

ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
GENERAL ASSEMBLY



FORTY-FIFTH REGULAR SESSION
Washington, D.C., United States of America
June 15-16, 2015

PROCEEDINGS

VOLUME I

AG/DEC. 80 (XLV-O/15)
AG/RES. 2872 (XLV-O/15) - AG/RES. 2879 (XLV-O/15)

CERTIFIED TEXTS OF THE DECLARATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

GENERAL SECRETARIAT
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
Washington, D.C. 20006

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Volume I

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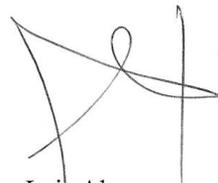
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I HEREBY CERTIFY that this volume contains the official texts of the declaration and resolutions adopted by the General Assembly of the Organization of American States at its forty-fifth regular session, held in Washington, D.C., United States of America, from June 15 to 16, 2015.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a vertical line, positioned above the printed name.

Luis Almagro
Secretary General
Organization of American States

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AG/DEC. 80 (XLV-O/15)

DECLARATION ON THE QUESTION OF THE MALVINAS ISLANDS

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 16, 2015)

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 satisfaction over the resumption of diplomatic relations between the two countries;

RECOGNIZING that the accreditation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, under resolution CP/RES. 665 (1041/95), as a permanent observer of the OAS 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 maintain important political, cultural, and trade ties, share common values, and are also engaged in close cooperation both bilaterally and in international forums;

BEARING IN MIND that, despite those ties and shared values, it has not yet been possible to resume the negotiations between the two countries with a view to solving the sovereignty dispute over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia, and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas in the framework of resolutions 2065 (XX), 3160 (XXVIII), 31/49, 37/9, 38/12, 39/6, 40/21, 41/40, 42/19 and 43/25 of the United Nations General Assembly, the decisions adopted by the same body on the same question in the Special Committee on Decolonization, and the reiterated resolutions and declarations adopted at the OAS General Assembly; and

HAVING HEARD the presentation by the head of the 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 resume, 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/RES. 2872 (XLV-O/15)

FINANCING OF THE 2016 PROGRAM-BUDGET OF THE ORGANIZATION

(Adopted at the first plenary session, held on June 15, 2015)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

The “Report of the Preparatory Committee to the General Assembly at Its Forty-fifth Regular Session” (AG/doc.5495/15); and

The “Report of the Chair of the Subcommittee on Administrative and Budgetary Matters on the Work Done in the Budget Area in Preparation for the Forty-fifth Regular Session of the General Assembly” (AG/CP/Sub.AAP-392/15);

CONSIDERING:

That, in accordance with Articles 54.e and 55 of the Charter of the Organization of American States, the General Assembly approves the program-budget of the Organization and establishes the basis for setting the quota that each government is to contribute to the maintenance of the Organization, taking into account the respective countries’ ability to pay and their determination to contribute in an equitable manner;

That the General Assembly, at its thirtieth regular session, in resolution AG/RES. 1757 (XXX-O/00), approved measures to encourage the timely payment of quotas and has since modified those measures by way of resolutions AG/RES. 2157 (XXXV-O/05) and AG/RES. 1 (XLII-E/11) rev. 1;

That resolution AG/RES. 1 (XXXIV-E/07), adopted by the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth special session, approved the method for calculating the scale of quotas for financing the Regular Fund of the Organization for 2015–2017; and

That, pursuant to the methodology established by resolution AG/RES. 1 (XXXIV-E/07), the percentage quotas of the member states for 2015–2017 have been assigned; and

MINDFUL:

That, by resolution [AG/RES. 1 \(XLVIII-E/14\)](#) rev. 1, the General Assembly instructed the Subcommittee on Administrative and Budgetary Matters to consider a proposal to be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth regular session, to be held in June 2015, to establish the overall budget level and the sources of financing for the 2016 program-budget, including quota income, interest and rental income; contributions for technical supervision and administrative support from the OAS Development Cooperation Fund (OAS/DCF) and from trust and specific funds; and all other

miscellaneous income; and that the overall budget level would include a proposal to cover the cost-of-living and statutory increases;

That it is necessary to establish the overall budget level and the sources of financing for the 2016 program-budget, which will be adopted by the General Assembly at a special session to be held no later than October 30, 2015; and

That, based on Article 80 of the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States, the General Secretariat shall submit to the Permanent Council a proposed budget for use of the indirect cost recovery (ICR) resources, which shall be based on projected revenue equivalent to 90 percent of the average ICR obtained in the three years immediately preceding the year in which the program-budget is adopted, and that the General Assembly shall also adopt the ICR budget,

RESOLVES:

1. To assess the quotas through which the member states will finance the Regular Fund of the Organization for 2016 and the assessments for income tax reimbursements in keeping with the methods adopted in resolutions AG/RES. 1 (XXXIV-E/07) and AG/RES. 41 (I-O/71), respectively, using the scale and amounts that appear in Annex A, "Regular Fund Quota Assessments for 2016."

2. To set the overall budget level of the 2016 Regular Fund program-budget at US\$84,324,100 and to finance it as follows:

- a. Net contributions of member states in the form of quota payments to the Regular Fund totaling US\$82,102,375, computed as follows:
 - i. Total gross assessments of US\$82,440,400, apportioned according to the methodology for calculating the scale of quota assessments adopted in resolution AG/RES. 1 (XXXIV-E/07);
 - ii. A reduction of US\$338,025 in prompt payment discounts accredited pursuant to the measures to encourage the prompt payment of quotas adopted by means of resolution AG/RES. 1757 (XXX-O/00), as amended by AG/RES. 2157 (XXXV-O/05) and AG/RES. 1 (XLII-E/11) rev. 1;
- b. A contribution of US\$160,000 from the OAS Development Cooperation Fund (OAS/DCF) to the Regular Fund for technical supervision and administrative support, in keeping with Article 80 of the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat, which contribution, according to the OAS/DCF Statutes, will be up to 15 percent of the net amount approved in 2015 for execution in 2016;

- c. Income of US\$1,500,000 for technical supervision and administrative support for the trust funds and specific funds; and
- d. Other income of US\$561,725 for, *inter alia*, interest and refunds.

3. To set the overall expenditure ceiling of the Indirect Cost Recovery Fund account at US\$4,500,000, which excludes the transfer of US\$1,500,000 to the Regular Fund as established in paragraph 2.c above, in accordance with the General Standards, provided that said amount is actually collected.



TABLE A
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
REGULAR FUND
REGULAR FUND QUOTA ASSESSMENTS FOR 2016
(0% scenario)

Member States	Assessed Percentage	Quota Assessment	Tax Reimbursement	(a) Credits	Total
Antigua and Barbuda	0.022%	18,200			18,200
Argentina	2.400%	1,987,200			1,987,200
Bahamas	0.049%	40,600		812	39,788
Barbados	0.034%	28,200	12,000 (b)		40,200
Belize	0.022%	18,200			18,200
Bolivia	0.056%	46,400		464	45,936
Brazil	12.427%	10,289,300			10,289,300
Canada	10.583%	8,762,500		262,875	8,499,625
Chile	1.347%	1,115,300		11,153	1,104,147
Colombia	1.311%	1,085,500			1,085,500
Costa Rica	0.230%	190,400		1,904	188,496
Dominica	0.022%	18,200			18,200
Dominican Republic	0.317%	262,500			262,500
Ecuador	0.322%	266,600			266,600
El Salvador	0.086%	71,200			71,200
Grenada	0.022%	18,200			18,200
Guatemala	0.145%	120,100		1,228	118,872
Guyana	0.022%	18,200		182	18,018
Haiti	0.026%	21,500			21,500
Honduras	0.042%	34,800		696	34,104
Jamaica	0.070%	58,000			58,000
Mexico	6.788%	5,620,300		56,203	5,564,097
Nicaragua	0.026%	21,500		645	20,855
Panama	0.176%	145,700			145,700
Paraguay	0.075%	62,100		1,863	60,237
Peru	0.860%	712,100			712,100
Saint Kitts and Nevis	0.022%	18,200			18,200
Saint Lucia	0.022%	18,200			18,200
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	0.022%	18,200			18,200
Suriname	0.026%	21,500			21,500
Trinidad and Tobago	0.135%	111,800			111,800
United States	59.470%	49,240,000	5,400,000 (b)		54,640,000
Uruguay	0.247%	204,500			204,500
Venezuela	2.144%	1,775,200			1,775,200
Subtotal	99.568%	82,440,400	5,412,000	338,025	87,514,375
Cuba (c)	0.431%	356,900			356,900
TOTAL	99.999%	82,797,300	5,412,000	338,025	87,871,275

- a. Represents 1% of 2015 quota assessment if full payment of 2015 quota was received by March 31, 2015, plus 2% of any payment received before February 28, 2015 and 3% if received by January 31, 2015.
- b. The amount shown is estimated and may differ from the actual amount billed.
- c. Shown only to establish the percentage corresponding to each member state.

AG/RES. 2873 (XLV-O/15)

REAFFIRMATION OF MANDATES AND AUTHORIZATION FOR THE PERMANENT
COUNCIL AND THE INTER-AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT TO
CONVENE THE HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS AND FORUMS ESTABLISHED IN CONVENTIONS
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS CURRENTLY IN FORCE,
AS WELL AS IN RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
THAT REQUIRE THE APPROVAL OF THIS ORGAN

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 15, 2015)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

CONSIDERING the decision of the member states that attention at the forty-fifth regular session of the General Assembly should center on the dialogue of the heads of delegation and the Secretary General on “The Present and Future of the Organization of American States”;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the agreement made by the Permanent Council and the Inter-American Council for Integral Development to present for the consideration of this session of the General Assembly only those draft resolutions deemed essential to institutional continuity; draft resolutions that the new administration requires in order to implement its work plan; draft resolutions approving conventions, plans of action, or declarations already negotiated and closed; and draft resolutions dealing with recommendations issued at high-level meetings that require consideration by the General Assembly;

RECALLING Article 91.f of the Charter of the Organization regarding the reports of the organs, specialized agencies and conferences, and other bodies and agencies to the General Assembly; and

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT Article 40 of the Statutes of the Permanent Council on the presentation of an annual report by the Permanent Council to the General Assembly,

RESOLVES:

1. To instruct the Permanent Council, the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI), the General Secretariat, and the other organs identified in Article 53 of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS) to continue pursuing implementation of the pertinent mandates, unless a particular resolution states otherwise or unless the mandates have been fulfilled. The texts of resolutions adopted by previous sessions of the General Assembly shall remain fully in effect; the texts including any unilateral statements submitted by states.

2. To take note of the reports to the Permanent Council from CIDI, the Inter-American Juridical Committee, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the General Secretariat, specialized agencies and conferences, and other bodies and agencies, and of the observations and

recommendations presented by member states in accordance with Article 91.f of the Charter of the OAS.

3. To take note of the annual report presented to the General Assembly by the Permanent Council, including the addenda thereto.

4. To authorize the Permanent Council and CIDI, in the context of their respect functions, to convene the high-level meetings and fora established in conventions and other international instruments currently in force, as well as in resolutions adopted by the General Assembly.

5. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth regular session on the implementation of this resolution.

6. That execution of the activities envisaged in this resolution shall be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

AG/RES. 2874 (XLV-O/15)

ADVANCING HEMISPHERIC INITIATIVES ON INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 15, 2015)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION the declarations and plans of action of the meetings of ministers and high-level authorities in the framework of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development; and

RECALLING resolutions AG/RES. 2816 (XLIV-O/14) “Advancing Hemispheric Initiatives on Integral Development” and AG/RES. 2817 (XLIV-O/14) “Strengthening the Inter-American Council for Integral Development: Policy Dialogue and Partnership for Development Cooperation,”

RESOLVES:

1. To endorse the following documents adopted in the framework of sectoral meetings of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI):

- a. The Declaration of Port-au-Prince on Cultural Interdependence in the Context of Globalization (CIDI/REMIC-VI/DEC. 1/14 rev. 1), adopted at the Sixth Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities held in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, on August 12 and 13, 2014.
- b. The Declaration of Bridgetown on Tourism Competitiveness and Sustainability in the Americas (CIDI/TUR-XXII/DEC. 1/14 rev. 1), adopted at the Twenty-second Inter-American Congress of Ministers and High-Level Authorities of Tourism, held in Bridgetown, Barbados, on September 3 and 4, 2014.
- c. Resolution CIDI/RME/RES. 1/15 rev. 1, “Building an Inter-American Education Agenda: Education with Equity for Prosperity,” adopted at the Eighth Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Education within the Framework of CIDI, held in Panama City, Panama, on February 4 and 5, 2015.
- d. The Plan of Action of Guatemala “Inclusive Innovation: Key to Reducing Inequality and Increasing Productivity in the Region” (CIDI/REMICYT-IV/doc.5/15 rev. 2) adopted at the Fourth Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities on Science and Technology within the Framework of CIDI, held in Guatemala City, Guatemala, on March 10 and 11, 2015.

- e. Resolution CIDI/CIP/RES. 1 (IX-O/14), “Agreements of the Ninth Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Ports on the Election of the Authorities of Its Executive Committee and on the Guidelines to Extend Its Work until 2016,” adopted at the Ninth Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Ports, held at OAS headquarters in Washington, D.C., United States, from June 18 to 20, 2014.
2. To extend the term of the Strategic Plan for Partnership for Integral Development 2006–2009 until December 31, 2016.
 3. To authorize CIDI to extend or approve the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development (PIDS), ad referendum of the forty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly.
 4. To reaffirm the current and procedural mandates and their classification, including the inter-American plans and programs, as well as the documents arising from the ministerial meetings in the CIDI framework and, in that connection, to acknowledge the reports of the Chair of the Ad Hoc Working Group of CIDI to Review Mandates on Integral Development (CIDI/doc.83/14 and CIDI/doc.137/15 add. 1).
 5. To acknowledge the offers made by the Governments of Peru, Honduras, and Mexico to host the following sectoral meetings: (i) Twenty-third Inter-American Congress of Ministers and High-level Authorities of Tourism, to be held in Lima, Peru, on September 3 and 4, 2015; (ii) Third Inter-American meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development within the Framework of CIDI, to be held in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, on October 22 and 23, 2015; and (iii) XIX Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor, to be held in Cancun, Mexico, on November 18 and 19, 2015.
 6. To request CIDI to report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth regular session on the implementation of this resolution. Execution of the activities envisaged in this resolution will be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

AG/RES. 2875 (XLV-O/15)

INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION ON PROTECTING
THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF OLDER PERSONS^{1/2/3/4/5/6/}

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 15, 2015)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the “Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly, June 2014 – June 2015” (AG/doc.5490/15);

RECALLING the contents of resolution AG/RES. 2825 (XLIV-O/14), “Draft Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons,” and of all previous resolutions on the same issue;

RECOGNIZING the significant contributions that the members states, the organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization of American States, other regional, international, and United Nations agencies, particularly the Pan American Health Organization, and civil society organizations and other social actors have made to the ongoing process of negotiations; and

CONVINCED of the need for a legally binding regional instrument to protect the human rights of older persons while fostering active ageing in all its dimensions,

RESOLVES:

To adopt the following:

-
1. Canada recalls its previous footnotes outlining its reservations on the drafting of the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons. Canada is not endorsing ...
 2. The United States has consistently objected to the negotiation of new legally binding instruments on the rights of older persons. We reiterate our longstanding reservations and concerns with that ...
 3. Jamaica: The Convention shall not be interpreted as diminishing the principle of sanctity of life protected under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, nor as creating a right to die.
 4. The Government of the Republic of Nicaragua, as guarantor of promotion and protection of human rights for all its citizens, has a constitutionally underpinned legal framework that includes ...
 5. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela promotes, respects, and guarantees the human rights enshrined in inter-American and international law. However, it considers that the organs of the ...
 6. The delegation of Paraguay wishes to state that it will lodge reservations on certain aspects of the Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons, in keeping with ...

INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION ON PROTECTING
THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF OLDER PERSONS

PREAMBLE

The States Parties to the present Convention,

Recognizing that unqualified respect for human rights has been enshrined in the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man and in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and reaffirmed in other international and regional instruments;

Reiterating the intention of consolidating, within the framework of democratic institutions, a system of individual liberty and social justice founded upon respect for the fundamental rights of persons;

Bearing in mind that, pursuant to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the American Convention on Human Rights, the ideal of a free human being, free from fear and poverty can only be achieved if conditions are created that enable each individual to enjoy their economic, social, and cultural rights, as well as their civil and political rights;

Reaffirming that all human rights and fundamental freedoms are universal, indivisible, interdependent, and interrelated, as well as the obligation to eliminate all forms of discrimination, in particular, discrimination for reasons of age;

Underscoring that older persons have the same human rights and fundamental freedoms as other persons and that those rights, including the right not to be subjected to age-based discrimination nor any form of violence, are rooted in the dignity and equality inherent in all human beings;

Recognizing also that, as a person ages, they should continue to enjoy a full, independent, and autonomous life, health, safety, integration, and active participation in the economic, social, cultural and political spheres of their society;

Recognizing the need to address matters of old age and ageing from a human-rights perspective that recognizes the valuable current and potential contributions of older persons to the common good, to cultural identity, to the diversity of their communities, to human, social, and economic development, and to the eradication of poverty;

Recalling what has been established in the United Nations Principles for Older Persons (1991), the Proclamation on Ageing (1992), and the Political Declaration and Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (2002), as well as in such regional instruments as the Regional Strategy for the Implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (2003), the Brasilia Declaration (2007), the Plan of Action on the Health of Older Persons, including Active and Healthy Aging (2009) of the Pan American Health Organization, the Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain (2009), and the San José Charter on the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean (2012);

Determined to incorporate and prioritize the subject of ageing in public policy, and to raise and allocate the human, material, and financial resources needed to achieve appropriate implementation and evaluation of the special measures undertaken;

Reaffirming the value of solidarity and complementarity in international and regional cooperation to promote the human rights and fundamental freedoms of older persons;

Actively supporting the incorporation of a gender perspective into all policies and programs designed to ensure the effective exercise of the rights of older persons and underscoring the need to eliminate all forms of discrimination;

Convinced of the importance of facilitating the formulation and enforcement of laws and programs to prevent abuse, abandonment, negligence, and mistreatment of and violence against older persons, and of the need to have national mechanisms that protect their human rights and fundamental freedoms;

Convinced also that the adoption of a broad, comprehensive convention will contribute significantly to protecting, promoting, and ensuring the full enjoyment and exercise of the rights of older persons and to fostering an active ageing process in all regards;

Have agreed to sign the following Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons (hereinafter, the “Convention”).

CHAPTER I PURPOSE, SCOPE, AND DEFINITIONS

Article 1 Purpose and scope

The purpose of this Convention is to promote, protect and ensure the recognition and the full enjoyment and exercise, on an equal basis, of all human rights and fundamental freedoms of older persons, in order to contribute to their full inclusion, integration, and participation in society.

Nothing in this Convention shall be interpreted as placing limits on broader or additional rights or benefits recognized to older persons in international law or the domestic laws of States Parties.

Where the exercise of any of the rights or freedoms referred to in this Convention is not already ensured by legislative or other provisions, States Parties undertake to adopt, in accordance with their constitutional processes and the provisions of this Convention, such legislative and other measures as may be necessary to give effect to those rights or freedoms.

The States Parties may only establish restrictions or limitations on the enjoyment and exercise of the rights established in this Convention by means of laws promulgated for the purpose of

preserving the general welfare in a democratic society and only to the extent that they are not incompatible with the purposes and reasons underlying those rights.

The provisions of the present Convention shall apply to all parts of federal States without limitations or exceptions.

Article 2 Definitions

For the purposes of this Convention the following definitions shall apply:

“Abandonment”: Lack of action, deliberate or not, to comprehensively care for an older person’s needs, which may jeopardize their life or physical, psychological, or moral integrity.

“Palliative care”: Active, comprehensive, and interdisciplinary care and treatment of patients whose illness is not responding to curative treatment or who are suffering avoidable pain, in order to improve their quality of life until the last day of their lives. Central to palliative care is control of pain, of other symptoms, and of the social, psychological, and spiritual problems of the older person. It includes the patient, their environment, and their family. It affirms life and considers death a normal process, neither hastening nor delaying it.

“Discrimination”: Any distinction, exclusion, or restriction with the purpose or effect of hindering, annulling, or restricting the recognition, enjoyment, or exercise, on an equal basis, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, cultural, economic, social, or any other sphere of public and private life.

“Multiple discrimination”: Any distinction, exclusion, or restriction toward an older person, based on two or more discrimination factors.

“Age discrimination in old age”: Any distinction, exclusion, or restriction based on age, the purpose or effect of which is to annul or restrict recognition, enjoyment, or exercise, on an equal basis, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, cultural, economic, social, or any other sphere of public and private life.

“Ageing”: A gradual process that develops over the course of life and entails biological, physiological, psychosocial, and functional changes with varying consequences, which are associated with permanent and dynamic interactions between the individual and their environment.

“Active and healthy ageing”: The process of optimizing opportunities for physical, mental, and social well-being, participation in social, economic, cultural, spiritual, and civic affairs, and protection, security, and care in order to extend healthy life expectancy and quality of life for all people as they age, as well as to allow them to remain active contributors to their families, peers, communities, and nations. It applies both to individuals and to population groups.

“Abuse”: A single or repeated act or omission to the detriment of an older person that harms their physical, mental, or moral integrity and infringes the enjoyment or exercise of their human rights and fundamental freedoms, regardless of whether or not it occurs in a relationship of trust.

“Negligence”: Involuntary error or unintentional fault, including, *inter alia*, neglect, omission, abandonment, and failure to protect, that causes harm or suffering to an older person, in either the public or the private sphere, in which normal necessary precautions proportional to the circumstances have not been taken.

“Older person”: A person aged 60 or older, except where legislation has determined a minimum age that is lesser or greater, provided that it is not over 65 years. This concept includes, among others, elderly persons.

“Older person receiving long-term care services”: One who resides temporarily or permanently in a regulated, public, private or mixed establishment, which provides quality comprehensive social and health care services, including long-term facilities for older persons with moderate or severe dependency, who cannot receive care in their home.

“Integrated social and health care services”: Institutional benefits and entitlements to address the health care and social needs of older persons with a view to guaranteeing their dignity and well-being and to promoting their independence and autonomy.

“Household unit or home”: A group of individuals who live in the same dwelling, share the main meals, and address the common basic needs together, without necessarily being relatives.

“Old age”: Social construct of the last stage of the life course.

CHAPTER II GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Article 3

General principles that apply to the Convention:

- a. Promotion and defense of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of older persons;
- b. Recognizing older persons, their role in society, and their contribution to development;
- c. The dignity, independence, proactivity, and autonomy of older persons;
- d. Equality and non-discrimination;
- e. Participation, integration, and full and effective inclusion in society;
- f. Well-being and care;
- g. Physical, economic, and social security;

- h. Self-fulfillment;
- i. Gender equity and equality, and the life course approach;
- j. Solidarity and the strengthening of family and community protection;
- k. Proper treatment and preferential care;
- l. Differentiated treatment for the effective enjoyment of rights of older persons;
- m. Respect and appreciation of cultural diversity;
- n. Effective judicial protection;
- o. Responsibility of the State and participation of the family and the community in the active, full, and productive integration of older persons into society, and in the care of, and assistance to, the older person, in accordance with domestic law.

CHAPTER III GENERAL DUTIES OF STATES PARTIES

Article 4

States Parties undertake to safeguard the human rights and fundamental freedoms of older persons enunciated in this Convention without discrimination of any kind and, to that end, shall:

- a. Adopt measures to prevent, punish, and eradicate practices that contravene this Convention, such as isolation, abandonment, prolonged physical restraint, overcrowding, expulsion from the community, deprivation of food, infantilization, medical treatments that are, *inter alia*, inadequate or disproportional or that constitute mistreatment or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment that jeopardizes the safety and integrity of older persons;
- b. Adopt affirmative measures and make such reasonable adjustments as may be necessary for the exercise of the rights established in this Convention and shall refrain from adopting any legislative measure that is incompatible with it; by virtue of this Convention, affirmative measures and reasonable adjustments that are necessary to expedite or attain *de facto* equality for older persons, or to ensure their full social, economic, educational, political, and cultural engagement, shall not be considered discriminatory; such measures shall not lead to the maintenance of separate rights for different groups, nor be continued beyond a reasonable time once their objectives have been attained;
- c. Adopt and strengthen such legislative, administrative, judicial, budgetary, and other measures as may be necessary to give effect to and raise awareness of the rights recognized in the present Convention, including adequate access to justice, in order to ensure differentiated and preferential treatment for older persons in all areas.
- d. Adopt, to the full extent of their available resources and commensurate with their level of development, such measures as they consider necessary in the framework of international cooperation to progressively achieve in accordance with domestic law

the full realization of economic, social, and cultural rights, without prejudice to such obligations as may be immediately applicable under international law;

- e. Promote public institutions specializing in the protection and promotion of the rights of older persons and their integral development;
- f. Encourage the broadest participation by civil society and other social actors, especially older persons, in the drafting, implementation, and oversight of public policies and laws to implement this Convention;
- g. Promote the gathering of adequate information, including statistical and research data, with which to design and enforce policies to implement this Convention.

CHAPTER IV PROTECTED RIGHTS

Article 5 Equality and non-discrimination for reasons of age

This Convention prohibits discrimination based on the age of older persons.

In their policies, plans, and legislation on ageing and old age, States Parties shall develop specific approaches for older persons who are vulnerable and those who are victims of multiple discrimination, including women, persons with disabilities, persons of different sexual orientations and gender identities, migrants, persons living in poverty or social exclusion, people of African descent, and persons pertaining to indigenous peoples, the homeless, people deprived of their liberty, persons pertaining to traditional peoples, and persons who belong to ethnic, racial, national, linguistic, religious, and rural groups, among others.

Article 6 Right to life and dignity in old age

States Parties shall adopt all measures necessary to ensure older persons' effective enjoyment of the right of life and the right to live with dignity in old age until the end of their life and on an equal basis with other segments of the population.

States Parties shall take steps to ensure that public and private institutions offer older persons access without discrimination to comprehensive care, including palliative care; avoid isolation; appropriately manage problems related to the fear of death of the terminally ill and pain; and prevent unnecessary suffering, and futile and useless procedures, in accordance with the right of older persons to express their informed consent.

Article 7
Right to independence and autonomy

State Parties to this Convention recognize the right of older persons to make decisions, to determine their life plans, to lead an autonomous and independent life in keeping with their traditions and beliefs on an equal basis, and to be afforded access to mechanisms enabling them to exercise their rights.

States Parties shall adopt programs, policies, or actions to facilitate and promote full enjoyment of those rights by older persons, facilitating their self-fulfillment, the strengthening of all families, their family and social ties, and their affective relationships. In particular, they shall ensure:

- a. Respect for the autonomy of older persons in making their decisions, and for their independence in the actions they undertake.
- b. That older persons have the opportunity, on an equal basis with others, to choose their place of residence and where and with whom they live, and are not obliged to live in a particular living arrangement.
- c. That older persons progressively have access to a range of in-home, residential, and other community-support services, including personal assistance necessary to support living and inclusion in the community and to prevent their isolation or segregation from the community.

Article 8
Right to participation and community integration

Older persons have the right to active, productive, full, and effective participation in the family, community, and society with a view to their integration.

States Parties shall adopt measures to enable older persons to participate actively and productively in their community and to develop their capacities and potentialities. To that end, States Parties shall:

- a. Create and strengthen mechanisms for the participation and social inclusion of older persons in an environment of equality that serves to eradicate the prejudices and stereotypes that prevent them from fully enjoying those rights;
- b. Promote the participation of older persons in intergenerational activities to strengthen solidarity and mutual support as key components of social development;
- c. Ensure that facilities and community services for the general population are available to older persons on an equal basis and that they take account of their needs.

Article 9

Right to safety and a life free of violence of any kind

Older persons have the right to safety and a life without violence of any kind, to be treated with dignity, and to be respected and appreciated regardless of their race, color, sex, language, culture, religion, political or other opinions, social origin, nationality, ethnicity, indigenous and cultural identity, socio-economic status, disability, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, economic contribution, or any other condition.

Older persons have the right to a life without any kind of violence or mistreatment. For the purposes of this Convention, violence against older persons shall be understood as any act or conduct that causes death or physical, sexual, or psychological harm or suffering, either in the public or the private sphere.

Violence against older persons shall be understood to include, inter alia, different forms of financial, physical, sexual, and psychological abuse and mistreatment, expulsion from the community, and any form of abandonment or negligence that takes place within the family or household unit or that is perpetrated or tolerated by the State or its agents, regardless of where it occurs.

States Parties undertake to:

- a. Adopt legislative, administrative, and other measures to prevent, investigate, punish, and eradicate acts of violence against older persons, as well as those that would enable reparation for harm occasioned by such acts.
- b. Produce and disseminate information in order to generate diagnostic assessments of possible situations of violence with a view to developing prevention policies.
- c. Promote the creation and strengthening of support services to address cases of violence, mistreatment, abuse, exploitation, and abandonment of older persons. Foster access for older persons to such services and provide them with information about them.
- d. Establish or strengthen mechanisms for preventing any form of violence in the family or household unit, facilities that provide older persons with long-term care services, and society at large, with a view to effectively protecting the rights of older persons.
- e. Inform and sensitize society as a whole about the various forms of violence against older persons and about how to identify and prevent them.
- f. Train and sensitize government officials, social workers, and health care personnel responsible for attending to and caring for older persons in long-term care facilities or at home about the different forms of violence, in order that they are treated with dignity and to prevent negligence, violence, and mistreatment.

- g. Develop training programs for family members and persons providing home care services, in order to reduce violence in the home or household unit.
- h. Promote appropriate and effective complaint mechanisms for cases of violence against older persons and strengthen legal and administrative mechanisms for dealing with such cases.
- i. Actively promote the elimination of all practices that generate violence and affect the dignity and integrity of older women.

Article 10

Right not to be subjected to torture or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment

Older persons have the right not to be subjected to torture or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment.

States Parties shall take all necessary measures of a legislative, administrative, judicial, or other nature to prevent, investigate, punish and eradicate all forms of torture or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment of older persons.

Article 11

Right to give free and informed consent on health matters

Older persons have the inalienable right to express their free and informed consent on health matters. Denial of that right constitutes a form of violation of the human rights of older persons.

In order to ensure the right of older persons to express their prior and informed consent in a voluntary, free, and explicit manner to any medical decision, treatment, procedure, or research in the area of health, and the right to modify or revoke such consent, States Parties undertake to prepare and enforce appropriate and effective mechanisms to prevent abuse and strengthen the capacity of older persons to fully understand existing treatment options and their risks and benefits.

Those mechanisms must ensure that the information provided is appropriate, clear and timely, available on a non-discriminatory basis in an accessible and easily understood form, and commensurate with the older person's cultural identity, level of education, and communication needs.

Public or private institutions and health professionals may not administer any medical or surgical treatment, procedure, or research without the prior and informed consent of the older person.

In life-threatening medical emergencies where it is not possible to obtain informed consent, exceptions established in accordance with domestic law may be applied.

Older persons have the right freely to consent to, refuse, or suspend medical or surgical treatment—including that of the traditional, alternative, and complementary kind—research, or

medical or scientific experiments, whether physical or psychological, and to be given clear and timely information about the potential consequences and risks of such a decision.

States Parties shall also establish a procedure that enables older persons to expressly indicate in advance their will and instructions with regard to health care interventions, including palliative care. In such cases, that advance will may be expressed, amended, or expanded at any time by the older person only through legally binding instruments in accordance with domestic law.

Article 12 Rights of older persons receiving long-term care

Older persons have the right to a comprehensive system of care that protects and promotes their health, provides social services coverage, food and nutrition security, water, clothing, and housing, and promotes the ability of older persons to stay in their own home and maintain their independence and autonomy, should they so decide.

States Parties shall design assistance measures for families and caregivers through the introduction of services for those providing care to older persons, taking into account the needs of all families and other forms of care, as well as the full participation of older persons and respect for their opinions.

States Parties shall adopt measures toward developing a comprehensive care system that takes particular account of a gender perspective and respect for the dignity, physical, and mental integrity of older persons.

In order to ensure that older persons can effectively enjoy their human rights when receiving long-term care, States Parties undertake to:

- a. Establish mechanisms to ensure that the initiation and conclusion of long-term care services are subject to an indication by the older person of their free and express will.
- b. Ensure that such services have specialized personnel who can provide appropriate, comprehensive care and prevent actions or practices that could cause harm or exacerbate an existing condition.
- c. Establish an appropriate regulatory framework on the operations of long-term care services that allows the situation of older persons to be assessed and supervised, as well as the adoption of measures to:
 - i. Ensure access for older persons to information, especially to their own physical or digital records, promote their access to the various media and sources of information, including social networks, and apprise them of their rights and of the legal framework and protocols governing long-term care services.

- ii. Prevent arbitrary or illegal intrusions in their private life, family, home, household unit, or any other sphere in which they are involved, or in their correspondence or any other form of communication.
 - iii. Promote older persons' interaction with their family and society, bearing in mind all families and their affective relationships.
 - iv. Protect older persons' personal security and the exercise of their personal liberty and freedom of movement.
 - v. Protect the integrity of older persons as well as their privacy and intimacy in all their activities, particularly in acts of personal hygiene.
- d. Enact the necessary legislation, in accordance with domestic mechanisms, so that the corresponding personnel and long-term care givers may be held liable to administrative, civil, and/or criminal penalties, as applicable, for any acts they commit that cause harm to older persons.
 - e. Adopt appropriate measures, as applicable, to ensure that older persons receiving long-term care also have palliative care available to them that encompasses the patient, their environment, and their family.

Article 13

Right to personal liberty

Older persons have the right to personal liberty and safety, regardless of their environment.

States Parties shall ensure that older persons enjoy the right to personal liberty and safety, and that in no instance shall age be used to justify the arbitrary denial or restriction of liberty.

States Parties shall ensure that any measure to deprive or restrict liberty is in accordance with law and that older persons who are deprived of their liberty because they are under prosecution are afforded, on an equal basis with other sectors of the population, due guarantees in keeping with international human rights law and treated in accordance with the purposes and principles enshrined in this Convention.

States Parties shall ensure access for older persons deprived of their liberty to special and comprehensive care programs, including rehabilitation mechanisms for their reintegration in society and, as appropriate, shall promote alternatives to custodial measures, in accordance with their domestic laws.

Article 14

Right to freedom of expression and opinion, and access to information

Older persons have the right to freedom of expression and opinion, and access to information on an equal basis with other sectors of the population, by whatever medium they choose.

States Parties shall adopt measures to ensure the effective exercise of these rights by older persons.

Article 15
Right to nationality and freedom of movement

Older persons have the right to freedom of movement, to choose their residence, and to hold a nationality on an equal basis with other segments of the population, without discrimination on grounds of age.

States Parties shall adopt measures to ensure the effective exercise of these rights by older persons.

Article 16
Right to privacy and intimacy

Older persons are entitled to privacy and intimacy, and neither their private life, family, home, household unit, nor any other environment in which they function, nor their correspondence, nor any other communications shall be the subject of arbitrary or illegal intrusion.

Older persons have the right not to have their dignity, honor, and reputation attacked. They are also entitled to privacy in their personal hygiene and other activities, regardless of their environment.

States Parties shall adopt the measures necessary to guarantee these rights, particularly for older persons receiving long-term care services.

Article 17
Right to social security

All older persons have the right to social security to protect them so that they can live in dignity.

State Parties shall progressively promote, within available resources, the provision of income to ensure a dignified life for older persons through social security systems and other flexible social protection mechanisms.

States Parties shall seek to facilitate, through institutional agreements, bilateral treaties, and other hemispheric mechanisms, the recognition of benefits, social security contributions, and pension entitlements for migrant older persons.

Everything in this article will be in accordance with national legislation.

Article 18
Right to work

Older persons have the right to dignified and decent work and to equal opportunity and treatment on the same terms as other workers, whatever their age.

States Parties shall adopt measures to prevent labor discrimination against older persons. It is prohibited to make any kind of distinction that is not based on the specific requirements of the job, in accordance with domestic laws and local conditions.

The same guarantees, benefits, labor and union rights, and pay should apply to all workers in the same employment or occupation and for similar tasks and responsibilities.

States Parties shall adopt legislative, administrative, and other measures to promote formal work for older persons and to regulate the various forms of self-employment and domestic work, with a view to preventing abuse and ensuring them adequate social coverage and recognition for unremunerated work.

States Parties shall promote programs and measures that will facilitate a gradual transition into retirement, for which they may rely on the participation of organizations representing employers and workers, as well as of other interested agencies.

States Parties shall promote labor policies that take account of the needs and characteristics of older persons, with the aim of fostering workplaces that are suitable in terms of working conditions, environment, work hours, and organization of tasks.

States Parties shall encourage the design of training and knowledge-certification programs in order to promote access for older persons to more-inclusive labor markets.

Article 19 Right to health

Older persons have the right to physical and mental health without discrimination of any kind.

States Parties shall design and implement comprehensive-care oriented intersectoral public health policies that include health promotion, prevention and care of disease at all stages, and rehabilitation and palliative care for older persons, in order to promote enjoyment of the highest level of physical, mental and social well-being. To give effect to this right, States Parties undertake to:

- a. Ensure preferential care and universal, equitable and timely access to quality, comprehensive, primary care-based social and health care services, and take advantage of traditional, alternative, and complementary medicine, in accordance with domestic laws and with practices and customs.
- b. Formulate, implement, strengthen, and assess public policies, plans, and strategies to foster active and healthy ageing.
- c. Foster public policies on the sexual and reproductive health of older persons.

- d. Encourage, where appropriate, international cooperation in the design of public policies, plans, strategies and legislation, and in the exchange of capacities and resources for implementing health programs for older persons and their process of ageing.
- e. Strengthen prevention measures through health authorities and disease prevention, including courses on health education, knowledge of pathologies, and the informed opinion of the older person in the treatment of chronic illnesses and other health problems.
- f. Ensure access to affordable and quality health care benefits and services for older persons with non-communicable and communicable diseases, including sexually transmitted diseases.
- g. Strengthen implementation of public policies to improve nutrition in older persons.
- h. Promote the development of specialized integrated social and health care services for older persons with diseases that generate dependency, including chronic degenerative diseases, dementia, and Alzheimer's disease.
- i. Strengthen the capacities of health, social, and integrated social and health care workers, as well as those of other actors, to provide care to older persons based on the principles set forth in this Convention.
- j. Promote and strengthen research and academic training for specialized health professionals in geriatrics, gerontology, and palliative care.
- k. Formulate, adapt, and implement, in accordance with domestic law, policies on training in and the use of traditional, alternative, and complementary medicine in connection with comprehensive care for older persons.
- l. Promote the necessary measures to ensure that palliative care services are available and accessible for older persons, as well as to support their families.
- m. Ensure that medicines recognized as essential by the World Health Organization, including controlled medicines needed for palliative care, are available and accessible for older persons.
- n. Ensure access for older persons to the information contained in their personal records, whether physical or digital.
- o. Promote and gradually ensure, in accordance with their capabilities, coaching and training for persons who provide care to older persons, including family members, in order to ensure their health and well-being.

Article 20
Right to education

Older persons have the right to education, on an equal basis with other sectors of the population and without discrimination, in the modalities determined by each State Party; to participate in existing educational programs at all levels; and to share their knowledge and experience with all generations.

States Parties shall ensure effective exercise of the right to education for older persons and shall:

- a. Facilitate access for older persons to appropriate educational and training programs that provide access, *inter alia*, to the different levels of the education cycle, to literacy, post-literacy, technical and professional training, and to continuing education, especially for groups in situations of vulnerability.
- b. Promote the development of accessible and suitable educational programs, materials, and formats for older persons that fit their needs, preferences, skills, motivations, and cultural identities.
- c. Adopt the necessary measures to reduce and progressively eliminate barriers and obstacles to educational goods and services in rural areas.
- d. Promote education and training for older persons in the use of new information and communication technologies (ICTs) in order to bridge the digital, generational, and geographical divide and to increase social and community integration.
- e. Design and implement active policies to eradicate illiteracy among older persons, especially women and groups in situations of vulnerability.
- f. Foster and facilitate the active participation of older persons in both formal and non-formal educational activities.

Article 21
Right to culture

Older persons have the right to their cultural identity, to participate in the cultural and artistic life of the community, to enjoy the benefits of scientific and technological progress and those resulting from cultural diversity, and to share their knowledge and experience with other generations in any of the contexts in which they participate.

States Parties shall recognize, ensure, and protect the intellectual property rights of older persons on an equal basis with other sectors of the population and in accordance with domestic laws and international instruments adopted in this area.

States Parties shall promote the necessary measures to ensure preferential access for older persons to cultural goods and services in accessible formats and conditions.

States Parties shall promote cultural programs to enable older persons to develop and utilize their creative, artistic, and intellectual potential for their own benefit as well as for the enrichment of society as conduits of values, knowledge, and culture.

States Parties shall foster the participation of older persons' organizations in the planning, execution, and dissemination of educational and cultural projects.

States Parties shall, through acts of recognition and incentives, encourage the contributions of older persons to different artistic and cultural expressions.

Article 22

Right to recreation, leisure, and sports

Older persons are entitled to recreation, physical activity, leisure, and sports.

States Parties shall promote the development of recreational services and programs, including tourism, as well as leisure and sports activities, taking into account the interests and needs of older persons, particularly those receiving long-term care, in order to improve their health and quality of life in all respects and to promote their self-fulfillment, independence, autonomy, and inclusion in the community.

Older persons shall be able to participate in the creation, management, and evaluation of such services, programs, or activities.

Article 23

Right to property

All older persons have the right to the use and enjoyment of their property and not to be deprived of said property on the grounds of age. The law may subordinate such use and enjoyment to the interests of society.

No older person shall be deprived of their property except upon payment of just compensation, for reasons of public utility or social interest, or in the cases and according to the forms established by the law.

States Parties shall adopt all necessary measures to ensure the effective exercise of older persons' right to property, including the right to freely dispose of their property, and to prevent the abuse or illegal transfer thereof.

States Parties undertake to eliminate all administrative or financial practices that discriminate against older persons—especially older women and groups in situations of vulnerability—where the exercise of their right to property is concerned.

Article 24

Right to housing

Older persons have the right to decent and adequate housing and to live in safe, healthy, and accessible environments that can be adapted to their preferences and needs.

States Parties shall adopt appropriate measures to promote the full enjoyment of this right and facilitate access for older persons to integrated social and health care services and to home care services that enable them to reside in their own home, should they wish.

States Parties shall ensure the right of older persons to decent and adequate housing and shall adopt policies to promote the right to housing and access to land, recognizing the needs of older persons and the priority of allocating to those in situations of vulnerability. Likewise, States Parties shall progressively foster access to home loans and other forms of financing without discrimination, promoting, *inter alia*, collaboration with the private sector, civil society and other social actors. Such policies should pay particular attention to:

- a. The need to build or progressively adapt housing solutions, so that they are architecturally suitable and accessible for older persons with disabilities and restricted mobility;
- b. The specific needs of older persons, particularly those who live alone, by means of rent subsidies, support for housing renovations, and other pertinent measures, within the capacities of States Parties.

States Parties shall promote the adoption of expedited procedures for complaints and redress in the event of evictions of older persons and shall adopt the necessary measures to protect them against illegal forced evictions.

States Parties shall promote programs to prevent accidents inside and in the vicinity of older persons' homes.

Article 25 Right to a healthy environment

Older persons have the right to live in a healthy environment with access to basic public services. To that end, States Parties shall adopt appropriate measures to safeguard and promote the exercise of this right, *inter alia*:

- a. To foster the development of older persons to their full potential in harmony with nature;
- b. To ensure access for older persons, on an equal basis with others, to basic public drinking water and sanitation services, among others.

Article 26 Right to accessibility and personal mobility

Older persons have the right to accessibility to the physical, social, economic, and cultural environment, as well as to personal mobility.

In order to ensure accessibility and personal mobility for older persons, so that they may live independently and participate fully in all aspects of life, States Parties shall progressively adopt appropriate measures to ensure for older persons access, on an equal basis with others, to the physical environment, to transportation, to information and communications, including information and communications technologies and systems, and to other facilities and services open or provided to the public, both in urban and in rural areas. These measures, which shall include the identification and elimination of obstacles and barriers to accessibility, shall apply to, *inter alia*:

- a. Buildings, roads, transportation, and other indoor and outdoor facilities, including centers of education, housing, medical facilities, and workplaces;
- b. Information, communications, and other services, including electronic services and emergency services.

States Parties shall also take appropriate measures to:

- a. Develop, promulgate, and monitor the implementation of minimum standards and guidelines for the accessibility of facilities and services open or provided to the public;
- b. Ensure that public and private entities that offer facilities and services which are open or provided to the public take into account all aspects of accessibility for older persons;
- c. Provide training for all stakeholders on accessibility issues facing older persons;
- d. Promote other appropriate forms of assistance and support to older persons to ensure their access to information;
- e. Promote access for older persons, at the lowest possible cost, to new information and communications technologies and systems, including the Internet;
- f. Foster access for older persons to preferential fees, or no fees, for transportation services open or provided to the public;
- g. Promote initiatives, in transportation services open or provided to the public, for the provision of reserved seats for older persons, which should be identified by appropriate signs;
- h. In buildings and other facilities open to the public, provide signage in formats that are easy to read and understand, and are appropriate for older persons.

Political rights

Older persons have the right to participate in political and public life on an equal basis with others and not to be discriminated against for reasons of age.

Older persons have the right to vote freely and to be elected. The State shall facilitate the conditions and the means for exercising those rights.

States Parties shall ensure for older persons full and effective enjoyment of their right to vote. To that end, they shall adopt the following pertinent measures:

- a. Ensure that electoral procedures, facilities, and materials are appropriate, accessible, and easy to understand and use;
- b. Protect the right of older persons to cast their votes in secret and without intimidation in elections and public referendums;
- c. Ensure that older persons are able to freely express their will as voters and, to that end, when necessary and with their consent, to allow a person of their choice to assist them in voting;
- d. Create and strengthen mechanisms for citizen participation with a view to including the opinions, contributions, and demands of older persons and their groups and associations in decision-making processes at all levels of government.

Article 28

Freedom of association and assembly

Older persons have the right to assemble peacefully and to freely form their own groups and associations, in accordance with international human rights law.

To that end, States Parties undertake to:

- a. Facilitate the creation and legal recognition of said groups or associations, respecting their freedom of initiative and lending them support for their formation and activities, within the capacities of States Parties;
- b. Strengthen older persons' associations and the development of positive leadership to facilitate the achievement of their objectives and dissemination of the rights enunciated in this Convention.

Article 29

Situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies

States Parties shall adopt all necessary specific measures to ensure the safety and rights of older persons in situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies,

and disasters, in accordance with the norms of international law, particularly international human rights law and international humanitarian law.

States Parties shall adopt assistance measures specific to the needs of older persons in preparedness, prevention, reconstruction, and recovery activities associated with emergencies, disasters, and conflict situations.

States Parties shall foster the participation of interested older persons in civil protection protocols in the event of natural disasters.

Article 30 Equal recognition before the law

States Parties reaffirm that older persons have the right to recognition as persons before the law.

States Parties shall recognize that older persons enjoy legal capacity on an equal basis with others in all aspects of life.

States Parties shall take appropriate measures to provide access by older persons to the support they may require in exercising their legal capacity.

States Parties shall ensure that all measures that relate to the exercise of legal capacity provide for appropriate and effective safeguards to prevent abuse in accordance with international human rights law. Such safeguards shall ensure that measures relating to the exercise of legal capacity respect the rights, will, and preferences of older persons, are free of conflict of interest and undue influence, are proportional and tailored to older persons' circumstances, apply for the shortest time possible, and are subject to regular review by a competent, independent and impartial authority or judicial body. The safeguards shall be proportional to the degree to which such measures affect older persons' rights and interests.

Subject to the provisions of this article, States Parties shall take all appropriate and effective measures to ensure the equal right of older persons to own or inherit property, to control their own financial affairs, and to have equal access to bank loans, mortgages, and other forms of financial credit, and shall ensure that older persons are not arbitrarily deprived of their property.

Article 31 Access to justice

Older persons have the right to a hearing, with due guarantees and within a reasonable time, by a competent, independent, and impartial tribunal, previously established by law, in the substantiation of any accusation of a criminal nature made against them or for the determination of their rights and obligations of a civil, labor, fiscal, or any other nature.

States Parties shall ensure effective access to justice for older persons on an equal basis with others, including through the provision of procedural accommodations in all legal and administrative proceedings at any stage.

State Parties shall ensure due diligence and preferential treatment for older persons in processing, settlement of, and enforcement of decisions in administrative and legal proceedings.

Judicial action must be particularly expedited in instances where the health or life of the older person may be at risk.

Likewise, States Parties shall develop and strengthen public policies and programs to promote:

- a. Alternative dispute settlement mechanisms;
- b. Training in protection of the rights of older persons for personnel associated with the administration of justice, including police and prison staff.

CHAPTER V AWARENESS-RAISING

Article 32

States Parties agree to:

- a. Adopt measures to achieve dissemination of, and to progressively educate the whole of society about, this Convention.
- b. Foster a positive attitude to old age and dignified, respectful, and considerate treatment of older persons, and, based on a culture of peace, encourage actions to disseminate and promote the rights and empowerment of older persons, and avoid stereotypical images and language in relation to old age;
- c. Develop programs to sensitize the public about the ageing process and older persons, encouraging the participation of the latter and of their organizations in the design and formulation of such programs;
- d. Promote the inclusion of content that fosters understanding and acceptance of ageing in study plans and programs at different levels of education, as well as in academic and research agendas;
- e. Promote recognition of the experience, wisdom, productivity, and contribution to development that older persons offer society as a whole.

CHAPTER VI
FOLLOW-UP MECHANISM TO THE CONVENTION
AND MEANS OF PROTECTION

Article 33
Follow-up Mechanism

In order to monitor the commitments under this Convention and to promote its effective implementation, a Follow-up Mechanism will be established that shall comprise a Conference of States Parties and a Committee of Experts.

The Follow-up Mechanism shall be established upon deposit of the tenth instrument of ratification or accession.

The General Secretariat of the Organization of American States shall serve as secretariat of the Follow-up Mechanism.

Article 34
Conference of States Parties

The Conference of States Parties, the principal organ of the Follow-up Mechanism, comprises the States Parties to the Convention and has, *inter alia*, the following functions:

- a. To monitor progress by States Parties in complying with the commitments under this Convention;
- b. To draft its rules of procedure and adopt them by an absolute majority;
- c. To monitor the activities of the Committee of Experts and make recommendations to improve the workings, rules, and procedures of said Committee;
- d. To receive, analyze, and evaluate the recommendations of the Committee of Experts and present appropriate observations;
- e. To promote the exchange of experiences and best practices as well as technical cooperation among States Parties, with a view to ensuring the effective implementation of this Convention;
- f. To resolve any matter pertaining to the operations of the Follow-up Mechanism.

The Secretary General of the Organization of American States shall convene the first meeting of the Conference of States Parties within 90 days after the establishment of the Follow-up Mechanism. The first meeting of the Conference, to adopt its rules of procedure and working methodology, as well as to elect its officers, will be held at the headquarters of the Organization, unless a State Party should offer to host the meeting. Said meeting will be chaired by a representative of the first state to deposit its instrument of ratification of or accession to the Convention.

Subsequent meetings shall be convened by the Secretary General of the Organization of American States at the request of any State Party with the approval of at least two thirds of the States Parties. Other member states of the Organization may participate as observers in said meetings.

Article 35 Committee of Experts

The Committee of Experts shall comprise experts appointed by each State Party to the Convention. The quorum for meetings will be established in its rules of procedure.

The Committee of Experts shall have the following functions:

- a. To assist in monitoring progress by States Parties in implementing this Convention and conduct a technical review of the periodic reports submitted by States Parties; to that end, States Parties undertake to present a report to the Committee of Experts on implementation of their obligations under this Convention, within one year of the first meeting; thereafter, States Parties shall submit reports every four years;
- b. To submit recommendations for progressive compliance with the Convention based on reports presented by States Parties on the subject matter under review;
- c. To draft and adopt its rules of procedure in accordance with the functions set forth in this article.

The Secretary General of the Organization of American States shall convene the first meeting of the Committee of Experts within 90 days after the establishment of the Follow-up Mechanism. The first meeting of the Committee, to adopt its rules of procedure and working methodology, as well as to elect its officers, will be held at the headquarters of the Organization, unless a State Party should offer to host the meeting. Said meeting will be chaired by a representative of the first state to deposit its instrument of ratification of or accession to the Convention.

The Committee of Experts shall have its headquarters at the Organization of American States.

Article 36 System of individual petitions

Any person or group of persons, or nongovernmental entity legally recognized in one or more member states of the Organization of American States may submit to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights petitions containing reports or complaints of violations of the provisions contained in this Convention by a State Party.

In implementing the provisions of this article, consideration shall be given to the progressive nature of the observance of the economic, social and cultural rights protected under this Convention.

In addition, any State Party, when depositing its instrument of ratification of, or accession to, this Convention, or at any time thereafter, may declare that it recognizes the competence of the Inter-

American Commission on Human Rights to receive and examine communications in which a State Party alleges that another State Party has committed violations of the human rights established in this Convention. In such an instance, all the relevant procedural rules contained in the American Convention on Human Rights shall be applicable.

States Parties may consult the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights on questions related to the effective application of this Convention. They may also request the Commission's advisory assistance and technical cooperation to ensure effective application of any provision of this Convention. The Commission will, to the extent that it is able, provide the States Parties with the requested advisory services and assistance.

Any State Party may, when depositing its instrument of ratification of, or accession to, this Convention, or at any time thereafter, declare that it recognizes as binding, *ipso jure* and without any special agreement, the jurisdiction of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights on all matters relating to the interpretation or application of this Convention. In such an instance, all relevant procedural rules contained in the American Convention on Human Rights shall be applicable.

CHAPTER VII GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 37

Signature, ratification, and entry into force

This Convention is open to signature, ratification and accession by all member states of the Organization of American States. After its entry into force, this Convention shall be open to accession by all member states that have not signed it.

This Convention is subject to ratification by the signatory states in accordance with the procedures set forth in their constitutions. The instruments of ratification or accession shall be deposited with the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States.

This Convention shall enter into force on the thirtieth day following the date on which the second instrument of ratification or accession is deposited with the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States.

For each state that ratifies or accedes to the Convention after the second instrument of ratification or accession has been deposited, the Convention shall enter into force on the thirtieth day following deposit by that state of the corresponding instrument.

Article 38 Reservations

States Parties may enter reservations to this Convention when signing, ratifying, or acceding to it, provided that such reservations are not incompatible with the aim and purpose of the Convention and relate to one or more specific provisions thereof.

Article 39
Denunciation

This Convention shall remain in force indefinitely, but any State Party may denounce it through written notification addressed to the Secretary General of the Organization of American States. The Convention shall cease to have force and effect for the denouncing state one year after the date of deposit of the instrument of denunciation, and shall remain in force for the other States Parties. Denunciation of the Convention shall not exempt the State Party from its obligations under the Convention in respect of any act or omission that occurred before the date on which the denunciation took effect.

Article 40
Depositary

The original instrument of the Convention, the English, French, Portuguese, and Spanish texts of which are equally authentic, shall be deposited with the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States, which shall send a certified copy thereof to the United Nations Secretariat for registration and publication pursuant to Article 102 of the United Nations Charter.

Article 41
Amendments

Any State Party may submit proposals for amendment of this Convention to the Conference of States Parties.

Amendments shall enter into force for the states ratifying them on the date of deposit of the respective instruments of ratification by two thirds of the States Parties. For the remaining States Parties, they shall enter into force on the date of deposit of their respective instruments of ratification.

FOOTNOTES

1. ... the resulting text that is being adopted in this resolution. Canada has consistently raised concerns that efforts towards pursuing such a convention would duplicate the work happening in the UN Open-ended Working Group on Ageing. Canada maintains that such a Convention would place unnecessary strain on international human rights monitoring systems and duplicate the monitoring of the rights of older persons. Canada will continue to work in practical ways with the OAS and its member states towards promoting the rights of older persons.

2. ... exercise and the resulting convention. The United States remains convinced of the importance of working in the OAS and in the United Nations to address the many challenges faced by older persons in this Hemisphere and throughout the world, including with respect to their enjoyment of human rights. However, we do not believe a convention is necessary to ensure that the human rights of older persons are protected. The United States believes that, rather than promoting this new instrument, the resources of the OAS and of its member states should be used to identify practical steps that governments in the Americas might adopt to combat discrimination against older persons, including best practices in the form of national legislation and enhanced implementation of the international human rights treaties. Such efforts should be aimed at addressing immediately and practically the challenges faced by older persons.

4. ... the Organic Law on Social Security (*Ley Orgánica de Seguridad Social*) and the Law on Older Persons (*Ley del Adulto Mayor*), which guarantee protection measures on the part of the family, society, and the State for older persons. We value the efforts of the member states of the Organization to have a legally binding regional instrument, the goal of which is the protection of the human rights of older persons. However, the Government of Nicaragua believes that the contents of the Convention would create an overlap with work already being done by other organs of the inter-American human rights system. Furthermore, its crosscutting nature and impact would impinge on the system of laws in force in the Nicaragua. Therefore, the Government of the Republic of Nicaragua sets out its express reservation to the contents of the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons.

5. ... inter-American human rights system established as “means of protection” contravene the objectives for which they were established. The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights should be re-established due to the bias, politicization, and discriminatory and selective attitude they have adopted toward the progressive governments of the region. Those features have destroyed the credibility of both institutions, which once stood for ethical values and commitment to protecting human rights. That was what led the Venezuelan State to denounce the American Convention on Human Rights.

6. ... provisions of the Constitution of Paraguay.

AG/RES. 2876 (XLV-O/15)

MODERNIZATION AND REORGANIZATION OF THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT IN
ACCORDANCE WITH THE STRATEGIC VISION FOR THE ORGANIZATION
AND FOR STRENGTHENING THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 15, 2015)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

CONSIDERING:

That, at its forty-fourth regular session held in Asunción, Paraguay, by resolution AG/RES. 2814 (XLIV-O/14) it adopted the following strategic vision statement for the Organization of American States (OAS):

“The Organization of American States is the hemispheric political forum inclusive of all the countries of the Americas, committed to the strengthening of democracy, the promotion and protection of human rights, the advancement of integral development and the fostering of multidimensional security, all equal and interdependent, with justice and social inclusion, for the benefit of the peoples of the Americas”;

That, by resolution AG/RES. 1 (XLVII-E/14) rev. 1, “Guidelines and Objectives of the Strategic Vision of the Organization of American States,” it adopted the strategic objectives for institutional strengthening, for administrative management, and for each of the pillars established in the vision statement of the Organization;

That resolution AG/RES. 2860 (XLIV-O/14) set the quotas with which the member states will finance the Regular Fund of the Organization for the year 2015 and established the overall budget level for 2015 and the tentative figure for 2016 of the program-budget for the Regular Fund, including the cost-of-living and inflation adjustment, at US\$84,324,100;

That Article 109 of the OAS Charter states that “[t]he Secretary General shall direct the General Secretariat, be the legal representative thereof, and, notwithstanding the provisions of Article 91.b, be responsible to the General Assembly for the proper fulfillment of the obligations and functions of the General Secretariat”;

That, according to Article 113 of the OAS Charter , “[t]he Secretary General shall:

- (a) Establish such offices of the General Secretariat as are necessary to accomplish its purposes; and
- (b) Determine the number of officers and employees of the General Secretariat, appoint them, regulate their powers and duties, and fix their remuneration. The Secretary General shall exercise this authority in accordance with such general standards and budgetary provisions as may be established by the General Assembly”;

That, according to Article 4 of the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat, “[t]he General Secretariat shall be composed of the executive secretariats, secretariats at the assistant secretary level, departments, offices, and other technical or administrative dependencies already existing or that the Secretary General may establish in accordance with the provisions of Article 113 of the Charter. The Secretary General must obtain the express approval of the General Assembly to establish new secretariats or other dependencies with similar attributes and of similar importance, or to abolish already existing ones”;

That pursuant to Article 12 (d) of the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat, “[i]t is the responsibility of the Secretary General ... [t]o redistribute the functions of existing dependencies, incorporating some into others or dividing or subdividing them, whenever necessary for the greater efficiency of the services and better execution of the programs, provided that no increase in the expenditures budgeted for those services or programs is involved”;

That during the first 180 days of the administration it is necessary to adopt administrative provisions of a transitional nature that enable the General Secretariat to perform its administrative functions and to avoid interruptions of basic services;

That activities directed at modernizing and restructuring the General Secretariat must be supervised by the Permanent Council, which has direct access to the budgetary and financial execution reports of the General Secretariat,

RESOLVES:

1. To ratify resolution CP/RES. 1051 (2017/15) adopted by the Permanent Council regarding trust positions.
2. To confer on the Permanent Council the powers it needs so that, pursuant to Article 4 of the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat, it may authorize the necessary adjustments to the organizational structure of the General Secretariat in order to align it with the strategic vision of the Organization.
3. To instruct the Secretary General, for the purposes referred to in the foregoing paragraph, to submit to the Permanent Council any changes that in his view need to be made to the structure of the General Secretariat and the rationale behind them, no later than July 31, 2015.
4. To empower the Permanent Council to authorize any transfers of resources between chapters of the program-budget of the Organization for 2015 that are needed to put into effect the changes to the structure of the General Secretariat referred to in the foregoing paragraph, without thereby exceeding the authorized overall Regular Fund budget ceiling for 2015.
5. That the Permanent Council is authorized, as an exceptional measure, to adjust, based on its own judgment, the percentage of personnel expenditures, under the terms of section III.14 (d) of resolution AG/RES. 1 (XLVIII-E/14).

6. To instruct the Secretary General to ensure that the proposed 2016 program-budget to be submitted for consideration by the member states pursuant to Article 90 of the General Standards contains the changes to the organizational structure as well as changes in the chapters of the program-budget.

7. To urge the member states to strive to mitigate the Organization's financial vulnerabilities.

AG/RES. 2877 (XLV-O/15)

SUPPORT FOR THE ELECTORAL PROCESS IN GUATEMALA

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 15, 2015)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

REAFFIRMING that the strengthening and preservation of the democratic institutional system in the member states is an essential purpose of the Organization of American States (OAS) that calls for hemispheric solidarity; and

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

The firm commitment of the Government of Guatemala to address the current challenges to governance in the country as a state policy, in order to continue progress toward the consolidation of peace and national reconciliation and the strengthening of democracy in Guatemala; and

That the electoral process convened by the Supreme Electoral Tribunal of Guatemala establishes that balloting will take place on September 6, 2015, with electoral observation by the OAS, in which the citizens will freely elect a president, congressional deputies, and municipal mayors,

RESOLVES:

1. To reject any threat of breakdown in the constitutional order and to reiterate its support for the Government and people of Guatemala in their efforts to strengthen the rule of law and preserve the democratic institutional system.
2. To support the holding of the 2015 general election on the date set by the Supreme Electoral Tribunal of Guatemala.
3. To reiterate its firm commitment to the full currency of the democratic and constitutional framework, respect for the law, and full respect for all human rights, and to applaud the commitment of the Guatemalan Government to the development of a free and transparent electoral process.
4. To call on political, economic, and social actors to play a constructive and balanced role to strengthen democracy in the country.
5. To support the Government of Guatemala in the consolidation of democracy and in its resolute battle against impunity.

AG/RES. 2878 (XLV-O/15)

PLAN OF ACTION OF THE SOCIAL CHARTER OF THE AMERICAS

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 16, 2015)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

CONSIDERING that the Social Charter of the Americas was adopted by resolution AG/RES. 2699 (XLII-O/12), “Social Charter of the Americas: Renewal of the Hemispheric Commitment to Fight Poverty in the Region”; and

BEARING IN MIND that resolutions AG/RES. 2699 (XLII-O/12), AG/RES. 2775 (XLIII-O/13), and AG/RES. 2841 (XLIV-O/14) instructed the Joint Working Group of the Permanent Council and the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) to conclude negotiations on a draft Plan of Action of the Social Charter, conceived for the attainment of specific, feasible goals, on the basis of the preambular and operative sections of the Social Charter and mindful of the mandates in force with respect to its structure,

RESOLVES:

To adopt the following:

PLAN OF ACTION OF THE SOCIAL CHARTER OF THE AMERICAS

The purpose of this Plan of Action is to set goals and strategic lines of action in the areas of labor, social protection, health, food and nutrition, education, housing and basic public services, and culture, in order to help to achieve the principles, purposes, and priorities contained in the Social Charter of the Americas, according to the reality of each member state.

This Plan of Action reflects the member states’ determination and commitment to eradicate poverty and hunger and urgently address the serious problems of social exclusion and inequality at all levels to achieve equity, inclusion, and social justice, while recognizing that member states experience varying degrees of progress with respect to the areas proposed.

AREAS OF INTERVENTION:

1. Labor

Objective: To improve the quality of existing employment and create greater opportunities for productive employment in conditions of equality, dignity, safety, and wellbeing.

Strategic lines of action:

- 1.1 Strengthen labor institutions in order to ensure effective observance of fundamental principles and rights at work in conditions of equality and dignity.
- 1.2 Promote employment generation and access to decent, dignified, and productive employment, *inter alia*, by fostering greater coherence between educational, economic, and labor policies, the establishment of new enterprises, and the gradual formalization of the informal economy.
- 1.3 Advance opportunities to access the labor market and workers' skills, with particular emphasis on groups that face the most significant challenges in the labor market.
- 1.4 Strengthen skills certification programs to foster labor market insertion and improve employment opportunities.
- 1.5 Promote and implement policies to achieve equality in the labor market for men and women.

2. Social Protection

Objective: To create or strengthen comprehensive social protection systems based on respect for human rights and on the principles of universality, sustainability, equality, inclusion, shared responsibility, solidarity, and equity that include the generation of opportunities needed for families and individuals in vulnerable circumstances to enhance their well-being and quality of life.

Strategic lines of action:

- 2.1. Advance the implementation of social protection floors commensurate with the situation in each country, promoting solid, comprehensive, and sustainable social protection systems.
- 2.2. Seek to organize social protection systems in such a way as to consider different approaches and schemes in an effort to ensure comprehensive coverage and an equitable distribution of benefits, taking national circumstances into account.
- 2.3. Promote a comprehensive social protection approach that addresses the different dimensions and manifestations of poverty, vulnerability, and exclusion and reduces inequalities through a wide range of measures and an intergenerational and life-cycle perspective.
- 2.4. Encourage social protection programs aimed at strengthening all families, recognizing that they are at the heart of social development policies and programs.
- 2.5. Promote social protection systems that enhance the well-being and development of individuals and families, invest in education and training, and contribute to social and economic development.

2.6. Evaluate options for recognizing nominal contributions to social security and pension entitlements by migrant workers, in accordance with domestic legislation.

3. Health

Objective: To progress toward universal access to health care and universal coverage of comprehensive and quality health care, with equity, accompanied by social protection models in health care for populations in situations of vulnerability.

Strategic lines of action:

3.1 Strengthen the quality and equity of health systems and seek to ensure their universal coverage through primary care, preventive and promotion actions, and social protection mechanisms.

3.2 Improve the availability of, and access to, quality health care services in accordance with the principles promoted by the Health Agenda for the Americas 2008–2017: human rights, universality, comprehensiveness, accessibility and inclusion, pan American solidarity, equity in health, and social participation.

3.3 Incorporate promotion and protection of health in intersectoral policies, in order to address the social determinants of health of our peoples, where appropriate, in a bid to reduce inequalities, construct appropriate physical and social environments, and facilitate healthier behavior.

3.4 Reduce the preventable and avoidable burden of morbidity, mortality, and disability due to non-communicable diseases.

3.5 Reduce the impact of communicable diseases on the health of the population through comprehensive multisectoral measures, with particular emphasis on HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, and neglected and emerging diseases.

3.6 Reduce maternal and child mortality, in particular neonatal mortality.

3.7 Prepare for and take, where appropriate, intersectoral measures to respond to disasters, pandemics, and diseases that may impact national, regional, and global health security.

3.8 Strive to guarantee that comprehensive health care is available to everyone at every stage of their lives, ensuring that they do not suffer financial difficulties.

4. Food and Nutrition

Objective: To promote food and nutrition security in the region with the active participation of individuals, communities, and civil society in general.

Strategic lines of action:

4.1 Take action toward the eradication of undernourishment and hunger, especially maternal, newborn, and infant undernourishment.

4.2 Promote prevention policies on all forms of malnutrition, encourage healthy lifestyles, and foster quality nutrition education that includes healthy eating habits, nutrition, and hygiene.

4.3 Promote policies and programs to facilitate the availability of, and physical, social, and affordable access to, suitable, healthy, and nutritional food for all persons.

4.4 Support the implementation of inclusive policies and programs to advance sustainable food systems, giving particular attention to the eradication of hunger, undernourishment, and poverty.

4.5 Promote disaster-risk management, giving priority to farming and food security and to responding effectively to threats and emergencies, with particular attention to populations in vulnerable circumstances.

5. Education

Objective: To guarantee the right to education without discrimination, promote access to quality education at all levels and of all forms, and ensure equitable and universal access to primary and secondary education.

Strategic lines of action:

5.1 Increase coverage of, and access to, high-quality early childhood education, with special attention to those who live in situations of poverty or vulnerability.

5.2 Enhance comprehensive early childhood education programs with parental and community participation.

5.3 Strengthen policies and measures for child and adolescent access to, retention in, and completion of education.

5.4 Pay more attention to the needs of students whose native language is not the primary language of instruction, including the provision of native-language educational materials and services, where appropriate.

5.5 Continue and strengthen programs and activities for eradicating illiteracy and reducing functional illiteracy, taking into account the cultural and linguistic reality of the population.

5.6 Promote the development of and/or strengthen education programs for social and academic inclusion for persons with special needs.

5.7 Promote the development of and/or strengthen education programs for persons deprived of liberty, with a view to their rehabilitation and reintegration in society.

5.8 Enhance the processes of selection, preparation, training and ongoing professional development for teachers, and improve performance incentives, working conditions, and evaluation in order to strengthen the teaching profession.

5.9 Promote greater and equal access to various forms of postsecondary and technical education and professional training, with particular attention to students in vulnerable groups.

5.10 Promote inclusive, quality higher education in order fully to prepare students for improved entry to the labor market.

5.11 Encourage research and innovation in education systems in order to promote their linkage to productive sectors, as well as scientific and technological development.

5.12 Foster and strengthen linkages, cooperation, and exchanges among national, regional, and hemispheric educational institutions.

5.13 Promote permanent non-formal education opportunities for the exchange of knowledge and wisdom in society.

5.14 Foster and strengthen the certification and improvement of skills.

6. Housing and Basic Public Services

Objective: To provide more and better housing options, especially for vulnerable and lower-income populations, and ensure fair, equitable, and nondiscriminatory access to basic public services.

Strategic lines of action:

6.1 Promote the availability of basic public services in order to ensure access to these services for those who lack them or are underserved. In particular, encourage efforts to extend the coverage and quality of safe drinking water, sanitation, storm water management, solid waste management, and energy services, with an emphasis on rural areas.

6.2 Promote the social inclusion of persons in situations of poverty and excluded groups through appropriate urban and rural land management schemes.

6.3 Encourage the promotion of financing mechanisms, including mortgages and micro-financing for the building, acquisition, or expansion of homes, and promote programs that allow improved access to land and to affordable housing.

6.4 Ensure the social and environmental functions of the city, promoting balance with its economic, cultural, and political functions in order to guarantee for the population full enjoyment of the city as a public space.

6.5 Encourage orderly and integrated urban growth with urban equality and social integration.

6.6 Coordinate, through the State, monitoring, follow-up, and oversight strategies for investments and goals to expand coverage at the local and regional level in order to guarantee the implementation of planning principles and transparency in the formulation, implementation, and execution of policies, programs, and projects.

6.7 Promote access to a safe and healthy environment, with special attention to fostering measures for adaption to climate change and integrated disaster-risk management at sites where public housing is located.

6.8 Promote the construction of housing and urban developments that include public spaces for gatherings and recreation to improve the quality of family and community relationships.

7. Culture

Objective: To ensure cultural development with the inclusion and participation of all sectors of society, respecting diversity of cultures and cultural expressions, and encouraging mutual respect and knowledge.

Strategic lines of action:

7.1 Strengthen cultural and creative industries, with attention to their different levels of consolidation and to the community dimension they involve.

7.2 Increase access to cultural goods and services, in particular, for members of vulnerable groups.

7.3 Create conditions and encourage cultural creative processes that facilitate creative and artistic expression and participation in all its forms, languages, and expressions, for individuals as well as social groups, and which encourage investigation and imagination in a climate of tolerance and of freedom of thought, expression, and information.

7.4 Include the issue of culture on governments' economic and planning agendas, particularly with regard to cultural and creative industries, cultural heritage, and respect for cultural diversity.

7.5 Preserve tangible and intangible cultural heritage.

7.6 Combat looting and illicit trafficking of cultural property.

7.7 Incorporate the role of culture and raise the visibility of its contributions in inclusive economic development and of the relationship between cultural and sustainable development policies.

7.8 Recover, preserve, value, promote, and strengthen the various collective memories, democratize their access and dissemination, and facilitate intercultural dialogue.

FOLLOW-UP ON THE PLAN OF ACTION

Duration

This Plan of Action will be in effect for five years from the time of its adoption. At the end of that period, the General Assembly may order a review and update of the Plan of Action within the terms of the purposes and principles adopted in the Social Charter of the Americas.

Implementation

The member states will be responsible for the implementation of the Plan of Action, based on their domestic laws, national realities, strategies, plans, and available resources. In this regard, member states may be supported by existing mechanisms of the Organization of American States (OAS) and other agencies of the inter-American system and, where appropriate, will foster synergies with other regional organizations, taking into account their mandates, areas of expertise and available resources, in order to build or strengthen their human and institutional capacities. Priority should be given to partnership for development within the strategic lines of this Plan of Action and to initiatives that promote sharing of information and best practices among member states.

Follow-up

The Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) of the OAS will include annually on the agenda of one of its regular meetings a dialogue for the exchange of information on progress, experiences, and lessons learned in implementing this Plan of Action. The information and recommendations presented at such meetings will be included in the regular reports of CIDI and referred to the General Assembly for its attention.

AG/RES. 2879 (XLV-O/15)

PLACE AND DATE OF THE FORTY-SIXTH
REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 16, 2015)

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 determination of the date and place for those sessions; and

CONSIDERING:

That the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) shall hold a regular session each year, preferably during the second quarter; and

That the Government of the Dominican Republic, through its Ministry of Foreign Affairs offered on June 15, 2015, in the framework of the forty-fifth regular session of the General Assembly, held at OAS headquarters in Washington, D.C., to host the forty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly, which is to be held in June 2016, as a reaffirmation of its commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the OAS and as a demonstration of its resolute decision to continue participating actively in strengthening the Organization,

RESOLVES:

1. To determine that the forty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly will be held in Santo Domingo, capital of the Dominican Republic, from June 13 to 15, 2016.

2. To thank the Government of the Dominican Republic for its generous offer to host the forty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly.

THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

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 70 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.

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