (REMJA-VI/doc.24/06 rev. 1), including the report of the First Meeting of Officials Responsible for Penitentiary and Prison Policies of the OAS Member States (GAPECA/doc.04/03).

3. To request the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) to continue reporting on the situation of persons under any form of detention or imprisonment in the Hemisphere and, using as a basis its work on the subject, to proceed with the compilation of the regional and global standards for detention and imprisonment policies in the member states, making reference to any problems and good practices observed.

4. To congratulate and acknowledge those member states that have invited the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons Deprived of Freedom in the Americas of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to visit their countries, including their detention centers; and to encourage all member states to facilitate such visits.

5. To call upon member states to consider allocating more funds to the IACHR to enable it to support the effective fulfillment of the mandate assigned to its Special Rapporteurship on the Rights of Persons Deprived of Freedom in the Americas.

6. To reiterate to the Permanent Council that, on the basis of the results of the discussions and studies conducted, including the inputs of the IACHR, and the results of the Second Meeting of Officials Responsible for Penitentiary and Prison Policies, to be held pursuant to the REMJA-VI decision, it should consider the possibility of drafting an inter-American declaration on the rights and the care of persons under any form of detention or imprisonment, with a view to strengthening existing international standards on these topics, and the feasibility of preparing a hemispheric manual on penitentiary rights, taking as a basis the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.¹

¹ The United States does not join consensus on paragraph 6 of this resolution. The Hemisphere’s Ministers of Justice and Attorney Generals, meeting in the Dominican Republic, have asked another meeting, the Second Meeting of Officials Responsible for Penitentiary and Prison Policies, to look into the same matter that this paragraph asks the Permanent Council to look into. The United States
7. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session on the implementation of this resolution, which will be carried out within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

believes that this resolution’s request to the Permanent Council is inappropriate, as a duplicative mandate.
AG/RES. 2234 (XXXVI-O/06)

AMERICAN DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING its resolutions AG/RES. 1022 (XIX-O/89), AG/RES. 1479 (XXVII-O/97), AG/RES. 1549 (XXVIII-O/98), AG/RES. 1610 (XXIX-O/99), AG/RES. 1708 (XXX-O/00), AG/RES. 1780 (XXXI-O/01), AG/RES. 1851 (XXXII-O/02), AG/RES. 1919 (XXXIII-O/03), AG/RES. 2029 (XXXIV-O/04), and AG/RES. 2073 (XXXV-O/05);

BEARING IN MIND that, as early as 1989, in its resolution AG/RES. 1022 (XIX-O/89), the General Assembly requested the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) “to prepare a juridical instrument relative to the rights of the Indian peoples,” and that, in 1999, by resolution AG/RES. 1610 (XXIX-O/99), the General Assembly established a Working Group of the Permanent Council to consider the “Proposed American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,” presented by the IACHR (CP/doc.2878/97 corr. 1);

CONSIDERING the commitments undertaken by the Heads of State and Government in the Declarations and Plans of Action of the most recent Summits of the Americas, held in Quebec City, Nuevo León, and Mar del Plata, in support of an early and successful conclusion of negotiations on the Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

CLOSELY OBSERVING the parallel process under way in the United Nations to draft a declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples;

ACKNOWLEDGING the important contributions received by the Specific Fund to Support the Preparation of the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the efficient work of the Selection Board in the selection process for representatives of the indigenous peoples to receive financing from the Specific Fund;

NOTING WITH SATISFACTION the holding of the sixth and seventh meetings of negotiations in the quest for points of consensus of the Working Group to Prepare the Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, among representatives of the member states and representatives of the indigenous peoples, which made it possible to review Sections I through VI of the Chair’s Consolidated Text of the draft Declaration, while consideration of the preamble remained pending;

BEARING IN MIND that the Working Group has begun to review the new working document for the negotiations, according to the “Record of the Current Status of the Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples” (GT/DADIN/doc.260/06 rev. 1);

1. The United States understands that this will be a declaration with moral and political force and participates in the important work of this Working Group on the basis of this understanding. Canada shares this understanding.
TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION the offer by the Government of Bolivia to host one of the upcoming meetings of negotiations in the quest for points of consensus of the Working Group to Prepare the Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, to be held in La Paz in March 2007 (GT/DADIN/doc.264/06); and

HAVING SEEN the Report of the Chair of the Working Group on activities carried out during the 2005-2006 term (AG/doc.4548/06 add. 6 corr. 1, Appendix I),

RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm that the adoption of the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples remains a priority for the Organization of American States (OAS), emphasizing the importance of full and effective participation by the indigenous peoples in preparing the Draft Declaration.

2. To congratulate the Working Group to Prepare the Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples on having completed the review of Sections I through VI of the Chair’s Consolidated Text (GT/DADIN/doc.139/03); and to urge it to make every effort to reach consensus on the pending texts of the Draft Declaration.

3. To renew the mandate of the Working Group to continue holding its meetings of negotiations in the quest for points of consensus, so as to complete the drafting of the Declaration, on the basis of the “Record of the Current Status of the Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples” (GT/DADIN/doc.260/06 rev. 1), and emphasizing consideration of the proposals of member state delegations and indigenous peoples’ representatives recorded in documents GT/DADIN/doc.255/06 rev. 1 and GT/DADIN/doc.259/06.

4. To request the Permanent Council to instruct the Working Group to:

   a. Hold up to three meetings of negotiations of up to five days each, between July 2006 and April 2007, at least one of which shall be held at OAS headquarters;

   b. Continue to take the appropriate measures to ensure continuing transparency of, and effective participation by representatives of indigenous peoples in, the negotiation meetings in the quest for points of consensus;

   c. Emphasize the need to reach compromise solutions that are attentive to the most pressing concerns of the indigenous peoples and to the needs of all member states, in the preparation of the Draft Declaration; and

   d. Before the next meeting of negotiations, adopt by consensus in the Working Group a methodology based on document GT/DADIN/doc.246/06 rev. 2, “Proposed Methodology for Promptly Concluding the Negotiations in the Quest for Points of Consensus of the Working Group to Prepare the Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,” emphasizing consideration of the proposals of member states and indigenous peoples.
5. To thank the Governments of Brazil, Canada, Guatemala, Nicaragua, and the United States and the Government of Finland for their valuable contributions to the Specific Fund to Support the Preparation of the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; and to invite the other member states, permanent observers, and institutions to promote the aims of the Specific Fund through their contributions.

6. To request the Secretary General to continue supporting the efforts of the Working Group and to make the necessary overtures to multilateral organizations, development banks and agencies, specialized multilateral agencies, and other funding sources to obtain the resources needed by the Specific Fund in order to fulfill its purpose.

7. To request the Selection Board of the Specific Fund to continue to work according to the principles established in resolution CP/RES. 873 (1459/04), “Amendments to the Specific Fund to Support the Elaboration of the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,” so as to ensure greater transparency, and to provide more information in its report on the specific reasons for choosing each beneficiary.

8. To thank also the Governments of Guatemala and Brazil for the successful organization of the sixth and seventh meetings of negotiations in the quest for points of consensus of the Working Group to Prepare the Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

9. To thank the Government of Bolivia for its country’s offer to host one of the upcoming meetings of negotiations in the quest for points of consensus; and to instruct the Permanent Council to consider convening that meeting, in La Paz, Bolivia, in March 2007.

10. To congratulate those governments that have held consultations with their indigenous peoples on the Draft Declaration; and to invite all member states to continue such consultations.

11. To request the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, its Special Rapporteurship on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the General Secretariat 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 contributions to that process.

12. To request the Permanent Council to follow up on this resolution, which will be implemented within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources, and to present a report on its implementation to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session.
AG/RES. 2235 (XXXVI-O/06)

PLACE AND DATE OF THE THIRTY-EIGHTH REGULAR SESSION
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

( Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT Articles 43 and 44 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly, relating to the holding of regular sessions of the General Assembly and the establishment of sites for those sessions; and

CONSIDERING:

That in resolution AG/RES. 939 (XVIII-O/88) it recommended that the first Monday in June of each year be set as the opening date for its regular sessions; and

That on June 5, 2006, during the second plenary session of the thirty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly, the Government of the Republic of Colombia offered to host the thirty-eighth regular session of the General Assembly, in 2008,

RESOLVES:

1. To accept with gratitude the generous offer of the Government of the Republic of Colombia to host the thirty-eighth regular session of the General Assembly.

2. To determine that the thirty-eighth regular session of the General Assembly will start on the first Monday in June in the year 2008 in the Republic of Colombia, in a location to be determined in due course.
AG/RES. 2236 (XXXVI-O/06)

PLACE AND DATE OF THE THIRTY-NINTH REGULAR SESSION
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT Articles 43 and 44 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly, relating to the holding of regular sessions of the General Assembly and the establishment of sites for those sessions;

CONSIDERING:

That in resolution AG/RES. 939 (XVIII-O/88) it recommended that the first Monday in June of each year be set as the opening date for its regular sessions; and

The offer by the Government of Honduras to host the thirty-ninth regular session of the General Assembly, in 2009,

RESOLVES:

1. To accept with gratitude the generous offer of the Government of Honduras to host the thirty-ninth regular session of the General Assembly.

2. To determine that the thirty-ninth regular session of the General Assembly will start on the first Monday in June in the year 2009 in Honduras, in a location to be determined in due course.
AG/RES. 2237 (XXXVI-O/06)

RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF THOUGHT AND EXPRESSION
AND THE IMPORTANCE OF THE MEDIA

(Approved at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly (AG/doc.4548/06 add. 6 corr. 1);

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT resolution AG/RES. 2149 (XXXV-O/05), “Right to Freedom of Thought and Expression and the Importance of the Media”;

RECALLING that the right to freedom of thought and expression, which includes the freedom to seek, receive, and impart information and ideas of all kinds, is recognized in Article IV of the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, Article 13 of the American Convention on Human Rights, the Inter-American Democratic Charter (including Article 4), the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and other international instruments and national constitutions, as well as United Nations General Assembly resolution 59 (I) and resolution 104 of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO);

RECALLING ALSO that Article IV of the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man states that “[e]very person has the right to freedom of investigation, of opinion, and of the expression and dissemination of ideas, by any medium whatsoever”;

RECALLING FURTHER that Article 13 of the American Convention on Human Rights states that:

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of thought and expression. This right includes freedom to seek, receive, and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing, in print, in the form of art, or through any other medium of one’s choice;

2. The exercise of the right provided for in the foregoing paragraph shall not be subject to prior censorship but shall be subject to subsequent imposition of liability, which shall be expressly established by law to the extent necessary to ensure:

   a. respect for the rights or reputations of others; or
   b. the protection of national security, public order, or public health or morals.
3. The right of expression may not be restricted by indirect methods or means, such as the abuse of government or private controls over newsprint, radio broadcasting frequencies, or equipment used in the dissemination of information, or by any other means tending to impede the communication and circulation of ideas and opinions.

4. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 2 above, public entertainments may be subject by law to prior censorship for the sole purpose of regulating access to them for the moral protection of childhood and adolescence.

5. Any propaganda for war and any advocacy of national, racial, or religious hatred that constitute incitements to lawless violence or to any other similar action against any person or group of persons on any grounds including those of race, color, religion, language, or national origin shall be considered as offenses punishable by law;

RECALLING AS WELL the relevant volumes of the Annual Reports of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights for 2004 and 2005, on freedom of expression;


RECALLING the usefulness of the studies and contributions approved by UNESCO regarding the contribution of the media to strengthening peace, tolerance, and international understanding, to the promotion of human rights, and to countering racism and incitement to war,

RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm the right to freedom of expression and to call upon member states to respect and ensure respect for this right, in accordance with the international human rights instruments to which they are party, such as the American Convention on Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, inter alia.

2. To reaffirm that freedom of expression and dissemination of ideas are fundamental for the exercise of democracy.

3. To urge member states to safeguard, within the framework of the international instruments to which they are party, respect for freedom of expression in the media, including radio and television, and, in particular, respect for the editorial independence and freedom of the media.

4. To urge those member states that have not yet done so to consider signing and ratifying, ratifying, or acceding to, as the case may be, the American Convention on Human Rights.

5. To reaffirm that the media are fundamental for democracy and for the promotion of pluralism, tolerance, and freedom of thought and expression, and to facilitate dialogue and debate, free and open to all segments of society, without discrimination of any kind.
6. To urge member states to promote a pluralistic approach to information and multiple points of view by fostering full exercise of freedom of expression and thought, access to media, and diversity in the ownership of media outlets and sources of information, through, *inter alia*, transparent licensing systems and, as appropriate, effective regulations to prevent the undue concentration of media ownership.

7. To urge member states to consider the importance of including, in their domestic legal systems, rules about the establishment of alternative or community media and safeguards to ensure that they are able to operate independently, so as to broaden the dissemination of information and opinions, thereby strengthening freedom of expression.

8. To call upon member states to adopt all necessary measures to prevent violations of the right to freedom of thought and expression and to create the necessary conditions for that purpose, including ensuring that relevant national legislation complies with their international human rights obligations and is effectively implemented.

9. To urge member states to review their procedures, practices, and legislation, as necessary, to ensure that any limitations on the right to freedom of opinion and expression are only such as are provided by law and are necessary for respect of the rights or reputations of others, or for the protection of national security or of public order *(ordre public)*, or of public health or morals.

10. To recognize the valuable contribution of information and communication technologies, such as the Internet, to the exercise of the right to freedom of expression and to the ability of persons to seek, receive, and impart information, as well the contributions they can make to the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related and contemporary forms of intolerance, and to the prevention of human rights abuses.

11. To request the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights once again to follow up on and deepen its study of the issues addressed in the relevant volumes of its 2004 and 2005 Annual Reports on freedom of expression, on the basis, *inter alia*, of the inputs on the subject that it receives from member states.

12. To reiterate to the Permanent Council that, through its Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs, it is to hold a special two-day meeting to delve further into the existing international jurisprudence on the subject covered in Article 13 of the American Convention on Human Rights and include the following items on the agenda of that meeting:

   i. Public demonstrations as exercise of the right to freedom of expression; and
   ii. The subject of Article 11 of the American Convention on Human Rights.

Invitees to the aforementioned meeting will include members of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, including the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression, and experts from the member states, all for the purpose of sharing their experiences with these issues.
13. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session on the implementation of this resolution, which will be carried out within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.
AG/RES. 2238 (XXXVI-O/06)

PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS
WHILE COUNTERING TERRORISM

( Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING its resolutions AG/RES. 1840 (XXXII-O/02), AG/RES. 1906 (XXXII-O/02), AG/RES. 1931 (XXXIII-O/03), AG/RES. 2035 (XXXIV-O/04), and AG/RES. 2143 (XXXV-O/05), and the Report on Terrorism and Human Rights, prepared by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) (OEA/Ser.L/V/II.116 - Doc.5 rev. 1);

REAFFIRMING the principles and purposes of the Charter of the Organization of American States and the Charter of the United Nations;

EMPHASIZING that all persons are born free and are entitled to the human rights and fundamental freedoms recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, without distinction of any kind as to race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, economic status, birth, or other status, and that this applies in all circumstances, in accordance with international law;

REITERATING that all persons are equal before the law and have the rights and duties established in the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, without distinction as to race, sex, language, creed, or any other factor;

CONSIDERING that terrorism poses a serious threat to the security, the institutions, and the democratic values of states and to the well-being of our peoples and impairs the full enjoyment and exercise of human rights;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

That, in the Declaration of San Carlos on Hemispheric Cooperation for Comprehensive Action to Fight Terrorism, adopted on March 24, 2006, the member states reaffirmed that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, whatever its origin or motivation, has no justification whatsoever, affects the full enjoyment and exercise of human rights, and constitutes a grave threat to international peace and security, the institutions and values of democracy, and the stability and prosperity of the countries of the region;

That, in the Declaration on Security in the Americas, the states of the Hemisphere renewed their commitment, reiterated in the Declaration of San Carlos, to fight terrorism and its financing, with full respect for the rule of law and international law, including international humanitarian law, international human rights law, and international refugee law; the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism; and United Nations Security Council resolution 1373 (2001); and
That, in the Declaration of Mar del Plata of the Fourth Summit of the Americas and the Declaration of Nuevo León of the Special Summit of the Americas, the Heads of State and Government agreed to take all necessary steps to prevent and counter terrorism and its financing, in full compliance with their obligations under international law, including international human rights law, international refugee law, and international humanitarian law;

WELCOMING the fact that the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism came into force on July 10, 2003; that Antigua and Barbuda, Canada, Chile, Dominica, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, and Venezuela became states parties to said Convention prior to 2005; and that Argentina, Brazil, Guatemala, Trinidad and Tobago, and the United States became states parties to the Convention in 2005 and 2006, which brings to 17 the number of countries that have ratified the Convention;

CONSIDERING the report of the Meeting of Government Experts to Exchange, from a Human Rights Perspective, Best Practices and National Experiences in Adopting Antiterrorism Measures, held on February 12 and 13, 2004 (CP/CAJP-2140/04);

HAVING RECEIVED the document entitled “Recommendations for the Protection of Human Rights by OAS Member States in the Fight against Terrorism” (CP/doc.4117/06), prepared by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights;

REAFFIRMING that, in the fight against terrorism, any detained person presumed to be involved in a terrorist act will enjoy the rights and guarantees provided by applicable international law, in particular international human rights law and international humanitarian law;

REAFFIRMING ALSO that the means the state can use to protect its security or that of its citizens in the fight against terrorism should, under all circumstances, be consistent with applicable international law, in particular international human rights law, international humanitarian law, and international refugee law; and

RECALLING that, under Article 27 of the American Convention on Human Rights and Article 4 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, it is recognized that some rights are non-derogable under any circumstances, and that, with respect to rights that may be subject to derogation, states may take measures derogating from their obligations under these Conventions to the extent and, with respect to the American Convention, for the period of time strictly required by the exigencies of the situation, provided that such measures are not inconsistent with the other rights and obligations prescribed under international law; and emphasizing that, in the inter-American system, the protection of non-derogable rights includes essential judicial guarantees for their protection,

RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm that the fight against terrorism must be waged with full respect for the law, including compliance with due process and human rights comprised of civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights, as well as for democratic institutions, so as to preserve the rule of law and democratic freedoms and values in the Hemisphere.
2. To reaffirm that all member states have a duty to ensure that all measures adopted to combat terrorism are in compliance with their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights law, international refugee law, and international humanitarian law.

3. To urge all member states, with a view to fulfilling the commitments undertaken in this resolution, to consider signing and ratifying, ratifying, or acceding to, as the case may be and as soon as possible, the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism and the American Convention on Human Rights; and to urge the states parties to take appropriate steps to implement the provisions of those treaties.

4. To request the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) to continue promoting respect for and the defense of human rights and facilitating efforts by member states to comply appropriately with their international human rights commitments when developing and executing counterterrorist measures, including the rights of persons who might be at a disadvantage, subject to discrimination, or at risk as a result of terrorist violence or counterterrorist initiatives, and to report to the Permanent Council on the advisability of conducting a follow-up study.

5. To request that the Permanent Council, having received the document entitled “Recommendations for the Protection of Human Rights by OAS Member States in the Fight against Terrorism” (CP/doc.4117/06), prepared by the IACHR, hold consultations with the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) and with member states, so as to conclude the process provided for in resolution AG/RES. 2143 (XXXV-O/05), operative paragraph 5, for preparing recommendations.

6. On the basis of the Recommendations for the Protection of Human Rights by OAS Member States in the Fight against Terrorism, prepared by the IACHR, and the outcome of the consultations with CICTE and the member states, the Permanent Council may consider preparing draft common terms of reference for the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the fight against terrorism, that would compile current international standards based on applicable international law, as well as best practices, for consideration by the General Assembly.

7. To reiterate the importance of intensifying dialogue among the CICTE, the IACHR, and other pertinent areas of the Organization, with a view to improving and strengthening their ongoing collaboration on the issue of protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism.

8. To urge member states to respect, in accordance with their obligations, the human rights of all persons deprived of their liberty in high-security detention centers, particularly observance of due process.

9. To request the Permanent Council to present a report to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session on the implementation of this resolution, which will be carried out within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING resolution AG/RES. 1364 (XXVI-O/96), “Free Trade and Investment in the Hemisphere,” in which the Inter-American Juridical Committee was instructed to conduct a study on the matter;

RECOGNIZING the opinion of the Inter-American Juridical Committee (CJI/RES. II-14/96), in which the Committee unanimously concluded that “in the significant areas described above the bases and potential application of the legislation which is the subject of this Opinion are not in conformity with international law”;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT resolutions AG/RES. 1447 (XXVII-O/97), AG/RES. 1532 (XXVIII-O/98), AG/RES. 1614 (XXIX-O/99), AG/RES. 1700 (XXX-O/00), AG/RES. 1826 (XXXI-O/01), AG/RES. 1884 (XXXII-O/02), AG/RES. 1914 (XXXIII-O/03), AG/RES. 1976 (XXXIV-O/04), and AG/RES. 2063 (XXXV-O/05); and

CONSIDERING the Report of the Permanent Council on Free Trade and Investment in the Hemisphere (AG/doc.4588/06),

RESOLVES:

1. To take note of the Report of the Permanent Council on Free Trade and Investment in the Hemisphere, presented pursuant to resolution AG/RES. 2063 (XXXV-O/05).

2. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session on developments in this regard.

1. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela attaches great importance to the Declaration of the Fourth EU-Latin America/Caribbean Summit, adopted by the Heads of State and Government at the meeting held in Vienna, Austria, in May 2006, in which they firmly rejected all coercive measures of unilateral character with extraterritorial effect that are contrary to international law and the commonly accepted rules of free trade. They also agreed that this type of practice poses a serious threat to multilateralism. For that reason, and given that this is a Permanent Council item, we also consider that a meeting should be held to address said issue.
AG/RES. 2240 (XXXVI-O/06)

COMBATING THE COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND SMUGGLING OF AND TRAFFICKING IN CHILDREN IN THE HEMISPHERE

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

CONSIDERING the importance of ensuring comprehensive and effective protection of children through appropriate mechanisms that guarantee respect for their rights;

RECOGNIZING that commercial sexual exploitation today, including the circulation of child pornography through the Internet and other media, and the smuggling of and trafficking in children are of concern both regionally and worldwide, and that this problem jeopardizes the rights of children, enshrined in a number of international instruments;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT ALSO the American Convention on Human Rights, in particular the provisions related to children; and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, in which the states parties undertake, among other things, to protect the child from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (Article 34);


TAKING INTO ACCOUNT AS WELL the Conclusions and Recommendations of the Meeting of National Authorities on Trafficking in Persons, held on Isla Margarita, in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, from March 14 to 17, 2006;

BEARING IN MIND the efforts on the matter already under way in various organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization and in other forums, in particular the consideration of this matter by the Inter-American Juridical Committee (CJI) in 2000, which concluded that it was necessary to have as much information as possible before considering the need for an inter-American convention to fight sexual crimes against children beyond national borders; the coordination strategy which is being developed by the Department for the Prevention of Threats against Public Security in coordination...
with the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) on trafficking in women and children for purposes of sexual exploitation in the Americas; and the subregional workshops organized by the Inter-American Children’s Institute (IIN) on trafficking in children for purposes of sexual exploitation and child pornography; and

RECOGNIZING that ensuring success in the fight against the commercial sexual exploitation of children and against the smuggling of and trafficking in children in the Hemisphere calls for a global approach in which all factors contributing to the problem, including poverty and social exclusion, may be addressed, and for measures to facilitate international cooperation, both legal and judicial, to ensure effective protection of the rights of children,

RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm that the principles and standards set forth in the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man and in the American Convention on Human Rights take on special importance with respect to protection of the rights of children.

2. To urge member states to consider signing and ratifying, ratifying, or acceding to, as the case may be, the international instruments relating to the fight against commercial sexual exploitation of children and against the smuggling of and trafficking in children in the Hemisphere, among them the Convention on the Rights of the Child (adopted in 1989); the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (adopted in 2000); the Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction (adopted in 1980); the Inter-American Convention on International Traffic in Minors (adopted in 1994); and the Inter-American Convention on the International Return of Children (adopted in 1989); and to urge states parties to take the necessary measures to guarantee the rights contained in those instruments.

3. To request that the Department for the Prevention of Threats against Public Security, in coordination with the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) and the Inter-American Children’s Institute (IIN), to continue working on this subject and on the draft on smuggling of and trafficking in women and children for purposes of sexual exploitation in the Americas.

4. To acknowledge with appreciation the work of the IIN and the contributions by member states in connection with the preparation of the report on trafficking in persons presented to the Permanent Council in 2005.

5. To request the Justice Studies Center of the Americas (JSCA) to present to the Permanent Council, through the Department for the Prevention of Threats against Public Security, before the thirty-seventh regular session of the General Assembly, in 2007, for its consideration, a report, to the extent that funding is available, on the present capacity of judicial systems in the member states to deal with the problems of commercial sexual exploitation of, smuggling of, and trafficking in, children in the Hemisphere and on their enforcement of domestic and international law.

6. To instruct the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) to continue, in keeping with Advisory Opinion OC-17/2002, “Juridical Condition and Human Rights of the Child,” issued by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights on August 28, 2002, to support the
progress made in this important area, with a view to preparing a study on the implications of the conclusions of that Advisory Opinion for the inter-American system for the protection and promotion of human rights.

7. To request the CIM, the IIN, the JSCA, the IACHR and the Department for the Prevention of Threats against Public Security to cooperate in the preparation of these studies.

8. To instruct the Permanent Council to consider, at a meeting during the 2006-2007 term, the documents presented by the CIM, the IIN, the JSCA, the Meeting of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA), and the IACHR and to recommend that future measures be taken in this regard, taking into account the results of the Meeting of National Authorities on Trafficking in Persons, in order to address the topic from a comprehensive and crosscutting perspective within the framework of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and to invite relevant organizations and institutions working in these areas, such as the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the Special Rapporteurship on the Rights of Children of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, and others, to participate in this meeting.

9. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session on the implementation of this resolution, which will be carried out within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.
AG/RES. 2241 (XXXVI-O/06)

SOCIAL CHARTER OF THE AMERICAS: RENEWAL OF THE HEMISPHERIC COMMITMENT TO FIGHT EXTREME POVERTY IN THE REGION

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

Resolutions AG/RES. 2139 (XXXV-O/05) and AG/RES. 2056 (XXXIV-O/04), “Draft Social Charter of the Americas: Renewal of the Hemispheric Commitment to Fight Extreme Poverty in the Region”; and

The report on the implementation of resolution AG/RES. 2139 (XXXV-O/05) (GTC/CASA/doc.29/06 rev. 1);

CONSIDERING that the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS) establishes as one of its essential purposes the eradication of extreme poverty, which constitutes an obstacle to the full democratic development of the peoples of the Hemisphere;

BEARING IN MIND:

That the Inter-American Democratic Charter states that democracy is essential for the social, political, and economic development of the peoples of the Americas;

That the Inter-American Democratic Charter also states that poverty, illiteracy, and low levels of human development are factors that adversely affect the consolidation of democracy; and

That the promotion and observance of civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights are inherently linked to integral development and to equitable economic growth;

RECALLING the Declarations of the Summits of the Americas; the Declaration of Margarita on poverty, equity, and social inclusion; the Monterrey Consensus; and other pertinent documents of the OAS;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that the elimination of extreme poverty is an essential part of the promotion and consolidation of the democratic framework and is the common and shared responsibility of the states of the Americas;

BEARING IN MIND that the Heads of State and Government of the Americas, in the Declaration of Mar del Plata, adopted at the Fourth Summit of the Americas, encouraged the work of the OAS in drafting the Social Charter of the Americas and its Plan of Action, “whose principles and objectives will be directed towards the achievement by member states of societies that offer all of our citizens more opportunities to benefit from sustainable development with equity and social inclusion”;
NOTING the proposal by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela that, once the work on the Social Charter of the Americas and its Plan of Action has been concluded, a special session of the General Assembly be held to adopt them;

RECEIVING WITH APPRECIATION the offer by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to host the above-mentioned special session of the General Assembly; and

CONSIDERING:

That, in resolution AG/RES. 2056 (XXXIV-O/04), the General Assembly instructed the Permanent Council and the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CEPCIDI) to jointly prepare a draft Social Charter of the Americas and a Plan of Action which includes the principles of social development and establishes specific goals and targets that reinforce the existing instruments of the OAS on democracy, integral development, and the fight against poverty, and to submit the results to the General Assembly at its next session for consideration; and

That the Permanent Council and CEPCIDI established a joint working group to carry out the mandate contained in the above-mentioned resolution, and that said group concluded its first reading of the draft preamble to the Social Charter of the Americas (GTC/CASA/doc.24/06 rev. 11),

RESOLVES:

1. To take note of the report on the implementation of resolution AG/RES. 2139 (XXXV-O/05), “Draft Social Charter of the Americas: Renewal of the Hemispheric Commitment to Fight Extreme Poverty in the Region,” and of the work carried out by the Joint Working Group of the Permanent Council and the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CEPCIDI) to implement the mandate contained in that resolution.

2. To renew the mandate given to the Permanent Council and CEPCIDI to jointly prepare a draft Social Charter of the Americas and a Plan of Action which includes the principles of social development and establishes specific goals and targets that reinforce the existing instruments of the Organization of the American States on democracy, integral development, and the fight against poverty.

3. To instruct the Working Group to develop a methodology enabling it to expedite its consideration of the Draft Social Charter of the Americas and its Plan of Action.

4. To instruct the Joint Working Group of the Permanent Council and CEPCIDI on the Draft Social Charter of the Americas to work intensely to conclude the negotiation of those documents; and to express the sincere political will of all of our countries to conclude and adopt the Social Charter of the Americas and its Plan of Action before the end of 2007.

5. To request the Permanent Council and CEPCIDI to present the results of their work to the General Assembly for consideration and adoption.
AG/RES. 2242 (XXXVI-O/06)

AVIAN INFLUENZA: INTER-AMERICAN COOPERATION
TO MEET A GLOBAL THREAT

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

Having seen the Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly (AG/doc.4548/06);

RECALLING:

That at the Fourth Summit of the Americas, in November 2005, the Heads of State and Government reiterated their commitment to strengthen cooperation and exchanges of information in the struggle against chronic diseases as well as emerging and re-emerging diseases; and

That member states at the Special Conference on Security, held in Mexico City, Mexico, in October 2003, identified pandemics as a challenge to the stability of many of the states in the Hemisphere and called for cooperative actions to address this challenge;

RECOGNIZING the potential risk a pandemic due to novel influenza viruses, such as the highly pathogenic H5N1 strain of avian influenza, would pose to our societies and citizens, with possible severe consequences for animal and human health, the global economy, and stability;

AWARE of the difficulties public health officials have encountered in the past in facing influenza pandemics;

DEEPLY CONCERNED by the vulnerability of member states and their peoples to a potential influenza pandemic;

CONSIDERING the Hemispheric Conference on the Surveillance and Prevention of Avian Influenza, held on December 2, 2005, in Brasilia, Brazil, which focused attention on this emerging threat and the need to support the political, technical, and financial commitment necessary to prepare, prevent, and respond to avian influenza; as well as the Declaration of South American countries that sought international and donor support for the region, adopted at the donors meeting held in Geneva, Switzerland, from November 7 to 9, 2005;

CONSIDERING ALSO the meeting of the International Partnership on Avian and Pandemic Influenza, held in Washington, D.C., on October 6 and 7, 2005, and the International Meeting of Ministers of Health on Global Pandemic Influenza Readiness, held in Ottawa, Canada, on October 24 and 25, 2005;
RECALLING that the Fifty-ninth World Health Assembly considered that application of the International Health Regulations 2005 is a mechanism that establishes procedures for strengthening pandemic-influenza preparedness and response;

AWARE of the briefing for permanent representatives to the Organization of American States (OAS) given by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) on avian influenza and pandemic influenza, held in Washington, D.C., on March 31, 2006, and the meeting on avian influenza and pandemic influenza held by the OAS Permanent Council on December 15, 2005;

WELCOMING efforts by Canada, Mexico, and the United States to address the threat of avian and pandemic influenza through the Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America; and

NOTING resolution XVII, adopted by the Andean Health Organization-Hipólito Unanue, approving the proposal for an Andean Readiness and Response Plan to an Avian Influenza Pandemic (Bogotá, Colombia, March 2006);

NOTING ALSO the Consensus of Buenos Aires (2005) on the International Health Regulations and the “Joint Strategies for Strengthening Measures to Confront the Risks of an Avian Influenza Pandemic,” adopted at the Ministerial Meeting of MERCOSUR and Associate States (Montevideo, Uruguay, November 2005); and

COMMENDING the recent efforts by PAHO and IICA to forge an inter-American response to a potential avian and pandemic influenza,

RESOLVES:

1. To affirm the commitment of member states to work together in combating avian and pandemic influenza and to identify priority areas for further action.

2. To urge member states to respond to the risk of an influenza pandemic by taking the following steps:

   a. Supporting international and regional bodies such as the World Health Organization (WHO), and its regional arm, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) in their efforts to coordinate the world and regional response to a potential influenza pandemic;

   b. Developing and exercising, according to national capacities, national, subregional, and regional avian and pandemic influenza preparedness and response plans;

   c. Supporting member states in addressing challenges regarding animal and public health infrastructure to address a potential influenza pandemic, and
considering and strengthening, as appropriate, national capacities for implementing the International Health Regulations; and

d. Promoting technical and financial cooperation among member states to strengthen national and regional avian and pandemic influenza preparedness and response capacities.

3. To express its satisfaction and support for the work conducted by PAHO and IICA to help member states to prepare, prevent, and respond to a potential pandemic influenza, and for the continued support from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the World Bank, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), FAO, the IOE, and other partners.

4. To instruct the General Secretariat to carry out the activities mentioned in this resolution within resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

5. To request PAHO and IICA to report to the Permanent Council on the implementation of this resolution.

6. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session on the implementation of this resolution.
AG/RES. 2243 (XXXVI-O/06)

SUPPORT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION OF SANTO DOMINGO

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

REITERATING the commitments assumed in the Declaration of Santo Domingo: Good Governance and Development in the Knowledge-Based Society;

RECALLING the commitments assumed by our countries in the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), and taking into account the Plan of Action for the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC 2007), adopted at the Regional Preparatory Ministerial Conference of Latin America and the Caribbean for the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), held in Rio de Janeiro (June 8-10, 2003);

CONSIDERING that the importance of integrating information and communication technologies (ICTs) into the region’s political, economic, and social development efforts has been supported by the Summits of the Americas since the First Summit of the Americas, held in Miami in 1994; was emphasized by the declaration on connectivity of the Third Summit of the Americas, held in Quebec City in 2001; and was reaffirmed at the Fourth Summit of the Americas, held in Mar del Plata, Argentina, in November 2005;

REITERATING what was established in General Assembly resolutions, such as resolutions AG/RES. 2119 (XXXV-O/05) and AG/RES 2135 (XXXV-O/05), on the role of ICTs and the participation of the Organization of American States (OAS) in the WSIS process;

NOTING the programs and initiatives undertaken by the OAS General Secretariat that contribute to the advancement of the knowledge-based society in the Americas;

CONVINCED that, in order to avoid duplication of efforts and facilitate complementarities and synergies within a context of limited resources, it is necessary to ensure a better coordination among the various key regional and international actors, such as the Institute for Connectivity in the Americas (ICA), and international financial institutions, such as the IDB, as well as organizations of the United Nations system; and

NOTING the existing experiences in the region and reiterating its interest in benefiting from them,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge member state government authorities to continue promoting the development, adoption, and use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in both government institutions and society as a whole; and to request the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (OAS) to support those efforts.
2. To encourage governments to identify, in their national budgets, appropriate mechanisms and sources of financing for designing and implementing strategies that, by drawing on sectoral synergies, promote the development of the knowledge-based society, assigning priority to programs and projects that enhance the capacity of the citizens to take up the challenges and take advantage of the opportunities of the knowledge-based society.

3. To request that the OAS General Secretariat, with the Institute for Connectivity in the Americas (ICA), continue actively backing the work of the Network of E-Government Leaders in Latin America and the Caribbean (REDGEALC), with the support of international cooperation and funding agencies, and promote active participation by all the countries in the various activities of the Network.

4. To reiterate its support for and desire to cooperate in the strengthening and expansion of the infrastructure of advanced networks in science, technology, education, and innovation, as well as to work on their stability, both at the regional level, such as Red CLARA (Latin American Advanced Networks Cooperation), promoting the inclusion of the Caribbean in it, and at the domestic level, pursuant to eLAC 2007 and to the recommendations of the First Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities on Science and Technology, held in Lima in November 2004.

5. To urge member states to increase their support for the Latin American Network of Educational Portals (RELPE) and conduct the necessary efforts to effectively and fully integrate Caribbean countries into this regional initiative, thus recognizing the importance that access to updated and innovative educational content has in primary and secondary education, and reinforcing the commitments adopted during the Fourth Meeting of Ministers of Education within the Framework of CIDI, held in August 2005 in Scarborough, Trinidad and Tobago.

6. To urge member states, with the support of the General Secretariat and for the purpose of helping to close the digital divide, to identify and support digital literacy initiatives and programs that support formal education and continuing and adult education, in accordance with their national legislation, with special emphasis on those segments of the population that have least access to and use of ICTs.

7. To urge member states to attach priority to and continue supporting the implementation of the second phase of the Agenda for Connectivity in the Americas and Plan of Action of Quito (ACAPAQ) and, in accordance with that document, to continue adopting policies and regulations that promote the development and expansion of, and access to, infrastructure, especially in rural, remote, and underserved areas.

8. Also to urge member states, on the basis of principles of universality, equity, and affordability, to adopt policies and regulations that promote and facilitate access to and delivery of information and government services online, and the development and deployment of, and access to, broadband technologies and other new and innovative services.

9. To instruct the OAS General Secretariat to promote, in coordination with other international organizations that are members of the Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction (IACNDR) and other regional institutions, such as the Association of Caribbean States
(ACS), the establishment of national and regional early-warning and disaster-prevention systems that draw upon the potential offered by ICTs.

10. Also to request that the General Secretariat, in cooperation, collaboration, and coordination with other subregional, regional, and multilateral organizations, support and stimulate strategic alliances among government, the private sector, and civil society, to promote the adoption of ICTs in order to improve and enhance competitiveness in the productive sectors, particularly micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises and other units of production.

11. To request that the General Secretariat, in order to promote digital inclusion, develop programs and identify sources of funding for the implementation of initiatives related to the Declaration of Santo Domingo and this resolution, placing special emphasis on encouraging corporate social responsibility and thereby promoting the development of a more just, democratic, inclusive, and equitable knowledge-based society.

12. To recommend to the Secretary General that he take appropriate measures to strengthen the coordination of OAS programs and policies related to the knowledge-based society.

13. To request the Secretary General to present proposals and initiatives to the Permanent Council, taking into consideration the input and resources of the General Secretariat, as well as the views of all relevant stakeholders, including the private sector, civil society, and regional and international institutions, including financial institutions, for the effective implementation of the commitments of the Declaration of Santo Domingo.

14. To request the Permanent Council to consider, taking into account the Secretary General’s proposals and initiatives in this area, the convocation of a specialized meeting, with the participation of national authorities, government experts, and all relevant stakeholders, for the purpose of facilitating regional cooperation toward achieving the objectives of the Declaration of Santo Domingo.

15. To instruct the General Secretariat to make every possible effort to improve the use of ICTs in its daily operations in order to promote a more expeditious and efficient handling of its responsibilities and thus facilitate the work of the OAS and its member states.

16. To recommend to the General Secretariat that it continue improving the OAS Website and that it develop spaces and tools devoted to the citizens of the Americas, facilitating its access and usability.

17. To request the General Secretariat to implement this resolution within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources, and to report on its implementation to the Permanent Council, so that it may in turn report to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session.
AG/RES. 2244 (XXXVI-O/06)

PROMOTION OF PRIVATE-SECTOR PARTICIPATION IN ACTIVITIES OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING that, in the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), the member states agreed that equality of opportunity, the elimination of extreme poverty, equitable distribution of wealth and income, and the full participation of their peoples in decisions relating to their own development are, among others, basic objectives of integral development and that, in order to achieve them, they agreed to devote their utmost effort to accomplish a number of basic goals, including, inter alia, the promotion of private initiative and investment, in harmony with public-sector activities;

CONSIDERING that, at the Special Summit of the Americas in Nuevo León, the Heads of State and Government of the Americas declared that they would encourage civil society participation in the Summits of the Americas process, and specifically proposed institutionalizing the meetings with civil society, the academic sector, and the private sector; and bearing in mind as well the content of the Declaration of Nuevo León, under the heading of “Democratic governance,” especially the provisions of paragraphs 49 to 52, which concern efforts to combat corruption;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that, at the Fourth Summit of the Americas, the Heads of State and Government agreed on the importance of business-sector participation in pursuing their objectives;

CONSIDERING that, in the Plan of Action of the Fourth Summit of the Americas, the OAS General Secretariat was asked to present for consideration by the political bodies of the Organization, before 2007, an inter-American program for the discussion of experiences and best practices in strengthening and improving in our countries the mechanisms for participation and collaboration of civil society organizations, the private sector, and citizens in general in government administration, in particular in the development of government policies for generating employment and fighting poverty, including local governments, in a context of inclusive social dialogue that takes into account the vulnerability of the most excluded sectors of our societies;

TAKING IN ACCOUNT the deliberations and conclusions of the Second Private Sector Forum of the Americas, organized by the OAS and held in Buenos Aires in November 2005, during the Fourth Summit of the Americas, for the purpose of formulating recommendations to help improve investment conditions, competitiveness, and job generation, and to strengthen democracy in the Hemisphere, and the discussions and conclusions of the Third Private Sector Forum of the Americas, which met in Santo Domingo on June 2 and 3, 2006, on the occasion of the thirty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly; and

BEARING IN MIND that the OAS General Secretariat signed a cooperation agreement with private-sector representatives on April 11, 2006,
RESOLVES:

1. To invite the member states to continue the dialogue with the private sector and to strengthen the means of dialogue with that sector, at the national level, in activities of the Organization of American States (OAS) and in the Summits of the Americas process.

2. To continue supporting the dialogue with the ministers of foreign affairs before the inaugural sessions of the OAS General Assembly and the Summits of the Americas, so that the private sector may make recommendations, including proposals for initiatives related to the topic of the Assembly or Summit and directed at the member states and the OAS.

3. To continue exploring ways in which linkages with the private sector may contribute to attainment of the essential purposes of the Organization, in particular those that relate to integral development, including activities associated with the development of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises.

4. To thank the United States for hosting the inaugural meeting of the Private Sector Forum of the Americas, in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, United States, in June 2005, during the thirty-fifth regular session of the OAS General Assembly; to note with satisfaction the holding of the Third Private Sector Forum, in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, on June 2 and 3, 2006, and to thank the Dominican Republic for its efforts, as host country, in facilitating and organizing the forum.

5. Also to note, that the Fourth Private Sector Forum of the Americas will be held in Panama City in June 2007, on the occasion of the thirty-seventh regular session of the General Assembly.

6. To instruct the General Secretariat that, as appropriate, it provide technical support on the activities related to private-sector participation in activities and projects conducted within the framework of the OAS.

7. To urge the member states to promote programs and initiatives on corporate social responsibility that are voluntary and suited to each country’s particular characteristics.

8. To strengthen, in particular, those programs and initiatives within the OAS framework that, with private-sector participation, contribute to the integral development of the states of the Hemisphere and encourage ethical practices that avoid possible effects prejudicial to their economies.

9. To request the General Secretariat to report to the Permanent Council of the Organization, prior to the thirty-seventh regular session of the General Assembly, on the implementation of this resolution.
AG/RES. 2245 (XXXVI-O/06)

CONSOLIDATION OF THE REGIME ESTABLISHED IN THE TREATY FOR THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (TREATY OF TLALELOCO)

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly, in particular the section on the Committee on Hemispheric Security (AG/doc.4548/06 add. 2);

RECALLING its previous resolutions on this topic, especially resolutions AG/RES. 1499 (XXVII-O/97), AG/RES. 1571 (XXVIII-O/98), AG/RES. 1622 (XXIX-O/99), AG/RES. 1748 (XXX-O/00), AG/RES. 1798 (XXXI-O/01), AG/RES. 1903 (XXII-O/02), AG/RES. 1937 (XXXIII-O/03), AG/RES. 2009 (XXXIV-O/04), and AG/RES. 2104 (XXXV-O/05);

NOTING WITH SATISFACTION the statement issued by the states of the Hemisphere in the Declaration on Security in the Americas, in which they affirmed that the establishment of the first nuclear-weapon-free zone in a densely populated area through the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco) and the protocols thereto constitutes a substantial contribution to international peace, security, and stability;

AFFIRMING that the consolidation of the nuclear-weapon-free zone set forth in the Treaty of Tlatelolco constitutes a firm demonstration of the commitment of Latin America and the Caribbean to the cause of complete and verifiable nuclear disarmament and the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, in keeping with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations;

CONSIDERING that, under Article 1 of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, the Contracting Parties undertook “to use exclusively for peaceful purposes the nuclear material and facilities which are under their jurisdiction, and to prohibit and prevent in their respective territories: (a) the testing, use, manufacture, production or acquisition by any means whatsoever of any nuclear weapons, by the Parties themselves, directly or indirectly, on behalf of anyone else or in any other way, and (b) the receipt, storage, installation, deployment and any form of possession of any nuclear weapons, directly or indirectly, by the Parties themselves, by anyone on their behalf or in any other way,” and that the Contracting Parties also undertook “to refrain from engaging in, encouraging or authorizing, directly or indirectly, or in any way participating in the testing, use, manufacture, production, possession or control of any nuclear weapon”;

CONSIDERING ALSO that Article 17 of the said Treaty states that nothing in its provisions “shall prejudice the rights of the Contracting Parties, in conformity with this Treaty, to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, in particular for their economic development and social progress”;

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NOTING the dialogue initiated by the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL) with the nuclear-weapon states that are parties to Additional Protocols I and II to the Treaty of Tlatelolco, in relation to the request that they modify or withdraw their declarations on said Additional Protocols;

CONSIDERING the Santiago de Chile Declaration, adopted by the General Conference of OPANAL at its XIX Regular Session (Santiago, November 7-8, 2005);

TAKING NOTE of the coordination efforts carried out by OPANAL with other denuclearized zones in keeping with the agreements in the Declaration adopted by the Conference of States Parties and Signatories to Treaties That Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones (Mexico City, April 26-28, 2005);

NOTING WITH SATISFACTION that the Republic of Haiti has deposited its instrument of ratification of the agreements on safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which now means that the 33 states parties to the Treaty of Tlatelolco are subject to international verification;

CONVINCED:

That the creation of nuclear-weapon-free zones that comply with international criteria is an important step that significantly strengthens all aspects of the international nonproliferation regime, thus contributing to the maintenance of international peace and security; and

That, as stated in the preamble to the Treaty of Tlatelolco, militarily denuclearized zones are not an end in themselves, but rather a means for achieving general and complete disarmament at a later stage;

RECOGNIZING that the Treaty of Tlatelolco has become the model for the establishment of other nuclear-weapon-free zones in various regions of the world, such as the South Pacific (Treaty of Rarotonga), Southeast Asia (Treaty of Bangkok), and Africa (Treaty of Pelindaba), which, when they enter into force, will cover more than half the countries of the world and all territories in the Southern Hemisphere; and

UNDERSCORING its firm support for all actions undertaken by all the states parties, associated states, and OPANAL to strengthen the denuclearization regime envisaged in the Treaty of Tlatelolco,

RESOLVES:

1. To call upon those states of the region that have not yet done so to sign or ratify the amendments to the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco), adopted by the General Conference of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL) in resolutions 267 (E-V), 268 (XII), and 290 (E-VII).
2. To reaffirm the importance of strengthening OPANAL as the appropriate legal and political forum for ensuring unqualified observance of the Treaty of Tlatelolco in its zone of application and for promoting cooperation with the agencies of other nuclear-weapon-free zones.

3. To reaffirm its commitment to continue striving for a disarmament and nonproliferation regime that is universal, genuine, and nondiscriminatory in every aspect.

4. To call upon OPANAL, in its area of competence, to continue to maintain appropriate ties or contact with the Committee on Hemispheric Security (CSH) of the Organization of American States and report to it periodically on the fulfillment of the commitments undertaken by the states of the region in this resolution and in the Declaration on Security in the Americas, in particular, paragraph 11 of the latter, as they pertain to nonproliferation of nuclear weapons.

5. To entrust the Permanent Council with holding, in the framework of the CSH, a meeting on consolidation of the regime established in the Treaty of Tlatelolco, with the support of OPANAL and the participation of the United Nations and other international organizations competent in the area.

6. To recognize the work of OPANAL in ensuring compliance with the obligations undertaken in the Treaty of Tlatelolco.

7. To support OPANAL’s cooperation and coordination mechanisms with the Treaties of Rarotonga, Bangkok, and Pelindaba, with Mongolia, and with those that may be established in the future, as well as with their respective agencies, in order to expedite the achievement of common objectives, as agreed to at the Conference of States Parties and Signatories to Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones, held in Mexico City in April 2005.

8. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session on the implementation of this resolution.

9. To request the Secretary General to transmit this resolution to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and to the Secretary General of OPANAL.
AG/RES. 2246 (XXXVI-O/06)

COOPERATION ON SOME MATTERS OF SECURITY IN THE HEMISPHERE

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly on the activities of the Committee on Hemispheric Security (AG/doc.4548/06 add. 2);


REAFFIRMING that the programs, activities, and tasks set out in the above-mentioned resolutions are necessary for the furtherance of the essential purpose of the Organization, enshrined in the Charter, to strengthen peace and security in the Hemisphere, and that cooperation among member states is fundamental for the attainment of that goal;

REITERATING Article 2 of the Declaration on Security in the Americas, adopted in Mexico City in October 2003, which provides that the “new concept of security in the Hemisphere is multidimensional in scope, includes traditional and new threats, concerns, and other challenges to the security of the states of the Hemisphere, incorporates the priorities of each state, contributes to the consolidation of peace, integral development, and social justice, and is based on democratic values, respect for and promotion and defense of human rights, solidarity, cooperation, and respect for national sovereignty”;

REITERATING ALSO Article 4.a of the Declaration on Security in the Americas, which provides that “[e]ach state has the sovereign right to identify its own national security priorities and to define strategies, plans, and actions for addressing threats to its security, in accordance with its legal system and with full respect for international law and the norms and principles of the Charter of the OAS and the Charter of the United Nations”; and

RECALLING:

That at the Fourth Summit of the Americas, in November 2005, the Heads of State and Government reiterated their commitment to the objectives and purposes contained in the Declaration on Security in the Americas and called for continued implementation of the Declaration; and

The importance of the implementation by member states, in the manner they deem most appropriate, of the recommendations contained in the Declaration of Santiago and the Declaration of
San Salvador on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures, in the Consensus of Miami: Declaration by the Experts on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures: Recommendations to the Summit-Mandated Special Conference on Security, and in the relevant sections of the Declaration of Kingstown on the Security of Small Island States,

RESOLVES:

1. To reiterate its mandates to the Permanent Council and to the General Secretariat contained in the following resolutions; and to urge member states to continue contributing to the attainment of the objectives established in the following resolutions through the development and execution of activities, the submission of reports, the exchange and sharing of information, the adoption of measures and policies, and cooperation, support, and mutual assistance:

   a. AG/RES. 2107 (XXXV-O/05), “The Americas as a Biological- and Chemical Weapons-Free Region”;

   b. AG/RES. 2108 (XXXV-O/05), “The Proliferation of and the Illicit Trafficking in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects”;

   c. AG/RES. 2110 (XXXV-O/05), “Inter-American Convention on Transparency in Conventional Weapons Acquisitions”;

   d. AG/RES. 2113 (XXXV-O/05), “Transparency and Confidence- and Security-Building in the Americas”; and

   e. AG/RES. 2145 (XXXV-O/05), “Denying MANPADS to Terrorists: Control and Security of Man-Portable Air Defense Systems (MANPADS).”

2. To urge member states and permanent observers to contribute to the new fund established at the thirty-fifth regular session of the General Assembly dedicated to channeling financial resources to member states for the collection and destruction of small arms and light weapons, and related training programs.

3. To consider all aspects related to the proliferation of and illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons; and, to that end, to request that the Secretariat pro tempore of the Consultative Committee of the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (CIFTA), inform the Committee on Hemispheric Security (CSH) of the results of the United Nations Review Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons In All Its Aspects, scheduled to be held in 2006.

4. To request the Permanent Council to convene a meeting on February 12, 2007, at the level of the CSH and in coordination with the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) and the Consultative Committee of the CIFTA, on effective strategies to mitigate the threat posed by MANPADS, in the framework of resolution AG/RES. 2145 (XXXV-O/05).
5. To fulfill concretely the shared commitment of member states to make the Americas a region free of biological and chemical weapons and, to this end, to:

   a. Hold on December 11, 2006, at the level of the CSH, a special meeting dedicated to promoting universality of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction and an exchange of information on experiences in legislative and administrative measures required for the implementation of that Convention and on the efforts of member states to fulfill their commitment to a region free of biological and chemical weapons; and

   b. Hold on December 12, 2006, at the level of the CSH, a special meeting dedicated to combating the proliferation of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons, their delivery systems, and related materials, within the framework of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004).

6. To instruct the Permanent Council to continue, through the CSH, to participate in and conduct consultations and exchange experiences and information with other regional and international forums, inter alia, the Conferences of Ministers of Defense of the Americas, as mentioned in resolution AG/RES. 2113 (XXXV-O/05), and to hold, through the Committee, the next round of OAS-OSCE exchange of experiences and seek to establish an exchange of experiences with the ASEAN Regional Forum in 2007.


8. To continue to advance mutual confidence by convening, by 2008, a high-level meeting on confidence- and security-building measures to consider next steps to further consolidate mutual confidence.

9. To instruct the General Secretariat to carry out the activities mentioned in this resolution within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

10. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session on the implementation of this resolution.

11. To instruct the General Secretariat to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session on the implementation of this resolution.
AG/RES. 2247 (XXXVI-O/06)

PROMOTION OF HEMISPHERIC COOPERATION IN DEALING WITH GANGS INVOLVED IN CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION the findings of studies by different international organizations and some member states on the issue of gangs, which conclude that it is a very complex matter and should be addressed from a holistic viewpoint, including, inter alia, prevention, social support, respect for and protection of human rights, and mutual legal assistance in international matters;

ACKNOWLEDGING that gangs constitute a phenomenon that many countries of the Hemisphere share and that calls for in-depth analysis, as it represents a challenge that requires, first of all, recognition of the advisability and urgency of becoming more knowledgeable on the subject;

CONCERNED over the contemporary social problems that affect public security, which adversely affect communities and the quality of life of their inhabitants;

RECALLING its resolution AG/RES. 2144 (XXXV-O/05), “Promotion of Hemispheric Cooperation in Dealing with Gangs”;

EMPHASIZING that, in the Declaration of Mar del Plata of the Fourth Summit of the Americas, the Heads of State and Government underscored their concern over the problem of criminal gangs and related issues, as well as their effects on the economic and social environment, which jeopardize the progress attained by our societies in the process of stabilization, democratization, and sustainable development, which situation calls for urgent and complementary action to prevent crime, to prosecute those who commit crimes, to rehabilitate and reintegrate them, and to create opportunities to facilitate access to decent employment for youths, as expressed in paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Plan of Action of the Fourth Summit of the Americas;

HAVING SEEN the conclusions and recommendations issued at the Meeting on Transnational Criminal Gangs: Characteristics, importance, and public policies, and their relationship with the problem of drugs in the context of transnational organized crime,” held in Tapachula, Chiapas, Mexico, in June 2005, at the initiative of the General Secretariat; and at the First Regional Forum on Social Prevention of Violence, Rehabilitation, and Reintegration of At-Risk Youth and Youths in Conflict with the Law, held in San Salvador, in September 2005, at the initiative of El Salvador, to contribute to seeking solutions to the problem from its social and human perspectives; and

NOTING the creation of the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security and, within it, of the Department for the Prevention of Threats against Public Security, charged, among other tasks, with coordinating the efforts of the General Secretariat in areas related to public security,
RESOLVES:

1. To instruct the General Secretariat, through the competent organs of the Organization of American States:
   a. To support member states that share the problem of gangs involved in criminal activities, in organizing meetings they may hold at the regional, subregional, and national levels on the different aspects of such gangs, using a crosscutting and integral approach; to consolidate and publish the findings; and to follow up on the conclusions, as applicable; and
   b. To coordinate its work on gangs involved in criminal activities with that of other international organizations, human rights organizations, and civil society organizations, including private enterprise, to promote crime prevention, prosecute those who commit crimes, rehabilitate them, reintegrate them into society, and create opportunities to enable young people to find decent employment.

2. To instruct the General Secretariat to carry out, as appropriate, the activities mentioned in this resolution in coordination with the countries that share the problem of gangs involved in criminal activities, in accordance with the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

3. To instruct the Permanent Council to follow up on this resolution and to present a report on its implementation to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session.
AG/RES. 2248 (XXXVI-O/06)

MIGRANT POPULATIONS AND MIGRATION FLOWS IN THE AMERICAS

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY;

RECALLING the important work of the Organization of American States (OAS) in promoting and protecting the human rights of migrant workers and their families pursuant to, inter alia, the following resolutions: AG/RES. 1717 (XXX-O/00), AG/RES. 1775 (XXXI-O/01), AG/RES. 1898 (XXXII-O/02), AG/RES. 1928 (XXXIII-O/03), AG/RES. 2027 (XXXIV-O/04), and AG/RES. 2130 (XXXV-O/05);

RECALLING ALSO the adoption, by resolution AG/RES. 2141 (XXXV-O/05), of the Inter-American Program for the Promotion and Protection of the Human Rights of Migrants, Including Migrant Workers and Their Families;

CONSIDERING the importance of broadening discussion and analysis of human migration, regular and irregular, and migration flows in the Americas and their causes and impact on all member states of the OAS;

RECOGNIZING that migration is also an integral reflection of the processes of integration and globalization, as well as a consequence of the erosion of traditional barriers to the mobilization of populations, such as the time it takes to travel and long distances;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the social and economic significance of migrations in the countries of origin, transit, and reception of migrants; and

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT ALSO that these migration flows will very likely increase as a result of various social, economic, and demographic factors, including subregional integration efforts,

RESOLVES:

1. To instruct the Permanent Council to hold a special meeting in the second half of 2006 to consider, analyze, and discuss human migration flows, their impact on the member states, and their relation to the human rights of migrant workers and their families, with the participation of all stakeholders, including the Special Rapporteur on Migrant Workers and Their Families of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR).

2. To request the Permanent Council to work towards establishing a special committee on migration issues as a specialized committee of the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States in order to analyze migration issues and flows from an integral perspective, taking into account the relevant provisions of international law, especially international human rights law.
3. To urge member states to make voluntary contributions to support the activities of the Special Rapporteur on Migrant Workers and Their Families of the IACHR, and the Inter-American Program for the Promotion and Protection of the Human Rights of Migrants, Including Migrant Workers and Their Families.

4. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session on the implementation of this resolution.
AG/RES. 2249 (XXXVI-O/06)

EXTRADITION OF AND DENIAL OF SAFE HAVEN TO TERRORISTS: MECHANISMS FOR COOPERATION IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN, with satisfaction, the instruments adopted in the framework of the Organization of American States, as an expression of the political will of member states to strengthen reciprocal cooperation in the fight against terrorism;

RECALLING the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism; resolution RC.23/RES. 1/01 rev. 1 corr. 1, “Strengthening Hemispheric Cooperation to Prevent, Combat, and Eliminate Terrorism,” adopted at the Twenty-third Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, held in Washington, D.C., on September 21, 2001; and United Nations Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), adopted on September 28, 2001;

REITERATING the commitment undertaken in paragraph 23 of the Declaration on Security in the Americas, to the effect that “[i]n the legal framework referred to in the previous paragraph [paragraph 22], we shall foster, in the countries of the Hemisphere, the capacity to prevent, punish, and eliminate terrorism. We shall strengthen the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism and bilateral, subregional, and hemispheric cooperation, through information exchange and the broadest possible mutual legal assistance to prevent and suppress the financing of terrorism, prevent the international movement of terrorists, without prejudice to applicable international commitments in relation to the free movement of people and the facilitation of commerce, and ensure the prosecution, in accordance with domestic law, of those who participate in planning, preparing, or committing acts of terrorism, and those who directly or indirectly provide or collect funds with the intention that they should be used, or in the knowledge that they are to be used, in order to carry out terrorist acts. We undertake to identify and fight new terrorist threats, whatever their origin or motivation, such as threats to cyber security, biological terrorism, and threats to critical infrastructure”;

UNDERSCORING the importance of cooperation among law enforcement authorities and of international cooperation on criminal matters, including mutual legal assistance and extradition, in the fight against terrorism, as well as the importance of observing the international instruments adopted by member states, in particular the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism and the instruments referred to in its Article 2;

RECALLING that the Fifth Meeting of the Meeting of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA-V) reaffirmed that “the damage caused and the threat posed by the different types of transnational organized crime and terrorism, to our citizens and to our democracies and the economic and social development of our states, make it necessary and urgent to continue to strengthen and enhance mutual legal and judicial cooperation at the hemispheric level, as well as to enact laws, procedures, and new mechanisms, if they have not done so, to enable them to combat these crimes effectively”;
REAFFIRMING that the fight against terrorism must be waged with full respect for the law, human rights, due process, and democratic institutions, so as to preserve the rule of law, freedoms, and democratic values in the Hemisphere; and

REAFFIRMING ALSO that all member states have a duty to ensure that all measures adopted to combat terrorism, including extradition, are in compliance with their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights law, international refugee law, and international humanitarian law,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge all member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) to comply fully with their obligations as established in the relevant instruments adopted to combat terrorism to which they are party, in particular the applicable provisions regarding the provision of mutual legal assistance and the extradition of anyone participating in the planning, preparation, financing, or commission of terrorist acts or, where appropriate, the attempted commission of said offenses.

2. To urge all member states to prosecute and, as appropriate, extradite, in accordance with their domestic laws and relevant treaties and conventions, anyone participating in the planning, preparation, commission, or financing of terrorist acts or, where appropriate, the attempted commission of said offenses.

3. To exhort member states to adopt as applicable, in conformity with Articles 12 and 13 of the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism, appropriate measures in accordance with the pertinent provisions of domestic and international law to ensure that neither refugee status nor asylum is granted to persons in respect of whom there are reasonable grounds for considering that they have committed an offense established in the international instruments listed in Article 2 of the aforementioned Convention.

4. Also to urge member states to deny, in accordance with United Nations Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), safe haven to those who finance, plan, support, or commit terrorists acts, or provide safe haven.

5. In the implementation of this resolution, member states shall take into consideration Article 15.2 of the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism, which states: “Nothing in this Convention shall be interpreted as affecting other rights and obligations of states and individuals under international law, in particular the Charter of the United Nations, the Charter of the Organization of American States, international humanitarian law, international human rights law, and international refugee law.”

6. To support the efforts and work of the member states and the organs, agencies, and entities of the OAS, carried out in accordance with the mechanisms established to combat terrorism.

7. To ratify the recommendations of the Fifth Meeting of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA-V) by continuing to consider actions to build up hemispheric legal cooperation in the matter of extradition, including temporary extradition when appropriate, in keeping with national legislation, and to proceed with the preparation of the
sections on mutual legal and judicial cooperation of a hemispheric plan of action to fight transnational organized crime and terrorism, including measures for administration of cases by the requesting state so as not to overburden the requested state.

8. To welcome the recommendations regarding extradition of the Second Meeting of Central Authorities and Other Experts on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters, held in Brasilia, Brazil, from September 1 to 3, 2005, which were endorsed by REMJA-VI, in particular the recommendation that cooperation in this field be effective, efficient, and diligent.

9. To urge member states to ensure, in the framework of their international commitments, that no one who is extradited shall be subjected to human rights violations or to cruel, inhuman, or degrading punishment.
OBLIGATION OF MEMBER STATES TO RESPECT THE RULES AND PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW CONTAINED IN THE CHARTER OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES, IN ORDER TO PRESERVE AND STRENGTHEN PEACE IN THE HEMISPHERE

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING that the background to the historical, legal, and political foundations of the Organization of American States (OAS) includes the Pan American Union, which arose from the Amphictyonic Congress of Panama, convened to preserve the independence of the American republics, to promote peace and solidarity, to strengthen sovereignty, and to promote the economic, social, and cultural development of the peoples of the American Hemisphere;

RECALLING ALSO principles set forth in the Charter of the Organization of American States and the Charter of the United Nations;

REAFFIRMING, in the terms of the OAS Charter, that international law is the standard of conduct of states in their reciprocal relations and that international legal order consists essentially of full respect for the legal equality of states, sovereignty, nonintervention, independence, and the faithful fulfillment of obligations derived from treaties and other sources of international law, as well as good faith fulfillment of international obligations;

REAFFIRMING ALSO that due regard for the following essential purposes set forth in the OAS Charter is an effective means of strengthening peace and security in the Hemisphere: to seek the solution of political, juridical, and economic problems that may arise among the states, and to prevent possible causes of difficulties and ensure the pacific settlement of disputes that may arise among the member states;

AFFIRMING that one of the binding rules for the preservation of regional peace on which the legal existence of the OAS is based is that every state has the right to choose, without external interference, its political, economic, and social system, and to organize itself in the manner that most suits it, and has the duty to refrain from intervening in the affairs of other states; and

EMPHASIZING the principles of cooperation and solidarity, which encourage friendship among states,

1. The United States observes that this resolution includes partially inaccurate characterizations of the OAS Charter and international law in its third, fourth, and fifth preambular paragraphs, and its first operative paragraph. The United States is a party to the Charter, and accepts the Charter’s statements on the subjects of those paragraphs. However, the United States cannot join consensus on this resolution to the degree that those paragraphs inaccurately characterize the Charter and international law.
RESOLVES:

1. To reiterate the content of Article 3 of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), which mentions, _inter alia_, the following principles that guarantee regional peace and constitute the foundations of the Organization of American States: full respect for the legal equality of states, sovereignty, political independence, territorial integrity, and nonintervention.

2. To urge member states to continue their efforts to promote solidarity, cooperation, and participation under equal conditions to attain social justice.

3. To reiterate the mandate assigned to the Permanent Council, through the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs, to hold a special meeting on the principles of international law contained in the OAS Charter.

4. To request the Secretary General to provide support for the implementation of this resolution and to present a report thereon to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session.
AG/RES. 2251 (XXXVI-O/06)

PROMOTION OF REGIONAL COOPERATION FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN DEMOCRATIC CHARTER ON THE OCCASION OF ITS FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN resolution AG/RES. 2154 (XXXV-O/05), “Promotion of Regional Cooperation for Implementation of the Inter-American Democratic Charter”; and the “Declaration of Florida: Delivering the Benefits of Democracy,” [AG/DEC. 41 (XXXV-O/05)], both adopted by the General Assembly in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, United States of America;

CONSIDERING:

That the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS) establishes the importance of the promotion and consolidation of representative democracy with due respect for the principle of nonintervention;

That the Inter-American Democratic Charter declares that the peoples of the Americas have a right to democracy and their governments have an obligation to promote and defend it, and that democracy is essential for the social, political, and economic development of the peoples of the Americas;

That representative democracy is an indispensable condition for the stability, peace, and development of the region; and

That the year 2006 marks the fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Inter-American Democratic Charter;

REITERATING:

That democracy, social inclusion, social mobility, and economic development are interdependent and mutually reinforcing;

That multilateral cooperation plays an important part in support of national efforts to promote good governance and democratic principles and facilitates dialogue in the political, economic, social, and cultural spheres; and

That representative democracy is reinforced and deepened by the continuous, ethical, and responsible participation of citizens in a framework of legality consistent with the corresponding constitutional order;
RECOGNIZING the work of other regional and subregional institutions and the need to coordinate with them;

RECALLING ALSO the importance of participation by civil society organizations;

AWARE that the peoples of the Hemisphere are entitled to fundamental freedoms, human rights, respect for the dignity and worth of the human person, equal rights for men and women, and the promotion of social justice and better living standards;

AWARE ALSO of the need to provide the Organization with procedures that facilitate cooperation in complying with the standards and principles contained in the Inter-American Democratic Charter, so that it may contribute effectively to the preservation and consolidation of democracy in the countries of the Hemisphere;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the effective implementation of the Inter-American Democratic Charter is an ongoing objective of the peoples and governments of the Americas;

RECALLING that the promotion and observance of economic, social, and cultural rights are inherently linked to integral development, equitable economic growth, and the consolidation of democracy in the states of the Hemisphere; and

BEARING IN MIND:

That, in the Declaration of Mar del Plata of the Fourth Summit of the Americas, the Heads of State and Government of the Americas reiterated their commitment to the OAS Charter and the Inter-American Democratic Charter and reaffirmed their resolve to strengthen their full and effective implementation; and

That in Mar del Plata, the Heads of State and Government of the Americas endorsed also the commitments adopted in the “Declaration of Florida: Delivering the Benefits of Democracy” [AG/DEC. 41 (XXXV-O/05)], adopted by the General Assembly in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, United States of America, and requested the political bodies and the OAS General Secretariat to continue to advance in the effective implementation of said Declaration,

RESOLVES:

1. To reiterate that the mandates contained in resolution AG/RES. 2154 (XXXV-O/05), “Promotion of Regional Cooperation for Implementation of the Inter-American Democratic Charter,” remain effective.

2. To reaffirm that the Secretary General may bring to the attention of the Permanent Council, in the exercise of the functions conferred to him by the Charter of the Organization of American States and in application of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, those situations likely to lead to action under the said instruments.

3. To instruct the Secretary General, at the request of member states, to facilitate and enhance activities, including training and technical cooperation, that contribute to strengthening
democratic institutions in the region. To that effect, information and experiences may be exchanged with other bodies.

4. To instruct the Permanent Council to convene a special meeting to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Inter-American Democratic Charter.

5. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session on the status of implementation of this resolution.
AG/RES. 2252 (XXXVI-O/06)

ACCESS TO PUBLIC INFORMATION: STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY¹

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly (AG/doc.4548/06 add. 6 corr. 1), on the status of implementation of resolution AG/RES. 2121 (XXXV-O/05), “Access to Public Information: Strengthening Democracy”;

CONSIDERING that Article 13 of the American Convention on Human Rights provides that “[e]veryone has the right to freedom of thought and expression. This right includes freedom to seek, receive, and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing, in print, in the form of art, or through any other medium of one’s choice”;

CONSIDERING ALSO that Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights includes the right “to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers”;

RECALLING that the Plan of Action of the Third Summit of the Americas, held in Quebec City in 2001, indicates that governments will ensure that national legislation is applied equitably to all, respecting freedom of expression and access to public information of all citizens;

EMPHASIZING that Article 4 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter states that transparency in government activities, probity, responsible public administration on the part of governments, respect for social rights, and freedom of expression and of the press are essential components of the exercise of democracy;

NOTING that, in the Declaration of Nuevo León, the Heads of State and Government affirmed that access to information held by the state, subject to constitutional and legal norms, including those on privacy and confidentiality, is an indispensable condition for citizen participation and promotes effective respect for human rights, and, in that connection, that they are committed to

¹. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela reaffirms the statement made in the footnote to resolution AG/RES. 2121 (XXXV-O/05), to the effect that the IACHR should include in the study entrusted to it under operative paragraph 9 of said resolution, taking into account the right of all citizens to seek, receive, and impart information, how the state may guarantee that right to populations that are socially and economically excluded, in the framework of the principles of transparency of information, when that information is disseminated via the media, and on the basis of the right to equality of all individuals under the law.

Along those lines, we underscore the important conclusions and reflections of the Special Meeting on the right to public information, held on April 28, 2006, within the framework of the OAS, in which it was recognized that the media were responsible for ensuring that citizens receive, without distortions of any type, information provided by the state.
providing the legal and regulatory framework and the structures and conditions required to guarantee
the right of access to public information;

BEARING IN MIND the adoption of the “Declaration of Santiago on Democracy and Public
Trust: A New Commitment to Good Governance for the Americas” [AG/DEC. 31 (XXXIII-O/03)],
as well as resolution AG/RES. 1960 (XXXIII-O/03), “Program for Democratic Governance in the
Americas”;

CONSIDERING that the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD)
has been identifying and facilitating access by member states to e-government practices that facilitate
information and communication technology applications in governmental processes;

CONSIDERING ALSO that the Office for the Promotion of Democracy (OPD) has been
providing support to member states in dealing with the topic of access to public information;

NOTING the work accomplished by the Inter-American Juridical Committee (CJI) on this
issue, in particular the document “Right to Information: Access to and Protection of Information and
Personal Data in Electronic Format” (CJI/doc.25/00 rev. 1);

RECOGNIZING that the goal of achieving an informed citizenry must be rendered
compatible with other societal aims, such as safeguarding national security, public order, and
protection of personal privacy, pursuant to laws passed to that effect;

RECOGNIZING ALSO that democracy is strengthened through full respect for freedom of
expression, access to public information, and the free dissemination of ideas, and that all sectors of
society, including the media, through the public information they disseminate to citizens, may
contribute to a climate of tolerance of all views, foster a culture of peace, and strengthen democratic
governance;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the important role civil society can play in promoting broad
access to public information;

TAKING NOTE of the Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression of the Inter-
American Commission on Human Rights; and of the Joint Declaration by the UN Special Rapporteur
on Freedom of Opinion and Expression, the OSCE (Organization for Security and Co-operation in
Europe) Representative on Freedom of the Media, and the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of
Expression of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, adopted in 2005;

TAKING NOTE ALSO of the reports of the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression of
the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights on the situation of access to information in the

RECALLING initiatives taken by civil society regarding access to public information, in
particular, the Declaration of Chapultepec, the Johannesburg Principles, the Lima Principles, and the
Declaration of the SOCIUS Peru 2003: Access to Information, as well as the Regional Forum on
Access to Public Information: Challenges to Freedom of Information in the Hemisphere, held in
Lima, Peru, on January 20 and 21, 2004;
RECALLING ALSO that the media, the private sector, and political parties can likewise play an important role in facilitating access by citizens to information held by the states; and

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION the report of the Chair of the Permanent Council on the implementation of resolution AG/RES. 2121 (XXXV-O/05), “Access to Public Information: Strengthening Democracy,”

RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm that everyone has the freedom to seek, receive, access, and impart information and that access to public information is a requisite for the very exercise of democracy.

2. To urge member states to respect and promote respect for everyone’s access to public information and to promote the adoption of any necessary legislative or other types of provisions to ensure its recognition and effective application.

3. To encourage member states, in keeping with the commitment made in the Declaration of Nuevo León and with due respect for constitutional and legal provisions, to prepare and/or adjust their respective legal and regulatory frameworks, as appropriate, so as to provide the citizenry with broad access to public information.

4. Also to encourage member states, when preparing and/or adjusting their respective legal and regulatory frameworks, as appropriate, to provide civil society with the opportunity to participate in that process; and to urge them, when drafting and/or adapting their national legislation, to take into account clear and transparent exception criteria.

5. To encourage member states to take the necessary measures, through their national legislation and other appropriate means, to facilitate access to such information through electronic or any other means that will allow ready access to public information.

6. To instruct the Special Rapporteurship on Freedom of Expression of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) and the Department for the Promotion of Good Governance:
   a. To support the efforts of member states that so request in drafting legislation and developing mechanisms in the area of access to public information and citizen participation; and
   b. To assist the Permanent Council in the work of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP) mentioned in operative paragraph 13.a below.

7. To instruct the Department of International Legal Affairs:
   a. To prepare a study with recommendations on the subject of access to information and protection of personal data, on the basis of the inputs from the organs of the inter-American system and from civil society, as well as the
preparatory work conducted during the special meeting of the CAJP on the subject; and

b. To assist the Permanent Council in the work of the CAJP mentioned in operative paragraph 13.a below.

8. To request the Inter-American Juridical Committee to continue to carry out comparative law studies on the protection of personal data, and to update the study “Right to Information: Access to and Protection of Information and Personal Data in Electronic Format,” of 2000, taking into account the diverse viewpoints on the subject, in connection with which it will draw up and distribute to the member states, with due support from the Secretariat, a new questionnaire on the topic.

9. To instruct the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression to continue to include in the Annual Report of the IACHR a report on the situation regarding access to public information in the region.

10. To instruct the IACHR to conduct a study on how the state can guarantee all citizens the freedom to seek, receive, and impart public information on the basis of the principle of freedom of expression.

11. To instruct the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD) to identify new resources to support member states’ efforts to facilitate access to public information.

12. To take note of the report of the special meeting of the CAJP, with the participation of experts from the states and civil society representatives, to promote, impart, and exchange experiences and knowledge with respect to access to public information and its relationship with citizen participation, held on April 28, 2006 (CP/CAJP-2320/05 add. 2).

13. To recommend to the Permanent Council that it:

a. Request the CAJP to prepare a basic document on best practices and the development of common approaches or guidelines for increasing access to public information, on the basis of the report of the aforementioned special meeting and taking into account the report of the Chair of the Permanent Council on the implementation of resolution AG/RES. 2121 (XXXV-O/05), as well as inputs from the member state delegations, the Special Rapporteurship on Freedom of Expression of the IACHR, the Inter-American Juridical Committee, the Department of International Legal Affairs, and the interested organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization, as well as from civil society representatives; and

b. Request the General Secretariat to promote seminars, workshops, or other events designed to promote access to public information by citizens and government administrations.
14. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session on the implementation of this resolution, which will be carried out within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.
AG/RES. 2253 (XXXVI-O/06)

SUPPORT FOR THE USE OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECOGNIZING that the Plan of Action of the Fourth Summit of the Americas advocates the development and use of renewable and efficient energy sources as a strategy that promotes sustainable development;

RECALLING:

That the Plan of Action of the Summit of the Americas on Sustainable Development promotes the most economically and environmentally efficient means of production, transformation, and use of energy, including the introduction of clean fuel alternatives for transportation; and

That resolution CIDI/CIDS/RES. 2 (III-O/02) underscores the urgent need for all member states to put in place measures to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change in the Americas, including the promotion of risk management, renewable energy, and energy efficiency alternatives;

BEARING IN MIND the provisions of the Kyoto Protocol applicable to the states parties thereto;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the technical progress that has resulted in reliable, lower-cost renewable energy and alternative energy systems;

UNDERSCORING that modern utilization of biofuel and other forms of renewable energy affords opportunities to respond to local energy needs by using clean renewable energy alternatives, while simultaneously generating products with great export potential;

RECOGNIZING the efforts of the Department of Sustainable Development of the Organization of American States, through its Renewable Energy in the Americas Initiative (REAI), to support the development and use of sustainable energy throughout Latin America and the Caribbean and to assist member states in the following areas: energy policy and regulatory reform, human and institutional capacity building, the creation of innovative financing mechanisms, and the establishment of regional clean energy networks; and

RECOGNIZING ALSO the efforts of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) as a forum for discussing experiences in the field of agro-energy,
RESOLVES:

1. To request the General Secretariat to support, within available resources, member states’ efforts to develop sustainable energy plans and to implement measures that foster greater use of clean conventional energy and commercially viable renewable energy, such as wind, geothermal, biofuel, hydroelectric, and solar energy, as well as to adopt policies designed to achieve greater energy efficiency, as a means of better addressing the challenges associated with economic growth and the environment.

2. To enhance cooperation between the Organization of American States, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), and other international and regional organizations in order to:
   a. Implement renewable energy measures and energy efficiency projects that lower dependence on fossil fuels while promoting the development and efficient use of local natural resources to produce fuels for electricity generation and transportation; and
   b. Promote increased provision of novel energy services to neglected communities, particularly rural and indigenous communities, as a means of promoting economic development, sustainable management of natural resources, and capacity to deliver community services, including education, health, and agricultural extension services.
AG/RES. 2254 (XXXVI-O/06)

MODERNIZATION AND USE OF ELECTORAL TECHNOLOGIES IN THE HEMISPHERE

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

BEARING IN MIND the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), which establishes in its preamble that representative democracy is an indispensable condition for the stability, peace, and development of the region and that one of the essential purposes of the Organization is to promote and consolidate representative democracy, with due respect for the principle of nonintervention;

GUIDED by the Inter-American Democratic Charter, which includes, among the essential elements of representative democracy, inter alia, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms; access to and the exercise of power subject to the rule of law; and the holding of periodic, free, and fair elections based on universal suffrage and secret balloting as an expression of the sovereignty of the people;

RECALLING that, in the Plan of Action of the Third Summit of the Americas, the Heads of State and Government of the democratic countries of the Hemisphere stated that they would “[c]ontinue to enhance electoral mechanisms, using information and communications technologies where possible, to effectively guarantee the impartiality, promptness and independent action of agencies, tribunals or other bodies responsible for the conduct, supervision and verification of elections at national and sub-national levels”;

NOTING the establishment of the Secretariat for Political Affairs of the OAS General Secretariat and its contribution to the implementation of mandates concerning electoral affairs arising from both the Summits of the Americas and the Organization;

CONSIDERING the reports of the various electoral observation and technical assistance missions, in particular their diverse recommendations on the need to improve electoral processes, which constitutes an important contribution to strengthening democratic institutional systems;

UNDERSCORING the advisability of reinforcing, for these purposes, hemispheric cooperation and the exchange of experiences in the areas of electoral technologies and legislation related to them, with support from the OAS; and

HIGHLIGHTING the dialogue of heads of delegation during the thirty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly on the topic “Good Governance and Development in the Knowledge-based Society,”
RESOLVES:

1. To underscore the efforts made by the election officials in the member states to organize and administer elections, for the purpose of increasing the quality and transparency of their electoral processes, including the incorporation of new electoral technologies.

2. To underscore the decisive contribution by the Organization of American States (OAS), through electoral observations, advice, and assistance, to the holding of elections and the strengthening and development of electoral institutions and processes in the member states.

3. To urge the General Secretariat to support member states that so request, in such a way as to enable their electoral bodies to join together in a horizontal cooperation effort to adopt new electoral technologies under the auspices of the OAS, within the resources available.

4. To instruct the General Secretariat, through the Secretariat for Political Affairs, to do more to foster the generation of horizontal cooperation mechanisms for organizing electoral processes, including the adoption of new technologies, in order to assist member states that request such assistance.

5. To instruct the General Secretariat to assist member states that so request with training human resources in international electoral observation.

6. To underscore the advisability of promoting, for these purposes, cooperation and exchange of experiences in the areas of electoral legislation and technology, with other international and regional organizations.

7. To underscore the importance of holding meetings in the framework of the Inter-American Electoral Technology Program (IETP); and to suggest to the General Secretariat that at the next meeting, scheduled for the second half of 2006, it invite high-level officials, so as to encourage an effective exchange of successful practices and technologies in the electoral area.

8. To call upon member states, permanent observers, and other donors to make voluntary contributions to the activities proposed to implement and follow up on this resolution.

9. To instruct the General Secretariat to include in its activity reports on the promotion of democracy the progress made in carrying out this mandate.
AG/RES. 2255 (XXXVI-O/06)

THE USE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES IN GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT IN ORDER TO PROMOTE TRANSPARENCY AND THE PARTICIPATION OF MICRO, SMALL, AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES, AND OTHER PRODUCTIVE ORGANIZATIONS

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

CONSIDERING:

That, in the Declaration of Nuevo León of the Special Summit of the Americas (2004), the Heads of State and Government of the Americas undertook to promote transparency in government transactions in accordance with domestic legislation, in order to, *inter alia*, prevent abuse and maintain public confidence;

That in the same Declaration, the Heads of State and Government said that they would support micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises through policies and programs that, among other things, “allow their effective access to markets and to government procurement.” Further, they said that they would promote “greater international cooperation in order to foster the sharing of best practices for the development of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises”;

That, in the Plan of Action of the Fourth Summit of the Americas (Mar del Plata, Argentina, 2005), the Heads of State and Government agreed to “encourage the exchange of experience with regard to the role of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises and access to procurement programs, in the creation of productive jobs, development of competitive skills, reduction of the informal sector, and the fight against poverty”; and

That, in its resolution AG/RES. 2083 (XXXV-O/05), “Strengthening of Micro, Small, and Medium-Sized Enterprises” (MSMEs), the General Assembly instructed the General Secretariat to “support, to the extent possible, efforts by member states aimed at strengthening the competitiveness of MSMEs for trade and development by,” *inter alia*, “[s]trengthening the institutional framework that support MSMEs, in particular by facilitating their access to markets and to government procurement using electronic means in order to provide broader dissemination of the opportunities available to them”; and

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION:

That the General Secretariat is working with the member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) to strengthen the institutional capacity needed to develop strategies and programs to improve procurement practices, including the use of Internet-based systems and of practices that facilitate participation on more competitive and productive terms for MSMEs in government procurement, including productive organizations such as cooperatives;
That OAS-supported activities on government procurement provide those responsible for strategies and project managers with opportunities to exchange information and experiences on lessons learned and current best practices, access to experts with broad experience, and mechanisms for their institutional cooperation in strategy development and program design;

That one of the results of OAS cooperation activities has been the creation of the Inter-American Government Procurement Network, which brings together the highest-level government procurement officials, business associations, technical institutes, and other players from civil society; and

That the national government procurement institutions of Brazil, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Mexico, Peru, and the United States have hosted and supported OAS-sponsored activities on government procurement,

RESOLVES:

1. To underscore the importance of the effectiveness, efficiency, and transparency of government procurement in achieving the best value in purchasing, reducing transaction costs, supporting the implementation of economic and social development programs, promoting participation on more competitive and productive terms for micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), and other productive organizations such as cooperatives, in government procurement in each country, and supporting the development of e-procurement, e-commerce, and e-MSMEs, in order to generate jobs, reduce poverty, deter corruption, and strengthen democratic governance.

2. To underscore the importance of the participation on more competitive and productive terms for MSMEs, and other productive organizations such as cooperatives, in government procurement, in order to promote their formalization and association, and the identification of opportunities to link up stages of production, generate jobs, diversify economic activity, and increase the competitive supply of goods and services for the state.

3. To underscore the importance of the use of the Internet and other digital media in government procurement as a means of increasing the effectiveness, efficiency, and transparency of procurement transactions and of facilitating participation, on more competitive and productive terms for MSMEs, and other productive organizations such as cooperatives, in government procurement.

4. To invite member states to continue to support and to participate in cooperation activities on government procurement in the framework of the Organization of American States (OAS), in order to collaborate in strengthening the capacity of each country to design and implement strategies for improving the effectiveness, efficiency, and transparency of government procurement.

5. To invite member states to continue to support and to participate in the OAS-sponsored cooperation programs and activities aimed at promoting and facilitating participation, on more competitive and productive terms for MSMEs, and other productive organizations such as cooperatives, in government procurement.
6. To instruct the General Secretariat to work toward expanding the Inter-American Government Procurement Network and to support to the extent possible, with the resources available, the activities of this Network established by the highest-level government procurement officials of the member states to enhance their operations based on the exchange of information and experiences on lessons learned and best practices, the rendering of mutual support, and the organization and implementation of joint activities.

7. To foster dialogue among the OAS, the Inter-American Government Procurement Network, the Inter-American Development Bank, and other relevant entities in order to coordinate government procurement-related activities, including the consideration of strategies for improving connections between electronic government procurement systems and for publicizing and facilitating contacts among MSMEs in the Hemisphere, so that they can participate effectively in procurement opportunities associated with development bank programs.

8. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session on the implementation of this resolution.
The General Assembly,

bearing in mind resolutions AG/RES. 2019 (XXXIV-O/04), AG/RES. 2026 (XXXIV-O/04), and AG/RES. 2118 (XXXV-O/05); the Conclusions and Recommendations of the First Meeting of National Authorities on Trafficking in Persons, held on Isla Margarita, Venezuela, from March 14 to 17, 2006; and the recommendations of the Sixth Meeting of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA-VI), held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, from April 24 to 26, 2006;

having seen the Annual Report of Activities by the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Section of the Organization of American States (CP/doc.4105/06);

considering:

the increase in trafficking in persons in the Hemisphere and its economic, social, and human repercussions;

that poverty, inequity, and social exclusion in the Hemisphere are factors that increase the vulnerability of persons, especially women and children, to becoming victims of traffickers, who often belong to organized criminal groups that operate at both domestic and transnational levels;

the commitment assumed by the member states to improve their capacity for identifying, investigating, prosecuting, and punishing those responsible for trafficking in persons, especially in women and children, and to provide due assistance and protection to the victims, in the framework of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime;

that trafficking in persons violates the human rights of victims and affects society at large, can lead to the breakdown of families and communities, facilitates the growth of organized crime and other illicit activities, deprives countries of human capital and thus inhibits development, increases

1. Mexico notes an inconsistency between resolution AG/RES. 2240 (XXXVI-O/06), “Combating the Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Smuggling of and Trafficking in Children in the Hemisphere,” and resolution AG/RES. 2256 (XXXVI-O/06), “Hemispheric Efforts to Combat Trafficking in Persons: Conclusions and Recommendations of the First Meeting of National Authorities on Trafficking in Persons,” as regards the competent forum for dealing with the problem of trafficking in persons at the OAS. Mexico believes that trafficking in persons should be addressed from a crosscutting, integrated perspective and, therefore, stresses that, until such time as the Organization has a forum for that purpose, the appropriate forum is the Permanent Council.
public health costs, and undermines observance of the law, which is exacerbated when resources are lacking and in cases where corruption exists;

That trafficking in persons occurs within and across national borders; and

The need to strengthen the response, at the domestic and hemispheric levels, to trafficking in persons, including, when necessary, the amendment of domestic laws and policies, so as to carry out effective measures to prevent and fight trafficking, especially in women and children, and to give adequate protection and assistance to victims, respecting the human rights and dignity of the human being, and in the framework of the Protocol;

RECOGNIZING the efforts of member states in fighting trafficking in persons; and recalling the commitment by our governments to strengthen regional and international cooperation in fighting this serious crime, which is usually a manifestation of transnational organized crime;

BEARING IN MIND the commitment assumed by the member states, during the First Meeting of National Authorities on Trafficking in Persons, held in Venezuela from March 14 to 17, 2006, to consider signing and ratifying, ratifying, or acceding to, as the case may be, and to implement as soon as possible, the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and other relevant international instruments on the subject; and

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that, as an initial step in implementing the international obligations acquired by ratifying the said Protocol, the states parties should criminalize trafficking in persons in their respective domestic legislations, in accordance with its provisions,

RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm its commitment to fight the crime of trafficking in persons, by means of a comprehensive approach that takes into account the prevention of trafficking, prosecution of its perpetrators, protection of and assistance to its victims and respect for their human rights, as well as the strengthening of international cooperation in the area and implementation of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and of other relevant international instruments.

2. To welcome the Conclusions and Recommendations of the First Meeting of National Authorities on Trafficking in Persons of the member states of the Organization of American States (OAS), held on Isla Margarita, Venezuela, from March 14 to 17, 2006, which are part of this resolution and constitute an essential contribution to the definition of an international cooperation strategy and to the identification of national and hemispheric actions and measures to strengthen the fight against trafficking in persons.

3. To encourage member states to take the necessary measures to implement, as appropriate, the Conclusions and Recommendations of the First Meeting of National Authorities on Trafficking in Persons.
4. To urge those member states that have not yet done so to consider ratifying, acceding to, or accepting, as the case may be, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, as well as other initiatives and actions geared toward preventing trafficking in persons, prosecuting its perpetrators, and protecting and assisting its victims.

5. To request the Permanent Council to continue, through the Committee on Hemispheric Security, to consider this topic taking into account its comprehensive and crosscutting nature.

6. To request the General Secretariat to take the necessary measures, as appropriate, within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources, to implement the Conclusions and Recommendations of the First Meeting of National Authorities on Trafficking in Persons.

7. To request the OAS organs, agencies, entities, and mechanisms executing these recommendations to adopt an integrated and crosscutting approach to the matter of trafficking in persons.

8. To recognize the important role played by civil society in combating all aspects of trafficking in persons; and to recommend that the member states continue to dialogue with civil society organizations in their efforts against trafficking in persons.

9. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session on the implementation of this resolution.
CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING OF NATIONAL AUTHORITIES ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

(Document approved at the plenary meeting on March 17, 2006)

PREAMBLE

The national authorities of the member countries of the Organization of American States (OAS) responsible for combating trafficking in persons, meeting for the first time to consider this issue on Isla Margarita, in the State of Nueva Esparta in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, from March 14 to 17, 2006,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the recommendation of the Fifth Meeting of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA-V), as well as the mandates issued by the OAS General Assembly in its resolutions AG/RES. 2019 (XXXIV-O/04), AG/RES. 2026 (XXXIV-O/04), and AG/RES. 2118 (XXXV-O/05), underscore the importance of this event, which seeks to exchange information and share experiences that will reinforce our cooperation in abolishing this scourge;

CONCERNED over the increase in the crime of trafficking in persons in the Hemisphere and its economic, social, and human repercussions;

AWARE that poverty, inequity, and social exclusion in the Hemisphere are factors that place people, especially women and children, at greater risk of becoming victims of traffickers, who often belong to organized criminal groups, which operate at both domestic and transnational levels;

CONCERNED ALSO over the various crimes connected with trafficking in persons, such as corruption and money-laundering, among others, since they exacerbate or facilitate trafficking;

RECALLING the governments’ commitment to improve their capacity to identify, investigate, prosecute, and punish those responsible for trafficking in persons, especially in women and children, and to provide due assistance and protection to the victims, in the framework of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime;

RECOGNIZING the need to strengthen the domestic and hemispheric response to trafficking in persons, including, where necessary, amending domestic laws and policies so as to carry out effective actions to prevent and combat trafficking, especially in women and children, and provide the victims with adequate protection and assistance, respecting human rights and human dignity, in the framework of the Protocol;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the need for a comprehensive approach to the subject, engaged in a broad dialogue on the implementation of the international legal instruments, including the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and
Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, the protection of and assistance to trafficking victims, the prevention of this crime, the prosecution of its perpetrators, cooperation among countries of origin, transit, and destination of trafficking in persons, and the establishment or improvement of statistical records;

RECALLING the commitment made by the member states to consider signing and ratifying, ratifying, or acceding to, as the case may be, and to implement as soon as possible the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and other pertinent international instruments on the matter;

RECOGNIZING ALSO the efforts made by member states in combating trafficking in persons; and recalling the commitment made by our governments to strengthen regional and international cooperation in fighting this serious crime, which is usually a manifestation of transnational organized crime; and

WELCOMING the contributions received from experts, international organizations, civil society organizations, and observers that participated in the Meeting,

SUBMIT the following Conclusions and Recommendations to the Sixth Meeting of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA-VI):

TOPIC I IMPLEMENTATION OF THE JURIDICAL INSTRUMENTS ON THE ISSUE

1. Those states that have not yet done so should consider signing, ratifying, or acceding to, whichever is applicable, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the supplementary Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and implement its provisions;

2. Those states that have not yet done so should consider signing, ratifying, or acceding to, whichever is applicable, the Inter-American Convention on International Traffic in Minors and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, and Convention 182 of the International Labour Organization on the Worst Forms of Child Labor and implement its provisions;

3. As an initial step in implementing the international obligations acquired by ratifying the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, the states parties should criminalize trafficking in persons in their respective domestic legislations in accordance with their provisions. Those states that have not yet ratified the instrument might also consider criminalizing such traffic in accordance with the definition and elements contained in Article 3 thereof;

4. The member states should also consider implementing in their respective national legislations all legislative measures designed to criminalize in their countries all criminal behaviors involving trafficking in persons, such as participation in an organized criminal group, bribery, obstruction of justice and money laundering, illegal arms trafficking and illegal drug
trafficking, among others, in accordance with the obligations set forth in the United Nations Convention against Organized Transnational Crime and other multilateral instruments to combat organized crime.

**TOPIC II PREVENTION OF THE CRIME OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS**

1. Conduct, within the framework of the OAS, surveys and clarification campaigns in the Hemisphere, based on existing experiences. These campaigns could be undertaken in each country, taking into account their cultural specificities. The stigmatization of nationals from less developed regions abroad should also be considered;

2. The OAS and its member states could conduct any multidisciplinary studies and diagnoses necessary in order to analyze and comprehend the social and human, as well as the economic causes and consequences, connected with the phenomenon of trafficking in persons, which would include the forces of demand, *modus operandi* of the criminal networks, the movement of earnings generated by trafficking in persons and how this is related to other illegal or illegal economic activities, the circuit of income and the social, psychological, physical, emotional, and other negative impacts on the victims;

3. The member states should strive to promote full enjoyment of the human rights of the peoples of the Americas, creating conditions of equality, with a view to preventing the crime of trafficking in persons;

4. Recognizing that poverty is a fundamental factor in promoting conditions for trafficking in persons, the member states should undertake to strengthen those public policies that have high social content and are designed to protect vulnerable groups, especially women, children, and migrants, resorting in particular to bilateral or multilateral cooperation;

5. Study the establishment of a national interagency entity in member states that do not yet have one that would be in charge of coordinating actions to prevent and combat the crime of trafficking in persons and ensure protection and care for victims;

6. The member states should, in accordance with their respective national legislations, consider developing plans and programs to disseminate trafficking in persons issues in educational institutions at every level, underscoring education as an essential factor of prime importance in preventing this offense. To that end, they should examine the possibility of including the topic of trafficking in persons in study programs at the various academic levels;

7. Develop mass information campaigns with the aim of making society aware about prevention and combat of the crime of trafficking in persons, for which the support of the media is vital;

8. Recognize the role of the media in promoting images that value women and eradicate gender stereotypes, in articles and broadcasts aimed at preventing trafficking in persons;
9. Promote the production of training and awareness campaigns on the issue of trafficking in persons, for national authorities, especially migration, consular, health, and police authorities, fighting discrimination from a gender-based approach;

10. Promote interagency mechanisms for supervising and monitoring centers of employment, with a view to preventing the exploitation of workers and protecting their rights, including such vulnerable groups as migrant workers;

11. Strengthen juridical protection for workers throughout the region, urging all social sectors, including the private sector, to take social responsibility and reject practices that involve the exploitation of human beings in all its forms;

12. Notwithstanding the international commitments on the free circulation of persons, the member states will, insofar as is possible, strengthen any border controls that may be necessary in order to prevent and detect trafficking in persons;

13. The member states should provide training on the prevention of trafficking in persons to law enforcement officers, immigration officers, and other pertinent officials, or strengthen existing training, whichever is applicable. This must focus on the methods applied to prevent such traffic, bringing the perpetrators to trial and protecting victims’ rights, including protecting victims from the perpetrators;

14. Entrust the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security of the OAS General Secretariat to compile best practices on the issue of trafficking in persons in the field of migratory control, that do not pose a barrier to migration;

15. Identify and produce, if not already done, maps of the routes and cities most affected by the phenomenon of trafficking in persons, in order to prioritize preventive actions in the most vulnerable areas, including especially borders, as applicable. To that effect, civil society’s help in identifying the existing circumstances would be essential for future campaigns, actions, and prevention policies;

16. Promote the inclusion of a gender perspective in all policies, programs, and projects, including those designed to protect women victims of violence, discrimination, mistreatment, exploitation, trafficking in persons, and abuse;

17. Recognizing that inequity and social exclusion tend to make people vulnerable to human trafficking, the member states must promote gender equality and the human rights of women, strengthening and promoting their full and equal participation in the political life of their countries and in decision-making at all levels, and ensuring women fair and equal access to job opportunities;

18. The member states must take steps directly and indirectly to combat corruption involving trafficking in persons among government officials from all sectors, whether they are performing their duties at home or abroad in the countries of origin, transit, and destination;
19. Strengthen checks and controls in the field of commercial transport such as travel agencies and staff recruitment agencies in the countries of origin, transit, and destination, to prevent them from being used for trafficking in persons, taking into account international commitments on the free movement of people.

TOPIC III PROSECUTION OF THE PERPETRATORS OF THE CRIME OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

1. Inclusion of a broad curriculum on the crime of trafficking in persons, in accordance with domestic and international legislations, for all the judicial authorities responsible for law enforcement and for all those responsible for the administration of justice in the Hemisphere;

2. Integrate the member states’ efforts in the fight against trafficking in persons with other fronts to combat transnational organized crime, especially including anti money-laundering measures;

3. Urge the member states to consider implementing such measures as searches, seizure, and confiscation of the proceeds of crime, as an essential part of a regional policy to suppress trafficking in persons, to the extent that national legislations permit such measures;

4. The member states should endeavor to ensure that their legislations include legal provisions to establish civil, criminal, or administrative sanctions for individuals as well as for bodies corporate. In particular, the member states should study the possibility of providing for criminal liability in their respective domestic legislations for bodies corporate that are involved in activities connected with trafficking in persons;

5. The member states should study the possibility of establishing bilateral and multilateral agreements for exchanging information on the criminal records of people who have been charged with the crime of trafficking in persons and crimes involving trafficking in persons, pursuant to each country’s legislation;

6. Strengthen effective cooperation mechanisms among the member states on judicial investigation and mutual legal assistance, and entrust the Meeting of Central Authorities and Other Experts on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters and Extradition, and its Working Group, to study formulas and procedures to strengthen this cooperation.

TOPIC IV PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE FOR VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

1. The member states must develop a convergent approach, for instance though guidelines for the treatment of victims, with minimum standards of care and attention, through model regulations or best-practice guides for the integral, psychological, medical, legal, and social assistance for victims of trafficking in persons abroad, by consulates and in their country of origin after they return;
2. In accordance with international instruments and domestic legislation, the member states should endeavor to develop a national strategy to protect victims, which would include identification of victims, rescue policies, and social reintegration of victims, as well as their integral attention to facilitate their physical, psychological, social, and emotional recovery, and their individual security. This assistance must be provided bearing in mind age and gender to avoid further exploitation and damage. Medical, psychological, social, and legal care must also be included;

3. The member states should undertake to create and strengthen whatever mechanisms are necessary to guarantee consular assistance to victims, in accordance with international agreements, including—as far as possible—the necessary funding for assistance; and the design and implementation of national and hemispheric information campaigns to provide guidance to victims on the assistance to which they are entitled through their consular and diplomatic representations. The authorities in the recipient country must also work closely with the accredited consular authorities;

4. The member states should undertake to study cooperation mechanisms to enable victims of trafficking in persons to be repatriated, when appropriate, in accordance with the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, guaranteeing their safety and integrity;

5. The OAS should prepare a directory of national authorities both for assistance and for investigation and points of contact in the countries of the Hemisphere, in order to assist victims of trafficking in persons;

6. Pursuant to international obligations, the member states must provide proper protection and assistance to victims of trafficking in persons and any attention necessary to safeguard their human rights and this assistance must be given in cooperation, when appropriate, with specialized international cooperation organizations or agencies and other sectors of society;

7. The member states must ensure, to the extent possible and in accordance with their respective domestic legislations, that the victims of trafficking in persons are not prosecuted for participating in illegal activities if they are the direct results of their being a victim of such trafficking;

8. The member states should endeavor, in accordance with their domestic legislation, to ensure the possibility that the guilty parties make reparation for the damage caused to the victims of trafficking in persons;

9. The member states should undertake, in accordance with international instruments on the matter, to ensure the right to effective access to justice, among other things enabling mechanisms to be implemented that allow the victims of trafficking in persons to remain in their territory so that they can, if necessary, participate in criminal and civil lawsuits and have access to the courts in order obtain reparation for the damage caused, guaranteeing full respect for the obligations concerning victim protection during that time;
10. The member states should undertake to guarantee the victims of trafficking in persons, from the moment they are detected, integral welfare programs that enable them to participate effectively in lawsuits, their recovery, and their social reinsertion, in accordance with the international agreements signed on the matter and their respective domestic legislations;

11. Bearing in mind the interests of the child above all else, the member states should, in the case of child trafficking, undertake to ensure special measures for immediate protection, including accommodation, education, and suitable care and, when appropriate, their supervised transfer by a competent authority;

12. The member states should endeavor, as far as possible, to establish financing mechanisms to create and strengthen pertinent and effective programs to attend to and protect victims of the crime of trafficking in persons.

TOPIC V EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND EXPERIENCES, POLITICAL DIALOGUE AND COOPERATION AMONG THE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN, TRANSIT, AND DESTINATION OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING, AS WELL AS THE CREATION OR IMPROVEMENT OF STATISTICAL RECORDS ON THE MATTER

The member states should adopt the principle of co-responsibility among the countries of origin, transit, and destination for international cooperation.

Cooperation among the member states

1. In the spirit of sharing responsibilities, the member states should strengthen hemispheric cooperation based on a multidisciplinary approach, which includes preventive measures, especially those aimed at discouraging demand, providing assistance to victims, and respecting their human rights and fundamental freedoms;

2. The member states should introduce expeditious mechanisms, in line with their domestic body of laws, to enable information to be exchanged and political dialogue to be strengthened among the countries of origin, transit, and destination, within and outside the Hemisphere, in relation to trafficking in persons, and regional and international cooperation networks should be created to enable competent authorities, in particular the judicial and police authorities, to combat the crime of trafficking in persons. In order to do so, bi-annual meetings will be held on trafficking in persons within the Organization;

3. Expeditious mechanisms for exchanging information among the member states should be strengthened in order to help identify the movement of human traffickers from a country of origin to another of transit or destination;

4. Cooperation among the member states to train administrators of justice to substantiate trials for trafficking in persons crimes;
Cooperation by international organizations

5. The OAS could set up strategic alliances with other international cooperation organizations and agencies to fight trafficking in persons, particularly with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, for the effective application of Article 30 of the International Convention against Transnational Organized Crime of the United Nations, in relation to economic development and technical assistance measures;

6. Recommend that the OAS provide technical assistance and coordinate financial operations with other international agencies so that a requesting member state can implement prevention and training programs, awareness campaigns, programs to fight trafficking in persons, and victim protection and assistance programs;

7. Keep the topic of the fight against trafficking in persons transversal and ongoing on the Organization’s agenda;

8. The OAS, with the support of the member states, should compile a hemispheric glossary of terms connected with trafficking in persons that would put the countries on an equal footing to avoid errors being made in interpreting and applying the measures adopted;

9. As a means of preventing trafficking in persons, the OAS and other international organizations must develop and speed up international cooperation to fight poverty, inequity, and social exclusion, and other causes liable to facilitate, enable, and foster trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants;¹;

10. The OAS must also develop and step up international cooperation to fight corruption and money laundering and other factors liable to exacerbate trafficking in persons;

11. To that effect the states are urged to support efforts by the Working Group on negotiation of the Social Charter of the Americas and its Plan of Action, within the framework of the OAS;²;

Records and statistics

12. Recommend the use of the OAS Website’s section on Trafficking in Persons to disseminate information on events and specific subregional, hemispheric, and international initiatives related to the fight against trafficking in persons. Creation and publication on the Website of a hemispheric database within the framework of the OAS, with links to the databases of other international organizations and competent authorities that have information on the subject, which would give an overall picture of the situation of trafficking in persons in the region;

Civil Society

13. Recognizing the important role of civil society in fighting all aspects of trafficking in persons, the member states are recommended to continue the dialogue with civil society organizations in their efforts to combat trafficking in persons.

¹. The delegation of the United States of America disagrees with this paragraph.
². The delegation of the United States of America disagrees with this paragraph.
The member states are therefore invited, where possible, to give due consideration to the proposals contained in document RTP/doc.10/06, “Declaration of General and Specific Recommendations to Prevent, Fight and Punish Trafficking in Persons and Provide Comprehensive Protection for Its Victims.”

CONCLUSIONS

1. The national authorities on trafficking in persons of the OAS member states value the fruitful exchange of experiences on trafficking in persons during this First Meeting, held on Isla Margarita, Nueva Esparta State, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, from March 14 to 17, 2006. The dialogue responded fully to the mandate of the thirty-fifth regular session of the OAS General Assembly and the recommendation of the Fifth Meeting of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas. They acknowledge that thanks to this Meeting, the member states have made substantial progress in designing a strategy for international cooperation and in identifying national and hemispheric actions and measures to strengthen the fight against trafficking in persons.

The authorities also acknowledge the valuable support received from experts on the subject who participated in this Meeting and helped it to develop so smoothly.

2. The member states recognize and value the participation of civil society in the First Meeting of National Authorities on Trafficking in Persons, and hence wish to underscore the important role they play in giving this phenomenon a more integral, participatory, and comprehensive orientation.

3. The national authorities on trafficking in persons and the OAS member states especially wish to thank the government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela for its hospitality and excellent organization of this event.

4. The national authorities on trafficking in persons of the OAS member states have decided to submit these conclusions and recommendations to the Permanent Council of the OAS for presentation at the thirty-sixth regular session of the OAS General Assembly, in accordance with resolution AG/RES. 2118 (XXXV-O/05).
AG/RES. 2257 (XXXVI-O/06)


(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

The proposed program-budget of the Organization for fiscal year 2007, presented by the Secretary General on April 12, 2006 (AG/CP/doc.707/06);

The report of the Preparatory Committee on the proposed program-budget of the Organization for 2007 (AG/CP/doc.716/06); and

The Annual Report of the Board of External Auditors (JAE/doc.36/06), presented to the Permanent Council on May 10, 2006;

CONSIDERING:

That AG/RES. 1 (XXXI-E/06) instructed the General Secretariat to submit to the Preparatory Committee a proposed program-budget for the Regular Fund for 2007, at a level for which the Secretary General can demonstrate available financing, but not to exceed US$81.5 million;

That, in accordance with Articles 54 and 55 of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), the General Assembly approves the program-budget of the Organization and establishes the bases for setting the quota that each government is to contribute to the maintenance of the Organization, taking into account the ability to pay of the respective countries and their determination to contribute in an equitable manner;

That the Organization is mandated to give preference to priorities defined by its members, within the limits of its available resources; and

That, pursuant to the salary policy of parity with the United Nations established in resolution AG/RES. 1319 (XXV-O/95) and Article 40 of the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (General Standards), the Secretary General adjusted the General Secretariat’s 2006 net basic salary scales, and increased the post adjustment for the Washington, D.C., area;

NOTING:

That extensive documentation already exists with regard to the OAS personnel policy and the salary of policy parity with the United Nations; and
That an increase in object 1, coupled with other mandatory increases in other objects of expenditure could, bearing in mind the need to demonstrate available financing, require a revision of the 2007 program-budget in order to ensure that the needs of the Organization are met;

BEARING IN MIND:

That on December 14, 2005, Secretary General Jose Miguel Insulza issued Executive Order No. 05-13, Restructuring of the General Secretariat, which was subsequently revised on February 14, 2006, Executive Order No. 05-13 Rev. 1;

That Article 120 of the OAS Charter stipulates that in selecting the personnel of the General Secretariat, first consideration shall be given to efficiency, competence, and integrity; but at the same time, in the recruitment of personnel of all ranks, importance shall be given to the necessity of obtaining as wide a geographic representation as possible;

That the Secretary General is urged to continue his work to establish policies of gender equality in the workplace and to make each manager accountable for the application of these policies; and

That Article 72 (b) of the General Standards stipulates that the amount of the Reserve Subfund shall be 30 percent of the total of the annual quotas of the member states, that this amount shall be reached through crediting to this Subfund the annual income in excess of the obligations and expenditures of the Operations Subfund, and that to the extent that the Subfund exceeds 30 percent of the total of the annual quotas of the member states, the excess shall be available for any purposes approved by the General Assembly;

HAVING SEEN the Audit of Accounts and Financial Statements for the Years ended December 31, 2005 and 2004, which were prepared by the Board of External Auditors; the Preliminary Report of the Inspector General of the OAS to the Member States regarding the Internal Audit Investigation of the Office of Scholarships, Training, and Information Technology for Human Development and the Report of the Scholarships Task Force (CEPCIDI/doc.727/06); and the reports presented by the Director of the Department of Human Development (CP/CAAP-2838/06 corr. 2 and CP/CAAP-2840/06);

CONSIDERING:

That in its annual report the Board of External Auditors recommended that OAS General Secretariat ensure that the internal policies and procedures related to the granting of scholarships are appropriate and that, in addition, it develop and implement a process to ensure that all internal policies related to scholarship selection and approval are adhered to and adequately documented; and

That the Secretary General has pledged to restore transparency and credibility to the scholarship selection and awards process, as well as to reestablish a firm control over financial, budgetary, and administrative matters, and to reclaim ownership for the OAS of one of the best and well-known scholarship programs in the Hemisphere; and
TAKING NOTE:

That, at its thirty-first special session, the General Assembly, through resolution AG/RES. 1 (XXXI-E/06), approved the transitional quota scale for the OAS Regular Fund to finance the program-budget for the years 2007 and 2008; and

That said resolution instructed the Permanent Council to continue considering a draft methodology for assessing quotas to the member states—one that will take into account the criteria established in Article 55 of the OAS Charter and current data on the ability to pay of the member countries; and to present to the General Assembly, at its thirty-seventh regular session, its conclusions and recommendations for the adoption of a revised, definitive scale of quota assessments for 2009 and subsequent years,

RESOLVES:

I. BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS

1. To approve and authorize the program-budget of the Organization for the fiscal period from January 1 through December 31, 2007, financed by the following funds at the corresponding levels:

   2007
   (US$1,000)

   a. Regular Fund  81,500.0
   b. Special Multilateral Fund of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (FEMCIDI)  1,270.1
   82,770.1

2. To approve the specific levels of appropriations, by chapter, program, and subprogram, with the recommendations, instructions, or mandates as detailed below:

   2007
   (US$1,000)

   1 - SECRETARY GENERAL  7,678.0
   11A Office of the Secretary General  1,936.3
   11B Department of Legal Services  1,154.9
   11C Department of Planning, Control, and Evaluation  709.0
   11D Department of External Relations  936.4
   11E Department of Press and Communications  1,894.7
   11F Office of Protocol  533.1
   11G Summits Secretariat  513.6
### ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL

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1. Including, but not limited to, the implementation of the mandates to prevent, punish, and eradicate violence against women, $100.0
2. Including the implementation of the Strategic Plan of the Inter-American Children’s Institute and the Inter-American Program of Cooperation to Prevent and Remedy Cases of International Abduction of Children by One of Their Parents, $100.0.
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3. Includes additional $20.0 for translation expenses.
4. Includes $32.0 for operational expenses.
5. Includes $60.0 for operational expenses.
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II. FINANCING OF THE BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS

1. To set the quotas with which the member states will finance the program-budget of the Organization for the year 2007 corresponding to the Regular Fund, in accordance with resolution AG/RES. 1 (XXXI-E/06) and the decision of January 19, 1955 (doc. C-i-269) on income tax reimbursements, using the scale and amounts shown in Table B, “Regular Fund Quota Assessments for 2007.”

2. To establish the Regular Fund budget level for 2007 at US$81.5 million, in accordance with resolution AG/RES. 1 (XXXI-E/06), and to finance it as follows:

   i. Contributions of member states in the form of Regular Fund quota payments of $75,894,000, apportioned according to the scale of quota assessments adopted in resolution AG/RES. 1 (XXXI-E/06);

   ii. Commitments by member states that, notwithstanding the decrease in their quota percentages under resolution AG/RES. 1 (XXXI-E/06), have decided not to reduce the nominal amount of the quota assessments set for 2006;

   iii. FEMCIDI contribution of $190,500 to the Regular Fund for technical supervision and administrative support, in keeping with Article 80 of the General Standards, which, according to the FEMCIDI Statutes, must be up to 15 percent of the amount approved for 2007 programming to be executed in 2008;6

   iv. Income of $2,532,300 for technical supervision and administrative support from trust and specific funds; and

   v. Other income of $1,500,000 including, inter alia, interest, rents, and repayments.

3. The amounts cited in this resolution with respect to the specific funds are estimates and do not constitute any obligation for donors.

4. To authorize an appropriation of $5,492,800 to the General Secretariat for recurrent expenses related to building management and maintenance. Of this amount, $5,180,800 will be financed by the Regular Fund, under Subprogram 91D – Building Management and Maintenance, and $312,000 by resources from the Capital Building Fund, to compensate for an increase in other subprograms.

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6. At its meeting of November 9, 2006, the Permanent Council asked the General Secretariat to interpret the aforesaid paragraph as expressly stipulated in Article 80, (a) and (b), of the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat; and that it is the understanding of the delegations that the 15% is calculated on the amount contributed to FEMCIDI during 2006 for execution in 2007.
III. GENERAL PROVISIONS

A. BUDGETARY

1. Human resources

   a. To request the Secretariat to assign, reassign, or restore, as the case may be, the positions listed below, within the same chapters and without incurring additional budgetary costs, with personnel that possess the requisite experience, expertise, and qualifications for the performance of the respective functions:

   P4 – National Office Director in Costa Rica (subprogram 21E)
   P4 – National Office Director in Paraguay (subprogram 21E)
   P4 – Support for the Chair of the Permanent Council (Subprogram 21A)
   P3 – Post in CIM (Subprogram 21I)
   P4 – Support for the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security (Subprogram 51B)
   G6 – Support for the CICTE Secretariat (Subprogram 51E)
   P4 – Department for the Promotion of Democracy (Subprogram 61C)
   P5 – Tourism specialist in the Department of Trade, Tourism, and Competitiveness (Subprogram 71E)
   P4 – Department of Sustainable Development (Subprogram 71F)

   b. Performance contracts (CPRs)

      i. To instruct the General Secretariat to submit to the Permanent Council semiannual reports on all the performance contracts (CPRs) in accordance with Article 130 of the General Standards.

      ii. To request the Permanent Council to examine, through the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs (CAAP), the Inspector General’s report on CPRs and make the corresponding recommendations to the Secretary General.

   c. Trust positions

      To extend the mandates in resolution AG/RES. 1839 (XXXI-O/01) for the Secretary General to study the General Secretariat’s policies on trust positions, and for the Permanent Council to consider recommendations for any necessary changes to the General Standards.

   d. Geographic representation

      To urge the Secretary General to develop, with technical assistance from the Department of Human Resources and all people involved in the hiring and selection process, a human resource policy that fully takes into account the
principle of geographic representation in accordance with Article 120 of the Charter of the Organization of American States, and to present a report to the Permanent Council by January 30, 2007.

e. **Gender equality**

To urge the Secretary General to redouble his efforts to achieve, as a matter of priority, the goal of having women, including indigenous women, occupy 50 percent of posts at each grade level within the OAS organs, agencies, and entities, particularly at the P-5 grade level and above, in order to achieve gender balance at all levels of the OAS, bearing in mind the criterion of geographic distribution in professional positions.

To urge the Secretary General to continue his work to establish policies of gender equality in the workplace and to make each manager accountable for the application of these policies.

f. **Performance evaluation**

To request the Secretary General, for the purpose of improving evaluation and accountability in the General Secretariat’s personnel management and in accordance with Article 39 of the General Standards and Rule 105.9 of the Staff Rules, to put into practice an effective performance evaluation system that includes: establishing performance goals and standards, facilitating and promoting greater efficiency in the performance of functions, and systematizing performance evaluation.

g. **Workforce plan**

To instruct the Secretary General to analyze the long-term (e.g., 3-5 years) staffing requirements of the General Secretariat in view of the programmatic vision of current mandates, the new structure of the General Secretariat, and projected retirement and other departures of current staff, and develop a workforce plan that will allow the Secretariat to identify:

i. Skills gaps and surpluses;

ii. The most appropriate recruitment/hiring instruments to meet projected needs (long-term versus short-term contracting, CPRs, etc.); and

iii. Suggested mechanisms for responding to staffing surpluses and deficiencies in accordance with the Organization’s programmatic priorities and vision.

To instruct the General Secretariat to present a report to the Permanent Council by October 31, 2006.
h. **Post audits**

To instruct the General Secretariat to perform a post audit on any position whose funding source is transferred from specific funds to the Regular Fund. That audit by the Department of Human Resources must take place before the Regular Fund assumes responsibility for payment of that salary. The post audit will determine a salary that is commensurate with the level, competency, and duties incurred by the new post, independent of the duties, title, and salary of the previous post. This practice should be implemented by September 2006.

i. **Personnel policies**

To instruct the General Secretariat to present (i) a legal history of salary parity policy, and (ii) to submit recommendations with regard to personnel policy and its sustainability, in light of new mandates, the recent restructuring of the General Secretariat, and the financial status of the OAS.

2. **Scale of quota assessments**

a. To extend the mandate adopted by the thirty-first special session of the General Assembly through AG/RES. 1 (XXXI-E/06), instructing the Permanent Council to continue considering a draft methodology for assessing quotas to the member states—one that will take into account the criteria established in Article 55 of the OAS Charter and current data on the ability to pay of the member countries; and to present to the General Assembly, at its thirty-seventh regular session, its conclusions and recommendations for the adoption of a revised, definitive scale of quota assessments for 2009 and subsequent years.

b. To request the Secretary General to convene in the second half of 2006 the group of experts that will begin consideration of the methodology for determining the new scale of member state quota assessments and to present a report thereon to the Permanent Council.

3. **Fund for Building Improvement, Maintenance Services, and Other Urgent Needs**

a. To instruct the Secretary General to present a fundraising strategy for the building improvement and maintenance fund by December 2006.

b. To urge member states, permanent observers, and other donors to contribute, as defined in Article 74 of the General Standards, to the Fund for Building Improvement, Maintenance Services, and Other Urgent Needs, established through resolution AG/RES. 2157 (XXXV-O/05).

c. To instruct the Secretary General to report quarterly to the Permanent Council on the income and expenditures of this special fund.
d. To instruct the General Secretariat to review the status and the inventory of the collection of the Art Museum of the Americas and to report to the CAAP by February 2007 with suggestions for the enhancing of the future role of the Museum within the OAS.

4. Offices of the General Secretariat in the Member States

a. To request the Secretary General to ensure that each of the Offices of the General Secretariat in the Member States is appropriately staffed and funded and to report to the Permanent Council on both progress and limitations in achieving this objective.

b. To request the General Secretariat to submit to the Permanent Council by December 1 of each year a report containing a strategy and annual work plan for each Office. The report should comply with uniform guidelines established by the Secretary General, and should report on progress made in achieving the preceding year’s objectives. In addition, it should lay out the objectives for the coming year. Where appropriate, the report should address any in-country partnership opportunities that may enhance OAS objectives.

c. To authorize the OAS General Secretariat to examine the feasibility of entering into partnership agreements with other international organizations which would permit the Offices of the General Secretariat in the Member States to offer services and engage in cooperative endeavors with those international organizations, and to collect fees for these services.

5. Scholarships

1. i. To establish an immediate and temporary pause in the awarding of new 2006 graduate (PRA) and undergraduate (SPECAF) scholarships. This temporary pause shall remain in effect until the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) and the Permanent Council have approved, in a joint meeting, the new scholarship mechanism.

   ii. To instruct the General Secretariat through the Secretariat of the Human Development Fund Committee to submit to the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CEPCIDI) for its consideration, as soon as possible, but by no later than August 15, 2006, a proposal for management of the scholarship program in strict observance of rules on competitiveness, transparency, and ethics, and to recommend to CEPCIDI that it consider and approve the changes that need to be made to the Manual of Procedures of Scholarships and Training Programs of the OAS, including the establishment of a cap on individual yearly tuition scholarships.
iii. To instruct the General Secretariat to consider measures and objective criteria for the management and operation of the OAS scholarship program designed to enhance transparency and accountability in the operation of the program, in particular, by providing semiannual reports to the OAS governing bodies that include complete and detailed information on scholarships awards, which include, *inter alia*, the full name and the nationality of beneficiaries, types of scholarships, costs, and the names and locations of institutions.

iv. To recommend to CEPCIDI that it examine and approve enhanced mechanisms for ensuring that objective criteria are applied in the selection process, taking into account the recommendations set forth in the Appendix to this resolution.

v. Once the pause established by this resolution has been lifted, to authorize the General Secretariat to use unobligated and unspent 2006 appropriations for new graduate and undergraduate fellowships in 2007 and in subsequent years.

2. To authorize the General Secretariat to deposit in the Capital Fund for OAS Fellowship, Scholarship, and Training Programs under Article 18 of the Statutes of the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD) any unused or deobligated funds from scholarships under object 3 to the extent permitted under Article 99 of the General Standards, with the exception of unobligated funds in accordance with paragraph v above. In implementing this mandate, the General Secretariat shall consult with the IACD Management Board and CEPCIDI and shall report quarterly to CEPCIDI and to the Permanent Council.

6. **Payment of quotas**

   a. To encourage member state governments to continue to pay their quotas and their arrears pursuant to resolution AG/RES. 1757 (XXX-O/00), “Measures to Encourage the Timely Payment of Quotas,” as modified by resolution AG/RES. 2157 (XXXV-O/05).

   b. To extend the mandate of the Permanent Council to evaluate the existing measures and to consider new measures aimed at encouraging the timely payment of quotas, and to complete its report thereon for the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session.

7. **Recovery of indirect costs**

   1. To extend the mandate to the Inspector General received through resolution AG/RES. 2157 (XXXV-O/05):

      i. To review whether the method of charging overhead is consistent and reasonable throughout the Secretariat in relation to the services
provided, taking into consideration the interest generated by specific funds;

ii. To determine if there is a more cost-effective manner of establishing costs charged to specific fund projects; and

iii. To finalize her audit on overhead charges by the end of 2006.

2. To instruct the Secretary General to:

a. Analyze the cost recovery policy for technical supervision and administrative support of all funds administered by the General Secretariat, taking into account the Inspector General’s audit on overhead charges, and present a report to the Permanent Council prior to September 30, 2006, for consideration, that proposes amendments to the General Standards as required, so as to reflect a new cost recovery policy that is coherent, consistent, and reasonable; and

b. Submit semiannual reports to the Permanent Council on projects financed by specific funds, which reports shall contain the following information:

i. Income from overhead cost recovery (administrative support and technical supervision costs);

ii. Interest income earned; and

iii. The percentage of interest income earned and applied toward overhead charges.

8. Direct reports from OAS Regular Fund recipients

To instruct the General Secretariat to facilitate access to the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs (CAAP), for all dependencies of the General Secretariat, including those below the level of assistant secretaries, to facilitate a dialogue between the CAAP and the dependencies.

9. Fundraising

a. To acknowledge the Secretary General’s efforts to centralize the coordination of fundraising activities.

b. To instruct the General Secretariat to prepare and present to the Permanent Council a comprehensive fundraising strategy for the OAS that responds to the Organization’s mandates and priorities.

c. To instruct the General Secretariat to present a detailed report to the Permanent Council by January 31, 2007, on the amounts obtained by each dependency of the General Secretariat and by all the other organs and entities financed in whole or in part by the Regular Fund. This report should cover
the 12-month period ending December 31, 2006, and should include the following information:

i. A list of all dependencies and entities involved in fundraising efforts, including any foundations raising funds on behalf of the OAS and its programs;

ii. Amounts raised, both cash and in-kind;

iii. Sources of the funds raised; and

iv. A breakdown of costs incurred by the Regular Fund, in terms of personnel and other expenses, to pursue fundraising efforts and to execute programs financed by the funds raised.

d. To consider, within the fundraising strategy, the feasibility of engaging the Offices of the General Secretariat in the Member States in identifying external resources and opportunities for managing programs of other international organizations or permanent observers as a means of deriving management fees or other income-generating opportunities.

e. To recognize the support of the permanent observers and other donors and to encourage them to continue to provide cash and in-kind contributions to the programs, projects, and other activities of the Organization.

10. **Amendments to the General Standards**

To request the Secretary General to submit to the Permanent Council proposals for any amendments it considers must be made to the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat; and to authorize the Permanent Council to consider them, through the CAAP and, if necessary, to approve them ad referendum of the General Assembly.

11. **Foundations**

a. To instruct the General Secretariat to provide to the Permanent Council a list of the foundations, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and other private entities created by the General Secretariat as of June 30, 2006.

b. To instruct the General Secretariat to inform the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs about the General Secretariat’s participation in the creation of any new foundations, NGOs, and other private entities.

c. To request the General Secretariat to review current procedures for the effectiveness of its participation in the creation and support of foundations, NGOs, and other such entities, and to make appropriate amendments, if necessary, to carry out oversight processes of the General Secretariat’s activities with those foundations, particularly when they use the name of the
OAS to raise funds, and to present a report to the Permanent Council before the thirty-seventh regular session of the General Assembly.

12. **Travel**

a. To request the General Secretariat to design and implement measures to make more efficient use of the resources allocated for travel and paid for by the Regular Fund, FEMCIDI, specific funds, and trust funds administered by the General Secretariat; and to present a report to the CAAP no later than November 2006.

b. To instruct the General Secretariat to implement more effective enforcement mechanisms for ensuring compliance with the rule established by the Permanent Council which requires that all tickets paid for by the Regular Fund, FEMCIDI, specific funds, and trust funds administered by the General Secretariat, be purchased in economy class, except for travel by the Secretary General, the Assistant Secretary General, and the Chair of the Permanent Council, and to report to the Permanent Council on a quarterly basis on any instances of noncompliance with those rules.

c. To instruct any offices and units using specific funds for travel purposes to provide a record to the donor on a quarterly basis.

13. **Evaluation and control of results**

a. To instruct the Secretary General to pursue efforts, for the purpose of improving the transparency and efficiency of the General Secretariat’s operations, to establish appropriate planning, control, and evaluation systems that will enable the member states to follow up on budget programming and control.

b. To instruct the General Secretariat to prepare, in consultation with member states, a framework for evaluating programs and projects that responds to the mandates issued by the political bodies and the comparative advantages of the Organization, except for those financed by FEMCIDI, and to present a report to the Permanent Council.

14. **Interpretation and translation services**

To request the General Secretariat to identify the most cost-effective measures of providing interpretation and translation services for OAS conferences and meetings, and to report to the CAAP by October 2006.

15. **Inter-American Children’s Institute (IIN)**

To entrust the General Secretariat with conducting a review of the operations of the Inter-American Children’s Institute, with a view to examining its activities in order to
benefit all member states and, if appropriate, implementing savings on administrative expenses, and with reporting thereon to the Permanent Council prior to the thirty-seventh regular session of the General Assembly.

B. OTHER

1. Honoraria

To maintain the sum of US$150 a day for honoraria paid to members of the following bodies entitled to such payment: Administrative Tribunal, Board of External Auditors, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, Inter-American Juridical Committee, and Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

2. Program-budget for 2008

a. To instruct the General Secretariat to submit to the Preparatory Committee a proposed program-budget for the year 2008 at the level of $81.5 million. Income shall include only: quota income, interest and rental income, contributions for technical supervision and administrative support from FEMCIDI and from trust and specific funds, and all other miscellaneous income.

b. The total expenditure for object 1 should not exceed 64.38 percent of the indicative figure for the 2008 Regular Fund program-budget, including any statutory increases that may be required.

c. To reiterate that all resolutions submitted to the General Assembly that require Regular Fund financing must be accompanied by an opinion, on the availability of funds, from the CAAP or from the Subcommittee on Administrative and Budgetary Matters of the Preparatory Committee of the General Assembly. Resolutions presented after the Preparatory Committee has completed its work may be adopted, but may not be executed, until the requisite opinion from the CAAP and reconfirmation by the Permanent Council are received.
TABLE A-1

http://scm.oas.org/pdfs/2006/CPSC03169-T1E.xls
http://scm.oas.org/pdfs/2006/CPSC03169-T2E.xls
TABLE B

http://scm.oas.org/pdfs/2006/CPSC03169-T3E.xls
APPENDIX

RECOMMENDATIONS
PARAMETERS FOR THE SELECTION AND AWARD OF GRADUATE
AND UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS

To instruct the General Secretariat to consider the following among the objective measures and criteria for the management and operation of the OAS scholarship program it submits to CEPCIDI:

a. Establish a ceiling on “self-placed” fellowships;
b. Establish a cap on individual yearly tuition awards;
c. Include a provision in an amended Manual of Procedures establishing cases of ineligibility for graduate and/or undergraduate scholarships, which shall include, *inter alia*, all staff of the General Secretariat, all members of the permanent missions to the OAS, and their relatives;
d. Prepare an investment strategy for the Capital Scholarship Fund, with a view to making the program self-sufficient in the long run;
e. Enhance mechanisms for institutional planning and oversight;
f. Establish and implement a scholarship tracking database;
g. Present semi-annual reports on scholarship awards, containing detailed information on the scholarships awarded, including the full name and nationality of the beneficiary, the full name and country of the academic institution where the recipient of the scholarship is studying, the study program in which he or she is participating, the scheduled date of graduation, the period to be covered by the scholarship, the amount of the scholarship, and other pertinent information; and
h. Establish as soon as possible scholarship selection procedures.
AG/RES. 2258 (XXXVI-O/06)

VOTE OF APPRECIATION TO THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

CONSIDERING:

That the hospitality of the people and Government of the Dominican Republic made it possible to hold the thirty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States, in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, from June 4 through 6, 2006;

That the delegations had an opportunity for fruitful and productive dialogue on good governance and development in the knowledge-based society, and on other issues of great importance to the Hemisphere; and

That during this regular session of the General Assembly, the delegations expressed their deep gratitude to His Excellency Carlos Morales Troncoso, Secretary of State of Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic, for the skill with which he steered the discussions, which led to the adoption of important declarations and resolutions on high-priority issues on the hemispheric agenda,

RESOLVES:

1. To express its appreciation to the people and Government of the Dominican Republic for their warm and generous hospitality and the contribution they have made to the success of the thirty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS).

2. To express its gratitude and congratulations to the Secretary of State of Foreign Affairs, His Excellency Carlos Morales Troncoso, for his able leadership as President of the thirty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly.

3. To express its appreciation and gratitude to His Excellency Ambassador Roberto Álvarez Gil, Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic to the OAS, to the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs, and to the members of the delegation of the Dominican Republic, whose efficiency, dedication, and professionalism contributed to the success of the thirty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly.
The Organization of American States (OAS) is the world's oldest regional organization, dating back to the First International Conference of American States, held in Washington, D.C., from October 1889 to April 1890. At that meeting the establishment of the International Union of American Republics was approved. The Charter of the OAS was signed in Bogotá in 1948 and entered into force in December 1951. The Charter was subsequently amended by the Protocol of Buenos Aires, signed in 1967, which entered into force in February 1970; by the Protocol of Cartagena de Indias, signed in 1985, which entered into force in November 1988; by the Protocol of Managua, signed in 1993, which entered into force on January 29, 1996; and by the Protocol of Washington, signed in 1992, which entered into force on September 25, 1997. The OAS currently has 35 member states. In addition, the Organization has granted permanent observer status to 59 states, as well as to the European Union.

The essential purposes of the OAS are: to strengthen peace and security in the Hemisphere; to promote and consolidate representative democracy, with due respect for the principle of nonintervention; to prevent possible causes of difficulties and to ensure peaceful settlement of disputes that may arise among the member states; to provide for common action on the part of those states in the event of aggression; to seek the solution of political, juridical, and economic problems that may arise among them; to promote, by cooperative action, their economic, social, and cultural development; and to achieve an effective limitation of conventional weapons that will make it possible to devote the largest amount of resources to the economic and social development of the member states.

The Organization of American States accomplishes its purposes by means of: the General Assembly; the Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs; the Councils (the Permanent Council and the Inter-American Council for Integral Development); the Inter-American Juridical Committee; the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights; the General Secretariat; the specialized conferences; the specialized organizations; and other entities established by the General Assembly.

The General Assembly holds a regular session once a year. Under special circumstances it meets in special session. The Meeting of Consultation is convened to consider urgent matters of common interest and to serve as Organ of Consultation under the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance (Rio Treaty), the main instrument for joint action in the event of aggression. The Permanent Council takes cognizance of such matters as are entrusted to it by the General Assembly or the Meeting of Consultation and implements the decisions of both organs when their implementation has not been assigned to any other body; it monitors the maintenance of friendly relations among the member states and the observance of the standards governing General Secretariat operations; and it also acts provisionally as Organ of Consultation under the Rio Treaty. The General Secretariat is the central and permanent organ of the OAS. The headquarters of both the Permanent Council and the General Secretariat are in Washington, D.C.

MEMBER STATES: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, The Bahamas (Commonwealth of), Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica (Commonwealth of), Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United States, Uruguay, and Venezuela.