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DECLARATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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AG/DEC. 96 (XLVIII-O/18)

DECLARATION ON “THE QUESTION OF THE MALVINAS ISLANDS”

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 4, 2018)

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. 655 (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/DEC. 97 (XLVIII-O/18)

DECLARATION OF SUPPORT FOR THE PEOPLE OF NICARAGUA

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2018)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES,

CONCERNED by ongoing reports of social unrest and violence in recent weeks in Nicaragua;

TAKING NOTE of the statements issued by various member states, Secretary General Almagro and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) expressing concern and deploring the acts of violence that have taken place in Nicaragua and which have caused dozens of deaths and injuries;

REAFFIRMING the principles and purposes enshrined in the Charter of the Organization of American States which include the promotion and consolidation of representative democracy with due respect for the principle of non-intervention, and reaffirming also that the exercise of representative democracy is the basis for the rule of law as reflected in the Inter-American Democratic Charter;

RECOGNIZING the principal function of the IACHR as mandated by the OAS Charter and the American Convention on Human Rights is to promote the observance and protection of human rights and to serve as a consultative organ to the OAS in these matters;

TAKING NOTE of efforts led by the Episcopal Conference of Nicaragua to seek a peaceful resolution of conflict and respect for human rights of Nicaraguans, and the opportunity to live in a democracy;

WELCOMING the Government of Nicaragua's acceptance of the IACHR's May 17-21, 2018 working visit to Nicaragua to observe the human rights situation in the country in the context of events that have taken place since April 18, 2018; as well the government's consent to create an international Interdisciplinary Group of Independent Experts (GIEI) to investigate those events based on the IACHR's Preliminary Observations following its visit,

DECLARES:

1. Its condemnation of, and call for immediate cessation of acts of violence, intimidation, and threats directed against the general public; and its condolences to the victims of recent violence and their families, as well as its solidarity and support for the people of Nicaragua.

2. Its call upon all political and social actors to refrain from the destruction of property.

3. Its concern regarding the breakdown in the recent dialogue process.

4. Its appeal to the Nicaraguan Government and other social actors to demonstrate commitment and engage constructively in peaceful negotiation with clear outcomes that address the country's fundamental challenges including the strengthening of democratic institutions and the holding of timely, free and fair elections, held in an environment free of fear of intimidation, threats or violence.

5. To affirm, consistent with the principle of non-intervention, the intent and readiness of the OAS to provide support and assistance in: implementing an inclusive dialogue process, establishing the international Interdisciplinary Group of Independent Experts (GIEI), deploying an electoral observation mission in advance of elections, and strengthening democratic institutions in Nicaragua.

6. Its invitation to the IACHR to brief the Permanent Council as soon as possible on the results and outcomes of the working visit, and its intention that the Permanent Council remain seized of the evolving situation.

AG/RES. 2915 (XLVIII-O/18)

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

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 4, 2018)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the reports of the General Secretariat on the White Helmets Initiative, resolutions AG/RES. 1351 (XXV-O/95), AG/RES. 1403 (XXVI-O/96), AG/RES. 1463 (XXVII-O/97), AG/RES. 2018 (XXXIV-O/04), AG/RES. 2165 (XXXVI-O/06), AG/RES. 2372 (XXXVIII-O/08), AG/RES. 2558 (XL-O/10), AG/RES. 2704 (XLII-O/12), AG/RES. 2827 (XLIV-O/14), AG/RES. 2881 (XLVI-O/16), AG/RES. 2904 (XLVII-O/17), and CIDI/RES. 322 (LXXIII-O/17), and declarations AG/DEC. 45 (XXXV-O/05) and AG/DEC. 55 (XXXVII-O/07);

REAFFIRMING the guiding principles of international humanitarian assistance of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and operational independence and the primary and principal responsibility of the State to prevent and reduce disaster risk and to assist and protect disaster victims;

BEARING IN MIND that the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, adopted at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, held in March 2015, in the city of Sendai, Japan, recognizes a need for a broader and more people-centered preventive approach to disaster risk and that disaster risk management contributes to sustainable development;

BEARING IN MIND the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development 2016 - 2021 (PIDS), adopted in AG/RES. 2882 (XLVI-O/16), and the Inter-American Plan for Disaster Prevention and Response and the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance, adopted in AG/RES. 2750 (XLII-O/12);

TAKING NOTE of the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by the UN General Assembly at its session of September 2015, and the results of the World Humanitarian Summit, held in Istanbul, in May 2016;

RECALLING the progress made by the Regional and Global Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction, held in March and June 2017, in Montreal, Canada and Cancun, Mexico, respectively;

EMPHASIZING the progress made by the member states, the inter-American system, and international agencies, international organizations, and international entities in connection with risk management and the coordination of humanitarian assistance;

RECOGNIZING the advancements made by the subregional mechanisms: the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), Coordination Center for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America (CEPREDENAC), Andean Committee for Disaster the Prevention and Relief (CAPRADE), the Southern Common Market's Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities for the Integral Management of Risk (RMAGIR/MERCOSUR), and the Union of South

American Nations High Level Working Group for Disaster Risk Management (GTANGRD/UNASUR), as well as the coordination among them;

EMPHASIZING the importance of promoting the strengthening of regional, national, and local capacities in the area of environment and its association with disaster risk reduction and resilience;

CONFIRMING the importance of continuing to promote regional, national, and local measures for disaster prevention and response, according priority to groups in vulnerable situations, such as women, children, older people, and persons with disabilities, among others;

REITERATING the need to continue carrying out actions for disaster risk reduction, striving to prevent duplication of effort, encouraging resource optimization through the use of existing coordination tools, and making possible synergy among humanitarian efforts in the region;

RECALLING FURTHER that the White Helmets Initiative continues to carry out its activities through a working model based on cooperation, solidarity, and community participation; that it is entirely civilian and relies on a volunteer corps; that this Initiative acts at the request of the affected country or in response to an appeal for international humanitarian assistance and provides its support as an immediate response to disasters, as well as in rehabilitation, reconstruction, and development efforts. It also promotes prevention, disaster risk management, and resilient communities;

HAILING the “Framework Agreement between the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States and the White Helmets Commission of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of the Argentine Republic on Disaster Risk Management, Increased Resilience, and International Humanitarian Assistance,” signed on September 28, 2017, the purpose of which is to collaborate with and support member states with implementation of international and hemispheric frameworks, formation of national volunteer systems, and coordination of international humanitarian assistance;

UNDERSCORING the Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding that White Helmets signed between 2016 and 2018 with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF), the Center for the Coordination of Natural Disaster Prevention in Central America (CEPREDENAC), with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), with the Ministry of the Interior and Land Development of the Republic of El Salvador, the Disaster Prevention, Mitigation, and Response System (SINAPRED) of the Republic of Nicaragua, and with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Panama to support the Regional Logistics Center for Humanitarian Assistance (CLRAH), among others;

EMPHASIZING the adoption of resolution CIDI/RES. 322 (LXXIII-O/17), which designates the White Helmets Special Fund as a “Humanitarian Fund,” under which all of the resources it is allocated can be used to pursue humanitarian assistance activities in the Hemisphere;

EXPRESSING ITS SATISFACTION at the humanitarian assistance provided by the White Helmets Initiative, through missions in which volunteers and/or humanitarian supplies have been dispatched to The Bahamas, Belize, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Dominica, Ecuador, Haiti, Mexico,

Panama, Paraguay, and Peru, in the aftermath of fires, hurricanes, floods, droughts, and earthquakes between 2014 and 2017;

EMPHASIZING AS WELL the projects and training workshops conducted by the Initiative for local volunteers and to strengthen communities in Jamaica, Dominica, Nicaragua, Guatemala, and El Salvador; and

RECOGNIZING that the activities carried out by the White Helmets Initiative are in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the Organization of American States, are carried out at the request of the affected state in close collaboration with its relevant national authorities, and are governed by with the principles of humanitarian assistance,

RESOLVES:

1. To reiterate its support for the White Helmets Initiative as one of the valuable mechanisms in the Hemisphere for disaster prevention, reduction, and response and in the fight against hunger and poverty.

2. To encourage the White Helmets Initiative to continue fostering the growing regional humanitarian collaboration and, in that framework, to continue sharing its experience and best practices in disaster prevention, preparedness, and response.

3. To encourage the General Secretariat to continue strengthening and coordinating action between the White Helmets Initiative and the Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI), as well as with other bodies and mechanisms of the Organization of American States, facilitating the establishment of partnerships and working agreements between other organizations and institutions in the region and the White Helmets Initiative, in accordance with and adapted to the Guidelines for the Participation of Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities, preserving at all times the scope, principles, and responsibilities of the different forms of relationship created.

4. To entrust the General Secretariat and White Helmets Initiative to continue exploring joint humanitarian assistance activities in Member States that so request, based on identified needs, building on the positive experience of the OAS-WH Mission deployed in Dominica to support the water resilience systems that were affected by the passage of Hurricane Maria.

5. To reiterate the invitation for member states to make contributions to the “OAS-White Helmets Humanitarian Fund,” so they can continue seminars and training workshops on disaster risk reduction and the execution of capacity-building projects in areas related to resilience, disaster risk prevention and mitigation and international humanitarian assistance.

6. To request the General Secretariat to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-first regular session, on 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. 2916 (XLVIII-O/18)

ADVANCING HEMISPHERIC INITIATIVES ON INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 4, 2018)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

BEARING IN MIND the importance of fostering integral development as one of the essential purposes of the Organization as contained in instruments of the inter-American system, such as the Charter of the Organization of American States, the Inter-American Democratic Charter, and the Social Charter of the Americas, as well as the agreed mandates and the initiatives emanating from the Summits of the Americas;^{1/2/}

REITERATING that the work of the Organization of American States relating to the development pillar is governed by the Strategic Plan of the Organization for the 2016-2020 period [AG/RES. 1 (LI-E/16)], which is aligned with, and contributes to the implementation of, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as the general framework within which it acts;

EMBRACING the outcomes of the meetings of ministers and high authorities within the framework of Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) in the areas of sustainable development, social development, culture, cooperation, education, science and technology, labor and tourism, as well as the sectoral processes on ports, competitiveness, micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises, and sustainable energy;

GIVING CONTINUITY to the provisions of the previous resolution “Advancing Hemispheric Initiatives on Integral Development” [AG/RES. 2904 (XLVII-O/17)] of the forty-seven regular session of the General Assembly;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the Inter-American Program for the Promotion and Protection of the Human Rights of Migrants, Including Migrant Workers and Their Families; resolution AG/RES. 2910 (XLVII-O/17), “Migration in the Americas,” and the document “Future Framework of Action for the CAM” (CIDI/CAM/doc.11/14 rev. 4); and

RECOGNIZING the progress made by the Secretariat within the framework of the Comprehensive Strategic Plan of the Organization for 2016-2020 [AG/RES. 1 (LI-E/16)] pursuant to its seven strategic lines and its objectives for the integral development pillar and in accordance with the Annual Report of the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (CIDI/doc.250/18 rev. 2),

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1. The Government of the Republic of Nicaragua has expressly stated its reservations to the mandates and initiatives emanating from the Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh Summits of the Americas, ...
 2. The Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela reiterates the reservations that it formulated in the Declaration and Plan of Action of Quebec City, adopted at the Third Summit of the Americas ...

RESOLVES:

I. REGARDING THE STRATEGIC LINE: "PROMOTING INCLUSIVE AND COMPETITIVE ECONOMIES"

1. To thank the governments of the following member states that hosted high-level events in support of this strategic line since the forty-seventh regular session of the General Assembly, as well as for their hospitality, leadership and commitment:

- Mexico, for the V Inter-American Dialogue of High-Level Authorities of Micro, Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (MSMEs), held in Puerto Vallarta from May 15 to 17, 2017, and for the meeting of the Inter-American Competitiveness Network (RIAC), held in Mexico City from September 13 to 15, 2017;
- Colombia, for the Fifth Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Science and Technology in the framework of CIDI, held in Medellín on November 2 and 3, 2017;
- Guyana, for the XXIV Inter-American Congress of Ministers and High-Level Authorities of Tourism, held in Georgetown Guyana, on March 21 and 22, 2018; and
- The United States, for the 7th and 8th Americas Competitiveness Exchanges (ACE), in Texas from April 2 to 7, 2017 and in Florida from December 3 to 9, 2017.

2. To accept with satisfaction the kind offers of the following member states to host high-level events next year, and to urge the authorities of all member states to take part in these meetings:

- Mexico, for the Eleventh Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Ports (CIP), to be held in Mexico City on August 1 to 3, 2018;
- Barbados, for its offer to host the Eighth Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities within the Framework of CIDI;
- Argentina, for its offer to serve as pro tempore Chair of the RIAC and to host the XI Americas Competitiveness Forum in 2019;
- El Salvador, for its offer to host the VI Inter-American Dialogue of High-Level Authorities of Micro, Small, and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) in 2019; and
- The United States, for its offer to host the 10th Americas Competitiveness Exchange in California in October 2018.

3. To endorse the Declaration of Medellín, "Science, Technology, and Innovation as Pillars of Transformation in the Americas" (CIDI/REMICYT-V/DEC. 1/17 rev. 1), adopted at the Fifth Meeting of Ministers and High-Level of Authorities on Science and Technology in the framework of CIDI, held in Medellín, Colombia. This Declaration recommends the inclusion of transformative technologies in development innovative policies and regional cooperation programs aimed at generating knowledge, creative skills and problem solving capabilities required for the jobs

of the future and of Industry 4.0. Likewise, the Declaration reflects the will to collaborate in promoting new skills focused on practical aspects of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, to create spaces to increase interactions between research, the private sector, and society. It also highlights the need to actively support the inclusion of women and children, and groups in vulnerable situations in the areas of science, technology, and innovation so they may improve their learning opportunities and access to leadership and other decision-making positions.

4. To take note of the 2017-2019 Work Plan, "Promoting inclusive and competitive economies," adopted at the V Inter-American Dialogue of High-Level Authorities of Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs), whereby the decision was made to focus efforts to strengthen the MSMEs in the Americas, in the political dialogue, cooperation and capacity-building. The Working Group of MSMEs High-Level Authorities agreed to meet on a regular basis by means of virtual forums and meetings in order to foster regional dialogue on public policies and share experiences. Additionally, it was also agreed to create an online data base to provide information on successful policies, programs, and support practices to the MSMEs sector.

5. To instruct the General Secretariat to continue to promote, as resources permit, the development of the OAS-supported initiative on Small Business Development Centers throughout the Hemisphere that supports and helps improve competitiveness, innovation, and internationalization of MSMEs and enhances their capacity to respond to the needs of the local economy.

6. To take note of the 2017-2019 Plan of Action for the Inter-American Competitiveness Network (RIAC) that focuses on promoting high added value services, "Servification" and Productive Transformation. The plan also seeks to foster regional collaboration to seize opportunities arising from the diversification of the productive structure and the strengthening of the competitiveness of traditional sectors contributing to the creation of quality jobs in the Americas.

7. To instruct the General Secretariat to continue to promote, as resources permit, the Americas Competitiveness Exchange as a practical initiative to strengthen cooperation and sharing of best practices on competitiveness and innovation in member states.

8. To endorse the Declaration of Georgetown "Connecting the Americas through Sustainable Tourism" (CIDI/TUR-XXIV /DEC.1/18), adopted at the XXIV Inter-American Congress of Ministers and High-Level Authorities of Tourism held in the city of Georgetown, Guyana. This Declaration recognizes the importance of continuing to work to expand connectivity and increase sustainable tourism in the region, including through partnerships in the public and private sectors. It also encourages the competent authorities of other tourism related sectors to analyze and implement coordinated policies to achieve optimal development in connectivity and increase sustainable tourism benefits; encourages relevant authorities to adopt air transportation policies that enhance connectivity; calls for the exchange of experiences and good practices; highlights the importance of tourism sector resiliency to natural disasters; and requests the presentation of a work plan for the implementation of mandates.

II. REGARDING THE STRATEGIC LINE: “STRENGTHENING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE INTER-AMERICAN PROGRAM FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (PIDS) 2016-2021”

9. To thank the Government of Chile for hosting the Third Ministerial Meeting of the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA), held in Viña del Mar, on September 7 and 8, 2017, and for its hospitality, leadership, and commitment to this process.

10. To take note of the Guiding Principles and Action Plan of ECPA 2018-2019, adopted at the Third ECPA Ministerial Meeting, that drive the transition towards cleaner, more efficient, safer, and more sustainable energy systems and contribute to promoting energy security, energy efficiency, renewable energy, cleaner and more efficient use of fossil fuels, the development of energy infrastructure, regional energy integration, energy research and innovation, and tackling energy poverty.

11. To accept with satisfaction the offer of the Government of Jamaica to host the Fourth Ministerial Meeting of ECPA in 2019.

12. To instruct the General Secretariat to continue, as resources permit, coordinating disaster risk reduction and resilience efforts, including meetings of the Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction.

13. To instruct SEDI to present for consideration by the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI), a proposal to facilitate, as resources permit, the response to disasters and to strengthen the collaborative provision of assistance by OAS member states, Permanent Observers and other entities to member states affected by disasters, with a view to aligning and optimizing the use of all existing instruments and mechanisms of the OAS; strengthening coordination and collaboration within the framework of the instruments and entities of the Inter-American System and sub-regional mechanisms; and functioning in a coordinated manner with existing mechanisms and agencies of the United Nations (UN) System and other international entities.

14. To remind member states of the importance of articulating its national environmental education policies, strategies and plans, which could contribute to strengthen the ties of cooperation between countries of the region in order to strengthen measures aimed at protecting the environment and promoting harmony with nature and mother earth,^{3/} which is a common expression for the planet earth in a number of countries and regions.

15. To highlight the need to foster the sharing of experiences in environmental knowledge management with a view to addressing common challenges in the inter-American region, including as part of efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda, taking into account the three dimensions of sustainable development.

3. The Government of Chile, in this context and in keeping with language previously agreed upon in other international instruments of the United Nations and the Organization of American States ...

16. To request that SEDI continue, within the framework of the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development, promoting spaces for cooperation and dialogue on sustainable management of ecosystems.

III. REGARDING THE STRATEGIC LINE: “PROMOTING EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT IN THE AMERICAS”

17. To accept with satisfaction the kind offer of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda to host the Tenth Meeting of Ministers of Education within the Framework of CIDI in 2019 and to urge the authorities in the member states to participate.

18. To take note of the 2017-2019 Work Plan of the Inter American Committee on Education (CIE) and urge the CIE to take into account the mandate emanating from the Lima Commitment for advancing an initiative to coordinate hemispheric efforts on civic education within the framework of the Inter American Education Agenda (IEA) in its work.^{4/5/} To also take note of the progress made in the implementation of the IEA, particularly, the advancement of national education projects in 18 member states through \$1.5 million in funding from the Development Cooperation Fund, the Profuturo Foundation's Digital Classrooms in the Caribbean Project for advancing inclusive education and the ongoing work of the Inter American Teacher Education Network (ITEN) to strengthen the teaching profession, including its Regional Seminar for teachers and education policymakers hosted by Panama in April 2018 under the theme “Strengthening the Teaching Profession: Policies, Partnerships and Cooperation to Support the Education Agenda in the Americas”.

19. To instruct the General Secretariat to continue supporting the CIE and member states in the implementation of the IEA, including through the adequate staffing of the Technical Secretariat of the CIE, as resources permit.

20. To encourage the CIE to continue to promote lifelong learning in the activities carried out in its Work Plan, in accordance with the commitment to quality, inclusive and equitable education in the IEA.

21. To take note of the fulfillment of the mandate of the CIDI Working Group to analyze and assess the functioning of all OAS scholarship and training programs and to reiterate the member states firm commitment to the OAS Scholarship and Training Programs.

22. To endorse the provisional and comprehensive recommendations emanated from that Working Group and approved by CIDI (CIDI/doc.239/17 and CIDI/doc.256/18), and to task CIDI with overseeing the implementation of these mandates.

4. With respect to the Eighth Summit of the Americas, the Republic of Nicaragua does not approve the Lima Commitment “Democratic Governance against Corruption” or any other documents, ...

5. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela does not recognize the “Lima Commitment” adopted by the “participating States” at the Eighth Summit of the Americas. In addition, it reiterates its ...

IV. REGARDING THE STRATEGIC LINE: “PROMOTING DECENT, DIGNIFIED, AND PRODUCTIVE WORK FOR ALL”

23. To thank the Government of Barbados for hosting the Twentieth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor (IACML) in Bridgetown on December 7 and 8, 2017, and for its hospitality, leadership, and commitment to this process.

24. To endorse the Declaration and Plan of Action of Bridgetown, "Building on our achievements and advancing toward social justice, decent work, and sustainable development in the Americas," (CIDI/TRABAJO/DEC.1/17 rev.1 and CIDI/TRABAJO/ doc.7/17 rev. 2), adopted at the Twentieth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor (IACML), that seek, among others, to promote national and regional efforts to achieve better coordination between ministries of education and labor, address the challenges of the future of work, strengthen social dialogue, foster sustainable enterprises, advance gender equality, the protection of labor rights, and promote access to opportunities for groups in vulnerable situations.

25. To encourage member states to continue their efforts to coordinate plans and strategies that can contribute to job placement of groups in vulnerable situations, especially youth, by promoting policies that contribute to boost quality education systems that facilitate youth employment in order to increase productivity of their communities and countries.

V. REGARDING THE STRATEGIC LINE: “FOSTERING THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF MIGRANTS, INCLUDING MIGRANT WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE INTER-AMERICAN PROGRAM ON THIS SUBJECT TO ENHANCE THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO DEVELOPMENT”

26. To take note of the meeting of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development to follow up on the Inter-American Program for the Promotion and Protection of the Human Rights of Migrants, Including Migrant Workers and Their Families, and to disseminate the best practices presented in that context. Also to contribute to funding of the activities in support of that Program; to urge the General Secretariat to allocate resources from the Regular Fund to organs, agencies, and entities of the OAS; and to invite member states to make voluntary contributions for the establishment of the specific fund for voluntary contributions.

27. To highlight the contribution of the Committee on Migration Issues (CAM) to the United Nations Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration through its referral of resolution AG/RES. 2910 (XLVII-O/17), “Migration in the Americas,” and to instruct the CAM to shadow the process through to adoption and then follow-up on its implementation in accordance with the mechanisms that the Compact will establish. Likewise, to continue promoting the cooperation and coordination between the CAM and the Regional Consultative Processes on Migration.⁶

28. To highlight the outcomes of the “Migrants Count in the Americas” media campaign to recognize the contributions of migrants in all areas of sustainable development in countries of origin, transit and destination; as well as the meetings held in that connection; and to instruct the

6. The United States has decided to end its participation in the UN process to develop a global compact for safe, orderly, and regular migration (GCM). In addition, the process to develop ...

General Secretariat, through the Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity, to continue disseminating those contributions on its digital platforms until the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration is adopted. Also, to thank the International Organization for Migration (IOM) for its support as a campaign partner.^{7/}

29. To highlight the dialogue and exchange of experience on socioeconomic reintegration of returned migrants and to instruct the CAM, in coordination with member states, appropriate areas of the General Secretariat, international agencies, and other actors, to identify possibilities for partnerships, exchange of good practices and coordination mechanisms that would help to strengthen existing programs in that regard in the region.

30. To recognize that the challenges of migration in the Hemisphere should be addressed through constructive dialogue among all member states and actors concerned, strengthening international, regional, and bilateral cooperation and coordination in order to address the challenges and opportunities of migration.

31. To encourage member states to strengthen their public policies to guarantee the promotion and protection of the human rights of migrants, regardless of their immigration status, especially those of groups in vulnerable situation such as women, children, adolescents, older adults and persons with disabilities; and urge them to apply and reinforce, as appropriate, laws and policies in force to combat racial discrimination, xenophobia and stigmatization, as well as migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons in countries of origin, transit, destination and return.⁸

32. To take note of the outcomes and recommendations of the High-Level Forum on the Flows of Irregular Migrants in the Americas held in San Jose, Costa Rica, on September 12 and 13, 2017, which provided a venue for dialogue, reflection, and analysis on the phenomenon of irregular migration in the Hemisphere. The dialogue also provided a reference point for sharing good practices and formulating recommendations for migration issues in the region.

33. To underscore the importance of the Continuous Reporting System on International Migration for the Americas (SICREMI) as instrument in the region for generating and analyzing information on migration flows, regulatory frameworks, and public policies on international migration, in support of the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and with the forthcoming Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. Also, to encourage member states to join this initiative, to request the General Secretariat to allocate resources from the Regular Fund, and to invite member states and permanent observer countries to make voluntary contributions to its financial sustainability.^{9/}

7. The United States has decided to end its participation in the UN process to develop a global compact for safe, orderly, and regular migration (GCM). In addition, the process to develop ...

8. The Permanent Mission of Ecuador to the OAS reiterates the traditional position of the Republic of Ecuador of rejecting the criminalization of migration, which puts at risk the human rights of ...

9. The United States has decided to end its participation in the UN process to develop a global compact for safe, orderly, and regular migration (GCM). In addition, the process to develop ...

VI. REGARDING THE STRATEGIC LINE: “FOSTER COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PARTNERSHIPS”

34. To note with satisfaction of the convocation of the Second Specialized Meeting of CIDI of High Authorities of Cooperation, to be held at the OAS headquarters in Washington, D.C., on September 6 and 7, 2018.

35. To encourage all member states to contribute to the Development Cooperation Fund so as to ensure the Fund’s operations.

36. To highlight the importance of continuing to foster the use Cooperanet as a tool that promotes cooperation between and among members states and strategic alliances between them and other actors to address the pressing development challenges in the region.

VII. REGARDING THE STRATEGIC LINE: “FOSTERING SOCIAL INCLUSION WITH EQUITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE AMERICAS”

37. To accept with satisfaction the kind offer of the Government of Guatemala to host the Fourth Meeting of Ministers and High-level Authorities of Social Development within the Framework of CIDI to be held in Antigua on September 27-28, 2018, and to urge the authorities in the member states to participate.

38. To thank the Government of Argentina for its leadership and commitment as chair of the OAS Consumer Safety and Health Network (CSHN) for the 2016-2017 period, as well as the Government of Mexico for hosting the CSHN’s Fourth Annual Regular Meeting in Guadalajara, Jalisco (October 25, 2017) and the Workshop on Product Safety in the Americas (October 26-27, 2017), and for its hospitality, leadership, and commitment.

39. To take note of the CSHN Work Plan approved at the Network’s Fourth Annual Regular Meeting, and to instruct the General Secretariat to continue supporting, as resources permit, the work of the CSHN, in a manner consistent with the Strategic Plan of the Organization.

40. To urge member states and permanent observers that are part of the CSHN to contribute to the voluntary fund, so as to ensure that the work of the CSHN remain sustainable; and to invite those who are not members of the Network to join the CSHN to enhance national and regional capacities for cooperation on early detection of hazardous consumer products and the application of coordinated action by the competent agencies.

41. To request CIDI to include in its work plan the holding of a special meeting to commemorate the International Year of Indigenous Languages in the first semester of 2019, taking into consideration resolution 71/178 of the United Nations General Assembly, resolution AG/RES. 2898 (XLVII-O/17) “2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages” and the Plan of Plan of Action on the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2017-2021) [(AG/RES. 2913 (XLVII-O/17)] and with the purpose of highlighting the relevance of indigenous languages for the transfer of knowledge from generation to generation and the dissemination of cultures and traditions, as well as to contribute to their preservation, revitalization, and promotion.

42. To reiterate the recommendation in the preambular section of the Integral Development pillar of the OAS Comprehensive Strategic Plan calling for special consideration to promotion and protection of the human rights of children and adolescents, and request the General Secretariat, within the framework of existing resources, to continue including this issue as a crosscutting theme in the different sectoral processes, in consultation with the Inter-American Children’s Institute (IIN) as the OAS agency specializing in public policy on children and adolescents, and with emphasis on the importance of creating opportunities to include children and adolescent in the formulation and implementation of public policies.

VIII. REGARDING THE CONTINUATION OF SECTORAL PROCESSES WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF CIDI:

43. To thank the authorities of the CIDI ministerial processes for their efforts to adjust to the new triennial ministerial cycle.

44. To take note of the amendments made by CIDI to its rules of procedure, adopted through resolution CIDI/RES. 328 (LXXIX-O/18), “Updating the Rules of Procedure of CIDI to adjust them to the triennial ministerial cycle.”

45. To adopt the following schedule of meetings of Ministers and High-level Authorities within the framework of CIDI and to instruct the General Secretariat to continue implementing the guidelines agreed to in the triennial ministerial cycle in coordination with the competent authorities in each sector.

Sectoral Process	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
1. Tourism	XXIV Tourism Ministerial (Guyana, March 21-22)		II CITUR meeting	XXV Tourism Ministerial (Paraguay)		III CITUR meeting
2. Ports	X CIP meeting (Mexico, 1-3 August)		XI CIP meeting (host TBD)		XII CIP meeting (host TBD)	
3. Education	VIII CIE meeting (OAS, Aug. 20-21)	X Education Ministerial (Antigua and Barbuda)		IX CIE meeting	XI Education Ministerial (host TBD)	
4. Cooperation	II Cooperation Ministerial (OAS HQ, Sept. 6-7)			III Cooperation Ministerial (host TBD)		
5. Social Development	IV Social Development Ministerial (Guatemala, 27-28 Sept.)		V CIDES meeting	V Social Development Ministerial (host TBD)		VI CIDES meeting

Sectoral Process	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
6. Culture	VIII Culture Ministerial (Barbados, Nov. 15-16)		VI CIC meeting	IX Culture Ministerial (Guatemala)		VII CIC meeting
7. Sustainable Development		IV Sustainable Development Ministerial (host TBD)		VI CIDS meeting	V Sustainable Development Ministerial (host TBD)	
8. Science and Technology		IX COMCyT meeting	VI Science & Tech. Ministerial Jamaica		X COMCyT meeting	VII Science & Tech. Ministerial (host TBD)
9. Labor		Labor WG meeting	XXI Labor Ministerial (host TBD)		Labor WG meeting	XXII Labor Ministerial (host TBD)
<i>Other meetings* (for reference only)</i>		XI Americas Competitiveness Forum and RIAC (Argentina) VI MSME High-level dialogue (El Salvador) IV ECPA (Jamaica)				

* Other sectoral process meetings that support CIDI's priorities but which, as at the adoption of this resolution, were not considered official ministerial processes subject to the triennial ministerial cycle and did not receive funding from the OAS Regular Fund.

Acronyms:

CIC: Inter-American Committee on Culture

CIDES: Inter-American Committee on Social Development

CIDS: Inter-American Committee on Sustainable Development

CIE: Inter-American Committee on Education

CIP: Inter-American Committee on Ports

CITUR: Inter-American Committee on Tourism

COMCyT: Inter-American Committee on Science and Technology

ECPA: Energy and Climate Partnership for the Americas

RIAC: Inter-American Competitiveness Network

MSME: Micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises

IX. REGARDING THE MONITORING OF ADVANCES, CONTRIBUTIONS AND RESOURCES:

46. To request CIDI to report to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth regular session on the implementation of this resolution.

47. To thank those member states that have contributed financial, logistical, and human resources to support the programs and activities mentioned in this resolution, and to request the General Secretariat to continue developing new partnerships.

48. To reiterate that the 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.

FOOTNOTES

1. ... due to the fact that the Heads of State and Government at those Summits did not adopt the political declarations containing the mandates and the operative paragraphs on the thematic areas that were part of the political declaration.

2. ... (Canada, April 20 to 22, 2001), and those expressed in the Declaration of Nuevo León, adopted at the Special Summit of the Americas (Monterrey, Mexico, January 12 and 13, 2004).

3. ... (OAS), does not interpret the term “Mother Earth” as being synonymous with or generally used to refer to nature or the planet Earth. Moreover, they note that the expression “harmony with Mother Earth” is not universally accepted. The language in the paragraph should not be regarded as a precedent for future negotiations.

4. ... declarations, communiqués, or resolutions issued by the Eighth Summit of the Americas because it was not involved in their negotiation.

5. ... denunciation and rejection of the decision of the Government of Peru to accord itself the power unilaterally to adopt, without any basis in law, a decision on the participation of a member state in the meetings of the SIRG (Summit Implementation Review Group) and in the Eighth Summit of the Americas. Aside from breaching the Agreement between the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States and the Government of the Republic of Peru on holding the Eighth Summit of the Americas, this practice sets a very dangerous precedent that violates the most fundamental principles of public international law, as well as basic standards governing the organization and participation of States in multilateral meetings.

At the same time, we appeal to the OAS member states to consider the pertinence of maintaining the Summits Secretariat in the Organization, given that in the support that it provided to the Eighth Summit of the Americas that entity violated the rules of the OAS, as recognized in the Charter of the Organization, by pandering to the arbitrary decisions of the host country.

6. ... the GCM is still underway and its content and adoption should not be pre-judged. For this reason, we must disassociate from this paragraph as well as operative paragraphs 28 and 33.

7. ... the GCM is still underway and its content and adoption should not be pre-judged. For this reason, we must disassociate from this paragraph as well as operative paragraphs 27 and 33.

8. ... migrants and their families. Human mobility is a never-ending social dynamic latterly accentuated by globalization. Furthermore, migrants and their families move about in exercise of their human right to freedom of movement and labor. Lack of immigration documents is not a criminal offense and migrants cannot, therefore, be subject to criminal prosecution or confined in detention centers together with common criminals. Ecuador would have like to have included in paragraph 31 of the draft resolution a reference to the concept of “non-criminalization” of migrants and their families; however, its proposals have not garnered sufficient support for that purpose. It has withdrawn them in order to allow a general consensus on the draft resolution overall. However, it hereby sets down on record its position on non-criminalization of migrants.

9. ... the GCM is still underway and its content and adoption should not be pre-judged. For this reason, we must disassociate from this paragraph as well as operative paragraphs 27 and 28.

AG/RES. 2917 (XLVIII-O/18)

THE LEADING ROLE OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES IN DEVELOPING
TELECOMMUNICATIONS/INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES
THROUGH THE INTER-AMERICAN TELECOMMUNICATION COMMISSION (CITEL)

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 4, 2018)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

BEARING IN MIND the Seventh Regular Meeting of the Assembly of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL), held March 13-15, 2018, which approved resolutions with a view to referring them for consideration of the forty-eighth regular session of the OAS General Assembly;

HAVING SEEN the amendments to the Regulations and Statute of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL) approved at the Seventh Regular Meeting of the Assembly of CITEL by means of resolution CITEL/RES. 88 (VII-18);

ACKNOWLEDGING that the modifications to the CITEL Statute approved by the Assembly of CITEL, in keeping with Articles 5 and 34 of the CITEL Statute, are subject to approval of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) and that the modifications to the CITEL Regulations, approved by the Assembly of CITEL, must be forwarded to the OAS General Assembly for its information;

HAVING SEEN resolution CITEL/RES. 80 (VII-18) regarding “Strengthening CITEL within the OAS,” approved by the Seventh Regular Meeting of the Assembly of CITEL through resolution CITEL/RES. 80 (VII-18) in which CITEL invites the OAS General Assembly to renew its commitment to the financial sustainability of CITEL; and

CONSIDERING:

That telecommunications and information and communication technologies (ICTs) are key enabling tools for social and economic development, and consequently for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

That CITEL is the specialized agency of the OAS for telecommunications and ICTs, and as such effectively contributes to the implementation of the four pillars of the OAS and the mandates and initiatives of the Summits of the Americas.

That it is important to strengthen CITEL as the key forum for cooperation on telecommunications and ICTs in the Americas, particularly its role in which agreements are debated and reached with regard to digital inclusion, development of telecommunications infrastructure, use of the radio spectrum, and creation of an enabling environment for ICT investment.

That having evaluated the positive results of the work CITELE has been undertaking, it is necessary to ensure its financial sustainability to guarantee it has the necessary tools to continue its work and implement its Strategic Plan 2018-2022 in alignment with the Comprehensive Strategic Plan.

RESOLVES:

1. To retroactively approve the modifications to the CITELE Statute contained in Annex 1 of this resolution as of the date of their approval at the Seventh Regular Meeting of the Assembly of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITELE) by means of resolution CITELE/RES. 88 (VII-18).

2. To take note of the modifications to the CITELE Regulations approved at the Seventh Regular Meeting of the Assembly of CITELE through resolution CITELE/RES. 88 (VII-18) contained in Annex 2 of this resolution.

3. To encourage OAS member states to step up horizontal cooperation and exchange of information, experiences, and best practices among themselves with regard to telecommunications and information and communication technologies (ICTs), with the support of the CITELE Executive Secretariat.

4. To instruct the OAS General Secretariat to take into consideration the financial needs of CITELE when preparing a draft program-budget for 2019 for consideration by the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs (CAAP) and approval of the General Assembly at its fifty-third special session, in keeping with resolution CITELE/RES. 80 (VII-18), adopted at the Seventh Regular Meeting of the Assembly of CITELE, so that CITELE may comply with its objectives and mission and optimize its operations.

5. To request the CITELE Executive Secretariat to report to the forty-ninth regular session of the OAS General Assembly on the implementation of this resolution, the execution of which will be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

**REFORM OF THE STATUTE OF THE
INTER-AMERICAN TELECOMMUNICATION COMMISSION (CITEL)^{1/}**

**CHAPTER ONE
ORGANIZATION, FUNCTIONS AND MEMBERSHIP**

**Article 1
Nature, Mission, and Vision**

The Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL) is an entity of the Organization of American States (hereinafter "the Organization"), established by the General Assembly, in accordance with Article 53 of the Charter of the Organization.

CITEL has the mission to facilitate and promote the integral and sustainable development of interoperable, innovative and reliable telecommunications/ICTs in the Americas, under the principles of universality, equity and affordability.

The vision of CITEL is the full integration of the American States into the Global Information Society and the digital economy, with a view to enabling and accelerating social, economic, cultural and environmentally sustainable development for all the region's inhabitants through the development of telecommunications and information and communication technologies (ICTs).

CITEL enjoys technical autonomy in the performance of its functions, within the limits of the Charter of the Organization, this Statute, and the mandates of the General Assembly of the Organization.

**Article 2
Structure**

CITEL shall achieve its objectives through the following bodies:

- a. The Assembly of CITEL;
- b. The Permanent Executive Committee (COM/CITEL);
- c. The Permanent Consultative Committees; and
- d. The Secretariat.

1. CITEL/RES.88 (VII-18)

Article 3

Objectives and Functions

Objectives

- a. To facilitate and promote, by all means available to it, the continuing development of telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) (hereinafter telecommunications/ICTs) in the Hemisphere in pursuance of sustainable development.
- b. To promote and foster the existence of appropriate telecommunications/ICTs that contribute to the integral development process in the region, with particular attention to underserved areas.
- c. To organize promote, and evaluate the periodic holding of meetings of technicians and experts to study planning, financing, construction, operation, standardization, technical assistance, maintenance, and other matters related to the use and development of telecommunications/ICTs in the Americas.
- d. To promote the unification of criteria and technical standards for the installation, operation, and maintenance of systems, in order to obtain maximum benefit from the facilities available to each country and to the region in general, in the global standardization framework of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and other relevant standardization organizations.
- e. To promote and study technical assistance, in agreement with the governments of the respective countries, giving priority to the needs of developing countries.
- f. To foster the improvement and harmonization of administrative, financial, and operational procedures for the planning, installation, improvement, maintenance, and operation of the telecommunications/ICT networks of the Member States of CITELE.
- g. To recommend studies and promote the adoption of official agreements among governments of Member States of the Organization for the integral development of telecommunications/ICT in the Hemisphere.
- h. To promote and encourage the study and dissemination of the impact of telecommunications on the environment and climate change and their relationship to ICTs, in keeping with policies developed by the ITU and other organizations with competence in this area.
- i. To promote the harmonization, equitable access, and efficient use of the radio spectrum among the Member States, devoting special attention to the needs of developing countries.
- j. To promote and encourage the use and appropriation of telecommunications/ICTs in the Hemisphere, particularly by women, girls, and people with special needs.
- k. To promote capacity-building in the Member States of CITELE to better attain their objectives.
- l. To foster the engagement of the telecommunications/ICT industry, the academia, relevant organization of the civil society or others related to telecommunications/ICT or Internet sector in the work of CITELE.

Functions

- a. To serve as the Organization's leading advisory body in all matters relating to telecommunications/ICTs in the Hemisphere.
- b. To promote or undertake studies and programs for the sustainable development of telecommunications/ICTs

- c. To compile and disseminate to the member states of the Organization information pertaining to the fulfillment of the objectives of CITEL, as well as any other information that may be of interest, including the results of the work of the Commission.
- d. To maintain ongoing contact with the various international governmental and nongovernmental organizations in the field of telecommunications/ICTs, and to promote mutual cooperation and coordination of their activities with those of the OAS Member States and Associate Members of CITEL.
- e. To analyze, propose, and implement different forms of financing to support the approved plans and projects.
- f. To study the technical, legal, economic, policy, and regulatory aspects of telecommunications/ICTs of relevance to the region.
- g. To make recommendations in the area of telecommunications/ICTs to the governments of the Member States of CITEL, taking into account those made by the ITU and by other relevant organizations.
- h. To consider matters related to inter-American cooperation in the field of telecommunications/ICTs assigned to it by the General Assembly and the Summit of the Americas.
- i. To promote the development of new applications that promote the inclusion of the region's countries in the Knowledge-based Society.
- j. To identify mechanisms to encourage participation by all Member States in the meetings of CITEL, and to increase the number of associate members.
- k. To promote the coordination of positions among the Member States for the different international telecommunications/ICT conferences, assemblies, and meetings.

Article 4 Membership

The following States can be members of CITEL:

- a. All the Member States of the Organization.
- b. Other American States that are not members of the Organization, whose request for membership in CITEL is favorably decided upon by the CITEL Assembly and the General Assembly of the Organization, because of the special interest shown by those governments in cooperating in the attainment of the purpose and objectives of CITEL.

CHAPTER TWO CITEL ASSEMBLY

Article 5 Purpose and Functions

Purpose

It is the apex body of CITEL and is composed of the Member States of the Organization.

It serves as an inter-American forum in which the highest telecommunications/ICT authorities of the Member States of the Organization share opinions and experiences and make appropriate decisions to direct their activities towards achieving its assigned objectives and mandates.

Functions

- a. Establishing the policies for achieving the objectives and functions set out in Article 3 of this Statute.
- b. Adopting the Strategic Plan of CITEL.
- c. Establishing the mandates for each of the bodies of CITEL.
- d. Electing the members of COM/CITEL.
- e. Establishing the Permanent Consultative Committees (PCCs) and appointing its Chairs.
- f. Approving the request for membership of CITEL of American States that are not members of the Organization, subject to ratification by the General Assembly of the Organization.
- g. Proposing amendments to this Statute for approval by the General Assembly of the Organization.
- h. Approving the CITEL Regulations and submitting them to the General Assembly of the Organization for its information.
- i. Approving the report on the financial situation of CITEL.
- j. Establishing the amount of the fee to be paid by the associate members of the PCCs and the participation fee for observers.

Article 6 Place and Frequency of Meetings

CITEL shall hold a Regular Meeting of the CITEL Assembly every four years, in the place and dates -approved by COM/CITEL in accordance with the principle of rotation set forth in the Regulations.

The CITEL Assembly may hold Special Meetings as provided in the Regulations.

Article 7 Participation in the CITEL Assembly

Delegations

Each Member State is entitled to send a delegation to the CITEL Assembly. The delegation of each Member State may include a head of delegation, an alternate head of delegation, and such delegates and advisors as that State may accredit.

Secretary General of the Organization

The Secretary General of the Organization, or his representative, may participate with voice but without vote in the deliberations of the CITEL Assembly, both in the plenary sessions and in the committees and subcommittees.

Observers

The following may be represented by observers at a meeting of the CITEL Assembly with the right to voice but without vote:

- a. Permanent Observers to the Organization.
- b. Subject to COM/CITEL's approval, those American States that are not Members of the Organization and which have asked to participate in the meeting.
- c. Subject to COM/CITEL's approval, those Non-American States that are Members of the United Nations or its specialized Agencies and which have asked to participate in the meeting.
- d. Inter-American specialized organizations and entities of the Organization, and Inter-American intergovernmental regional organizations.
- e. The United Nations and its specialized agencies.
- f. International and national organizations that are parties to agreements or arrangements establishing relations of cooperation with the Organization, with its organs, organizations or agencies, when such agreements or arrangements provide for participation of observers.
- g. Subject to COM/CITEL's approval, those international, regional, sub regional and national agencies and organizations that are involved in telecommunications/ICT activities in the region and which have asked to participate in the meeting.
- h. The Associate Members of the Permanent Consultative Committees.

Guests

Subject to COM/CITEL's approval and in consultation with the government of the host country, other persons or institutions not covered in this Article as may be deemed advisable, may attend the CITEL Assembly as guests, as defined in the Regulations.

Article 8 Officers of the CITEL Assembly

There shall be a Chair and two Vice Chairs of the CITEL Assembly, elected at the first plenary session, by an absolute majority of the Member States represented at the Assembly. Before the election of the Chair of the CITEL Assembly, the Chair of COM/CITEL shall serve as the provisional Chair.

Article 9 Agenda

COM/CITEL shall prepare the preliminary agenda for each CITEL Assembly meeting, and shall submit it to the Member States for consideration, at least three (3) months in advance of the opening of the CITEL Assembly Meeting. The Member States shall have thirty consecutive days to present their observations on the draft agenda to the Chair of COM/CITEL. On the basis of these observations, COM/CITEL shall draw up the final agenda.

The agenda so approved, may be amended or otherwise modified only during the Meeting of the CITEL Assembly by a vote of two thirds of the participating Member States.

Article 10 Sessions and Meetings

Each Meeting of the CITEL Assembly shall consist of such Plenary Sessions as are required to complete the Agenda for the Meeting and the sessions of the Committees of the CITEL Assembly as provided under this Statute.

Article 11 Committees

There shall be a Steering Committee, a Credentials Committee and a Style Committee, as further provided in the Regulations.

The CITEL Assembly may establish such other committees, subcommittees, and working groups when required.

Article 12 Quorum

For Plenary Sessions, the presence of more than half of the Member States shall constitute a quorum.

For committees, subcommittees, and working groups of the CITEL Assembly, the presence of more than half of the Member States of the body concerned shall constitute a quorum.

Article 13 Voting

The decisions of the CITEL Assembly shall be adopted at the plenary sessions and consensus shall always be sought. Each delegation of a Member State shall have the right to one vote. The right to vote does not imply an obligation to vote.

In the absence of consensus in the deliberations, the decisions of the CITEL Assembly shall be adopted by the vote of an absolute majority of the Member States participating, except in those cases where a two-thirds vote of the participating Member States is expressly required.

In the committees, subcommittees, and working groups, decisions shall be adopted by a simple majority.

For the purposes of this Statute, the term "absolute majority" means more than half of the votes of the Member States participating in a meeting of the CITEL Assembly. The term "simple majority" means more than half of those present and voting in any given session of a Committee, subcommittee, or working group.

CHAPTER THREE
THE PERMANENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (COM/CITEL)

Article 14
Membership

The Permanent Executive Committee (COM/CITEL) is the executive organ of CITEL. It is composed of representatives of thirteen Member States elected at the CITEL Assembly, who shall serve until the next Regular Meeting of the Assembly.

One of the members The Chair shall be the representative of the Member State hosting the meeting of the CITEL Assembly in which the election takes place. The Vice-Chair shall be the representative of the Member State in whose territory the next Regular Meeting of the CITEL Assembly will be held. In the election of the remaining eleven Member States, the principles of rotation and of an equitable geographic representation shall be observed, insofar as possible.

Article 15
Installation Session and Officers

COM/CITEL shall be installed by the Chair of the CITEL Assembly before the closing of the Meeting at which the Member States that are to serve on COM/CITEL are elected.

At the installation session of COM/CITEL, the Chair of the CITEL Assembly shall be appointed Chair of COM/CITEL. The representative of the Member State that has offered to host the next Regular Meeting of the CITEL Assembly shall become the Vice-Chair of COM/CITEL.

Article 16
Chair of COM/CITEL

The Chair of COM/CITEL shall have the following specific responsibilities:

- a. To preside over the meetings of COM/CITEL.
- b. To preside initially at the CITEL Assemblies.
- c. To represent CITEL before other Organs of the Organization, the governmental telecommunications/ICTs entities of the CITEL Members, and other organizations that participate in telecommunications/ICT development activities in the Americas.
- d. To supervise and coordinate the fulfillment of the responsibilities of COM/CITEL, especially during the interim between Regular Meetings.
- e. To direct and coordinate the meetings and forums, that COM/CITEL may conduct with other entities of the regional telecommunications/ICT sector, or with other international entities.
- f. To coordinate with the General Secretariat of the OAS in accordance with its internal structure, the process of presenting candidacies for the position of Executive Secretary of CITEL.

Article 17
Functions of COM/CITEL

The following are functions of COM/CITEL:

- a. To carry out the decisions of the CITEL Assembly, taking into consideration the recommendations of the General Assembly of the Organization and the mandates from the Summit of the Americas related to telecommunications/ICTs.
- b. To carry out and enforce the objectives of Article 3 of this Statute.
- c. To set the date for the Regular and Special Meetings of the CITEL Assembly, the site for the Special Meetings of the CITEL Assembly, and to change either or both as necessary.
- d. To prepare the draft agendas for the Regular and Special Meetings of the CITEL Assembly and to submit them to the governments of the Member States of CITEL for consideration, through the Executive Secretary, pursuant to Article 9 of this Statute.
- e. To propose to the CITEL Assembly any amendments it may consider necessary to introduce to this Statute and the Regulations.
- f. To establish a work program for the Secretariat and for the office of the Chair of COM/CITEL for implementation of the decisions of the CITEL Assembly.
- g. To adopt any urgent measures, which cannot be deferred until the next meeting of the CITEL Assembly and which shall remain in force until the CITEL Assembly can consider them.
- h. Through its Chair or some other designated member of COM/CITEL, to represent CITEL at world, regional, or national meetings or conferences on telecommunications/ICTs or related activities.
- i. With the cooperation of the Secretariat, to prepare studies, drafts of inter-American conventions and treaties, and any other documents relating to telecommunications/ICTs in the Hemisphere.
- j. Through the Secretary General and the appropriate Council of the Organization, to present to the General Assembly an annual report on the activities of CITEL.
- k. To establish such technical committees and working groups as it may consider necessary, determining their work programs.
- l. Within the framework of CITEL's objectives, to plan and coordinate inter-American activities in the area of telecommunications/ICTs.
- m. To review and approve a work program based on the program-budget approved by the General Assembly and an annual proposed budget for CITEL in pursuance of the provisions of Article 112 (c) of the Charter of the Organization; ensuring the strictest possible economy, mindful of the obligation upon CITEL to achieve satisfactory results from the work programs undertaken.
- n. To approve the annual training plan and oversee its implementation.
- o. To ensure fulfillment of the Strategic Plan adopted by the Assembly.
- p. To approve the participation of observers and guests in the meetings of the Assembly of CITEL.
- q. To coordinate CITEL's preparatory processes for the ITU's Plenipotentiary Conference and meetings of the Council.

- r. To provide the SG of the OAS the profile and the selection criteria for candidates to occupy the position of Executive Secretary of CITELE and receive nominations from interested Member States.
- s. To select three candidates to occupy the position of Executive Secretary of CITELE and provide the names to the Secretary General for his or her consideration to select one candidate in accordance with the OAS General Standards.
- t. To participate in the process of determining the membership, recruitment, and selection of the Secretariat of CITELE.
- u. If no consensus is reached, Article 20 herein shall apply.

Article 18 **Meetings and Headquarters of COM/CITELE**

COM/CITELE shall meet at least once a year, in the country represented by its Chair, in another country, or at the headquarters of the General Secretariat of the Organization as the Committee may decide at its preceding meeting. In the event special meetings are held, they may be attendance-based or online.

Any Member State which is not a member of COM/CITELE may participate in the meetings of COM/CITELE and of its working groups, with voice but without vote. In the case of CITELE's preparatory processes for the ITU Plenipotentiary Conferences, they shall have both voice and vote.

In consultation with COM/CITELE members, the Chair may invite representatives of specialized agencies or experts in matters to be considered at the meetings to advise as required.

The Member State elected to preside over COM/CITELE shall organize, at its expense, and under the exclusive responsibility of the Chair, an office in accordance with the Regulations.

Article 19 **Quorum**

More than half of the members of COM/CITELE shall constitute quorum for a COM/CITELE meeting.

Article 20 **Voting**

In the deliberations of COM/CITELE, each Member State shall have one vote, and in the absence of consensus, the decisions of COM/CITELE shall be adopted by the vote of an absolute majority of the quorum. However, on questions of procedure, decisions shall be taken by a simple majority of those present and voting. In the latter case, abstentions shall not be counted as votes cast.

Article 21
Travel Expenses

Travel expenses of the Chair of COM/CITEL or some other member acting on his behalf, to attend a meeting of an international agency as the representative of CITEL, shall be defrayed by the Organization as provided in the Organization's Program-Budget.

Travel expenses incurred by the members of COM/CITEL to attend its meetings or those of the CITEL Assembly shall be defrayed by the respective Member States they represent.

CHAPTER FOUR
PERMANENT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES (PCCs)

Article 22
Purpose

The purpose of Permanent Consultative Committees is to provide advice to all those entities that constitute the regional telecommunications/ICT sector, in matters relating to their respective areas of competence.

Article 23
Structure of the Permanent Consultative Committees

Organization

The CITEL Assembly shall organize the Permanent Consultative Committees it considers necessary to attain the objectives defined in Article 3 of this Statute and shall elect the host countries of the Permanent Consultative Committees, observing to the extent possible, the principles of rotation and an equitable geographic distribution.

Officers

The representative appointed by the host country of the Permanent Consultative Committee shall be the Chair of the Committee and shall have the duties set forth in the Regulations. Each Permanent Consultative Committee may establish up to three vice chairmanships.

The Member State that presides over the Permanent Consultative Committee shall organize, at its expense, and under the exclusive responsibility of the Chair, an office in accordance with the Regulations.

Meetings

The Permanent Consultative Committees shall meet at least once a year preferably in the country holding the Chair, and those Committees shall decide on the date and place of the meeting. The Vice-Chairs shall be responsible for assisting the Chair in his duties, and may offer to host an additional meeting of the Consultative Committee if deemed necessary.

Each Consultative Committee may set up working groups which shall submit reports concerning their activities to the Consultative Committee.

Papers, studies, decisions, and draft resolutions of the Permanent Consultative Committees that are to be considered by the CITEL Assembly shall be submitted to COM/CITEL at least four months before a meeting of the CITEL Assembly takes place.

In the absence of consensus in the deliberations of the Permanent Consultative Committees, draft resolutions shall be adopted in accordance with the voting procedures set forth in the Regulations. The approval will always require the favorable vote of at least one-third of the Member States.

Article 24
Participation in the Permanent Consultative Committees: Members,
Associate Members and Observers

The Member States and associate members of CITEL, whose rights and obligations are defined in this Statute, collaborate with a view to attaining the objectives of CITEL.

Members

Each CITEL Member State may appoint a representative to each Permanent Consultative Committee. The representative shall be a specialist in telecommunications/ICTs, who may be removed or replaced by the Member State simply by notifying the Executive Secretary of CITEL of its decision to do so.

Associate Members

1. Any academic entity, organization, institution, or industry related to telecommunications/ICTs which has legal personality in one of the Member States and with the approval of any such State, or which has legal personality in a non-Member State and with the approval of three Member States of CITEL, may become an associate member of a Permanent Consultative Committee. The Member States shall notify the Chair of COM/CITEL in writing of the names of the entities, organizations, or institutions they have approved. Any entity, organization, or institution shall cease to be an associate member in the event that any of the Member States withdraws its approval.
2. An international or regional inter-governmental organization with multiple memberships of States of the Americas that is related to telecommunications/ICTs and has legal personality may become an associate member of a Permanent Consultative Committee with the approval of COM/CITEL. This international or regional organization shall cease to be an associate member in the event that approval is withdrawn by COM/CITEL.
3. Associate members of a Permanent Consultative Committee may fully participate in all the activities of that Permanent Consultative Committee, with voice but without vote. They may present technical papers, contributions to CITEL Working Groups, including draft

Resolutions, Recommendations and Decisions, with exception to non-informative documents to the CITEL Working Groups on the Preparations of CITEL for ITU Conferences and Assemblies, and receive the documents of the Committee to which they pertain.

Observers

The terms and manner of participation of observers are dealt with in the Regulations.

CHAPTER FIVE THE SECRETARIAT

Article 25 Purposes and Functions

The Secretariat is the central and permanent administrative organ of CITEL. It shall coordinate the administrative services required for implementing the decisions of the CITEL Assembly, COM/CITEL, and the Permanent Consultative Committees, and it shall perform such other functions as are assigned by those organs.

Article 26 The Executive Secretary of CITEL

COM/CITEL shall propose to the Secretary General a short list of three candidates for the position of Executive Secretary of CITEL, whose functions shall include:

- a. Performance of technical and administrative duties entrusted to the Secretariat, and coordination of the administrative services provided by the Secretariat.
- b. Preparation and submission to COM/CITEL and to the Secretary General of the Organization of the proposed Program-Budget of income and expenditure of CITEL.
- c. Representation of the Secretary General of the Organization, when so authorized, with voice but without vote, in the meetings of the CITEL Assembly, COM/CITEL, and the Permanent Consultative Committees.
- d. Assistance in the coordination and implementation of the work plans of the Permanent Consultative Committees and the working groups of COM/CITEL.
- e. Preparations for holding the Regular and Special Meetings of the CITEL Assembly.

The Executive Secretary of CITEL shall perform those functions in accordance with the General Standards Governing the Operation of the General Secretariat of the Organization ("General Standards") and such other rules and regulations that apply to the General Secretariat and its personnel.

Article 27 Secretariat Services

The General Secretariat of the Organization shall provide secretariat services to CITEL in accordance with the allocation of funds in the Program-Budget of the Organization and the

Secretary General shall appoint the technical and administrative personnel provide those services in accordance with the General Standards and such other rules and regulations governing the operations of the General Secretariat of the Organization.

CHAPTER SIX EXPENSES AND FUNDS OF CITEL

Article 28 CITEL Funding Sources

The resources of CITEL operations will come from:

- a. The Regular Fund of the Organization; and
- b. Specific Funds.

Each Member State of CITEL shall bear the expenses of its representatives.

Article 29 Specific Funds

The General Secretariat shall establish the following Specific Funds, pursuant to Article 74 of the General Standards for the Operations of the General Secretariat of the Organization.

- a. A Supplementary Fund for the Activities of the Permanent Consultative Committees to be funded by voluntary contributions from CITEL Members and by fees from associate members, as determined by the CITEL Regulations.
- b. A Supplementary Fund for Development Activities within CITEL's work program, to be funded by specific gifts, donations, and contributions.
- c. A Supplementary Fund for Support of General Operations, to be funded by voluntary contributions of CITEL Member States.

Accounting for these Specific Funds shall be carried out in accordance with the General Standards and Financial Rules and Regulations of the Organization.

CHAPTER SEVEN OFFICIAL AND WORKING LANGUAGES

Article 30 Official Languages

English, French, Portuguese, and Spanish are the official languages of the CITEL.

Article 31
Working Languages

Spanish and English shall be the working languages. For the Regular and Special Meetings of the CITEL Assembly, the Executive Secretary shall inquire of the CITEL Members concerned if simultaneous interpretation into French and Portuguese will be necessary. The working documents of CITEL shall be made available in Spanish and English. Delegations may present their proposals to the CITEL Assembly in any of the official languages of CITEL.

Article 32
Documents

The draft resolutions, recommendations and decisions, and any amendments thereto, as well as the decisions of the CITEL Assembly, shall be published in the official languages. The CITEL annual report and the reports of the CITEL Assembly meetings shall be published in the official languages. Other documents emanating from CITEL shall be published in the working languages.

CHAPTER EIGHT
GENERAL PROVISIONS REGARDING THE STATUTE AND RULES OF PROCEDURES

Article 33
Governing Norms

CITEL shall be governed by the present Statute, by its Regulations, and by the resolutions of the General Assembly of the Organization.

Article 34
Amendments

The present Statute, approved by the General Assembly of the Organization, may be amended only by the General Assembly, at its own initiative or upon CITEL's request as provided under CITEL's Regulations.

Article 35
CITEL Regulations

CITEL shall adopt its Regulations in accordance with this Statute and shall submit them to the General Assembly of the Organization with its first annual report.

Article 36
Entry into force

The present Statute shall enter into force on the date of its approval by the General Assembly.

**REFORM OF THE REGULATIONS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN
TELECOMMUNICATION COMMISSION (CITEL)^{1/}**

(For the information of the OAS General Assembly)

**CHAPTER I
NATURE, ORGANIZATION AND MEMBERSHIP**

**Article 1
Nature**

1. CITEL is governed by its Statute and these Regulations. The Regulations complement the Statute, which was approved by Resolution of the OAS General Assembly, and serve to provide more specific rules for the operation, administration, and procedures of CITEL for the achievement of its purposes and objectives.

2. In case of conflict between the Statute and these Regulations, the Statute shall take precedence.

3. The technical autonomy of CITEL, established pursuant to the Statute, includes:

- a. The capacity and competence to freely program its activities within the scope of Article 1 of the Statute;
- b. A direct technical relationship with the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (hereafter "the Organization") notwithstanding its obligation to submit its Annual Report of activities to the Permanent Council of the Organization, so that the Council has the opportunity to present its observations and recommendations to the General Assembly pursuant to Article 91(f) of the Charter of the Organization;
- c. Direct contact with the Secretary General of the Organization for all administrative and budgetary matters;
- d. Competence to establish relations with other international organizations that participate in the development of telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICT) (hereinafter telecommunications/ICT) throughout the American States; and
- e. Participation in the planning of technical assistance to CITEL members.

**Article 2
Organization**

CITEL fulfills its objectives through: the CITEL Assembly, the Permanent Executive Committee (COM/CITEL), the Permanent Consultative Committees, and the Secretariat. The aforementioned shall include such committees, sub-committees, working groups and ad hoc groups,

1. CITEL/doc.574/18 rev. 2 corr. 1

joint working groups and rapporteurships as may be established in accordance with these Regulations.

Article 3
Applications for Membership

Any American State which is not a member of the Organization and wants to join CITEL must submit its membership request to the Secretary General of the Organization, who shall transmit it to COM/CITEL for study and recommendation before it is considered by the CITEL Assembly and approved by the General Assembly of the Organization.

Article 4
Liaison

Each Member State shall notify the Executive Secretary of CITEL, in writing, within thirty days of the termination of the Regular Meeting of the CITEL Assembly, the name of the institution and the person within the institution that will serve as the official liaison between CITEL and that Member State with respect to telecommunications/ICT. The person appointed shall serve as the official to whom and from whom, official correspondence shall be addressed and exchanged, including all notices, technical contributions to meetings, reports of meetings, and accreditation letters.

CHAPTER II

THE CITEL ASSEMBLY

A. MEETINGS

Article 5
Regular Meetings

1. CITEL shall schedule the Regular Meeting of the CITEL Assembly, preferably every four years, during the first quarter of the year.
2. The exact date of the ordinary meeting of the Assembly will be discussed and approved by COM/CITEL at least one year before said Assembly.
3. The Regular Meetings shall be numbered consecutively.

Article 6
Meeting Site, Principle of Rotation

In application of the principle of rotation in selecting the country where a Regular Meeting of the CITEL Assembly is to take place, it is understood that the Regular Meeting shall not be held in the territory of a Member State if another Member State in which fewer meetings have been held should offer its territory for this purpose. Recognized regional affinities shall also be considered when

applying the principle of rotation, e.g. North America, Central America, Andean, Caribbean Region, or other distinguishable regional affinities.

Article 7 Special Meetings

In special circumstances, at the initiative of the General Assembly of the Organization, on the recommendation of any Council of the Organization, or at the initiative of COM/CITEL, the CITEL Assembly may hold a Special Meeting to consider specific matters, if those matters are of such importance as to preclude waiting for the next Regular Meeting of the Assembly. COM/CITEL will convene and set the date and place for such Special Meeting, subject to available funding.

Article 8 Alternative Site for the Meetings

If for any reason a Regular or Special Meeting of the CITEL Assembly cannot be held in a selected country, it shall be held at the General Secretariat of the Organization headquarters, unless one of the Member States, with sufficient advance notice, offers to host the Assembly, in which case COM/CITEL may agree to hold the meeting in that country.

Article 9 Notice of Convocation of Meetings

The Secretary General of the Organization, or by delegation, the CITEL Executive Secretary, shall transmit the notice of convocation of the CITEL Assembly Meeting and the invitations to the participants as soon as the country offering to host the Assembly confirms to the CITEL Secretariat the exact date, city and specific location for the meeting, and that it has available sufficient funds for that purpose. The country offering to host the Assembly shall provide this information to the Executive Secretary and to COM/CITEL at least one year before the next Regular Meeting of the CITEL Assembly.

B. PARTICIPANTS

Article 10 Delegations

“Delegation” means the person or persons designated as representatives of a country to participate in the Assembly. If the delegation is composed of more than one delegate, a head of delegation shall be designated.

Each head of delegation may delegate his duties to the alternate head, or if there is none, to any other member of the delegation. Each Member State shall endeavor to designate to its delegations representatives who are versed in telecommunications/ICT. Delegations shall have the right to participate with voice and vote, in all public and private meetings of the Assembly, including its committees, subcommittees, working groups and ad hoc groups, in accordance with these Regulations and any special Rules of Procedure adopted for such meetings.

Article 11 Credentials

Accreditation of the members of each delegation shall be made by the respective governments by means of written communications to the Executive Secretary, granting the delegates full powers to participate in the decisions on subjects included in the agenda of the sessions of the Assembly.

Article 12 Order of Precedence

At the informal heads of delegation meeting prior to the opening session of the Assembly shall establish an order of precedence for the delegations. This order of precedence shall be used for the delegations' location in the meeting room, in the voting process and in the use of the floor whenever the delegations are requested to give their opinions on some subject-matter.

Article 13 Permanent Observers to the Organization

1. States that are Permanent Observers to the Organization shall enjoy the same status in the CITEI and any of its organs. They shall accredit their respective representatives to participate in the meetings of the CITEI Assembly, by means of a written communication addressed to the Executive Secretary.

2. The representatives of the Permanent Observers may attend the public sessions of the CITEI Assembly Meetings, and of its principal committees and, when invited by the corresponding presiding officer, the private sessions. With the permission of the presiding officer, Permanent Observers may speak at any meeting.

Article 14 Observers from Inter -American Specialized Organizations, Organs of the OAS, and Inter-American Intergovernmental Regional Organizations

Representatives of Inter American specialized organizations and organs of the OAS, and Inter-American intergovernmental regional organizations may attend the CITEI Assembly as observers. With the permission of the presiding officer, those representatives may speak at the meeting or address the meeting in writing.

Article 15 Observers from the United Nations

Representatives of the United Nations and its specialized agencies may attend the Meetings of the CITEI Assembly as observers. With the permission of the presiding officer, they may speak at the meeting or address the meeting in writing.

Article 16 **Other Observers**

1. International and national organizations that are parties to agreements or arrangements establishing relations of cooperation with the Organization, its organs, organizations or agencies may also attend the CITEL Assembly meetings when such agreements or arrangements provide for the participation of observers.

2. Subject to COM/CITEL's approval, the following may send observers to the CITEL Assembly:

- a. American States that are not Members or Permanent Observers of the Organization who have asked to participate in the meeting.
- b. Non-American States that are Members of the United Nations or its specialized agencies who have asked to participate in the meeting.
- c. International, regional, subregional, and national agencies and organizations that are involved in telecommunications/ICT activities in the region who have asked to participate in the meeting.

3. The observers referred to in this Article may speak at the plenary session of the CITEL Assembly or at the sessions of its principal committees, only when invited to do so by the corresponding presiding officer, because of special interest or expertise in a specific topic of discussion. Similarly, such observers may provide written statements on such topics when expressly authorized or requested to do so by the presiding officer.

4. The participation of the observers referred to in this Article, before the CITEL Assembly, is without prejudice to the status that they may have, as associate members of the PCC, in accordance with Article 73 of the Regulations

5. Unless otherwise specified by COM/CITEL, any State or entity referred to in Article 16 that wishes to participate in a meeting of the CITEL Assembly as an observer, shall apply to attend, in writing, to the Chair of COM/CITEL, at least sixty days before the anticipated opening of that meeting of the CITEL Assembly. The Chair of COM/CITEL shall consult such applications with the Members of COM/CITEL, and if there are no objections, the corresponding invitations shall be extended in accordance with Article 9 of these Regulations.

Article 17 **Observers Participation of associate members**

Active associate members may attend the public sessions of the CITEL Assembly as observers. These observers may speak at the plenary sessions of the CITEL Assembly or at the sessions of its principal committees only when invited to do so by the corresponding presiding officer because of special interest or expertise in a specific topic of discussion. Similarly, such observers may provide written statements on such topics when expressly authorized or requested to do so by the presiding officer.

Article 18
Observer's Participation Fee

1. Distribution of documents of the meetings of the CITEL Assembly to the categories of observers identified in Articles 13, 14 and 15 of these Regulations, shall be governed by the applicable principles, practices and rules of the Organization.

2. Distribution of documents of the meetings of the Assembly to the observers identified in Article 16 shall be conditioned upon payment of a fee to cover the administrative cost of that category of observer's participation in the meeting. This fee, called a "participation fee", shall be equivalent to 15% of the "contributory unit" corresponding to an associate member.

3. Notwithstanding the foregoing, COM/CITEL may decide to exempt payment of the participation fee by any observer, covered by Article 16, where CITEL is exempted from making similar payments to that observer, on the basis of reciprocity.

Article 19
Guests

1. Subject to COM/CITEL's approval and in consultation with the government of the host country, any person or entity not covered in Article 16, that is a recognized authority or that has a particular interest in the field of telecommunications/ICT, may attend the meetings of the CITEL Assembly as a guest. COM/CITEL will develop guidelines to determine qualifications for guests.

2. Individuals or entities wishing to participate as guests to a meeting of the CITEL Assembly, under this Article, should apply in writing to the Chair of COM/CITEL no later than forty five days prior to the scheduled start of the CITEL Assembly meeting. The Chair of COM/CITEL will consult with COM/CITEL members and, with their consent, extend the corresponding invitations pursuant to Article 9 of these Regulations, unless the Government of the host country objects.

3. Guests may attend the plenary meetings and the meetings of the committees for the sole purpose of following the discussions. However, they may take part in committee discussions only if they are requested to do so by the Chair of the Committee and there is no objection from any Member State present. Guests shall not receive copies of contributions, papers or reports of the proceedings, unless COM/CITEL decides to provide the documents to a guest when it approves an invitation.

C. ASSEMBLY OFFICERS

Article 20
Election of the Chair and Vice Chairs

The Assembly Chair and both Vice Chairs shall be elected in the first plenary session, in accordance with the procedures outlined in Article 8 of the Statute. These officials will remain in office until the Assembly is adjourned.

Article 21
Duties of the Chair of the CITEL Assembly

1. The Assembly Chair shall:
 - a. Convoke plenary sessions;
 - b. Establish the order of business of the sessions;
 - c. Open and close the plenary sessions and direct their discussions;
 - d. Grant the floor to the participants in the order in which they request it, giving precedence to representatives of the Member States when appropriate;
 - e. Put the topics under discussion to a vote, and announce the decisions taken;
 - f. Rule on points of order being submitted to the Assembly for consideration;
 - g. Establish the working committees, and
 - h. In general, ensure compliance with these Regulations.

2. When any speaker departs from the topic under discussion the Assembly Chair may draw this to his attention. Likewise, during the discussion of a topic, the Chair may propose limitation of the time to be allowed to speakers, limitation of the number of times a participant may speak, closure of the list of speakers, or closure of discussion. He may also propose the suspension or adjournment of a session, or postponement of discussion of the matter under consideration.

Article 22
Participation by the Assembly Chair in Voting and Discussion

The Assembly Chair shall not participate from the chair in a substantive discussion, nor shall vote on any matter before the plenary sessions of the Assembly.

Article 23
Duties of the Vice Chairs Acting as Chair

If the Chair is absent from a session or from part of it, one of the Vice Chairs shall take his place, according to the order of precedence, and shall enjoy the same powers and duties as the Chair.

Article 24
Absence or Impediment of the Chair and Vice Chairs

In the event of the absence or impediment of the Chair and the Vice Chairs of the CITEL Assembly, the Meeting shall be presided over by one of the Chairmen of the working committees, in accordance with the order in which those committees are numbered.

D. AGENDA

Article 25 Agendas for Regular Meetings

1. COM/CITEL shall prepare a preliminary agenda for each Regular Meeting of the CITEL Assembly, to be provided to the Member States for their consideration at least three months in advance of the anticipated opening of the Assembly.

2. In preparing the preliminary agenda, COM/CITEL shall take into account the topics proposed by the governments of the Member States, those mandated by the General Assembly of the Organization, and may take into consideration those recommended by other organs of the Organization.

3. The Member States shall have thirty days to present their observations on the preliminary agenda to the Chair of COM/CITEL. On the basis of these observations, COM/CITEL shall draw-up the agenda for the Assembly meeting.

4. The agenda so approved may be amended or otherwise modified only during the Regular Meeting of the CITEL Assembly by a vote of two thirds of the participating Member States.

Article 26 Agendas for Special Meetings

The agenda of each Special Meeting of the CITEL Assembly shall be confined to the subject or subjects for which the Meeting was convoked. The procedures and time periods for the preparation of the agenda of a Special Meeting shall be established in each case by COM/CITEL.

Article 27 Reports and Proposals

1. In general, the CITEL Assembly shall consider two kinds of papers: reports and proposals. Reports shall be informative in nature, while proposals shall be submitted to the Assembly for its consideration. During an Assembly meeting, other forms of work or technical contributions may be requested. The documents thus submitted shall not include any information of a promotional or commercial nature.

2. Reports and proposals shall normally be presented to the Executive Secretary fifteen days in advance of the date set for the opening of the CITEL Assembly, in order to permit their distribution to the Member States in CITEL working languages, together with the report of COM/CITEL and that of the Secretariat. Documents that do not meet the deadlines set in this Article will be presented at the meeting of heads of delegation to determine whether they are to be considered as information or working documents during said meeting. The Executive Secretary shall make such documents available to the Member States as they are received, by the most suitable means, before the start of a meeting.

E. SESSIONS

Article 28 Informal Meeting of Heads of Delegations

Prior to the inaugural session, the heads of delegations of the Member States or their alternates shall meet informally, upon being called together by the Chair of COM/CITEL, to agree on the various aspects concerning the organization of the work of the CITEL Assembly.

Article 29 First Plenary Session

The first plenary session shall be held as soon as possible after the CITEL Assembly Meeting has been inaugurated. At that session, the CITEL Assembly shall elect its officers, and establish the committees referred to in Chapter II section F of these Regulations. Immediately thereafter the working committees shall be installed and their respective officers elected.

Article 30 Adoption of Decisions

The CITEL Assembly shall adopt its decisions in the form of resolutions, recommendations and declarations, at its plenary sessions. The Secretariat shall distribute those decisions immediately after their adoption.

Article 31 Decisions with financial repercussions

Decisions with financial repercussions for the Organization and for CITEL shall include an estimate of the corresponding cost.

Article 32 Public and Private Sessions

1. Plenary sessions at the Assembly and of the working committees shall be public. However, if the Chair so provides or any representative Member State so requests, the session shall be private, and shall so continue unless the members participating in the session decide otherwise.

2. Private Sessions may only be attended by the heads of delegations of the Member States, the members of the delegations designated by those heads and such Secretariat personnel as the Chair of the respective body may expressly authorize in each case.

3. All decisions taken by the CITEL Assembly in a private plenary session shall be announced at the next public plenary session.

4. No plenary, committee, subcommittee, ad hoc group, or working group session shall be held unless the place and time have been announced to participants sufficiently in advance to permit them to attend.

F. COMMITTEES

Article 33 Steering Committee

1. The Steering Committee is made up of the Chair of the CITES Assembly, who shall preside over it, the two Vice Chairs, and the Chairmen of the working committees.

2. The Chair of the CITES Assembly shall convoke the Steering Committee whenever he deems it desirable for the best performance of the work of the Assembly.

3. The task of the Steering Committee is to resolve any difficulties that may arise regarding the functioning of the CITES Assembly and to suggest appropriate solutions to the committees or to a plenary session. For the effective operation of the CITES Assembly, it shall coordinate the work of the working committees.

Article 34 Credentials Committee

1. The Credentials Committee is composed of the representatives of three member states elected at the first plenary session of the CITES Assembly. The Committee shall elect its Chair.

2. The Credentials Committee shall examine the credentials of the delegations and submit a report, before the election of the COM/CITES members and Chairs of the PCCs, to the CITES Assembly forthwith.

Article 35 Style Committee

1. The Style Committee is composed of the representatives of four Member States elected at the first plenary session of the CITES Assembly, each of which shall represent one of the four languages.

2. The Style Committee shall receive the drafts of resolutions and recommendations adopted by committees before they are submitted to a plenary session of the Assembly for its consideration, and shall introduce in them such style changes as it deems necessary. If the Style Committee notes that a draft suffers from defects of form that it cannot correct, then it shall raise the question with the committee concerned, or at a plenary session of the Assembly.

Article 36 Drafting Committee

The Drafting Committee for the working sessions of the Plenary meetings and for the Final Report of the Assembly shall be designated during the first Plenary Session and shall be composed of the first four delegates by order of precedence who volunteer. The Drafting Committee shall draft the minutes of the meeting of the informal session, of each Plenary session, of the inaugural and closing

sessions, as well as the Final Report of the Assembly. The Committee shall present to each Plenary Session a draft report of all preceding sessions.

Article 37
Working Committees

1. The CITELE Assembly shall establish such working committees as it deems desirable for consideration of the various topics on the agenda.

2. A working committee is made up of the delegations of the Member States that wish to take part in that committee.

3. Each working committee shall elect a Chair, and may also elect a vice-Chair and a rapporteur.

4. Each working committee shall study the topics assigned to it by the CITELE Assembly and shall present to the plenary session a report on its discussions, the draft resolutions or proposals considered, and its recommendations.

Article 38
Subcommittees and Working Groups

1. Each working committee may establish such subcommittees and/or working or drafting groups, as it considers advisable. A working committee may also authorize its Chair to appoint to the subcommittees or groups, members who reflect the different views that have been expressed on the matters which the subcommittee or group is to consider.

2. Each subcommittee may establish such working or drafting groups as it may consider necessary. The Chair of each such group shall present to the body that established it, its conclusions or recommendations.

3. Delegations that are not members of a subcommittee, working group, or drafting group, shall have the right to participate in the meetings of these bodies with voice but without vote.

G. QUORUM

Article 39
Quorum

1. For Plenary Sessions, the presence of more than half of the Member States shall constitute a quorum.

2. For committees, subcommittees, and working groups of the CITELE Assembly, the presence of more than half of the members of the body concerned shall constitute a quorum.

H. DEBATES AND PROCEDURES

Article 40 Proposals and Amendments

1. Proposals must be presented in writing to the Secretariat by the Member State delegations no later than the day before the session at which they are to be discussed or submitted to a vote, in order to be distributed in the CITES working languages to participating Member States before deliberation of them begins. However, if no Member State objects, the Chair of the body that is required to deal with the matter may authorize discussion of a proposal that was not duly distributed in time and form.

2. The delegation that presents a proposal shall indicate the working committee that should study it, unless the proposal is one that is required to be submitted to a plenary session for discussion. In case of doubt, the Chair of the Assembly shall decide.

3. Motions to amend a proposal may be made during the deliberations on the proposal.

4. A motion is considered an amendment to a proposal if it merely adds to, deletes from, or revises part of a proposal. A motion that would totally replace the original proposal, or that is not directly related to it, shall not be considered as an amendment.

Article 41 Withdrawals of Proposals

A proposal or an amendment may be withdrawn by its proponent before it has been put to vote. Any delegate may present again a proposal or amendment that has been withdrawn.

Article 42 Reconsideration of Decisions

Proposals concerning decisions that have already been taken may be reconsidered, if a request to do so is made prior to the adjournment of the session at which the proposal was voted upon, or at the session immediately following. In the case of a motion for reconsideration, the floor shall be granted to one speaker to second the motion and to two other speakers to oppose it, after which the motion shall be submitted to a vote. For approval of such a motion, the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members of the body concerned is required. When the motion for reconsideration has been approved, the discussion and vote on the substance of the matter shall be governed by the applicable provisions of these Regulations.

Article 43 Points of Order

During the discussion of a matter, any delegation may raise a point of order, which shall be decided upon immediately by the Chair. Any representative of a delegation may appeal the decision of the Chair, in which case the appeal shall be put to a vote. When raising a point of order, a representative may not speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

Article 44
Suspension of Discussion

The Chair or any representative of a delegation may make a motion that discussion be suspended. Only two such representatives may speak briefly in favor of such a motion and two against it, after which it shall be immediately put to a vote.

Article 45
Close of Discussion

1. Any representative of a delegation may make a motion that debate be closed when he/she considers that a topic has been discussed sufficiently. This motion may be opposed by two representatives of delegations, after which it shall be declared approved if it receives the vote of two-thirds of the delegations present at the session. The Chair may limit the time allowed to speakers under this Article.

2. The Chair may close the debate if he/she considers that it has become repetitive, or if it no longer addresses the issue at hand. In this case, the Chair shall take into consideration the issues which have up to then obtained consensus and establish the way in which the meeting shall proceed. Two delegations may speak briefly against such a decision, after which it shall be declared approved if it receives the vote of two-thirds of the delegations present at the session.

Article 46
Suspension or Adjournment of a Session

During the discussion of any topic, a representative of a delegation may make a motion that the session be suspended or adjourned. Such motions shall be put to a vote immediately, without discussion. The Chair may limit the length of the remarks of the representative who proposes suspension or adjournment of the session.

Article 47
Order of Procedural Motions

Except as provided in Article 42, the following motions shall have precedence over all other proposals or motions, in the order set forth below:

- a. Suspension of the session.
- b. Adjournment of the session.
- c. Suspension of discussion of the topic under consideration.
- d. Close of the debate of the topic under consideration.

Article 48
General Provisions for All the Deliberative Bodies of the CITEI Assembly Meeting

The general provisions relating to discussion contained in this chapter shall be applicable to the plenary sessions, and to the committees, subcommittees, and working groups of the CITEI Assembly.

I. VOTING

Article 49 Voting on Proposals

Once debate is closed, and if the proposals presented are not approved by consensus, those proposals, together with any proposed amendments, shall be put to a vote. Proposals shall be voted upon in the order in which they are presented, unless the respective body decides to the contrary. After the Chair has announced the start of the voting, no representative may interrupt it, except for a point of order relating to the manner in which the voting is being conducted. The process of voting and vote-counting shall end when the Chair announces the result.

Article 50 Abstentions

For the purpose of establishing the necessary majority, abstentions shall be counted as votes cast.

Article 51 Ties

In the event of a tie, the proposal voted on shall be considered to have been rejected.

Article 52 Repeat Vote

Should any doubt arise as to the results of a vote, any delegation may request that the vote be repeated immediately. The new vote shall be limited to the same delegations that took part in the original vote.

Article 53 Voting on amendments

1. When an amendment to a proposal is presented, the amendment shall be voted on first. When two or more amendments to a proposal are made, the CITELE Assembly shall take a vote first on the one that departs furthest from the original text. The other amendments shall be voted upon in like order. In case of doubt in this regard, they shall be voted upon in the order of their presentation.

2. When the adoption of an amendment necessarily implies the exclusion of another, the latter amendment shall not be put to a vote. If one or more of the amendments are adopted, the complete proposal as amended shall be put to a vote.

3. If any delegation so requests, a proposal or amendment shall be put to a vote by parts. If any delegation is opposed to that request, the body concerned shall decide whether the voting should be by parts. If the request for voting by parts is accepted, the various parts of the proposal or

amendment that are accepted shall be voted upon as a whole. If all the operative parts of a proposal or amendment are rejected, it shall be deemed that it has been rejected entirely.

J. ELECTIONS

Article 54 Rules of procedure

1. If no candidate obtains the vote of an absolute majority of the participating Member States on the first ballot, a second, or if necessary a third ballot shall be taken, limited to the two candidates receiving the largest number of votes. If after the third ballot no candidate has obtained the required majority, the election shall be suspended for a period of up to twenty-four hours. When the election is resumed, up to two additional ballots shall be taken. If neither of the two candidates is elected, the balloting procedure established in this Article shall be started again, with respect to the candidates who are presented.

2. When two or more elected posts are to be filled at the same time and under the same conditions, the candidates obtaining the vote of an absolute majority on the first ballot shall be declared elected. If the number of candidates obtaining such majority is less than the number of persons or members to be elected, there shall be additional ballots to fill the remaining posts, the voting being limited to the candidates who have received the most votes on the previous ballot, in such a way that the number of candidates will not be more than twice the number of posts remaining to be filled.

3. In case of a tie among two or more candidates or Member States, as the case may be, who have received at least the required majority, if the number of places to be filled is less than the number of candidates or Member States who have received the same number of votes, another ballot shall be taken. If the tie is not broken in this second ballot, the elections shall be decided by lot.

K. DOCUMENTS

Article 55 Summary Minutes

Summary minutes shall be kept of the open plenary sessions and of the open committee meetings of the CITELE Assembly. The Secretariat of CITELE shall distribute the summary minutes to the delegations as promptly as possible. The delegations shall present to the Secretariat, within twenty-four hours following the distribution of the summary minutes, any corrections of style they consider necessary. The minutes so corrected and the appendices shall be published as part of the official documentation of the CITELE Assembly. The appendices of the summary minutes shall contain the complete statement of a delegation if the delegation so requests.

Article 56 Summary of the Activities

After the close of the Assembly Meeting, the Secretariat shall prepare and distribute the final report of the Assembly, containing a summary of the activities carried out by it, which shall include

background information on the Assembly; the list of officers of the Assembly and of the Committees, Subcommittees, Working groups and ad hoc groups; the official list of participants; a brief summary of the sessions held, and the decisions adopted by the Assembly in their final form. This document shall be prepared in the four official languages. For this purpose, the Secretariat may request the advice of the delegations to the Permanent Council of the Organization that represent the countries where those languages are spoken, and of COM/CITEL.

Article 57
Filing of Documents

The Secretariat shall be the custodian of the official documents and files of the meetings of the Assembly. The Chair of COM/CITEL shall keep in his possession copies of all these documents and files.

CHAPTER III
THE PERMANENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (COM/CITEL)

Article 58
Length of Term

The Officers and members of COM/CITEL shall occupy their positions until the election of the new members at the next Regular Meeting of the CITEL Assembly.

Article 59
Appointment of Representatives of COM/CITEL

The institution designated to act on behalf of each Member State elected to COM/CITEL, shall appoint a principal representative and an alternate representative, both of them specialized in telecommunications/ICT matters, and the Member State may replace them as it deems advisable. The names of the representatives shall be communicated in writing to the Executive Secretary as soon as they are appointed.

Article 60
Functions

The functions of COM/CITEL are set out in Article 17 of the Statute.

Article 61
Work Program

1. COM/CITEL shall prepare, at each meeting, its work program for the intervening period until its next meeting, and shall set the date and place for its meetings
2. COM/CITEL may establish technical committees, subcommittees, working groups and ad hoc groups, joint working groups and rapporteurships to perform its functions.

Article 62 **Duties of the Chair**

The Chair of COM/CITEL is an ex officio member of all committees of CITEL and shall have the following duties in addition to those identified in the Statute:

- a. To preside provisionally over the Regular and Special Meetings of the CITEL Assembly until the Chair of the Assembly is elected.
- b. To represent CITEL before other organs of the Organization, the governmental telecommunications/ICT entities of the CITEL Members, and other organizations that participate in telecommunications/ICT development activities in the American States.
- c. To see that the functions of COM/CITEL, as provided in Article 17 of the Statute, are performed.
- d. In cooperation with the Executive Secretary, to draw up the agendas for the meetings of COM/CITEL, in consultation with the other members.
- e. To speak for COM/CITEL to the Secretary General of the Organization, and to communicate to him the decisions that COM/CITEL has adopted.
- f. To communicate through the Executive Secretary with the governments of the Member States of CITEL and institutions interested in the objectives of CITEL regarding matters relating to the functioning of CITEL.
- g. To represent CITEL, when COM/CITEL so authorizes him, at public functions and at meetings of international organizations, with authority to delegate this representation to another member of COM/CITEL.
- h. Through the Executive Secretary of CITEL, to present to the Secretary General of the Organization an annual progress report on the activities of CITEL to comply with Article 91 (f) of the Charter of the Organization.
- i. With the assistance of the Executive Secretary, to make known and to coordinate on behalf of COM/CITEL, the work of the technical committees, and working groups established by COM/CITEL and see that it is carried out.
- j. To coordinate the work of the Permanent Consultative Committees, and to see that it is carried out.

Article 63 **Order of Succession**

In the event of temporary impediment of the Chair of COM/CITEL to serve, the Vice-Chair shall replace him/her. In the event of impediment of both, the eldest of the Chairs of the Permanent Consultative Committees shall exercise the duties of the Chair while the impediment lasts.

Article 64 **Headquarters of COM/CITEL**

1. The Member State elected to preside over COM/CITEL shall organize and maintain during its term, at its sole expense, and under the exclusive responsibility of the Chair, an office composed of a full time assistant to the Chair, and all necessary technical and administrative personnel. In addition, that Member State shall provide premises for the office and for meetings, as

well as other suitable work facilities for the best possible performance of COM/CITEL's duties and responsibilities. For all purposes, the office shall be responsible exclusively to the Chair of COM/CITEL, and shall not be dependent upon the General Secretariat of the Organization.

2. The Chair of COM/CITEL shall maintain close cooperative and working relations with the Executive Secretary for purposes of coordination and liaison, as well as for the best possible performance of the various tasks of COM/CITEL. The Chair of COM/CITEL shall send copies of all official correspondence sent or received by him to the Executive Secretary.

Article 65 **Rules of procedure**

1. The main rules governing COM/CITEL meetings, quorum, voting and travel expenses are those contained in Articles 18 to 21 of the Statute

2. COM/CITEL shall adopt its decisions in the form of resolutions, recommendations, or decisions at its plenary sessions.

3. In order to ensure their due deliberation, all draft resolutions, recommendations or decisions presented must be distributed in writing in the CITEL working languages to participating delegations, before the start of the session in which they are to be debated or submitted to a vote. However, if there is no objection on the part of any COM/CITEL Member State present at the meeting, a proposal written in only one of the working languages of CITEL may be discussed and decided upon.

4. If for any reason a regular Meeting of COM/CITEL cannot be held in the country of the Chairperson, it shall be held at the General Secretariat of the Organization headquarters, unless one of the Member states, with sufficient advance notice, offers to host the meeting, in which case COM/CITEL may agree to hold the meeting in that country. In the event special meetings are held, they may be attendance-based or on-line.

5. The General Secretary of the Organization, or by delegation, the CITEL Executive Secretary, shall transmit the notice of the convocation of the Meeting and the invitations to the participants as soon as the country offering to host a meeting confirms to the CITEL Secretariat the exact date, city and specific location for the meeting, and that it has available sufficient funds for that purpose. The country offering to host the meeting shall provide this information to the Executive Secretary no later than sixty days before the proposed date of the meeting.

6. Observers in the categories stipulated in Articles 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17 may attend COM/CITEL meetings as observers on the same conditions as those established in the Regulations for their participation in the CITEL Assembly meetings.

Article 66 **Approval by electronic methods**

When, in view of their urgency, matters to be resolved cannot be left until its next meeting, COM/CITEL may approve resolutions, recommendations, or decisions electronically. Such

resolutions, recommendations, or decisions shall be approved in keeping with such procedures as may be adopted by COM/CITEL for that purpose. The CITEL Secretariat shall keep a written record of the consultation made and its results, and shall inform the Chair and the other members COM/CITEL thereof.

Article 67
Working groups and Committees of COM/CITEL

1. When COM/CITEL establishes a technical committee, subcommittee, a working group, or an ad hoc group, that committee, subcommittee or group shall have its headquarters in the country selected to preside over it. As in the case of the headquarters of COM/CITEL, the country concerned shall provide, at its expense, the staff and the necessary facilities for the performance of its functions.

2. COM/CITEL may invite representatives of associate members to participate in its Working Groups because of a special interest or expertise in a specific topic pertaining to the mandate of the working group.

CHAPTER IV
PERMANENT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES (PCCs)

A. ORGANIZATION AND OFFICERS

Article 68
Establishment and chairmanship of a PCC

1. The CITEL Assembly shall establish the Permanent Consultative Committees (PCCs) that it considers necessary to attain the objectives defined in Article 3 of the Statute together with specific mandates for each PCC. For the selection of countries to chair meetings of the PCCs, the principles of rotation and equitable geographic distribution shall be observed to the extent possible. A PCC shall continue in force until such time as the CITEL Assembly itself, or COM/CITEL, deems its functions and purpose to be concluded. The names of the PCCs are listed in Annex 1 of these Regulations.

2. The countries chairing the PCCs may submit their candidacy for one re-election only. A Member State may not submit its candidacy for a second re-election, if another Member State – which has been elected fewer times – should present its candidacy.

3. Each PCC shall be presided over by the representative appointed by the government of the elected country. Each PCC may establish up to three vice chairmanships to assist the Chair in the performance of his duties. The Chair of each PCC shall recommend to the PCC the number of Vice Chairs he deems appropriate, taking into account insofar as possible an equitable geographical distribution. The countries from which a Vice-Chair is appointed, may host an additional meeting of the PCC in a given year, and in such case, will be responsible for providing meeting sites, personnel, and administrative support for the meeting.

4. Each PCC shall determine its internal work structure, which must fully comply with the provisions of the Statute and these Regulations.

Article 69
Duties of the Chair of a PCC

The Chair of a PCC shall:

- a. Convene the PCC through the Executive Secretary at least once a year, informing the place and date for the meeting approved by COM/CITEL.
- b. Direct the work of the PCC, prepare the material for meetings, as well as studies, decisions, and draft resolutions, and send them to the Chair of COM/CITEL for information and to the Executive Secretary for processing.
- c. Report PCC work results, in writing, every six months, to the Executive Secretary and to the Chair of COM/CITEL.
- d. Report to the CITEL Assembly on matters within the competence of the PCC.
- e. Ensure that the Working Groups, Ad Hoc Groups, and Rapporteurships established, as well as the coordination tasks assigned, operate in accordance with the working procedures that govern PCC activities, as provided in Article 84.
- f. Seek to ensure that all decisions taken by the PCC Plenary are consensus decisions.
- g. Confirm that the quorum provided for in the regulations is present at the meeting.
- h. Inform the Executive Secretary and the Chair of COM/CITEL about the contribution of the PCC's work to the Strategic Plan of CITEL.
- i. Finalize and publish the final report of each CCP meeting up to four weeks from the end of each meeting.

Article 70
Chair's Office

The Member State elected to preside over a PCC shall organize, and maintain at its sole expense, and under the exclusive responsibility of the Chair, an office composed of the necessary technical and administrative personnel. For all purposes, this office shall be responsible exclusively to the Chair of the PCC and shall not be dependent in any way upon the General Secretariat of the Organization.

Article 71
Working Groups, Ad Hoc Groups and Rapporteurships

1. Each PCC may establish working groups and ad hoc groups in accordance with Article 84. Those groups shall submit reports of their activities to the corresponding PCC.

2. PCC shall also establish rapporteurships and appoint rapporteurs for their working groups and ad hoc groups in order to deal with the issues entrusted to said groups. The rapporteurs shall submit their reports to the working groups or ad hoc groups to which they belong.

3. The PCC shall elect the Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Rapporteurs from among those candidates who represent a Member State or an associate member. If the representative designated as

Chair, Vice-Chair, or Rapporteur is no longer able to represent the corresponding Member State or associate member, the aforementioned Member shall designate another representative for the rest of the term.

B. PARTICIPATION IN THE PCC

Article 72 Members

Each CITELE Member State may appoint to a PCC the delegation that it deems relevant, whose members are specialists in telecommunications/ICT in accordance with the method set out in Article 4. A Member State may remove or replace the members of that delegation by notifying the Executive Secretary, in writing, of its decision to do so.

Article 73 Associate Members

1. Associate membership on a PCC is open to:
 - a. Any entity, organization or institution, or academic institution, related to the telecommunications/ICT industry that has legal personality (hereinafter "entity"), provided that the entity's associate membership is approved by the corresponding Member State of CITELE where the "entity" was constituted or has its principal office.
 - b. Any entity related with the telecommunications/ICT industry with legal personality in a non-Member State, whose associate membership is approved by a minimum of three Member States.
 - c. An international or regional inter-governmental, or private, academic, or civil society organization related to telecommunications/ICT and has legal personality (hereinafter "the organization"), with the approval of COM/CITELE.
2. Applications from entities wishing to become associate members of a PCC, if any, must be forwarded to the corresponding Member State, together with an indication of the elected contributory unit and the pertinent information of a contact person to whom procedural information may be sent. The corresponding Member State shall be responsible for examining and approving such applications based on such criteria or procedures for sponsoring associate members as it deems appropriate.
3. In the case of an organization, the application procedures for acquiring the status of associate member of a PCC will be made to COM/CITELE.
4. Where appropriate, the corresponding Member State or COM/CITELE will notify the Executive Secretary of its approval of an application received from an entity or organization,

indicating the elected contributory unit and the pertinent information of the contact person appointed by the entity or the organization to whom procedural information may be sent.

5. The Executive Secretary will notify the requesting entity or organization of the decision made with respect to its application and the procedures which associate membership entails.

6. The Executive Secretary will notify the Chair of COM/CITEL and the Chair of the respective PCC about the admission of the entity referred to in number 5 of this Article. In the case of the admission of an organization, the notification shall be sent only to the Chairperson of the respective PCC.

7. A list of all entities and organizations granted associate membership in each PCC shall be compiled and maintained by the Executive Secretary. The Executive Secretary shall provide the Secretary General of the Organization, all Member States of CITEL and the Chairs of the PCCs with a copy of that list, and shall publish it in available electronic media.

8. An entity shall cease to be an associate member of a PCC if at least one Member State withdraws its approval of that entity. An organization shall cease to be an associate member in the event that COM/CITEL withdraws its approval of that entity.

Article 74 Participation of Associate Members

1. Each associate member has the right to participate in any of the meetings of the PCCs to which the associate member is affiliated by sending one or more representatives. To that end, associate members shall provide in writing to the Executive Secretary the names of their representatives before the opening of each PCC meeting.

2. Associate members of a PCC may fully participate in all the activities of that PCC with voice but without vote. They may submit contributions, technical documents and receive documents from the Committee they belong to, in accordance with what is set out in Article 24 of the Statute. An associate member of any PCC shall be entitled to participate in the work of any joint working group of the PCC to which that associate member belongs, without being requested the payment of additional fees.

3. In order for an associate member to speak on behalf of and in representation of the corresponding Member State, he shall:

- a. Have been previously accredited as part of that Member State delegation, and
- b. Be presented by his/her delegation, before speaking, indicating that his/her verbal statements are as a representative of that Member State.

Article 75

Associate Membership Fee

1. Associate members shall contribute to the funding of their respective PCC, voluntarily choosing the level of contribution. The minimum contributory level shall be "one quarter" of a unit for Associate Members from the academia, "one" unit for associate members with legal personality in one of the Member States and "one and a half" units for the others. All these contributions may be increased in minimum increments of "one half" unit levels, with the exception of Associate Members from the academia, whose minimum increment may be "one quarter" (1/4) of a unit.

2. The monetary value of the unit, stated in U.S.A. dollars, shall be established by the CITEL Assembly, and shall cover membership payment for one calendar year or, as the case may be, for the prorated corresponding part.

3. Associate members shall have until October of each year to notify the Executive Secretary of CITEL of any change in the level of their contributions, which must comply with the provisions of this Article. Any such change shall take effect as of the year immediately following. Associate members that do not indicate any change shall continue to be considered as being at the previously selected contributory level.

4. Associate members shall pay their annual contribution in advance. The due date for the payment of the annual membership fee is January 1 of the corresponding year; however, for a new associate member, the due date during the first year of membership is thirty days after that Member receives notice of its acceptance as an associate member. Associate members who pay their membership fees within sixty days after the due date shall be deemed active associate members. Those who do not pay within this time without informing the Executive Secretary on the reasons for such delay shall be deemed passive associate members, and shall have their membership privileges suspended by the Executive Secretary until such time as their accounts are paid up to date. If the Executive Secretary is satisfied with the justification of the delayed payment of fees by a Member, he may extend the deadline for payment up until June 30 of the corresponding year.

5. Any associate member may renounce membership in any PCC by written notification of such intention to the Executive Secretary. Such renunciation will become effective ninety days from the date of notification. In such a case, membership fees will be prorated on a yearly basis. Passive associate member that is more than two years in arrears in the payment of membership fees shall be deemed to have implicitly renounced membership effective immediately.

6. In case of resignation, associate members shall be liable for their fees up until the effective date of renunciation, and likewise, those who are up to date in their fees shall be considered active associate members up until that same effective date.

7. The Executive Secretary shall make all reasonable efforts to collect past due membership fees and shall report on those efforts annually to COM/CITEL. Membership fees past due for more than three years shall be considered uncollectible and shall be treated accordingly on CITEL's financial statements.

8. Fee incomes shall be credited against the outstanding balance of the earliest fiscal year, as is the practice in the OAS.

Article 76 Observers and Guests

Observers

1. Observers in the categories set out in Articles 13, 14, 15, and 16, paragraph 1 may participate as observers to the PCCs on the same terms as prescribed in Regulations for their participation in the meetings of the CITELE Assembly, by appointing their representatives in a written notice addressed to the Executive Secretary, who will inform the Chair of the corresponding PCC.

2. Observers in the categories referred to in Article 16, paragraph 2 may participate as observers of the PCCs, subject to the approval of their request to participate by the Chair of the corresponding PCC. The request to participate shall be presented in writing to the Executive Secretary of CITELE forty-five days in advance of the corresponding meeting.

3. Observers referred to in Article 16, paragraphs 1 and 2 may speak at the PCC meetings only when invited to do so by the corresponding presiding officer, because of a special interest or expertise in a specific topic of discussion. Similarly, such observers may provide written statements on such topics when expressly authorized or requested to do so by the presiding officer.

Guests

4. An entity involved in telecommunications/ICT or a person with a specific interest in telecommunications/ICT may attend as a guest the meetings of PCCs, its Working Groups, and Ad Hoc Groups under the following conditions:

- a. The person or entity must request the Executive Secretary in writing their interest to participate in a meeting at least forty-five days before the meeting.
- b. The Executive Secretary shall inform the corresponding Chair and the Member States that participate in the group.
- c. If there is no objection and on the instructions of the respective Chair, the Executive Secretary will extend the corresponding invitation.

5. The guests, with the authorization from the Chair, and if there is no objection from a Member State attending the meeting, may receive copy of the documents of the meeting and make verbal or written presentations at the meeting.

C. MEETINGS

Article 77 Meetings

1. Each PCC shall meet at least once a year at a time and place determined by COM/CITEL. The meetings of a PCC shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of these Regulations corresponding to the CITEL Assembly, to the extent that such provisions are applicable.

2. Papers, studies, decisions, and draft resolutions of a PCC which require the consideration of the CITEL Assembly shall be submitted to COM/CITEL at least four months before a meeting of the CITEL Assembly is held.

3. A PCC may hold private sessions restricting participation solely to Members and associate members. The Chair of a PCC, a Working Group, or an Ad Hoc Group may convene private sessions during a meeting at his discretion or at the request of a Member State. However, on the basis of reciprocity, observer organizations may be invited by the Chair to attend these private sessions, if there is no objection from a Member State.

4. If for any reason a Regular Meeting of a Permanent Consultative Committees cannot be held in the country holding the Chair, it shall be held at the seat of the General Secretariat of the Organization, unless one of the Member States, with sufficient advance notice offers to host the meeting.

5. The Secretary General of the Organization, or by delegation, the CITEL Executive Secretary, shall transmit the notice of convocation of the meeting and the invitations to the participants as soon as the country offering to host the meeting confirms to the CITEL Secretariat the exact date, city and specific location for the meeting. The country offering to host a meeting shall provide this information to the Executive Secretary, no later than sixty days before the proposed date of the meeting.

Article 78 Decisions

1. In the absence of consensus in the deliberations of the PCCs, draft resolutions shall be adopted in accordance with the Regulations on voting established in Article 85 of these Regulations. In order to approve a resolution, decision or recommendation by vote or consensus, the PCC meeting must have a quorum of one third of the Member States of CITEL.

2. The approval of any PCC resolution will require the affirmative vote of at least one third of all CITEL Member States.

3. In addition, PCCs may adopt resolutions, decisions, or recommendations by correspondence provided there are no negative responses from the CITEL Member States and applying such procedures as may be established by COM/CITEL.

CHAPTER V

THE SECRETARIAT

Article 79

The Secretariat shall be composed of the Executive Secretary, appointed by the Secretary General of the Organization, in consultation with the members of COM/CITEL, and the professional and administrative staff that the Secretary General appoints in accordance with the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States.

Article 80

The Executive Secretary of CITEL

1. The Executive Secretary of CITEL shall be a person highly versed in the subject matter.
2. In addition to the functions established in the CITEL Statute, the Executive Secretary shall have the following duties:
 - a. To prepare the technical documents assigned to him by the organs of CITEL and the working documents for CITEL meetings.
 - b. To serve as Technical Secretary of the meetings of the CITEL Assembly and of COM/CITEL.
 - c. To see that the minutes, decisions, papers, and draft resolutions of all the organs of CITEL are in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the Organization, the mandates of the General Assembly, the Statute of CITEL, and these Regulations.
 - d. To receive official correspondence relating to CITEL, to deal with it appropriately, and to handle communications regarding the work of the Secretariat, informing the Secretary General of the Organization thereof. Copies of such correspondence shall be sent to the Chair of COM/CITEL.
 - e. To carry out the decisions and tasks that the different organs of CITEL may request.
 - f. To cooperate with the Chair of COM/CITEL in the preparation of the draft agenda for each CITEL Assembly Meeting, as well as in the preparation of the agenda for each COM/CITEL meeting.
 - g. To prepare documents, studies, and reports necessary for each CITEL Assembly and COM/CITEL meetings, taking into account the guidelines established in this regard by COM/CITEL.
 - h. Once COM/CITEL has decided upon the date and place for the regular and special meetings of the Assembly, to so inform the Member States immediately in writing.
 - i. To prepare notices of convocation for the meetings of all CITEL organs.
 - j. To cooperate with COM/CITEL in the preparation of the annual report of CITEL to be presented through the Secretary General to the Permanent Council of the Organization for its consideration.

- k. To keep CITELE Member States permanently informed of technical activities in the telecommunications/ICT field, in accordance with the instructions received from the Chair of COM/CITELE and taking into account the information received by COM/CITELE.
- l. To provide information to and keep world and regional, governmental and nongovernmental entities specializing in ICT abreast of the resolutions and decisions of the CITELE Assembly on telecommunications/ICT matters, for which purpose a periodic newsletter may be utilized.
- m. To provide a periodic information service, with widespread coverage on the progress of telecommunications/ICT and their development in the American States.
- n. To maintain custody of the files containing the official documentation of all the meetings of the CITELE organs.
- o. To represent the Chair of COM/CITELE at public or private functions and at meetings of international organizations, when the Chair so decides.
- p. After consultation with the Chairmen of the PCCs, to prepare and submit to COM/CITELE an annual preliminary draft budget taking into account the directions given by the previous CITELE Assembly Meeting.
- q. To supervise the staff of the CITELE Secretariat, in order to ensure the most effective use of personnel.
- r. To prepare and make available to the Member States and associate members by electronic means the resolutions, recommendations, decisions, and declarations of the organs of CITELE.
- s. To prepare annually, for submission to and approval by COM/CITELE, a schedule of meetings covering the coming two-year period. In preparing the schedule of meetings, the Secretariat should take into consideration the schedule of pertinent OAS, ITU and Regional Organizations meetings, and should also coordinate beforehand with the chairpersons of the various committees.
- t. Regularly to prepare and distribute to the Chair of COM/CITELE and the Chairs of the PCCs a report on the expenditures paid with CITELE financial resources, including associate membership fees.
- u. Maintain the CITELE website updated with current information on the structure, the chair and vice-chairs, the instruments and the meetings of the CITELE Committees and Working Groups.

CHAPTER VI

GENERAL PROVISIONS

A. TRAVEL EXPENSES

Article 81

Travel expenses for staff members of the General Secretariat of the Organization attending any meeting of the CITEL organs, in order to be charged to CITEL's budget, must be expressly provided for and approved in that budget.

B. WORKING METHODS OF CITEL

Article 82

Schedule of Meetings and Agendas

1. Meeting dates should be set well in advance.
 - a. COM/CITEL shall set and distribute a calendar of proposed meetings for all CITEL organs, including specific dates and venues.
 - b. The calendar of proposed meetings should be drawn up to minimize conflict with major activities of the ITU, and as appropriate, with regional meetings of related standards or development organizations.
 - c. To the extent practicable, meetings of CITEL organs provided for in the Statute should be regularized. Additional meetings may be scheduled at the discretion of the Chairmen.
2. Information about the calendar meetings and meeting notices should be published regularly on the CITEL website.
3. COM/CITEL shall prepare a draft preliminary agenda for each Regular Meeting of the CITEL Assembly one year in advance.
4. The Chairmen of the PCCs, with the assistance of the Executive Secretary, shall send proposed agendas for the PCC meetings to all participants of the respective committees at least two months prior to the meeting.

C. INSTRUMENTS

ARTICLE 83

A. Resolution

a. **Definition.** It is a manifestation of the will of an organ, acting within the scope of its jurisdiction, by which it approves measures or actions relating to any of the functions assigned to the corresponding provisions of the Statute of CITEL, Regulations or other resolutions from competent

bodies as a result of the review and judgments made on the issue or issues subject of the resolution. Its application can be either transient or permanent.

- (i) The Resolutions of the Assembly of CITEL may refer, as appropriate, to any of the objectives of CITEL indicated in Article 3 or the functions of the Assembly indicated in Article 5 of the Statute of CITEL;
- (ii) The Resolutions of COM/CITEL may refer, as appropriate, to any of the objectives of CITEL indicated in Article 3 or the functions of the indicated in Article 17 of the Statute of CITEL;
- (iii) The Resolutions of the PCC focus on measures or actions of internal application concerning one or more aspects of a specific topic, within the scope of the jurisdiction assigned to it by the Assembly of CITEL.

b. Format. The format of the Resolutions must consist of a descriptive text and an operative text.

The descriptive text may contain one or more “Whereas” sections that mention the documents, resolutions or legal provisions that have been taken into account as background for the resolution, with one or more "Considering" or "Recitals" being mentioned, in which the facts and rules that justify or necessitate the adoption of the operative text of the resolution are discussed.

The operative text must contain one or more paragraphs on decisions to be made. When deemed necessary, a Resolution may also include in its operative text one or more recommendations and/or instructions either for the Executive Secretary or any other party to which it corresponds.

B. Recommendation

a. Definition It is a manifestation of the will of an organ, acting within the scope of their competence, by which it invites the Administrations of Member States or other deliberative organs of CITEL and the OAS, to accept the opinion and judgment made by the recommending body on different aspects of a specific issue, or to implement it, as appropriate. Its application can be either transient or permanent.

- (i) The recommendations of the Assembly of CITEL may be addressed to the General Assembly of the OAS or any other organ of the OAS, when appropriate, to the authorities of the Member States or any deliberative organ of CITEL;
- (ii) The recommendations of COM/CITEL may be addressed to the Administrations of the Member States, the Assembly of CITEL or to other deliberative organs of CITEL; and where applicable, to the General Assembly of the OAS or any other organ of the OAS, to present CITEL’s position.
- (iii) The recommendations of a PCC may be addressed to its Working Groups or Ad Hoc Groups, to another PCC, to COM/CITEL or to the Assembly of CITEL, through COM/CITEL.

b. Format. The format of the Recommendations must consist of a descriptive text and an operative text.

The descriptive text must have the same characteristics indicated for the descriptive text of the resolutions.

The operative text must contain one or more recommendations. In addition, where applicable, it may contain one or more instructions for the Executive Secretary or any other party to which it corresponds.

C. Decision

a. Definition. It is a manifestation of the will of a body by which it approves, within the scope of its competence, the execution of a specific purely administrative activity. This category includes tasks such as requests for information, the submission of forms to national Administrations, or other similar activities.

b. Format. Decisions do not require descriptive text. In the case of decisions by the PCC, they will be found in the text of the minutes of the meetings; they will also be published in a table in the Final Report of each meeting, numbered consecutively. The Decisions of the Assembly of CITEL and the Permanent Consultative Committee of CITEL will be maintained in the current format.

D. Inter-American Proposals

Preliminary Proposal (PP):

Definition: That which is presented for debate for the purpose of having it acquire the nature of a Draft Inter-American Proposal and then Inter-American Proposal.

Draft Inter-American Proposal (DIAP):

Definition: That Proposal which, after being presented for consideration and debate by the Member States, has the support of more than 1 (one) Administration.

Inter-American Proposal (IAP):

Definition: This is a Preliminary Proposal or Draft Inter-American Proposal about which the Office of Rapporteur for the Preparation of the WTSA/WCIT has finalized its consideration and debate, and has been supported by at least 6 (six) Administrations, and which is not opposed by more than 50% (fifty per cent) of the total number of supports obtained.

E. Inter-American Contributions

An Inter-American Contribution (IAC) is a document that has received the required support, based on the exercise of procedures established by the related PCC, to be approved for submission to an ITU Study Group, Working Party or Advisory Group.

Article 84
Conduct of Meetings and Administrative Support

1. The Secretariat shall provide administrative support to prepare for, conduct, and follow up on all the meetings of the CITELE Assembly, COM/CITELE and each of the PCCs in accordance with the budget, and taking into account the level of support provided by the host country to the meetings.

2. The Chair's reports and the technical contributions or proposals to be considered at each PCC Plenary meeting should be made available to all members as they are received, by the most suitable means, prior to the meeting. Additional technical contributions may be submitted up to the date of the meeting at the discretion of the Chair.

3. The Chair may limit the time for the presentation and discussion of documents, taking into account whether they are information documents or proposals. Information documents shall not be submitted for discussion nor translated, but rather comments will be requested thereon which will also be subject to a time limit. The Chair will have to respect at all times the right to speak of the Member States and the associate members.

4. All documents for meetings of the CITELE Assembly and COM/CITELE are to be translated and distributed by the Secretariat to members in final reproducible form, if possible in English and Spanish, as soon as they are available.

5. Members are encouraged to use modern means of communication to conduct business to the extent possible. This should be the normal way of operation for the working groups, and ad hoc groups to work to minimize the number of meetings.

6. Seminars, and meetings of ad hoc groups and working groups of each PCC should be scheduled, as much as possible, in conjunction with a relevant PCC Plenary meeting.

7. Member States or associate members who host seminars or meetings of, ad hoc groups or working groups that meet independently of a regular PCC meeting shall bear the costs of such meetings if there are not resources approved for that purpose in the CITELE program-budget.

Article 85
Working Procedures Governing the Activities of the PCCs

1. The process that determines areas of priority interest among the participants involves holding seminars on topics of interests, and forming ad hoc groups to explore areas that may be subject of permanent working groups. This process should be used at the PCC level.

2. Seminars and discussions on topics of interest should be held in conjunction with PCC meetings, with the meetings of working groups or ad hoc groups, or whenever necessary as agreed with the PCC.

3. For a Working Group to be created, at least six Member States should undertake to actively participate in its work. The establishment of the Working Group shall be approved by a PCC resolution indicating its scope of interest and mandate.

4. Ad hoc groups shall work up to two consecutive years, their term may be exceptionally extended by the corresponding Committee or by the Assembly when applicable, for a limited period to allow for the completion of tasks. Eventually, the PCC may transform the ad hoc group into a Working Group, pursuant to the procedure described in paragraph 3 above.

5. Every working group, rapporteurship, and ad hoc group shall have a Chair and one or more Vice Chairs. The Chair and Vice-Chair may be held by either a Member State or an associate member. In the selection of a Chair or Vice-chair, equitable geographic distribution should be taken into account in as far as possible.

6. All PCC members may attend the meetings of the working groups, rapporteurships, and the ad hoc groups. . However, only those that specifically register as members of the working group or ad hoc group may be assured of getting working documents and would be expected to participate actively in the work of the group. The discussions on the working documents and the reports arising there-from shall take place within the meetings held by the Group and shall at all times observe the provisions of the mandate.

7. The Chairpersons of the working groups and ad hoc groups, as well as the rapporteurs must provide reports in writing and/or verbally regarding the progress made at each PCC meeting. The final report presented by any Group shall reflect its results and must be distributed by the Executive Secretariat to the PCC members. The final report cannot be amended by the PCC. Nevertheless, any proposal for action that might arise as a result of the report must be dealt with by the PCC.

8. Any actions proposed to the PCC in the form of resolutions, recommendations, or decisions from a working group, or ad hoc group must be clearly identified and supported in the Group report. The report shall state whether the action being proposed has received approval from all the participating members of the Group.

9. With a view to ensuring their due consideration by the Member States, all draft resolutions, recommendations, or decisions presented to the PCC Plenary meeting by a working group, or ad hoc group shall be distributed, in the working languages of CITEL, to the Member States present at the PCC meeting before the start of the meeting, where they shall be discussed or submitted to a vote.

10. The plenary of the PCC shall adopt the resolutions or recommendations of the Working Groups by consensus and with the presence of at least one-third of its members; those measures can be adopted also by electronic means provided that there are not negative answers.

11. PCCs are allowed to change and adapt their work methods to most efficiently meet the needs of their members, provided they do not contravene the provisions of the CITEL Statute and Regulations.

12. COM/CITEL shall routinely review the work programs of PCCs and provide advice to the PCC chairmen regarding areas where there is overlap or redundancy and where more coordination among the PCCs is required. In this regard, the chairmen of the PCCs should routinely coordinate to avoid duplication and to identify areas where formal cooperation between or among PCCs would be useful. Likewise, efforts should be made to ensure that new working groups or ad hoc groups do not duplicate the work that is being performed by already existing groups. This may be achieved by reviewing the mandates of the existing groups and taking such actions as may be necessary to effectively coordinate the work of the corresponding working groups, rapporteurships, ad hoc groups or PCCs.

13. PCCs shall regularly evaluate the need to retain their working groups, rapporteurships and ad hoc groups depending on their activities and on the effectiveness of their work, in particular those having failed to submit their report at two consecutive meetings of the PCC. This evaluation may result in a draft resolution whereby:

- a. The group is required to continue its tasks.
- b. The group's work is terminated.
- c. The group's scope of activities, mandate or duration is changed.
- d. A new Chair and/or Vice-Chair are/is appointed for the group.
- e. Any other action is taken to contribute to achieving the goals sought.

14. Work shall be performed, insofar as possible, with the use of electronic documents transmission systems.

15. Both the CITEL Assembly and COM/CITEL may apply the above procedures or any part thereof in establishing their Working Groups or Ad Hoc Groups.

C. VOTING RULES

Article 86

1. Where the Statute or these Regulations requires that a decision be taken and a consensus is not reached, there shall be a vote by secret ballot. The secret ballot rule may be suspended temporarily on a case by case basis, provided that, before the secret vote is begun, a motion is made to suspend the rule, and an absolute majority of the participating Member States approves that motion by a show of hands.

2. The Chair may permit a delegate to explain his vote, either before or after the voting, and he may limit the time for such an explanation.

D. RELATIONS WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Article 87

1. With a view to maximizing cooperation and coordination in its activities and work, CITEL shall collaborate, through such agreements as it deems pertinent, with technical, governmental, nongovernmental and intergovernmental agencies engaged in activities similar to those contemplated in the objectives and functions of CITEL, set out in Article 3 of the Statute.

2. When the activities of CITEL are germane to the technical competence of an inter-American specialized organization, the subsidiary organs, agencies, and other entities of the inter-American System, CITEL shall request their cooperation in carrying out those activities.

E. OTHER PROVISIONS

Article 88 Entry into Force

These Regulations shall enter into force on the date of their approval by the CITEL Assembly and shall govern all meetings of all CITEL organs.

Article 89 Amendments to the Regulations

1. Proposals to amend these Regulations shall be submitted to the CITEL Assembly for adoption. Adoption of amendments shall be by an absolute majority of the participating Member States.

2. When COM/CITEL determines that an amendment is urgent, it may decide to apply that amendment provisionally pending final decision by the CITEL Assembly at its next Regular or Special meeting, in accordance with Article 17 (g) of the Statute.

3. Amendments to these Regulations, once adopted by the CITEL Assembly, shall be presented to the General Assembly of the Organization at its next regular session for its information.

Article 90 Suspension of Provisions from Chapter II

The provisions of Chapter II of these Regulations shall apply to all meetings of the CITEL Assembly. However, in exceptional circumstances, the Assembly may decide by a two-thirds majority vote of the participating Member States to suspend temporarily any provision of Chapter II of these Regulations for the more efficient functioning of the Assembly. This suspension shall not contravene any provision of the Statute.

Article 91 Unregulated Matters

Situations and matters not provided for in these Regulations shall be decided by COM/CITEL by an absolute majority vote of the Member States participating in the CITEL Assembly or COM/CITEL members if the Assembly is not in session. Should the Assembly or COM/CITEL not be in session, they shall be dealt with provisionally by the Chair, after consulting with the other members of COM/CITEL, until COM/CITEL ratifies this decision at its next meeting. COM/CITEL shall report all decisions adopted under this Article, to the next Regular Meeting of the CITEL Assembly. No decision adopted under this Article can contradict the provisions of the CITEL Statute.

ANNEX I
NAMES OF THE PERMANENT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES

In reference to Chapter IV of these Regulations, CITEL has the following Permanent Consultative Committees:

Permanent Consultative Committee I (PCC.I): Telecommunications/Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)

Permanent Consultative Committee II (PCC.II): Radiocommunications

AG/RES. 2918 (XLVIII-O/18)

AMENDMENT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION ON
AN INTERNATIONAL AMATEUR RADIO PERMIT (IARP)

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 4, 2018)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN resolution CITEL/RES. 86 (VII-2018), issued by the Seventh Regular Meeting of the Assembly of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL), in which that body resolved to refer the “Draft Amendment of the Inter-American Convention on an International Amateur Radio Permit (IARP)” to the General Assembly of the Organization of American States for approval and instructions to open the Amendment of the IARP for signature by the member states of the Organization;

CONSIDERING that the CITEL Assembly is the highest organ of CITEL and comprises the member states of the OAS and that, for its part, the Permanent Executive Committee of CITEL (COM/CITEL) is the technical executive organ of CITEL and that among other functions established in its Statute adopted by the OAS General Assembly, its function is to prepare, with the cooperation of the CITEL Secretariat, draft inter-American conventions and treaties related to telecommunications in the Americas;

RECOGNIZING that the purpose of CITEL is to facilitate and promote, by every means available to it, ongoing development of telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) in the hemisphere in the quest for sustainable development; and

CONVINCED of the benefits of amateur radio service and responding to the CITEL member states’ interest in having citizens of a member state who are authorized to use the amateur radio service in their country being allowed to temporarily use the amateur radio service in the territory of another CITEL member state,

RESOLVES:

To approve the Amendment of the Inter-American Convention on an Amateur Radio Permit (IARP), contained in the appendix to this resolution.

**AMENDMENT OF THE
INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION ON AN INTERNATIONAL AMATEUR RADIO
PERMIT**

The Member States of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL),

Taking into account the spirit of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), the provisions of the CITEL Statute, and the provisions of the Radio Regulations of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU),

Convinced of the benefits of the Amateur Radio activities and having regard for the interest of CITEL Member States in allowing citizens of any Member State who are authorized to operate in the Amateur Service in their country to operate temporarily in the Amateur Service in any other CITEL Member State,

Have agreed to enter into the following Convention for the use of an International Amateur Radio Permit (IARP):

General Provisions

Article 1

1. While reserving its sovereignty over the use of the radio spectrum within its jurisdiction, each State Party agrees to permit temporary operation of amateur stations under its authority by persons holding an IARP issued by another State Party without further examination. A State Party shall issue permits to operate in other State Parties only to its own citizens.

2. State Parties recognize the International Amateur Radio Permit (IARP) issued under the conditions specified in this Convention.

3. No State Party, other than the issuing State Party, may levy fees or taxes on the IARPs.

4. This Convention does not modify customs regulations concerning transportation of radio equipment across national borders.

Definitions

Article 2

1. Expressions and terms used in this Convention shall carry the definitions of the ITU Radio Regulations.

2. The amateur and amateur-satellite services are radiocommunication services according to Article 1 of the ITU Radio Regulations, and are governed by other provisions of the Radio Regulations as well as by national regulations of the State Parties.

3. The term "IARU" shall mean the International Amateur Radio Union.

Provisions Relating to the International Amateur Radio Permit (IARP)

Article 3

1. The IARP will be issued by the permit holder's home Administration or, to the extent consistent with the home country's domestic laws, under delegated authority by the IARU organization of that State Party. The State Party should observe the model for such a permit, contained in the Annex to this Convention.

2. The IARP will be drafted in English, French, Portuguese or Spanish or in the official language of the issuing State Party if different.

3. The IARP will not be valid for operation in the territory of the issuing State Party, but only in the territory of other State Parties. It will be valid for one year in visited State Parties, but in no case beyond the date of expiration of the national license of the holder.

4. Radio amateurs holding only a temporary authorization issued in a foreign country shall not benefit from the provisions of this Convention.

5. The IARP should include the following information:

- a. A statement that the document is issued in accordance with this Convention.
- b. The name and mailing address of the holder.
- c. The call sign.
- d. The name and address of the issuing authority.
- e. The expiration date of permit.
- f. The country and date of issuance.
- g. The IARP operator class.
- h. A statement that operation is permitted only for the bands specified by the visited State Party.
- i. A statement that the permittee must abide by the regulations of the visited State Party.
- j. The need for a notification, if required by the visited State Party, of the date, place and duration of the stay in that State Party.

6. The IARP will be issued in accordance with the following classes of operating authority:

Class 1. Use of all frequency bands allocated to the amateur service and amateur-satellite service and specified by the country where the amateur station is to be operated. It will be open only to those amateurs who have proved their advanced competence to their own Administration, where guidance for standards of competence may be found in the most recent version of Recommendation ITU-R M.1544.

Class 2. This class permits utilization of all frequency bands allocated to the amateur service and amateur-satellite service above 30 MHz and specified by the country where the amateur station is to be operated.

Conditions of Use

Article 4

1. A State Party may decline to honor, suspend or cancel the operation of an IARP, in accordance with the laws in that State.
2. When transmitting in the visited country, the IARP holder must use the call sign prefix specified by the visited country and the call sign of the home license separated by the word "stroke" or "/."
3. The IARP holder must transmit only on frequencies specified by the visited State Party and must abide by all the regulations of the visited State Party.

Reciprocity with Member States of the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administration

Article 5

Radio amateurs holding an amateur radio license from a Member State of the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administration (CEPT) which has implemented CEPT Recommendation T/R 61-01 (CEPT Radio Amateur Licence) shall be entitled to the same rights and privileges enjoyed by holders of the IARP, provided, however, that CEPT accords all holders of the IARP the same rights and privileges enjoyed by holders of the CEPT Radio Amateur License. Such rights and privileges granted under this Article shall be subject to the corresponding conditions established in the IARP Convention and CEPT Recommendation T/R 61-01 respectively.

Final Provisions

Article 6

State Parties reserve the right to enter into supplementary agreements on methods and procedures for the application of this Convention. However, such agreements may not contravene the provisions of this Convention. The State Parties shall inform the General Secretariat of the

Organization of American States of any supplementary agreements they enter into, and that Secretariat shall, for the purposes of registration and publication, send a certified copy of the text of such agreement to the Secretariat of the United Nations, in accordance with Article 102 of its Charter, and to the General Secretariat of the International Telecommunications Union.

Article 7

This Convention shall be open for signature by the Member States of the CITEL.

Article 8

Member States of CITEL may become Parties to this Convention by:

- a. Signature not subject to ratification, acceptance or approval,
- b. Signature subject to ratification, acceptance or approval followed by ratification, acceptance or approval, or
- c. Accession.

Ratification, acceptance, approval or accession shall be effected by deposit of the appropriate instrument with the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States, in its capacity as Depository.

Article 9

Each State may make reservations to this Convention at the time of signature, ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, provided that each reservation concerns at least one specific provision and is not incompatible with the objectives and purposes of the Convention.

Article 10

1. In the case of those States that are Parties to this Convention and the Inter-American Amateur Radio Service Convention ("Lima Convention"), this Convention supersedes the "Lima Convention."

2. Except as provided in Section 1 of this Article, this Convention shall not alter or affect any multilateral or bilateral agreements in force concerning the temporary operation in the Amateur Service in CITEL Member States.

Article 11

This Convention shall enter into force on the thirtieth day following the date on which two States have become Parties to it. For the remaining States, the Convention shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after their compliance with the corresponding procedure set out in Article 8.

Article 12

This Convention shall remain in force indefinitely, but may be terminated by agreement of the State Parties. Any of the State Parties to this Convention may denounce it. The instrument of denunciation shall be deposited with the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States. After one year from the date of deposit of the instrument of denunciation, the Convention shall no longer be in effect for the denouncing State Party, but shall remain in effect for the other State Parties.

Article 13

The original instrument of this 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 forward a certified copy of its text to the Secretariat of the United Nations for the registration and publication, in accordance with Article 102 of its Charter, and to the General Secretariat of the International Telecommunication Union.

The General Secretariat of the Organization of American States shall notify the State Parties of the signatures, deposits of instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval, accession and denunciation, and of reservations, if any.

**INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION
ON AN INTERNATIONAL AMATEUR RADIO PERMIT**

**ANNEX
(SUGGESTED MODEL)**

INTERNATIONAL AMATEUR RADIO PERMIT

Name of Convention and date
Issued in (Issuing country)
Expiration date

**Issuing authority
Address of the issuing authority**

This permit is valid in the territories of all the State Parties to the Inter-American Convention on an International Amateur Radio Permit (Convention) with the exception of the territory of the State Party where issued for the period of one year from the date of issue, or expiration of national license, whichever date occurs first, for the operation of amateur stations and amateur-satellite stations in accordance with the class indicated this permit.

It is understood that this permit shall in no way affect the obligation of the holder to conform strictly to the laws and regulations relating to the operation of an amateur station and amateur-satellite station in the country in which the station is operated.

Information of the operator

Surnames
Other names
Call sign
Place of birth
Date of birth
Country of permanent residence
Address
City, state or province
IARP operator class

Classes of operating authority

Class 1. Use of all frequency bands allocated to the amateur service and amateur-satellite service and specified by the country where the amateur station is to be operated. It will be open only to those amateurs who have proved their advanced competence to their own Administration, where guidance for standards of competence may be found in the most recent version of Recommendation ITU-R M.1544.

Class 2. This class permits utilization of all frequency bands allocated to the amateur service and amateur-satellite service above 30 MHz and specified by the country where the amateur station is to be operated.

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO HOLDER

- 1.** Your valid amateur radio license issued by your administration must accompany the IARP at all times.
- 2.** Unless otherwise required by regulations of the country visited, station identification shall be (prefix of the visited country or region thereof) the word “stroke” or “/” followed by the call sign of the license accompanying the IARP.
- 3.** A visited country may decline to honor, suspend or cancel the operation of an IARP.
- 4.** Some countries may require you to notify in advance the date, place and duration of your stay.

(Add to the document spaces and identifications for the signature of issuing authority, signature of the operator, photo of the operator, seal or logo of the issuing authority)

AG/RES. 2919 (XLVIII-O/18)

STRENGTHENING MULTI-SECTORAL RESPONSES TO THE CRISIS OF
NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES (NCDs) IN THE AMERICAS

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 4, 2018)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECOGNIZING that non-communicable diseases — specifically cardiovascular disease, cancers, chronic respiratory diseases and diabetes — are responsible for 5.2 million deaths in the Americas annually, and present a critical threat to national development in the hemisphere;

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION that the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases requires a whole-of-government and whole-of-society response, given the social and economic burden posed by these diseases on national governments;

COGNIZANT that policy initiatives for the control of non-communicable diseases span health and non-health sectors, to include development, education, labor, agriculture, trade, finance, urban planning, the environment, and transportation;

RECALLING the political commitments of member states in the Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain in the V Summit of the Americas, and the Declaration of Commitment: Strengthening Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases Through Cooperative Action of the Inter-American System in the VII Summit of the Americas, and in particular, the formation of the Inter-American Task Force on Non-Communicable Diseases^{1/} and

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the convening power and crucial role of the Organization of American for the Inter-American Task Force on Non-Communicable Diseases,

RESOLVES:

1. To instruct the General Secretariat, through the Inter-American Council for Integral Development, to offer institutional support, to the extent available resources permit and where appropriate, to the organs, agencies and entities of the inter-American system, especially the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), in their efforts to promote multi-sectoral responses to non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

2. To instruct the General Secretariat to pursue the incorporation, with the assistance of PAHO, of perspectives related to non-communicable diseases and their risk factors in the design of the cooperation actions of the Organization.

1. The Government of the Republic of Nicaragua has been placing on record its express reservation regarding the mandates and initiatives arising from the V and VII Summits of the Americas ...

3. To promote an integral response to NCDs and their risk factors in each member state, at the level of all government agencies, through the incorporation of prevention and control measures into their national development plans.

4. To reinforce and advance dialogue and collaboration between Member States and the Agencies of the Inter-American Task Force on Non-Communicable Diseases, to intensify the response to non-communicable diseases.

5. To encourage high-level authorities from each member state to participate in the high-level meeting on non-communicable diseases, which will take place during the United Nations General Assembly session, in September 2018.

FOOTNOTE

1. ... in that during those events, the Heads of State and Government were unable to consider or adopt their Political Declarations. The mandates and operative paragraphs on the core themes were part of the Political Declarations and as the latter were not adopted, neither were the former. For that reason, Nicaragua does not agree with making references to these documents and mandates, which were not adopted.

AG/RES. 2920 (XLVIII-O/18)

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

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 4, 2018)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the mandates and the initiatives emanating from the First Summit of the Americas (Miami, 1994), the Summit of the Americas on Sustainable Development (Santa Cruz de la Sierra, 1996), the Second Summit of the Americas (Santiago, 1998), the Third Summit of the Americas (Quebec City, 2001),^{1/} the Special Summit of the Americas (Monterrey, 2004), the Fourth Summit of the Americas (Mar del Plata, 2005), the Fifth Summit of the Americas (Port of Spain, 2009), the Sixth Summit of the Americas (Cartagena de Indias, 2012), the Seventh Summit of the Americas (Panama City, 2015),^{2/} and the Eighth Summit of the Americas (Lima, 2018)^{3/}

BEARING IN MIND the Lima Commitment “Democratic Governance against Corruption,”^{4/ 5/} adopted at the Eighth Summit of the Americas held in Lima, Peru, on April 13 and 14, 2018;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT ALSO the acknowledgment by the Third Summit of the Americas of the function that the Committee on Inter-American Summits Management and Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities fulfills in coordinating the efforts of the Organization of American States (OAS) in support of the Summits of the Americas process and in serving as a forum for civil society to contribute to that process, as well as the establishment of the Summits Secretariat; the importance of coordinated, timely, and effective follow-up of the mandates and initiatives of the Summits of the Americas; and the important role that the OAS plays in following up on the implementation of the mandates and initiatives adopted at the Summits of the Americas and as the Technical Secretariat of the Summits process; and

HIGHLIGHTING the importance of the work of the Joint Summit Working Group and of the Summits Virtual Community as an instrument for modernizing mechanisms for dialogue among all the players involved in the Summits process,

-
1. The Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela reiterates its reservations to the FTAA, as formulated in declarations and plans of action of Summits of the Americas ...
 2. The Government of the Republic of Nicaragua has expressly stated its reservations to the mandates and initiatives emanating from the Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh Summits of the Americas, ...
 3. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela does not recognize the “Lima Commitment,” adopted by the “participating States” at the Eighth Summit of the Americas. In addition, it reiterates its ...
 4. The Government of the Republic of Nicaragua does not endorse the Lima Commitment “Democratic Governance against Corruption” or any other documents, declarations, communiqués, ...
 5. See footnote on p.3.

RESOLVES:

1. To implement the commitments set out in resolution AG/RES. 2846 (XLIV-O/14) to support the Summits of the Americas process; and to request that the General Secretariat, through the Summits Secretariat, continue to serve as the institutional memory and technical secretariat of this process, advising member states, when so requested, on all aspects related to the process and supporting the follow-up activities to the Eighth Summit^{6/} held in Peru in April 2018.

2. To request that the General Secretariat, through the Summits Secretariat, continue supporting follow-up and dissemination of Summits mandates and initiatives, as applicable, including through the involvement of ministerial processes; that it continue to provide member states with support in their implementation; and that it make efforts to promote and publicize the existing mandates and initiatives among the stakeholders involved, in order to facilitate their contribution to, and, participation in, the follow-up and implementation of the mandates and initiatives of future Summits, utilizing the Summits of the Americas Follow-up System (SISCA) and the Summits of the Americas Virtual Community and other information and communications platforms.

3. To instruct the General Secretariat, through the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG), chaired by the Summits Secretariat on behalf of the Organization of American States (OAS), to continue coordinating and promoting the implementation and follow-up in JSWG institutions of the mandates of the Summits of the Americas; to hold at least one meeting of agency heads each year to review progress made and plan joint activities; and to report thereon to the Committee on Inter-American Summits Management and Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities and to the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG).

4. That 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; to instruct the General Secretariat to negotiate and raise voluntary funds and technical resources from international cooperation and nongovernmental agencies to carry out the activities mentioned in this resolution; and to urge member states to contribute to the funding of those activities.

5. To urge member states, through the SIRG, to report regularly on the implementation and follow-up of the mandates and initiatives established by the Summits of the Americas process.

6. See footnote on p. 3.

FOOTNOTES

1. ... (paragraph 15 of the Declaration of Quebec City and paragraph 6.A of the Plan of Action; and paragraph 12 of the Declaration of Nuevo León); in resolution AG/RES. 2014 (XXXIV-O/04), “Trade and Integration in the Americas,” and prior resolutions with the same title; and in the Strategic Plan for Partnership for Integral Development. The content of this footnote applies to all references made in this resolution to the Summits of the Americas process and the Strategic Plan for Partnership for Integral Development.

2. ... due to the fact that the Heads of State and Government at those Summits did not adopt the political declarations containing the mandates and the operative paragraphs on the thematic areas that were part of the political declaration.

3. ... denunciation and rejection of the decision of the Government of Peru to accord itself the power unilaterally to adopt, without any basis in law, a decision on the participation of a member state in the meetings of the SIRG (Summit Implementation Review Group) and in the Eighth Summit of the Americas. Aside from breaching the Agreement between the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States and the Government of the Republic of Peru on holding the Eighth Summit of the Americas, this practice, based on political and ideological motivations, sets a very dangerous precedent that violates the most fundamental principles of public international law, as well as basic standards governing the organization and participation of States in multilateral meetings. At the same time, we appeal to the OAS member states to consider the pertinence of keeping the Summits Secretariat in the Organization, given that in the support that it provided to the Eighth Summit of the Americas, that entity violated OAS rules recognized in the Charter of the Organization by pandering to the arbitrary decisions of the host country

4. or resolutions issued by the Eighth Summit of the Americas, because it was not involved in negotiating them.”

AG/RES. 2921 (XLVIII-O/18)

INCORPORATING MULTIDIMENSIONAL CRITERIA IN
MEASURING POVERTY AND DEVELOPMENT^{1/2/}

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 4, 2018)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

REAFFIRMING:

That the Charter of the Organization of American States proclaims the essential purposes of the Organization, which include “[t]o promote, by cooperative action, their economic, social, and cultural development” and “to eradicate extreme poverty, which constitutes an obstacle to the full democratic development of the peoples of the hemisphere”;

That the Social Charter of the Americas and its Plan of Action underscore ‘be determination and commitment of member states to urgently combat the serious problems of poverty, social exclusion, and inequity that affect, in varying degrees, the countries of the Hemisphere; to confront their causes and consequences; and to create more favorable conditions for economic and social development with equity to promote more just societies”;

That in the Declaration on Institutional Strengthening for Sustainable Development in the Americas adopted in Santo Domingo, the member states encourage “international financial institutions that play an important role in development financing to examine ways to integrate sustainable development goals, targets, and indicators in decision-making processes regarding development assistance and financing, and to promote exchanges with all relevant stakeholders in order to improve the multidimensional nature of their indicators used to depict a country’s level of development”;^{3/}

UNDERSCORING that inter-American integral partnership for development is the common and joint responsibility of the member states in the framework of the democratic principles and the institutions of the inter-American system;

RECALLING:

That different countries of the region have implemented multidimensional measurement of poverty and others are making efforts to develop multidimensional measurement methods, and that in the last decade, much sharing of experiences has taken place, both bilaterally and in multilateral

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1. The United States dissociates from this resolution, which improperly inserts the OAS into the internal decisions of bilateral donors, international financial institutions, and multilateral development banks ...
 2. Canada encourages efforts to apply a multidimensional lens to understanding poverty. Canada has consistently emphasized the need to ensure the credibility and integrity of ...
 3. OAS, Declaration of Santo Domingo: “Institutional Strengthening for Sustainable Development in the Americas,” adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 15, 2016.

forums, on the implementation of those methods, developing cooperative ties among American countries;

The work being done by the Organization of the American States in support of national efforts to measure multidimensional poverty;

CONSIDERING:

That at the global level, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes that "the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest challenge facing the world and a prerequisite for sustainable development" and, in particular, Target 1.2, which calls on the countries to reduce at least by half poverty in all its dimensions by 2030^{4/};

That progress is being made in multilateral forums with the incorporation of new parameters to measure poverty and development in contrast to traditional measurement, which uses per capita income as the sole indicator;

That in the context of the institutional reform and technical strengthening of the United Nations, the Secretary-General has underscored the importance of continuing to promote progress with efforts to adopt multidimensional criteria for measuring poverty and development; and

That in the United Nations system and other multilateral forums, there is increasing call for this multilateral approach to be used to address in a comprehensive manner the challenges of the status of national sustainable development, as well as the challenges of the new 21st century sustainable development standards,

That the effect of excluding Caribbean countries, among others, from access to the global finance and trading system, such as the withdrawal of correspondent banking relations, generates grave consequences for the maintenance of financial stability, economic growth, remittance flows, and poverty alleviation and makes it difficult for those countries to achieve what was agreed upon in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, thereby reversing their economic accomplishments and thwarting their future progress; and

That the Latin America and Caribbean Region is one of the most vulnerable in the world to the adverse impacts of climate change, and that within it many small island and low-lying coastal developing states face a grave threat to their survival and viability from climate change and sea-level rise;^{5/}

RESOLVES:

1. To urge the member states to continue to advance in the adoption of poverty, inequality and vulnerability measurement instruments that take into account their multiple dimensions, in order to ensure that cooperation programs and development financing facilitate the achievement of the targets of the 2030 Agenda Goals.

4. First paragraph of the 2030 Agenda.

5. AG/RES. 2907 (XLVII-0/17), "Advancing Hemispheric Security: A Multidimensional Approach"

2. To request donor countries, regional and international finance and development cooperation institutions to incorporate in their measurement of the level of development of receiving countries and in the corresponding eligibility criteria for development assistance, variables that reflect their challenges regarding poverty, inequality, vulnerability to the adverse effects of climate change and the exclusion from access to the global finance and trading system and other impediments to development, aiming to overcome the distortion of development levels, caused by a reliance on the criteria of per capita income.

3. To request the General Secretariat to follow up on this resolution, promote the relevant dialogues with said entities and cooperating countries, and present a progress report thereon prior to the forty-ninth regular session of the General Assembly of the Organization.

FOOTNOTES

1. ...and their dialogues with partner countries. Efforts like this proposal led by middle income countries divert the most concessional development financing away from low-income countries with greater need, diminish a finite pool of capital, and potentially negatively affect middle income countries' access to other, larger sources of development finance. This resolution also does not take into consideration the concerns of the Hemisphere's largest donor countries, which play a vital role in this process.

The United States is committed to preserving access to the U.S. financial system wherever possible, supporting economic growth, trade, financial inclusion, and financial transparency while continuing to enforce U.S. laws and regulations and support applicable international standards. While the drivers of de-risking are diverse, and include private sector financial decisions shaped by market forces, a key area where states could proactively take action to secure and maintain correspondent banking relationships is through effective implementation of global anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing and prudential standards.

The most authoritative research on correspondent banking, notably by the International Monetary Fund, suggests reduced correspondent banking relationships have resulted in very limited economic and financial stability impact. The United States will consider providing technical assistance to countries with a demonstrated political will to make necessary changes to adhere to global financial standards.

2. ...Official Development Assistance (ODA) and its focus on developing countries with lower per capita income levels. While Canada recognizes that income-based metrics are an imperfect measure of poverty and level of development, they remain the most broadly accepted and statistically reliable option at this time for determining ODA eligibility. Canada supports domestic and international efforts to address the withdrawal of correspondent banking relationships and its consequences, including on remittances, trade flows, and financial inclusion. Canada maintains that the language in this resolution does not reflect consensus and does not establish precedent or constitute agreed language for future negotiations at the OAS or other fora.

AG/RES. 2922 (XLVIII-O/18)

STRENGTHENING THE ORGANS, AGENCIES, ENTITIES, INITIATIVES
AND MECHANISMS OF THE OAS

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 4, 2018)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

BEARING IN MIND the provisions contained in the Rules of Procedure of the Permanent Council;

BEARING IN MIND ALSO the Annual Reports to the Forty-Eighth Regular Session of the General Assembly from the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) (CP/doc.5370/18), the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) (CP/doc.5397/18), the Inter-American Telecommunications Commission (CITEL) (CP/doc.5379/18), the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN) (CP/doc.5381/18) and the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) (CP/doc.5379/18);

I. INTER-AMERICAN CHILDREN'S INSTITUTE

WHEREAS:

The Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN) is the only hemispheric-wide forum for coordination between states on the subject of children and adolescents and provides technical assistance and training to most of the OAS Member States in a highly sensitive strategic area for the promotion and protection of human rights in the hemisphere, such as children and adolescents; and

The institutional mission of the IIN is to provide technical assistance to the States in order to build their capacity to promote and protect the rights of children and adolescents; and

RECOGNIZING the work of the IIN on behalf of children and adolescents, and recognizing that the Permanent Council established June 9 as "Americas Children and Youth Day,"

RESOLVES:

To support and encourage the IIN to continue to working on developing public policies to ensure the promotion, protection and exercise of the rights of children and adolescents.

II. PAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY

WHEREAS the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (IPGH) is the scientific and technical agency of the OAS dedicated to the generation and transfer of specialized knowledge in the areas of cartography, geography, history and geophysics,

RESOLVES:

To support and disseminate the work of the IPGH aimed at integrating the concepts set forth in the Institute's Pan American Agenda with implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, in order to contribute to the fulfillment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

III. INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN

RECOGNIZING the importance that the Organization of American States (OAS) has attached to strengthening the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) in order to support the full realization thereof,

RESOLVES:

To continue to support and strengthen the work of the CIM, as the principal forum for the generation of hemispheric policies regarding women's human rights and gender equity and equality.

AG/RES. 2923 (XLVIII-O/18)

PROGRESS TOWARD ACCOUNTABILITY, EFFICIENCY, AND EFFECTIVENESS,
AND RESULTS IN THE OAS GENERAL SECRETARIAT

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 4, 2018)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING that in resolutions AG/RES. 2353 (XXXVII-O/07), AG/RES. 2437 (XXXVIII-O/08), AG/RES. 1 (XXXVI-E/08), AG/RES. 1 (XXXVIII-E/09), AG/RES. 1 (XL-E/10), AG/RES. 1 (XLII-E/11) rev. 1, AG/RES. 1 (XLIII-E/12), AG/RES. 2774 (XLIII-O/13), AG/RES. 1 (XLV-E/13), AG/RES. 2815 (XLIV-O/14), AG/RES. 2889 (XLVI-O/16), and AG/RES. 2911 (XLVII-O/17), it requested the General Secretariat to pursue efforts, for the purpose of improving the transparency and efficiency of the General Secretariat's operations, to establish appropriate planning, control, and evaluation systems that will enable the member states to follow up on budget programming and fiscal supervision;

BEARING IN MIND resolutions AG/RES. 2814 (XLIV-O/14), which adopted the strategic vision statement for the Organization; AG/RES. 1 (XLVII-E/14) rev. 1, "Guidelines and Objectives of the Strategic Vision of the Organization of American States"; and CP/RES. 1061 (2063/16), "Conclusion of the Mandate Prioritization Process and Preparation of the Organization's Four-Year Strategic Plan";

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that at its fifty-first special session, by resolution AG/RES. 1 (LI-E/16 rev. 1), it adopted the Strategic Lines and Objectives of the Strategic Plan for each of the Organization's pillars as well as for the areas of institutional strengthening and administrative management;

EMPHASIZING the importance of upholding the highest standards of transparency and quality of information provided by the General Secretariat;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

Article 135 of the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (General Standards), which indicates in regards to the Board of External Auditors that "[t]he Board shall submit its report to the Permanent Council within the first four months of the year" and "[t]he Permanent Council shall make such observations and recommendations as it sees fit"; and

That section C.1. of resolution AG/RES. 2911 (XLVII-O/17), "Progress toward Accountability, Efficiency, and Effectiveness, and Results in the OAS General Secretariat," instructed the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs (CAAP), "Following the presentation of the annual report of the Board of External Auditors, the CAAP shall prepare a formal written response to the recommendations of the Board which shall be transmitted to the Permanent Council by March 1.

The Permanent Council shall transmit the approved response to the Board of External Auditors by March 31”;

Articles 114, 117, 122 and 124 of the General Standards related to the role of the Inspector General in overseeing compliance with the General Standards, on the establishment of appropriate internal auditing procedures that reflect international best practices, and on the requirement for the Inspector General to present quarterly and annual reports to the Permanent Council and to meet as necessary with the CAAP and with the CIDI;

Recalling AG/RES. 2911 XLVII-0/17 and recognizing the important role the Inspector General can play in improving the transparency and efficiency of the General Secretariat’s operations;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

Section C.7 of resolution AG/RES. 2911 (XLVII-O/17) related to the Information Technology Strategic Plan (CAAP/GT/RVPP-349/18), the recommendation by the Board of External Auditors in its 2017 “Report of the OAS Board of External Auditors to the Permanent Council on the Results of the Audit of Accounts and Financial Statements of the OAS” (CP/doc.5402/18) that member states fund a sustainable corporate enterprise system, as well as the decision by the Permanent Council [CP/RES. 1100 (2160/18)] on the “Special Appropriation for the Technology Fund.”

Resolution AG/RES. 2911 (XLVII-O/17) related to the implementation of a comprehensive real estate strategy, and the acknowledgement by the Board of External Auditors in its 2017 “Report of the OAS Board of External Auditors to the Permanent Council on the Results of the Audit of Accounts and Financial Statements of the OAS” (CP/doc. 5402/18) that the OAS still needs to be vigilant in addressing critical maintenance and equipment requirements; both to ensure the success of the Real Estate Strategy but also to ensure the continuity of operations and the safety of employees in the short term.

Resolution AG/RES. 1 (LII-E/17) rev. 1 , Program-Budget of the Organization for 2018 and the importance of developing a forward-looking comprehensive strategy for national offices that ensures the OAS has a cost-effective network of national offices that meets the evolving needs of the organisation and of member/observer states.

That the measures adopted in this resolution must be implemented with austerity, transparency, and efficiency, utilizing all instruments available to the General Secretariat;

Taking note of the Board of External Auditors 2017 Annual Audit of Accounts and Financial Statements (CP/doc.5402/18), which recommends that: “the OAS should continue its efforts to develop a human resources strategy. The strategy should include: plans to fill vacant positions, training, an evaluation of the optimal mix of regular staff versus the use of CPRs, modernizing OAS General Standards, and include a position classification review”;

Also taking note of the Strategic Plan for Management Modernization at the Organisation of American States (CP/doc.5077/14 corr. 1) which recommended that the OAS should conduct a

comprehensive update of regulations governing human resources management, including a new recruitment and selection process that is more fair and transparent,

CONSIDERING that the Office of the Ombudsperson was introduced in 2015 and has been fully integrated in the General Secretariat,

RESOLVES:

1. Columbus Memorial Library

To request the General Secretariat to prepare options for better leveraging existing internal and external resources through strategic alliances with other libraries and academic institutions and for applying modern information management principles to facilitate and expand access, and present a proposal to the Permanent Council through the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs (CAAP) no later than February 28, 2019.

2. International Public Sector Accounting Standards

To instruct the Permanent Council, through the CAAP, to identify the necessary funding for the project on Implementation of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) within the General Secretariat once the new Corporate Enterprise System (ERP) has been implemented.

3. Budget review process

To instruct the General Secretariat, in direct collaboration with the different secretariats of the Organization, to adopt a rigorous approach to developing, clearly presenting, executing, and evaluating the program-budget in accordance-with Chapters IV to VIII of the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (General Standards). The draft program-budget shall include the rationale for proposals as well as explanations of variances from the previous year and of human and financial resources requirements in line with expected results. The General Secretariat shall also include expenditure forecasts for two additional years in the preparation of each annual proposed Program-Budget.

4. Effectiveness and efficiency

- a. To request the General Secretariat to report, within 60 days after the conclusion of regular sessions of the General Assembly, on the cost of the mandates contained in the approved resolutions and on their impact on the program-budget.
- b. To request the General Secretariat to realign the Organization's resources and organizational structure with the mandates.
- c. To request the General Secretariat to report to the member states, 30 days prior to the next special session of the General Assembly, to be held in October 2018, on the savings made thus far per chapter with respect to this

2018 program-budget, in the framework of the policy on austerity, transparency, and efficiency of the Organization.

5. Accountability and transparency

a. The General Secretariat shall continue to publish the following updated information on the Organization's website, in accordance with the Organization's legal structure:

- (1) Organizational structure of each organizational unit;
- (2) The operational plans of the organizational units of the General Secretariat established based on the strategic lines and objectives of the Strategic Plan approved in resolution AG/RES. 1 (LI-E/16) rev. 1;
- (3) The results of evaluations, monitoring, and audits of programs and operations;
- (4) Staffing per organizational unit, including the salary scale and other benefits, as well as vacant positions; and
- (5) Performance contracts awarded for both consultants and goods and services, pursuant to applicable regulations.

6. External resource mobilization

To instruct the Secretary General to continue, in consultation with the Permanent Council, with the implementation of a strategic plan for mobilizing the external support and funding needed to implement the mandates of the member states and the priorities of the Organization, and to report on the progress of this implementation in the semiannual resource management and performance report.

7. Foundations and other organizations created by the General Secretariat

To request foundations and other organizations created and subsidized by the OAS to maintain a culture and practice of austerity, effectiveness, efficiency, transparency, prudence, and accountability in the use, execution, and management of resources allocated by the Organization.

8. Gender equity and equality policies

To urge the Secretary General to continue the work of executing gender equity and equality policies in the workplace, promoting access for women in a framework of parity for all categories within the Organization and ensuring accountability for their implementation.

9. Official travel

To instruct the Secretary General and Assistant Secretary General to submit to the Permanent Council on a quarterly basis, a detailed report on the activities away from headquarters of their offices (Chapter 1, 14A and Chapter 2, 24A), including, *inter alia*, the following information: travel dates, destination, delegation, and objective.

10. Quotas and liquidity

To authorize the Permanent Council, taking into account the recommendations of the CAAP, to consider such measures as may be needed to encourage prompt payment and increase liquidity, *ad referendum* of the General Assembly at its special session in October 2018.

11. Recommendations of the Board of External Auditors

- a. Following the presentation of the annual report of the Board of External Auditors, the CAAP shall prepare a formal written response to the recommendations of the Board which shall be transmitted to the Permanent Council by March 1. The Permanent Council shall transmit the approved response to the Board of External Auditors by March 31.
- b. The response shall be prepared in collaboration with the General Secretariat and include current status, measures taken, and next steps, as well as identifying those with lead responsibility.

12. Recommendations of the Inspector General

- a. To instruct the Inspector General to continue presenting to the CAAP on a quarterly basis an analysis on the status of implementation of recommendations made.
- b. To instruct the General Secretariat to present, for consideration by the CAAP in preparation for the Program-Budget 2019 discussions, an overview of the proposed organizational changes to strengthen the Office of the Inspector General and resource requirements associated with these proposed changes.
- c. To instruct the General Secretariat, for consideration by the CAAP in preparation for Program-Budget 2019 discussions, to develop with the Board of External Auditors options for establishing an Audit Committee as proposed by the Inspector General, including structure and costs associated with it.

13. Quota System

To postpone the delivery date for the proposal for modification of the current quota system as mandated by AG/RES. 2911 (XLVII-O/17) and AG/RES. 1 (LII-E/17) rev. 2, so that CAAP will present to the Permanent Council, by June 30, 2018, a proposal for the amendment of the Methodology for Calculating the Scale of Quotas Assessments to Finance the Regular Fund of the

Organization (resolution AG/RES. 1 (XXXIV-E/07) rev. 1) for its approval and referendum of the General Assembly at its special session in October 2018. The overall budget level for the Regular Fund Program-Budget for 2019, as well as the level of expenditure, shall be established once the Permanent Council makes a decision regarding the methodology for the scale of quotas.

14. Financing of the 2019 Program-Budget of the Organization

To instruct the Permanent Council to, no later than June 30, approve and referendum of the General Assembly at its special session in October 2018, the resolution on the financing of the program-budget for 2019.

15. National Offices

- a. To instruct the General Secretariat to continue its work on this comprehensive sustainable strategic plan for National Offices in member states and to present this strategy to the Permanent Council for consideration by November 2018.
- b. To request the Secretary General to instruct the Coordinating Office to continue optimizing and implementing its current strategy until such time as the comprehensive review is completed and the emanating strategic plan is agreed upon for execution.

16. Indirect cost recovery

- a. To instruct the Permanent Council, through the CAAP, to examine and undertake a review of the Indirect Cost Rate Policy (ICR) and establish a process of transparent distribution of ICR across Secretariats taking into account that ICR collected must be only used to cover indirect costs related to providing support to projects, conforming to the principles that define indirect costs (i.e., costs that cannot be easily allocated to projects). The structure and size of each Administrative Management Unit (AMS) across the General Secretariat must be commensurate with the amounts of funds managed by its corresponding Secretariat.
- b. To instruct the Permanent Council, through the CAAP, to prioritize the establishment of exemption criteria, including an examination of the issue of membership fees, as part of the Indirect Cost Recovery policy review by September 2018.

17. Real estate strategy

- a. To instruct the General Secretariat to continue with the process mandated through resolution AG/RES. 2911 (XLVII-O/17) for the sale of the General Services Building (GSB), located on F Street N.W., Washington, D.C., the construction of a new building on the lot adjacent to the Main Building (17th

Street and C Street), and the refurbishing of the Administration Building located on Constitution Avenue N.W.

- b. To instruct the Permanent Council to continue consideration of the comprehensive real estate strategy, including critical maintenance and equipment requirements.

18. Information Technology Strategic Plan

To instruct the General Secretariat to inform the CAAP, on a quarterly basis, on the progress in implementing the Information Technology Strategic Plan (CAAP/GT/RVPP-349/18).

19. Personnel funded by the Leo S. Rowe Pan American Fund

To adopt the amendments to Chapter III of the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States concerning the inclusion of the personnel funded by the Leo S. Rowe Pan American Fund in Articles 17 – 20 of the General Standards, contained in Annex A, which shall enter into effect upon adoption of this resolution.

20. Human Resources Strategy

To instruct the General Secretariat to present for consideration by the CAAP, in preparation for the Program-Budget 2019 discussions, a Draft Plan of Action for a Comprehensive Human Resources Strategy, including resources requirements and proposed amendments to the General Standards by September 2018.

21. Human Resources Hiring Mechanisms

To adopt the amendment to Chapter III of the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States under Article 20 bis (b)(i) concerning the elimination of the one year minimum time period for Series A Contracts financed by specific funds, and to instruct the General Secretariat to present for consideration of CAAP, in preparation for the 2019 program-budget discussions, a draft plan of action to streamline and simplify the human resources processes.

Article 20 bis. Personnel Appointed Under Fixed-Term Contracts Financed by Funds Other than the Regular Fund

- b. Fixed-Term Contracts may be either Series A Contracts or Special Mission Contracts, as further specified below:
 - i. Series A Contracts: Series A Contracts are contracts ~~for no less than one year and~~ of up to four years, which may be extended based on the duration of the project for which they were awarded.

22. Office of the Ombudsperson

- a. To instruct the Permanent Council, through CAAP, to review the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States in relation to the statutory installation of the Office of the Ombudsperson, and
- b. To authorize the Permanent Council, after considering the recommendations of the CAAP, to adopt, with immediate effect, such amendments necessary to Chapter III of the General Standards ad referendum of the General Assembly.

ANNEX A

AMENDMENTS TO CHAPTER III - OF THE GENERAL STANDARDS TO GOVERN THE OPERATIONS OF THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

AG/RES. 2924 (XLVIII-O/18)

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

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2018)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECOGNIZING the importance of participation by civil society organizations and other social actors in consolidating democracy, social development, human rights, and security in all member states and that their participation in the activities of the Organization of American States (OAS) and in the Summits of the Americas process should take place in a context of close collaboration among the political and institutional bodies of the Organization and in compliance with the provisions of the Charter of the Organization of American States and resolution CP/RES. 759 (1217/99), “Guidelines for the Participation of Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities”;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT resolution AG/RES. 2901 (XLVII-O/17), “Increasing and Strengthening the Participation of Civil Society and Social Actors in the Activities of the Organization of American States and in the Summits of the Americas Process”; the “Strategy for Strengthening Participation by Civil Society Organizations and Social Actors in Activities of the Organization of American States (OAS)” adopted by the General Assembly in resolution AG/RES. 2861 (XLIV-O/14), “Increasing and Strengthening the Participation of Civil Society and Social Actors in the Activities of the Organization of American States and in the Summits of the Americas Process”; and resolution AG/RES. 2902 (XLVII-O/17), “Support for and Follow-up to the Summits of the Americas Process”;

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

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

RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm the commitment and will of the member states of the Organization of American States (OAS): (a) to continue strengthening and implementing effective forums and mechanisms and concrete actions to actively support and promote the registration of civil society organizations and other social actors, in accordance with resolution CP/RES. 759 (1217/99), as well as national and multilateral efforts to enable civil society organizations and other social actors to participate in OAS activities; and (b) to continue participating in the dialogue of heads of delegation with civil society organization representatives in the framework of the regular sessions of the General Assembly and the Summits of the Americas process.

2. To instruct the Permanent Council, the Inter-American Council for Integral Development, and the General Secretariat to continue, in coordination with all organs, agencies, and entities of the OAS, facilitating the implementation of strategies, forums, and mechanisms for promoting, increasing, and strengthening participation by civil society organizations and other social actors in the Summits of the Americas and OAS activities, including the strategies adopted by the General Assembly in resolutions AG/RES. 1915 (XXXIII-O/03) and AG/RES. 2861 (XLIV-O/14).

3. To instruct the General Secretariat to invite the indigenous peoples and Afro-descendent communities of member states or their representatives to participate in the Dialogue of the Heads of Delegation with Representatives of Civil Society Organizations and Other Social Actors in the framework of regular sessions of the OAS General Assembly, in order to enable those representatives to present recommendations and proposed initiatives related to the theme of the General Assembly session.

4. To instruct the General Secretariat to continue to support member states that so request in their efforts to increase and strengthen the institutional capacity of their governments to receive, integrate, and incorporate civil society and other social actors' input and advocacy; and to submit, before the forty-ninth regular session of the General Assembly, a report on the implementation of this resolution, which will be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

5. To strengthen the participation of the social actors in member states in the Summits of the Americas process and in the OAS activities as a result of said process, taking into account their ways, uses, and customs in organizing themselves.

6. To encourage all member states, permanent observers, and other donors, as defined in Article 74 of the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat of the OAS and in other rules and regulations of the Organization, to consider contributing to the Specific Fund to Support the Participation of Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities and in the Summits of the Americas Process, in order to sustain and promote the effective participation of civil society organizations and other social actors in OAS activities, in accordance with the goals set by the General Assembly and by the Heads of State and Government in the Summits of the Americas process, including the Dialogue of Heads of Delegation, the Secretary General, and Representatives of Civil Society Organizations.

7. To Instruct the General Secretariat to present to the Committee on Inter-American Summits Management and Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities (CISC) by December 31, 2018, a proposal for establishing a specific fund for voluntary contributions to support the activities of the Relations with Civil Society Section for increasing and strengthening participation by civil society organizations and other social actors in OAS activities.

8. To instruct the General Secretariat to identify the human resources needed to implement the mandates entrusted by the member states, with respect to the Secretariat of the Committee on Inter-American Summits Management and Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities.

AG/RES. 2925 (XLVIII-O/18)

ADVANCING HEMISPHERIC SECURITY: A MULTIDIMENSIONAL APPROACH

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2018)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the “Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly June 2017-June 2018” (AG/doc.xxxx/18 add. xx), in particular the section on the activities of the Committee on Hemispheric Security (CSH);

REAFFIRMING the commitment of the Organization of American States to strengthening peace and security in the hemisphere, with full respect for international law and in accordance with the domestic law of each country;

RECALLING the provisions contained in the Declaration on Security in the Americas, which recognizes that the states of the hemisphere face both traditional threats to security and new threats, concerns, and other challenges that, in view of their complex characteristics, have meant that security is multidimensional in nature; as well as the resolutions entrusted to the CSH as detailed in the document “List of Resolutions assigned to the Committee on Hemispheric Security (1991-2017) and other Resolutions related to Security Issues adopted by the OAS General Assembly (1991-1994)” (CP/CSH/INF.xxxx/18);

RECALLING Resolution 70/262 of the United Nations General Assembly, which establishes the concept of “sustaining peace” and recognizes that cooperation of the United Nations with regional organizations is essential for helping to prevent the outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of conflicts.

HAVING SEEN the annual reports presented to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth regular session by the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) (CP/doc.5401/18), the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) (CP/doc.5400/18), and the Inter-American Defense Board (IADB) (CP/doc.5389/18);

EXPRESSING ITS SATISFACTION with the meetings and conferences on security-related matters held in implementation of the mandates of this General Assembly and with the preparations for the meetings programmed for the second half of 2018;^{1/}

BEARING IN MIND the results, reports, and recommendations of the aforesaid conferences and meetings, and

REITERATING the commitment of member states to peace and the security of their citizens, and recognizing the need to continue implementing or strengthening, as appropriate, national public policies, international cooperation policies, and measures to prevent and combat transnational

1. Meetings held: Sixth Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Public Security in the Americas (MISPA-VI), San Pedro Sula, Honduras, October 10-11, 2017; sixty-second regular session of CICAD, ...

organized crime by implementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols to which they are party.

RESOLVES:

I. ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE ON HEMISPHERIC SECURITY
AND OF MEMBER STATES

1. To reaffirm to the Permanent Council and to the General Secretariat the applicable General Assembly mandates on hemispheric security; to urge member states to continue contributing to the attainment of the objectives established in those mandates through the development and execution of activities, the submission of reports, the exchange of information, and the adoption of measures and policies, as well as through cooperation, support, and mutual assistance, and technical and financial contributions; and to instruct the General Secretariat to provide the necessary support to those ends.

Declaration on Security in the Americas (DSA)

2. To urge all member states to continue implementing the Declaration on Security in the Americas, with a view to consolidating peace, stability, and security in the hemisphere.

3. To reaffirm the commitment to the multidimensional approach to security in line with the 2003 Declaration on Security in the Americas, recognizing the importance and contributions of this concept to the hemispheric agenda and the need to continue with its implementation by the OAS and the member states, with a view to consolidating peace and security in the hemisphere and to request that the Permanent Council, through the Committee on Hemispheric Security (CSH), conduct follow-up on the progress achieved in the implementation of the Declaration with the participation of the organs, agencies, entities of the Organization of American States (OAS), relevant international and subregional organizations, and, where appropriate, civil society and other stakeholders, to be reflected in the annual report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly.

The Americas as a Zone of Peace

4. To continue to work to consolidate the Americas as a zone of peace, considering that peace is a supreme good, a value and a principle in and of itself, a legitimate aspiration of all peoples, and that preservation of peace is a substantial element of hemispheric integration and cooperation based on respect for democracy, justice, human rights, solidarity, security and the principles and norms of international law, and that it is therefore necessary to continue fostering a culture of peace and promoting education for peace in the countries of the region.

5. To invite the Committee on Hemispheric Security to promote a meeting with the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission in the second half of 2018 in order to engage in interactive dialogue and an exchange of best practices in peacebuilding and sustaining peace in the region.

6. To continue the necessary promotion of a holistic vision of security closely tied to the concept of development, understood as the possibility of providing residents of all our countries, including residents of border areas, with opportunities for improving their living conditions in

environments of peace, owing to the effects of activities of groups of organized transnational crime that particularly affect those zones and all other areas of the countries.

7. To applaud the progress made with the implementation of the Final Peace Accord between the Government of the Republic of Colombia and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC-EP), as well as the new developments in the dialogue between the Government of Colombia and the National Liberation Army (ELN), urging this group to demonstrate, in a sustained manner, its commitment and willingness to achieve a peace agreement.

8. To highlight the contribution of the MAPP/OAS, whose mandate has been extended until December 31, 2021, as one of the strategic allies of Colombia in the quest for peace, supporting the Colombian Government and providing it with recommendations on the implementation of public policies to support the state's peace policy with respect to security, transitional justice, peace-building, and reconciliation in the local areas. To also thank the donors and friends of the MAPP/OAS, especially the countries of the Basket Fund, whose political and financial support have helped to make the Mission's operations possible.

9. To reaffirm the United Nations Charter; the OAS Charter; the Declaration on Security in the Americas (DSA 2003); and the resolution The Americas: A Zone of Peace, Cooperation, and Peaceful Dispute Settlement AG/RES. 2862 (XLIV-O/14).

Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas^{2/}

10. To express support for the XIII Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas (XIII CDMA), to be hosted in Mexico in October 2018, to achieve its stated objectives, advance hemispheric cooperation and strengthen security and defense in the Americas.

11. To recognize the active participation of member states and the efforts made by the Ministries of Defense and Security of Canada, Panama, Mexico and the United States in organizing the ad hoc working groups, which addressed the issues of hemispheric security and defense cooperation policy; humanitarian emergency assistance; progressive inclusion of the gender perspective as a cross-cutting issue in defense and security policies; role of the security and defense forces in environmental protection and climate resilience; the evolving role of the armed forces in defense and security matters, and cooperation and coordination mechanisms on the issues of search and rescue.

12. To offer to the Government of Mexico any technical and advisory support from the OAS and the Inter-American Defense Board (IADB) to contribute to the success of the XIII CDMA.

Disarmament and nonproliferation in the Hemisphere

13. To reaffirm its commitment to continue promoting a universal, genuine, nondiscriminatory regime for disarmament and nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction, in order to advance common interests in implementing the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and other treaties concerning weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems, and

2. The Government of Nicaragua cannot support the wording of paragraphs 12 and 13 on the Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas, since the objectives proposed for the XIII CDMA ...

in recognizing the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, where appropriate and in accordance with the law of each state.^{3/}

14. To express its satisfaction with the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons on July 7, 2017 at United Nations Headquarters in New York, the negotiation of which was led by the delegation of Costa Rica, with the active involvement of the Latin American and Caribbean region in the negotiation process and with Mexico and Brazil as part of the Core Group, and urge states to consider signing or ratifying the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons opened for signature on September 20, 2017.^{4/}

15. To strongly condemn the use of chemical weapons anywhere, at any time, by any actor, and under any circumstances, recognizing their use as unacceptable and as a violation of international law; and expressing its firm conviction that those responsible for the use of chemical weapons must be held accountable.

16. To call on all OAS member states to support international regulations and multilateral mechanisms against the use of chemical weapons and to reiterate their unwavering commitment to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction and to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

17. To support the call in resolution (title) A/RES/72/50 of the United Nations.

18. To underscore the importance of the implementation by member states of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) in the framework of the support that the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) provides, and the cooperation and information sharing with the United Nations Security Council's 1540 Committee, bearing in mind the current global context in terms of threats to international peace and security and the need to intensify efforts to fully implement this resolution in order to counter the proliferation of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons and their means of delivery to non-state actors.

19. In this fifteenth anniversary year of the Proliferation Security Initiative, to reaffirm the commitment to actively combat the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery, and related materials to and from states and non-state actors of proliferation concern by encouraging the endorsement of the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI).

20. To instruct the Committee on Hemispheric Security, with the support of the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security, member states, and experts from specialized agencies, to consider the topic of physical nuclear security at a regular meeting during the second half of 2018 in order to exchange best practices, lessons learned, experiences garnered, and future areas of cooperation regarding security measures for nuclear facilities and materials, radioactive materials and related facilities, and materials not under regulatory oversight in order to improve nuclear security of member states.

3. The U.S. does not support this text. It impugns existing treaty regimes, such as the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, Chemical Weapons Convention and Biological Weapons Convention, ...

4. The U.S. does not support and will not sign the "Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons." No state possessing nuclear weapons or which depends upon such weapons for its security ...

Hemispheric efforts to combat trafficking in persons

21. To reinforce the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo Convention) and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and to reaffirm the commitment of the member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) to fight the crime of trafficking in persons, by means of a comprehensive approach that takes into account the prevention of trafficking, prosecution of its perpetrators, protection of and assistance to its victims and respect for their human rights, and strengthening of international cooperation in this area.

22. To welcome the holding of the Fifth Meeting of National Authorities on Trafficking in Persons, held at the OAS headquarters on March 12-13, 2018, as well as the Declaration of Mexico “Hemispheric Efforts against Trafficking in Persons,” and to urge that its recommendations be implemented.

23. To take note of the progress report on implementation of the Second Work Plan against Trafficking in Persons in the Western Hemisphere 2015-2018, presented by the Department of Public Security (DSP) in accordance with Article 11 of Section VI of the Plan, based on the 33 questionnaires received from member states. To remind member states of the need to update or clarify the information provided in the questionnaires so that the final report may be written.

24. To observe the commemoration of the World Day against Trafficking in Persons on July 30 as established by the United Nations, and to promote sensitization activities on the issue with the support and participation of the public and private sectors, civil society and other social actors, and academia, as appropriate.

25. To underscore the importance of continuing to implement the Second Work Plan against Trafficking in Persons in the Western Hemisphere 2015-2018 and welcome the decision to extend it until 2020. To request the General Secretariat to report on its progress in carrying out the mandates that were assigned to it.

26. To instruct the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States to include in the proposed program-budget to be considered by the General Assembly the necessary financial resources for the Department of Public Security and the Department against Transnational Organized Crime to implement the work plans to combat trafficking in persons in the Western Hemisphere and provide the necessary technical assistance to member states should they request it.

27. To support, within the framework of Inter-American Network for the Prevention of Violence and Crime, the region-wide Knowledge Base on Trafficking in Persons, and invite member states to cooperate with the Department of Public Security by sending the information and data required for that knowledge base.

Strengthening Public Security in the Americas

28. To urge member states to implement the Recommendations of San Pedro Sula and to request the General Secretariat, through the SMS Department of Public Security, to continue to support member states in implementing the recommendations of the MISPA process.

29. To accept with gratitude the offer of the Government of Ecuador to host the Seventh Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Public Security in the Americas (MISPA VII) and to convene it in the second half of 2019; and to that end, to instruct the Permanent Council to establish, through the CSH, a working group chaired by Ecuador to coordinate all the preparations for MISPA VII.

30. To request that the MISPA and REMJA coordinate their efforts to strengthen justice and penitentiary systems, taking into consideration best practices and the specific situation of each country.

A. Information and knowledge with regard to multidimensional security

31. To invite member states within the framework of their legal provisions, to consider implementing or strengthening, as applicable, national data gathering, processing, and analysis systems on crime, victimization, firearms, police, prisons, cybersecurity, terrorism, and drugs. To request the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security, through its Multidimensional Security Information and Knowledge Section, to assist the efforts of member states in that regard, in coordination with all areas of that Secretariat.

32. To renew the commitment of member states to contribute to and utilize the United Nations Surveys on Crime Trends and the Operations of Criminal Justice Systems (UN-CTS), as well as any other regional data and information gathering initiative on crime, violence, and insecurity, in order to build up and update the observatories and digital platforms of the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security and to prepare regional statistical reports.

33. To request that the General Secretariat, through the Information and Knowledge and the Prevention of Violence and Crime Sections of the Department of Public Security of the SMS, make the necessary information and knowledge resources available to member states, including a programs database and a compendium of good practices and lessons learned, among other reference resources.

B. Preventing Violence and Crime

34. To renew the commitment of member states to efforts towards the implementation and standardization of the definitions of crime contained in the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes, as appropriate, and in accordance with domestic law, with a view to improving national data collection, processing, and analysis to enable better public policy decision-making and formulation on public security in general, and in particular on crime, victimization, firearms, police, prisons, cybersecurity, terrorism, and drugs.

35. To instruct the Permanent Council, through the CSH, to continue the formulation of a hemispheric plan of action to guide the crafting of public policies to prevent and reduce murders, pursuant to the recommendation issued by the Sixth Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Public Security in the Americas (MISPA VI). The plan of action shall be referred to the General Assembly for consideration at its next session.

36. To request the Working Group on Mechanisms and Tools for Regional Emergency Services Cooperation to present, within the framework of the Inter-American Network for the Prevention of Violence and Crime, the outcomes of its activities during the MISPA-VII process.

37. To thank the Government of Ecuador for its offer to organize an international seminar on mechanisms and tools for regional emergency services cooperation, scheduled to be held in the second half of 2018.

38. To convene the second meeting of the Subsidiary Technical Working Group on the Prevention of Crime, Violence, and Insecurity—chaired by Honduras—in the first half of 2019, pursuant to follow-up paragraph 3 of the Recommendations of San Pedro Sula for Public Security Management, and to request that the General Secretariat allocate the necessary funds in the budget for the aforementioned meeting and for a preparatory meeting, and that it lend the support needed for the preparations.

39. To request that the General Secretariat, through the SMS and the CSH, continue reporting to the Permanent Council on progress with the implementation of the Inter-American Network for the Prevention of Violence and Crime, and that it present a report on the use of the specific fund set up to support the activities carried out under the aegis of the Network.

40. To urge the General Secretariat to continue, through the Prevention of Violence and Crime Section of the Department of Public Security and the Information and Knowledge about Public Security Section of the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security, to disseminate policies, programs, lessons learned, and promising practices in relation to preventing violence and crime in the region.

41. To instruct the General Secretariat to promote, through the Inter-American Network for the Prevention of Violence and Crime, in coordination with the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN), linkage among different regional and subregional actors, including member states, civil society organizations, and children and adolescents themselves, for the development of joint actions with a view to progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 16.2 to “[e]nd abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children,” established by the United Nations as a target for 2030.

42. To develop models for the prevention of violence and promotion of a culture of peace, as well as territorially-based comprehensive social inclusion strategies with a human-rights and children's-rights perspective to prevent the recruitment and use of children and adolescents by criminal organizations.

43. To promote and provide guidance on safe Internet use by children and adolescents, as well as prevention of, attention to, support against, and monitoring of possible violations of their Internet rights, using methods that build the capacities of children and adolescents themselves to be aware of risks and threats, in addition to strategies that promote intergenerational dialogue, interinstitutional coordination, and interdisciplinary approaches.

C. Advancing Police Cooperation^{5/6/7/}

44. To encourage the General Secretariat, through the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security (SMS), to further strengthen police cooperation and national capacity building through the Inter-American Network for Police Development and Professionalization, and to further cooperation between the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States and the American Police Community (AMERIPOL).

45. To express its appreciation for the recently launched SMS Inter-American Network for Police Development and Professionalization and to accept the offer of the Government of Ecuador to host the second on-site police training course of the Inter-American Network for Police Development and Professionalization, scheduled to be held in the second half of 2018, and to request that it present the results at the Seventh Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Public Security in the Americas (MISPA-VII), and to invite member states to continue making technical and financial contributions to support the activities of the Inter-American Network for Police Development and Professionalization.

46. To encourage member states to continue to assign police officers to SMS by means of a transparent selection process in accordance with the domestic legislation of each member state to strengthen the technical capacity of member states and the OAS Secretariat.

47. To request that the OAS SMS Secretariat establish a police support unit within its structure to service all of its departments.

48. To request the SMS Department of Public Security, through its REDPPOL program, to help develop and identify the appropriate profiles so that member states may suggest candidates to support all of the SMS structure, as associate personnel.

Security implications of climate change^{8/}

49. To take note of the discussions of the joint high-level meeting of the Permanent Council and Committee on Hemispheric Security on “The Security Implications of Climate Change,” held on December 12, 2017.

50. To encourage the CSH to consider the discussions of the joint high-level meeting of the Permanent Council and Committee on Hemispheric Security on the “Security Implications of Climate Change” held on December 12, 2017, and develop recommendations that can be considered by the Permanent Council and the General Assembly at its next session.

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5. The Government of Nicaragua is not in agreement with establishing a police support unit within the SMS structure, since that would mean a duplication of effort and...
 6. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela questions the existence and applicability of the Framework Agreement for Cooperation signed between the General Secretariat of the OAS and the Police....
 7. The Plurinational State of Bolivia does not recognize as mandates agreements signed by the General Secretariat, given that only the member states gathered in the appropriate organs can set
 8. The Government of Nicaragua cannot support the wording of paragraph 48 and 49 of the section of the omnibus resolution on security implications of climate change confidence and peace in the region. ...

51. To instruct the Committee on Hemispheric Security to develop recommendations aimed at supporting the efforts of OAS member states to better understand and address the security implications of climate change, for the consideration of the Permanent Council and the General Assembly in 2019.^{9/}

52. To take note of the study on climate change and its security implications presented by the IADB to the CHS on April 12, 2018, and to request the IADB to continue considering the security implications of climate change for security and to identify appropriate responses to the security challenges posed by climate change for the armed forces, and to submit its findings to the CHS for the consideration of OAS member states.

53. To request the OAS Secretariat to continue establishing working and collaborative relationships with relevant regional and international scientific, financial and technical organizations involved in addressing climate change.

54. To request that the IADB organize a yearly table-top exercise in the area of disaster management and humanitarian assistance with a view to strengthening capacities, means, and coordination throughout the hemisphere. This mandate will be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the IADB.

55. To invite the Inter-American Natural Disaster Reduction Committee to consider the lessons learned from the past hurricane seasons and from the “coastal El Niño” phenomenon and to recommend new practices and measures that member states, the OAS, and its entities, should implement to promote resilience and recovery, and enhance cooperation and collaboration.

The Americas as an antipersonnel-landmine-free zone^{10/}

56. To reaffirm the commitment to rid their territories of antipersonnel landmines, destroy stockpiles thereof, and make the Americas the world’s first antipersonnel-landmine-free zone; and to firmly condemn, in accordance with the principles and norms of international humanitarian law, the use, stockpiling, production, and transfer of antipersonnel mines, including those that are factory-made, locally-manufactured, or improvised. (Approved May 22, 2018)

57. To continue to urge all States Party to the Ottawa Convention, interested states, the United Nations, other competent international organizations or institutions, regional organizations, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and competent nongovernmental organizations to review progress made in implementing the commitments under the Maputo Action Plan 2014-2019 and the Maputo+15 Declaration, which were adopted at the Third Review Conference, held in Maputo, Mozambique on June 23-27, 2014, and to renew their commitment to the Ottawa Convention.

58. To resolutely support and promote compliance with the principles of the Ottawa Convention in each of its pillars, to wit: universality, education on risks, assistance to victims, humanitarian demining, and international cooperation and assistance, including the commitments

9. The Government of the United States has concerns regarding inclusion of multiple overlapping requests and mandates for the Committee on Hemispheric Security and other bodies

10. The United States is the largest contributor of humanitarian demining assistance in the world and the Hemisphere. We have contributed over \$2.8 billion for conventional weapons destruction....

undertaken at the Review Conference; and to support states that have requested an extension of the deadline to fulfill their commitments in the areas of clearance and decontamination, in order to meet the established deadlines.

59. To recognize that humanitarian mine action is a proven tool for peace-building in the region; accordingly, to underscore the results achieved by the Government of the Republic of Colombia in this area, and to thank the international community for the contributions it has made, through the OAS, to support that country's efforts to fulfill the commitments made under the Ottawa Convention and the Final Peace Agreement between the Government of Colombia and the FARC-EP, with respect to humanitarian mine-clearing in Colombia.

60. To point out that, upon ratifying and assuming the obligations contained in the Ottawa Convention, the States Party have confirmed their commitment to peace, disarmament, and international humanitarian law, by destroying or ensuring the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in the Americas.

Combating transnational organized crime

61. To reiterate the importance of implementing the report on the Meeting of National Points of Contact on Transnational Organized Crime held on April 3-4, 2017 (CP/CSH/SA274/17).

62. To urge those member states that have not yet submitted the questionnaires on implementation of the Hemispheric Plan of Action against Transnational Organized Crime to do so no later than September 15, 2018, and to request those countries that have already delivered the questionnaire to remit new information with a view to correcting, supplementing, and improving the information provided, based on the initial findings contained in the preliminary report.

63. To request the Department to Combat Transnational Organized Crime (DDOT) to complete the analysis of the questionnaires and to prepare the final report, which should be presented to the CSH during the second half of 2018, and also to follow up on all the proposals presented by member states for improving the Plan of Action.

64. To call upon member states to strengthen cooperation and international technical assistance in the fight against transnational organized crime and the global drug problem, in accordance with the provisions of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the Declaration of Security of the Americas, the Hemispheric Action Plan against Transnational Organized Crime, and other applicable multilateral hemisphere agreements, in order to counter the negative effects of these phenomena on sustainable development, security, proper functioning of the economies, and the effective enjoyment of civil rights in our countries and our border zones.

65. To convene the annual meeting of National Authorities on transnational organized crime, within the framework of the CSH, in November 2018 to analyze progress made by the states, exchange information, and hear about best practices that together may help achieve greater regional coordination for addressing the phenomenon.

66. To support the Department against Transnational Organized Crime (DDOT) and to urge that it be provided with the human and financial resources needed for it to function effectively respecting the Organization's need for budgetary sustainability. Member states are encouraged to consider assigning transnational organized crime experts to work in the DDOT.

67. To request the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security to carry out an open competition for the post of head of the new Department to Combat Transnational Organized Crime (DDOT), as soon as possible.

68. To urge member states to strengthen national laws and international cooperation through capacity building and responses to combat corruption, money-laundering, and transnational organized crime in all their forms and manifestations, including emerging forms of crime, such as crimes affecting the environment and their related crimes.

69. To request the DDOT to continue providing technical assistance to OAS member states that request it, with characteristics appropriate to those countries that are facing new threats in border areas, with a view to advancing implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the three Protocols thereto, and the Hemispheric Plan of Action against TOC; to encourage greater coordination within the OAS Secretariat and other bodies that address topics related to TOC, as well as with other multilateral organizations, such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in order to contribute to the effective implementation of international and regional instruments in this regard.

70. To request the General Secretariat to continue, through the SMS, to assist member states with the cooperation and technical assistance needed to combat transnational organized crime in all its forms and manifestations, especially money laundering, trafficking in persons, and the manufacturing of and illicit trafficking in firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials.

71. To invite member states to develop and/or implement inter-institutional policies by which to renew the commitment to international legal cooperation, so that public prosecution services and/or offices of attorneys general might share best practices and investigation strategies for effectively prosecuting members and leaders of transnational criminal organizations; and develop information exchanges by which to neutralize the financial structures of those criminal organizations.

72. To request the DDOT to continue providing technical assistance to Caribbean states and to other member states, should they request, in order to improve their regulatory frameworks and bolster systems to combat money laundering and terrorism financing, all consistent with international standards.

73. To invite member states and regional and international organizations to make voluntary contributions to the Fund against Transnational Organized Crime provided for in the Hemispheric Plan of Action.

Confidence- and security-building measures in the Americas^{11/}

74. To continue to encourage and implement confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs) in keeping with the provisions of the Declaration of San Salvador on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures, the Declaration of Santiago on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures, the Consensus of Miami, and the Declaration on Security in the Americas, among other declarations and resolutions on CSBMs, and to urge all member states to furnish the General Secretariat, by March 15 of each year at the latest, with information on the application of CSBMs applied from January 1 to December 31 of the previous year, utilizing the New Consolidated List of Confidence- and Security-Building Measures (CP/CSH-1743/16).

75. To adopt the Chairman's Conclusions (CSH/FORO-VII/doc.5/17) from the seventh meeting of the Forum on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures held in Washington, D.C. on April 27, 2017.

76. To instruct that the Secretariat, with the support of the Inter-American Defense Board, complete the process of design and implementation of the database and electronic template for the online presentation of annual reports on CSBMs by September 1, 2018 and present it at the XIII CDMA.

77. To convene the eighth meeting of the Forum on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures in 2019 to review and evaluate existing CSBMs and consider new CSBMs, taking into account the multidimensional approach to hemispheric security.

78. To adopt the recommendation of the CICTE Plenary and Working Group on confidence-building measures on cybersecurity, and to add two new measures to the [USA: OAS "New consolidated list of Confidence-and Security-Building Measures to be Notified in Accordance with OAS Resolutions" (CP/CSH/1743/16) approved in May 2016.

Security Concerns of Central America

79. To express its support for the efforts of the Central American states to address their security concerns particularly combating transnational organized crime, drug trafficking, weapons trafficking, illegal trafficking of migrants and related crimes, the scourge of gangs, and border control and offer the technical assistance of the organs, agencies and entities of the OAS.

80. To support the Alliance for Prosperity initiative undertaken by Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala to foster national and regional security for their citizens.

81. To thank the European Union for its financial contribution to the first phase of implementation of the Program for Prevention of Crimes Related to Irregular Migration in Mesoamerica, which concluded in April 2018, and to urge member states to continue supporting the efforts of that initiative so that the second phase of the Program may continue.

11. The Government of the Republic of Nicaragua recognizes that confidence- and security-building measures are a means of helping promote an international climate...

Special Security Concerns of the small island and low-lying coastal developing states of the Caribbean

82. To express its satisfaction with the outcome of the CSH meeting on the special security concerns of the small island and low-lying coastal developing states of the Caribbean, held on March 8, 2018 with the theme “Integration of Multidimensional Security, Sustainable Development, and Environmental Resilience Imperatives to promote Peace and Prosperity in the Small Island and Low-Lying Coastal Developing States of the Caribbean.”

83. To instruct the General Secretariat of the OAS, through the SMS, to continue strengthening multidimensional security cooperation with CARICOM, including through the CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS), for the implementation of the OAS/SMS 5-Year Work Plan (2017-2022) to support the CARICOM Crime and Security Strategy.

84. To instruct the Permanent Council and the CIDI to continue advancing those issues that have an impact on the multidimensional security, sustainable and integral development, environmental resilience, and stability of the small island and low-lying coastal developing states of the Caribbean, including through initiatives to reduce the risk of disasters and strengthen disaster response, thereby achieving sustainable development.

85. To continue convening the annual meeting on the special security concerns of the small island states of the Caribbean, recognizing that these states are particularly vulnerable to the effects of the myriad forms of transnational organized crime, natural disasters, and other security challenges, recognizing that these challenges have a disproportionate effect on the multidimensional security and sustainable and integral development of the region.

86. To request the Inter American Defense Board (IADB) to continue supporting the efforts of the region in building capacities for disaster response and mitigation as part of hemispheric efforts to combat these challenges.

87. To recognize the importance of continuing to support the adoption of the small island and low-lying coastal developing states of the Caribbean in order to promote the sustainable and integral development of those states and to invite member states and permanent observers to enhance financial and technical support to assist the small island and low-lying coastal developing states of the region in addressing its multidimensional security challenges.

88. To take note of the White Paper of the Republic of Haiti and invite member states and permanent observers to contribute human and financial resources in order to support the implementation of that paper.

Protecting critical infrastructure in the event of natural disasters

89. To instruct the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security (SMS) to develop a Model National Strategy on Protection of Critical Infrastructure in the event of Natural Disasters, based on the recommendations of experts on the matter contained in document CP/CSH-1834/18, and to present a draft to member states for consideration in the first quarter of 2019.

Reflections on Hemispheric Security

90. To acknowledge the holding, by the Committee on Hemispheric Security, of three roundtables on matters of interest to member states: “The Concept of Multidimensional Security in the Current Strategic Context of the Hemisphere,” on November 17, 2017; “The Use of the Armed Forces in Public Security: Constraints and Implications,” on February 8, 2018; and “Perspectives on Inter-American Legal Instruments for Hemispheric Peace and Security,” on March 22, 2018.

91. To consider the importance of the Committee on Hemispheric Security’s continuing to hold brainstorming sessions that promote open debate on topics relating to the multidimensional security agenda.

Justice, Penitentiary and Prison Systems

92. To instruct the SMS to continue supporting member states, through the Department of Public Security, in developing and implementing comprehensive best practices-based strategies, with a view to ensuring effective results in terms of reintegrating into society individuals who have been incarcerated.

93. To instruct the SMS to continue supporting member states that so request, through the Department of Public Security, in developing and implementing strategies focused on improving the actual management and administration of prisons, and in addressing and reducing overpopulation in prisons, or reducing prison population, as appropriate. Such strategies shall contribute to encouraging the adoption of alternatives to incarceration and measures to protect citizens who are incarcerated, as well as better structuring of the services provided by public defender offices.

94. To request the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security to promote, as part of the Prison Strategy being implemented by the Department of Public Security, the implementation of alternatives to incarceration, initiatives for differentiated treatment of crimes, in coordination with CICAD for drug users and in coordination with the CIM for women who are incarcerated, and evidence-based social reintegration programs, taking into account the growing number of people incarcerated in the Americas and the enormous consequences for families, societies, economies, and institutions.

95. To request the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security to promote, as part of the Prison Strategy being implemented by the Department of Public Security, the development and use of restorative justice programs in appropriate cases with due safeguards for victim protection, within formal criminal justice processes, as well as the development of innovative approaches to restorative justice – which may or may not be in the context of formal criminal proceedings.

Illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects

96. To underscore that the issue of illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects is a risk factor that impacts the high rates of violence and lack of security in the region, where a majority of homicides are committed using firearms, representing a threat to peace, security, and development.

97. To encourage member states to implement the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (UN Programme of Action on Small Arms) and to participate actively in the Third Review Conference to be held on June 18-29, 2018.

98. To instruct the General Secretariat, with the assistance of United Nations Office of Disarmament Affairs, with UNODC, when appropriate to compile information on the technical and financial needs of member states for the implementation of the Program of Action on Small Arms.

99. To note the Inter-American Defense Board's handbook (IADB) at the request of the CSH on best practices for stockpile management and destruction of small arms and light weapons and their ammunition prepared at the request of the Committee on Hemispheric Security in 2017.

100. To reiterate to the Secretariat that the Department to Combat Transnational Organized Crime should, in coordination with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), prepare a hemispheric study on the topic of trafficking in small arms, light weapons and ammunition in the hemisphere, based on information provided by member states, which would identify the risks and challenges, and make action-oriented recommendations, particularly on strengthening border controls to prevent and combat arms trafficking using an approach of shared, common responsibility.

Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco)

101. To recognize the continuing validity of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco) 51 years after its adoption, as a demonstration that the absence of nuclear arms in the region reinforces security and trust among the states of the hemisphere, stands as a clear example to those states that have this type of weapon, and contributes to efforts toward a nuclear-free world.

102. To encourage those states that have ratified the pertinent protocols of the Treaty of Tlatelolco to examine any interpretive statement they may have made on this matter under Action 9 of the final document of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to review the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

II. LEGAL INSTRUMENTS

103. To urge those member states that have not already done so to consider ratifying or acceding to, as appropriate, the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (CIFTA), the Inter-American Convention on Transparency in Conventional Weapons Acquisitions (CITAAC), the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism, and the Inter-American Convention to Facilitate Disaster Assistance (IACFDA).

Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (CIFTA)^{12/}

104. To welcome the holding of the XVIII meeting of the Consultative Committee of the CIFTA, on February 16, 2018 at OAS headquarters, and also the holding of the Fourth Conference of States Party to CIFTA on April 4-5, 2018 in Mexico City.

105. To invite those member states that have not already done so to consider acceding to the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials; as well as to strengthen coordination and cooperation mechanisms, in order to consolidate the effective implementation of the Convention.

106. To adopt the “2018-2022 Course of Action for the Operation and Implementation of the CIFTA,” approved during the Fourth Conference of States Parties to the CIFTA on April 4-5, 2018 in Mexico City, and to reaffirm the commitment to implementing it.

107. To convene the nineteenth regular meeting of the Consultative Committee of the CIFTA, in accordance with Article XXI of the Convention, of one day’s duration, during the first semester of 2019 and to request the Technical Secretariat of the CIFTA to assist with the preparation and follow-up of said meeting.

108. To promote and strengthen synergies between the OAS, the United Nations, especially its Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat, and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (UNPoA); the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime; the Arms Trade Treaty;^{13/14/} and the International Tracing Instrument (ITI), and all the hemisphere’s subregional mechanisms, so as to enable member states to explore more and better possibilities of working together in this area.

109. To encourage the States party to the CIFTA to strengthen regional, subregional, and bilateral cooperation through coordinated, joint actions with a view to preventing and combating the illicit trafficking of firearms, ammunition, and explosives. Additionally, to share and exchange relevant information on illegal activities related to this issue that jeopardize the region’s security.

110. To instruct the Technical Secretariat of the CIFTA that, in consultation with the pertinent United Nations agencies: the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), it conclude by the second semester of 2018, the comparative study of the CIFTA and other international instruments on such matters, including the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat, and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (UNPoA), the International Tracing Instrument (ITI), and the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components

12. The Government of Nicaragua is committed to preventing, combatting and eradicating illegal arms trafficking, and on account of its commitment to peace and citizen security...

13. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is fully committed to preventing, combating, and eradicating illegal firearms trafficking and has always felt that these goals could best be accomplished through ...

14. The Government of Nicaragua is committed to preventing, combating, and eradicating illegal arms trafficking. And, on account of its commitment to peace and citizen security, it has endorsed several...

and Ammunition supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, to be presented at the nineteenth regular meeting of the CIFTA Consultative Committee in accordance with the decision adopted at the eighteenth regular meeting of said Consultative Committee.

111. To mark the twentieth anniversary of the CIFTA by proclaiming April 5 as “Inter-American Day against Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms” from 2019 onward.

112. To instruct the OAS General Secretariat to continue providing, as requested by member states, technical assistance and cooperation for the marking, tracing, recordkeeping, and destruction of firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials, as appropriate.

113. To consider establishing an OAS Voluntary Trust Fund dedicated to improving the operations and functions of the CIFTA.

Inter-American Convention on Transparency in Conventional Weapons Acquisitions (CITAAC)

114. To consider the recommendations of the IADB contained in document CP/CSH-1829/18 on the operations and functions of the Inter-American Convention on Transparency in Conventional Weapons Acquisitions (CITAAC).

115. To promote preparation by the Committee on Hemispheric Security, with advice from the IADB, of a proposal for the implementation and bringing into operation of a Secretariat pro tempore or Technical Secretariat (proposed at the First Conference of the States Party) that establishes the organization and functions of that Secretariat.

116. To request the States Party to continue submitting in a timely fashion annual reports and notifications in compliance with their obligations under Articles III and IV of the Inter-American Convention on Transparency in Conventional Weapons Acquisitions (CITAAC), and to identify before July 1 of each year national points of contact to contribute to the preparation of notifications and annual reports.

117. To urge States Parties to submit in a timely fashion annual reports and notifications in compliance with their obligations under Articles III and IV of the CITAAC, and to request the General Secretariat to contact the non-member states of the Organization so that they may contribute to the objective of the Convention by providing information annually to the General Secretariat on their exports of conventional weapons to States Parties to the CITAAC, in accordance with Article V thereof.

118. To set March 2019, at the headquarters of the OAS General Secretariat as the date and place of the Second Conference of the States Party to the Convention, in accordance with Article VIII of the CITAAC and resolution AG/RES. 2809 (XLIII-O/13), and to request that the General Secretariat budget for that conference and for a preparatory meeting and that it support the preparations for and follow-up on said conference.

Inter-American Convention against Terrorism

119. To invite those member states that have not yet done so to consider acceding to the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism and to invite member states that have not already done so to consider ratifying or acceding to, as the case may be, the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism, adopted at Bridgetown, Barbados, on June 3, 2002, and to support its full implementation.

120. To convene the first meeting of the States Party to the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism for the first half of 2019 at the headquarters of the OAS in Washington, D.C.

Inter-American Convention to Facilitate Disaster Assistance (IACFDA)

121. To request the General Secretariat to include this Convention as a topic on the schedule of activities of the CSH for 2018-2019, in order to advance the process to review, propose any updates considered necessary, and strengthen its provisions, especially bearing in mind the increased incidence of major natural disasters since the Convention entered into force in 1996, giving particular attention to the experiences of the States Party to the IACFDA.

122. To request the General Secretariat to promote awareness of the IACFDA among member states that have not yet acceded to the Convention and among permanent observer states.

123. To direct the General Secretariat, through the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security, to cooperate with SEDI to optimize inclusion of pertinent provisions of the Inter-American Convention to Facilitate Disaster Assistance, to develop a proposal to be considered by CIDI to facilitate disaster assistance and strengthen the provision of technical assistance by OAS member states and permanent observers, for member states affected by disasters.

III. OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE ANNUAL REPORTS
OF THE ORGANS, AGENCIES, AND ENTITIES OF THE ORGANIZATION
(ARTICLE 91.f OF THE CHARTER OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES)

Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD)

124. To strengthen communication, collaboration and cooperation in order to address the world drug problem with a comprehensive, balanced, evidence-based, and multidisciplinary approach that contributes to the improvement of knowledge and the production of scientific evidence for drug policies and programs, recognizing that this is an increasingly complex, dynamic, and multi-causal phenomenon that includes persistent, new and evolving challenges.

125. To encourage member states and the CICAD Executive Secretariat to continue their efforts to effectively implement the Operational Recommendations of the Outcome Document of the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on the World Drug Problem UNGASS 2016, which will guide their future efforts building on our previous international commitments in this regard, including the 2009 United Nations Political Declaration and Plan of Action, and to strengthen the exchange of experiences, good practices and collaboration with civil society, academia, and other regional and international organizations and forums.

126. To welcome the undertaking of the First Meeting of the CICAD Working Group on the Implementation of the 2016 UNGASS Operational Recommendations, held in Mexico City on April 24, 2018.

127. To support the efforts to implement the 2016-2020 Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs and its contributions to the fulfillment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, while recognizing the need to improve the collection and analysis of data, indicators, and measurement instruments of drug policies.

128. To strengthen the adoption of comprehensive prevention, control and supply reduction measures, as well as the treatment, rehabilitation, and social reintegration of individuals with drug use disorders, with a focus on human rights at the individual, community, family and society level, to promote the non-stigmatization of people who use drugs, but also does not permit impunity for drug-related crimes.

129. To emphasize the importance of improving access to and the availability of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, particularly for palliative care, while strengthening measures to prevent their diversion, trafficking and misuse.

130. To continue supporting the efforts of member states, including requesting CICAD to strengthen the cooperation mechanisms and exchange of good practices of chemical producing and recipient countries to control the diversion of precursor chemicals that can be used to manufacture illicit drugs, and in appropriate cases, in coordination with existing monitoring and notification procedures established by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, without affecting its trade and legitimate uses.

131. To reiterate our commitment to continue including the gender and human rights perspectives in international drug policies, aiming to develop and disseminate measures that take into account gender issues and the specific needs and circumstances that women and girls face with respect to the world drug problem. To ensure women's effective participation in the agencies and organizations in charge of the drug issue, and in this sense encourage the participation of countries in the Inter-American Program for Strengthening Gender Equality in Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (GENLEA/CICAD).

132. To encourage member states to promote a human rights perspective, in accordance with national legislation and international commitments, including the principle of proportional sentencing for minor drug-related offenses, and in this sense, encourage CICAD to continue promoting best practices for alternatives to incarceration.

133. To continue encouraging the search for viable economic and social integration alternatives to prevent and counteract actions by criminal groups that involve individuals and communities in the cultivation, production, distribution, trafficking, and use of drugs.

134. To strengthen coordination and cooperation among OAS member states and across the OAS bodies to counter illicit activities that facilitate transnational organized crime, such as trafficking in narcotics, firearms trafficking, money laundering and other drug-related activities.

135. To support requesting member states to develop and strengthen the early warning systems for new illicit drugs, new psychoactive substances and precursor chemicals in coordination with global early warning systems.

136. To reaffirm that, twenty years after the mandate for the establishment of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM), it remains the only valid hemispheric instrument to measure the implementation of the CICAD Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs and related international cooperation actions, and to welcome the start of the MEM Seventh Round.

137. To approve the Work Plan of the Executive Secretariat of CICAD for 2018, in accordance with the CICAD Statutes, and in compliance with the 2010 Hemispheric Drug Strategy and its Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs 2016-2020.

138. To support the strengthening of the CICAD Executive Secretariat, and encourage member states that, if possible, they make voluntary financial contributions to strengthen its work.

Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE)

139. To reiterate its strong and unequivocal condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, regardless of by whom, where and for what purpose it is committed.

140. To emphasize the importance of designating one or more National Points of Contact to the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) with competence in the field of prevention and elimination of terrorism in order to strengthen cooperation between them and CICTE.

141. To reaffirm and support the commitments undertaken in the Declaration “Strengthening Hemispheric Efforts to Address and Counter Violent Extremism that is Conducive to Terrorism,” adopted by CICTE at its eighteenth regular session held at OAS headquarters in Washington, D.C. on May 3- 4, 2018, particularly the commitment to redouble efforts to prevent and counter violent extremism from a comprehensive and multidimensional approach, with full respect for human rights and the rule of law.

142. To express its thanks for the holding of the first meeting of the Working Group on Cooperation and Confidence-Building Measures in Cyberspace, which took place on February 28 and March 1, 2018 at OAS headquarters in Washington, D.C.; to endorse the resolution “Regional Confidence-Building Measures (CBMs) to Promote Cooperation and Trust in Cyberspace” (CICTE/RES. 1/18), thereby approving two new measures; and, in accordance with the document “New Consolidated List of Confidence-and Security-Building Measures to be Notified in Accordance with OAS Resolutions” (CP/CSH-1743/16) of May, 2016, to include them in the “New Consolidated List of Confidence- and Security-Building Measures” as non-traditional measures.

143. To ensure that the 2019 program-budget of the Organization allocates to the CICTE Secretariat the financial resources needed to implement the mandates, programs and activities contained in the CICTE Work Plan adopted at its eighteenth session, as well as sufficient resources to support the preparation and holding of its annual meeting. Also to request that the Secretary General assign to the CICTE Secretariat additional human resources, particularly Regular Fund resources, to strengthen its technical assistance capacities and also to ensure greater continuity in CICTE’s work.

144. To encourage member states, permanent observers, and international organizations to continue supporting the CICTE Secretariat through external funding, so that it may fulfill its functions.

145. To convene the nineteenth regular session of CICTE at OAS headquarters in Washington, D.C., on May 2 and 3, 2019; and two one-day preparatory meetings to be held at OAS headquarters on February 28, 2019 and April 11, 2019, as well as a meeting to be held in the second semester of 2018, either on site or on-line, to promote the exchange of information between national points of contact and the CICTE Secretariat, discuss advances in the implementation of the CICTE Work Plan, and learn about new threats and the needs of the countries in this area.

146. To request the Chair of CICTE to report to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth regular session on the implementation of the mandates contained in the CICTE Work Plan.

Inter-American Defense Board (IADB) ^{15/ 16/17/18/}

147. To invite those member states that deem it appropriate to continue to provide the necessary financial and human resources to the Inter-American Defense Board and to consider two years as the minimum assignment for officers or staff members to the IADB.

148. To encourage those states that are not members of the Inter-American Defense Board to consider joining the Board to strengthen and expand hemispheric defense and security cooperation.

149. To urge the member states to continue designating military or police personnel for inclusion in the activities of the IADB Humanitarian Demining Mission.

150. To request that member states provide the information requested to the Inter-American Defense Board to facilitate completion of the database for natural disaster response, which will support enhanced disaster preparedness for the hemisphere, in accordance with the IADB Advisory Plan.

151. To request that the Secretary General consider including the Inter-American Defense Board as an educational institution eligible to receive OAS scholarships through the OAS Academic Scholarship Program (Regular Program).

152. To request that, based on the experience of recent disasters in the hemisphere, the member organizations of the Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction provide updated information on lessons learned in the area of humanitarian assistance in order to introduce

15. The Government of Ecuador, in keeping with Article 4, paragraph 4.4 of the Statutes of the Inter-American Defense Board (IADB), gave notice of its definitive withdrawal from the IADB ...

16. The Government of Nicaragua considers that the historical context that made it possible for the Inter-American Defense Board to come into being does not correspond to the realities...

17. The Plurinational State of Bolivia is not part of the Inter-American Defense Board (IADB) hence it does not accept agreements or commitments regarding this section.

18. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela questions the validity of the Inter-American Defense Board (IADB) because of its origins, nature, scope, objectives, and performance

changes into the “Plan for Improving Advice and Guidance Provided by the IADB to the Inter-American System in the Event of Disasters,” if advisable.

153. To request that the Board, within the framework of its Statutes:

- a. Continue to seek agreements of collaboration with academic and scholarly institutions, in accordance with IADB Motion 13/2014, in order to build a network that can support the Board in the preparation of studies and other projects of interest to member states.
- b. Continue its support for the activities of the CDMA, especially for efforts to establish the CDMA’s institutional memory, by presenting a report on the events and common aspects associated with the activities carried out by the OAS in the area of defense and hemispheric security, participation in the ad hoc working groups, and providing the Secretariat pro tempore of the XIV CDMA with technical and secretariat assistance.
- c. Populate its database for natural disaster response by ensuring that member states complete and submit Form F-JID-011-01-DN, “Data In Case of Disasters” found on page 14 of the document “Improved IADB Plan for Advisory Services in Disaster Response within the Inter-American System,” (published by the IADB Secretariat on March 13, 2012) by December 31, 2018.
- d. Provide advice to the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security on the holding of the eighth meeting of the Forum on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures.
- e. Continue to provide technical support and advisory services to Haiti for implementation of its White Paper on security and development.

154. The CHS expresses its support for the IADB’s projected plan of action to hold seminars on the following: a seminar on the gender perspective in order to continue promoting the inclusion of women in the area of defense and security in the hemisphere; a conference on search and rescue in natural disasters to obtain lessons learned and experiences for replication by each OAS member state, and a seminar or conference on cybersecurity to propose recommendations to member states on information security in cyberspace and IT resource protection.

IV. FOLLOW-UP AND REPORTING

155. To instruct the SMS to submit in timely fashion the work plan of activities that it will carry out in the 2018-2019 period, for consultations or proper oversight by the member states.

156. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth 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.

157. To support the consideration by the CAAP of a review of the Indirect Cost Recovery Policy (ICR), taking into account the need to strengthen SMS and the activities it has as a mandate.

158. To thank member states, permanent observers and cooperating partners for their important participation and financial contributions, which support the design, implementation and evaluation of the programs and projects in the area of hemispheric security.

159. To underscore the importance of the work done by civil society in sensitizing public opinion to the many threats and challenges to hemispheric security and their consequences, thus contributing to the ongoing objectives of maintaining peace and the security of their citizens.

160. Given that their implementation is not yet complete, to renew the mandates contained in operative paragraphs 75 and 78 of resolution AG/RES. 2907 (XLVII-O/17).

V. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS^{19/}

Provisional sequence	Topic	Estimated Date	Name	Place
1	CDMA	October 2018	XIII Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas (XIII CDMA)	Mexico
2	Transnational Organized Crime	November 2018	Meeting of National Authorities on Transnational Organized Crime	OAS headquarters, Washington, D.C.
3	CITAAC	March 2019	Second Conference of the States Parties to the CITAAC	OAS headquarters, Washington, D.C.
4	CICTE	May 2-3, 2019	Nineteenth regular session of CICTE	OAS headquarters, Washington, D.C.
5	MISPA	1 st semester 2019	Second meeting of the Subsidiary Technical Working Group on the Prevention of Crime, Violence, and Insecurity	TBD
6	CIFTA	1 st semester 2019	Nineteenth regular meeting of the Consultative Committee of the CIFTA	TBD

19. Provisional list of meetings.

Provisional sequence	Topic	Estimated Date	Name	Place
7	CSBMs	2019	Eighth meeting of the Forum on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures	OAS headquarters, Washington, D.C.
8	MISPA	1 st semester 2019	Second meeting of the Subsidiary Technical Working Group on the Prevention of Crime, Violence, and Insecurity	TBD
9	MISPA	2 nd semester 2019	Seventh Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Public Security in the Americas (MISPA VII)	Ecuador
10	MISPA	2 nd semester 2018	Second in-person course of the Inter-American Network for Police Development and Professionalization	Ecuador

FOOTNOTES

1. Washington, D.C., December 13-15, 2017; High-level joint meeting of the Permanent Council and the Committee on Hemispheric Security on the “Security implications of climate change,” Washington, D.C., December 12, 2017; Eighteenth Regular Meeting of the Consultative Committee of CIFTA, Washington, D.C., February 16, 2018; Special security concerns of the small island states of the Caribbean, Washington D.C, March 8, 2018; Fifth Meeting of National Authorities on Trafficking in Persons, Washington, D.C., March 12-13, 2018; Fourth Conference of States Parties to the CIFTA, Mexico City, April 4-5, 2018; Protection of Critical Infrastructure in the event of Natural Disasters, Washington D.C., April 19, 2018; Sixty-third regular session of CICAD, Mexico, April 26-27, 2018; and Eighteenth regular session of CICTE, Washington, D.C., May 3-4, 2018.

2. ... go beyond that of being a policy forum whose sole purpose is to promote the exchange of good ideas, practices and experiences in defense and security matters. The CDMA was not created to coordinate specialized hemispheric military conferences or to develop operational mechanisms.

3. ... as not being “universal, genuine and non-discriminatory”. These treaties continue to serve as the cornerstones for disarmament and nonproliferation progress and are open to adherence by all states. While the revised text recognizes “common interests in the implementation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and other arms-related agreements,” it puts too much emphasis on their shortcomings, rather than their strengths.

4. ... supports this treaty. This treaty will not make the world more peaceful, will not result in the elimination of a single nuclear weapon, and will not enhance any state’s security. It ignores the current security challenges that make nuclear deterrence necessary, and risks undermining existing efforts to address global proliferation and security challenges. The United States invites all states to engage in a dialogue on the geopolitical impediments to nuclear disarmament, with the goal of developing effective measures which will help to create the conditions conducive for further progress.

5. ...and of the country’s resources, and furthermore, there are already lines and support programs in the MISPA meetings that have components having to do with the police. The role of SMS is to follow up on the outcomes of these meetings.

6. ... in June 2011. That document was not negotiated or approved by the member states of the OAS and, furthermore, AMERIPOL does not represent police agencies of all the countries of the Hemisphere. Accordingly, cooperation with the aforementioned Community cannot be imposed through disguised institutionalization in the Organization. Venezuela supports voluntary cooperation on police matters, based on respect for sovereignty, independence, noninterference, the legal system, and institutional system of countries. Such cooperation must always be coordinated and subject to civilian oversight of all the member states of the OAS.

7. ... mandates. Therefore, the agreement concluded between AMERIPOL and the General Secretariat of the OAS does not give rise to obligations for member states.

8. ... hemispheric security, since its goes beyond the functions of the IADB and attributes to it functions that do not correspond to the special nature of that agency. The responses to the security challenges posed by climate change will be defined within the jurisdiction of each member state of the Organization of American States.

9. to develop recommendations on the security implications of climate change. We note our concern about such work being undertaken by the OAS and other bodies that do not have technical and scientific expertise in these areas.

10. ... (which includes humanitarian demining) since 1993. The United States will continue to support OAS efforts to eliminate the humanitarian threat of all remaining landmines and declare countries “mine-impact-free.” In September 2014, the United States announced that it would align its activities outside the Korean Peninsula with key requirements of the Ottawa Convention. This means the United States will:

- not use anti-personnel landmines (APL) outside the Korean Peninsula;
- not assist, encourage, or induce anyone outside the Korean Peninsula to engage in activity prohibited by the Ottawa Convention; and
- undertake to destroy APL stockpiles not required for the defense of the Korean Peninsula.

11. ... It shares the need for these measures to be adapted to geographic, political, economic, social, cultural and technological conditions and realities. Under this optic, supports in general terms a confidence-building measure designed to exchange information on the approval and/or adaptation of laws regulating the collection of data and information and the sharing of experiences among governments on data prevention, management and protection; in the context of this confidence-building measure, the participation of service providers and end users must be voluntary, and shall not constitute an obligation for States.

12. ...and has signed international instruments on combatting and preventing illicit arms trafficking, and has incorporated into national law the Program of Action and the International Firearms Tracing, by means of the Special Law for the Control and Regulation of Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and other Related Materials, Law 510, which has enabled us to develop a rigorous plan for the control and registration of firearms in civilian hands and for the confiscation of weapons of war.

13. ...a strong multilateral regime, which would translate into a balanced, objective, and nondiscriminatory treaty. Venezuela is therefore of the view that references to synergies with other legal instruments, particularly the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), is not an appropriate formula for accomplishing the goals of the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and other Related Materials (CIFTA), as the ATT suffers from the following shortcomings:

- It is not a universally-applied instrument, which limits its scope to be considered a frame of reference for pursuing synergies among various treaties to combat the illicit trafficking in firearms, ammunition, components, and all its aspects.
- It fails to mention weapons over-production and storage by major producers and exporters.
- It contains a number of criteria that could be used by certain countries to restrict the sovereign right of states to acquire weapons to meet their legitimate security and defense needs, by resorting to arbitrary and subjective arguments based on biased thinking and aspects of double standards.
- It ignores the threat posed by arms transfers to unauthorized non-state actors.

14. ... international instruments that address the combat and prevention of illegal arms trafficking and has incorporated the Program of Action and the International Tracing Instrument for firearms into its domestic law by means of the Special Law for the Control and Regulation of Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (Law 510), which has enabled us to develop a robust plan for controlling and registering firearms held by civilians and for seizing weapons of war. Nicaragua is aware of the humanitarian impact and repercussions of this scourge in the Hemisphere and, in particular, in the Central American region, for which reason we remain committed to multilateralism. However, Nicaragua cannot accept the Arms Trade Treaty adopted by the United Nations, because:

- It does not include a ban on transfers of firearms to non-state actors, which seems to us very dangerous, given that by its non-prohibition we are led, perforce, to the assumption that it is permitted
- The operative part of the treaty does not contain a clear affirmation of the sovereign right of states to procure, manufacture, export, import, and keep conventional weapons and their parts and components for their legitimate defense and security needs.
- There is no prohibition against the transfer of weapons to states that threaten the use of force or that commit crimes of aggression against other states and which have as their practice and policy the destabilization of other states as well as the threat and the use of force.

15. on February 20, 2014, and in keeping with the established procedure, ceased its membership on the Board on February 20, 2015. Hence, Ecuador cannot be part of any consensus reached or commitment assumed by the states on these matters.

16. ... of our states, Nicaragua does not agree that the Inter-American Defense Board should intervene in matters of a military or other nature that would mean undermining a country's sovereignty, independence, institutions or laws.

18. Venezuela reiterates that IADB action must be limited to the powers specifically established in its Statutes, and should refrain from intervening in matters of a military or other nature threatening peace, sovereignty, independence, freedom, territorial integrity, self-determination, noninterference, the legal system, and the institutional system of states, which are basic requirements for peaceful coexistence of nations.

AG/RES. 2926 (XLVIII-O/18)

INTERNATIONAL LAW

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2018)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING resolutions AG/RES. 2852 (XLIV-O/14), AG/RES. 2886 (XLVI-O/16), and AG/RES. 2909 (XLVII-O/17), as well as all previous resolutions adopted on this topic; and

HAVING SEEN the “Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly June 2017-June 2018” (AG/doc.5613/18 add. 1), in particular the section on the activities of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP),

I. ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE ON JURIDICAL AND POLITICAL AFFAIRS

RESOLVES:

1. To instruct the Permanent Council, the General Secretariat, and the other bodies referred to in Article 53 of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS) to continue working on the implementation of the applicable current mandates set out in previous General Assembly resolutions assigned to the CAJP, except as stated otherwise in any resolution.

2. To urge the member states of the Organization to continue contributing to the attainment of the objectives established in said resolutions and to instruct the General Secretariat to provide the necessary support to those ends.

i. Observations and recommendations on the Annual Report of the Inter-American Juridical Committee (CJI)

HAVING SEEN the observations and recommendations of the member states on the annual report of the CJI (CP/doc.5367/18), presented to the CAJP on April 5, 2018,

RESOLVES:

1. To request the CJI to report on an ongoing basis on progress made with the items on its agenda, such as matters related to the law applicable to international contracts, binding and non-binding agreements, and the validity of foreign judicial decisions in light of the Inter-American Convention on Extraterritorial Validity of Foreign Judgments and Arbitral Awards, and that it begin updating the Principles on Protection of Personal Data, bearing in mind how such data have evolved.

2. To request the CJI to update its 2016 report on principles for electronic warehouse receipts for agricultural products in light of the new developments, since those principles were adopted, in connection with access to credit in the agricultural sector.

3. To underscore the need to strengthen the administrative and budgetary support provided for the CJI and the Course on International Law organized each year in Rio de Janeiro by the CJI and its Technical Secretariat, the Department of International Law, and to reaffirm the importance of the contact that the CJI maintains with the Organization's organs and with the offices of legal counsel of member states' ministries of foreign affairs, and other international organizations.

ii. Promotion of and Respect for International Humanitarian Law

DEEPLY CONCERNED that in various parts of the world violations of international humanitarian law persist, causing suffering to victims of armed conflict, particularly the civilian population, and by the challenges posed by current humanitarian consequences in the context of armed conflicts;

RECALLING that the obligation, under any circumstances, to respect and ensure respect for international humanitarian law, whether treaty-based or arising from customary international law, applies to all states parties to the four universally recognized Geneva Conventions and to the states parties to one or more of the three protocols additional thereto;^{1/}

REAFFIRMING, to that end, the need to strengthen international humanitarian law by promoting its universal acceptance, its broader dissemination, and the adoption of national measures for its effective application, including through changes to domestic laws and, where applicable, the imposition of criminal sanctions on those that commit gross violations thereof; and

EMPHASIZING the mandate and role of the International Committee of the Red Cross as a neutral, impartial, and independent institution working to protect and assist victims of armed conflicts and other situations of violence, and to promote respect for international humanitarian law, as conferred by the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 and by the Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge member states and parties to armed conflict to observe and comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law.

2. To urge member states to consider ratifying or acceding to the treaties on international humanitarian law, including those on prohibition or restriction of the use of certain weapons, and, as applicable, take the legislative steps needed to prevent conduct prohibited under those and other treaties, especially as regards the destruction of weapons, clean-up of areas contaminated with explosive remains, proper care for victims, and control over the arms trade, and the ban on nuclear weapons.

3. To urge member states to consider incorporating international humanitarian law in the doctrine, procedures, training, equipment, control mechanisms, and education of their armed and security forces.

1. The United States' position is that neither customary international law nor the Geneva Convention of 1949 and the Additional Protocols thereto imposes an obligation on states to respect...

4. To urge member states to contribute actively to effective follow-up on the resolutions adopted at the 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, held in Geneva, Switzerland, from December 8 to 10, 2015, especially those on strengthening compliance with international humanitarian law; strengthening international humanitarian law protecting persons deprived of liberty; sexual and gender-based violence; and delivery of health care in situations of danger.

5. To invite member states to continue to support the work of national committees or commissions responsible for the implementation and dissemination of international humanitarian law; and to urge any state without such a body to consider establishing one as a means of strengthening advancement and observance of international humanitarian law.

6. To invite member states to consider accepting the competence of the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission to inquire into allegations, as authorized by Article 90 of Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions of 1949.

7. To express satisfaction with the cooperation between the Organization of American States and the International Committee of the Red Cross in promoting respect for international humanitarian law and the principles that govern that law, to urge the General Secretariat to continue to strengthen such cooperation, and to instruct the Permanent Council to hold a special meeting in the first half of 2019 on topics of current interest in international humanitarian law.

II. FOLLOW-UP AND REPORTING

RESOLVES:

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

FOOTNOTE

1. ...and ensure respect for all of international humanitarian law in all circumstances, but rather that states parties to the Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocols have an obligation to respect and ensure respect for those Conventions and the Additional Protocols to which they are party.

AG/RES. 2927 (XLVIII-O/18)

STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2018)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

REAFFIRMING the norms and general principles of international law and those contained in the Charter of the OAS;

MINDFUL that the Charter of the OAS provides in its preamble “that representative democracy is an indispensable condition for the stability, peace and development of the region” and proclaims that one of the essential purposes of the Organization is to “promote and consolidate representative democracy, with due respect for the principle of nonintervention;”

RECALLING resolutions AG/RES. 2703 (XLII-O/12), AG/RES. 2768 (XLIII-O/13), AG/RES. 2853 (XLIV-O/14), AG/RES. 2891 (XLVI-O/16), AG/RES. 2894 (XLVI-O/16), AG/RES. 2905 (XLVII-O/17) and all previous resolutions adopted on this subject;

HAVING SEEN the annual report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly, June 2017-June 2018 (AG/doc.xxx/18), and in particular the section on the activities of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP), and

CONSIDERING that the programs, activities, and tasks established in the resolutions falling under the mandate of the CAJP help meet the essential purposes of the Organization of American States (OAS) set out in its Charter,

I. ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE ON JURIDICAL AND POLITICAL AFFAIRS

RESOLVES:

1. To instruct the Permanent Council, the General Secretariat, and the other organs identified in Article 53 of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS) to continue working on the implementation of the applicable current mandates set out in previous General Assembly resolutions assigned to the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP), except as stated otherwise in any resolution.

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

i. Mission to Support the Fight against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras (MACCIH)^{1/}

STRESSING that corruption undermines the legitimacy of public institutions and threatens democracy, peace, the rule of law, justice, and the integral development of peoples;

MINDFUL of the conclusion on January 19, 2016, of the agreement between the Government of the Republic of Honduras and the OAS General Secretariat to establish the MACCIH; and

TAKING NOTE of the semiannual reports of the MACCIH submitted to the OAS Permanent Council (first semiannual report, CP/doc.5353/16, October 2016; second semiannual report, CP/doc.5310/17, May 2017),

RESOLVES:

1. To take into account that the Mission to Support the Fight against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras has provided support to Honduran institutions in fighting against corruption and the elimination of impunity from a holistic perspective, in the interest of Honduran democracy

2. To invite member states and observer states to continue their cooperation with the MACCIH, and their financial support thereto, so as to ensure the fulfillment of its objectives.

3. To instruct the General Secretariat to continue its support for the work of the MACCIH and to present to the Permanent Council a report on income and expenditures since the start of MACCIH's work.

ii. Strengthening the activities of the Inter-American Program of Judicial Facilitators

RECOGNIZING the importance of the positive results that national judicial facilitators services have had and the training of justice operators promoted by the Inter-American Program of Judicial Facilitators in the region; and

CONSIDERING that national judicial facilitator services strengthen judicial institutions and broaden access for vulnerable populations by promoting a culture of peaceful conflict resolution, and reducing the judicialization of conflicts in Argentina, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, and Paraguay,

RESOLVES:

1. To recognize the work done by the Inter-American Program of Judicial Facilitators in strengthening and supplementing national policies that support the member states' actions and efforts on crime prevention and peaceful resolution of conflicts.

1. Bolivia: The interinstitutional agreements signed by the General Secretariat should reflect the mandates of the member states and be strictly governed by the norms ...

2. To urge the General Secretariat to continue its support to member states that so request in establishing national judicial facilitators services and training their operators through the Inter-American Program of Judicial Facilitators.

3. To support efforts to secure voluntary contributions, to consolidate and expand the existing services of the Inter-American Program of Judicial Facilitators and to extend them to other member states that so request.

4. To strengthen the Inter-American Program of Judicial Facilitators with a view to finding mechanisms to ensure its sustainability.

5. To instruct the General Secretariat, through the Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity, to give priority to, and assist in, raising specific funds for that purpose.

6. To urge the General Secretariat, through the Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity, to continue with the evaluations that will lead to improved management of that Program.

iii. Strengthening cadastre and property registry in the Americas

EMPHASIZING the importance of cadastre and property registry as basic government activities and sources of information for more efficient and transparent rural and urban land management, and to safeguard social and economic rights, strengthen democratic governance and the rule of law; and promote the socioeconomic development of the region;

UNDERSCORING the commitment of member states that participate in the Inter-American Network on Cadastre and Property Registry (RICRP), which is the principal forum of hemispheric cooperation on the subject, to strengthen the regional ecosystem of cadastre and property registration; to share experiences and good practices among national cadastre and property registry agencies, and to dialogue and decision-making on the regional agenda on this subject, and

THANKING the Governments of Colombia, Panama, and Uruguay for their hospitality and leadership as hosts and chairs of the annual conferences in 2015, 2016, and 2017 respectively, and also expressing its satisfaction with the offer by Argentina to host the IV Conference and Assembly of the RICRP, which will be held in November 2018,

RESOLVES:

1. To instruct the General Secretariat, through the Department for Effective Public Management, to continue supporting efforts by member states to strengthen their cadastre and property registry management and to share experiences and good practices that will advance the regional agenda on this matter.

2. To invite member states to continue their support for the RICRP, to maintain their active participation in its activities, and to step up efforts to reduce property under-registration and update their cadastres and registries.

iv. Access to Public Information and Protection of Personal Data

RECALLING that access to public information and protection of personal data are essential to democracy and to full enjoyment of human rights and work in a complementary fashion to benefit effective citizen participation, which contributes to the strengthening of public institutions, equality, and the full exercise of the rule of law.

TAKING NOTE of the conclusions of the CAJP on this topic at its meeting held on January 25, 2018 (document CP/CAJP/SA. 628/18),

RESOLVES:

1. To instruct the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States to continue supporting, with the assistance of civil society and other social actors, the efforts of member states that so request to adopt legislative and other appropriate measures to ensure access to public information, in accordance with their domestic laws and consistent with their international obligations and commitments, in particular for the implementation of the Model Inter-American Law on Access to Public Information or for continuing to bring themselves into line with it.

2. To request member states, in the framework of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP), to report annually and voluntarily on their progress and exchange best practices in implementing the Inter-American Program on Access to Public Information; and to request that the Department of International Law, taking advantage of the presence of the Focal Points at these meetings, simultaneously organize a meeting with them to move forward together in implementation of the Program and explore opportunities for mutual cooperation.

3. To request the General Secretariat, through the Department of International Law, in consultation with the focal points for the Inter-American Program on Access to Public Information and taking into account contributions from civil society, to continue working on identifying thematic areas in which it considers it necessary to update or broaden the Model Inter-American Law on Access to Public Information, duly taking into consideration also the latest regional and global developments in the area of protection of personal data and to forward its findings to the Inter-American Juridical Committee.

v. Follow-up on the Inter-American Convention against Corruption and on the Inter-American Program for Cooperation in the Fight against Corruption

RECALLING resolution AG/RES.1 (LI-E/16), "Comprehensive Strategic Plan of the Organization," Annex I of which adopted the strategic line and objectives related to anticorruption efforts; the mandates of the Summits of the Americas with respect to the fight against corruption, in particular those of the Eighth Summit of the Americas, held in Lima, Peru, in April 2018, related to the Inter-American Convention against Corruption and its follow-up mechanism (MESICIC); the Inter-American Program of Cooperation to Fight Corruption (MESICIC/CEP-II/doc.5/06 rev. 2); and the "Recommendations of the Fourth Meeting of the Conference of States Parties to the MESICIC" (MESICIC/CEP-IV/doc.2/15 rev. 1),

RESOLVES:

1. To instruct the Department of Legal Cooperation of the Secretariat for Legal Affairs, in its capacity as the Technical Secretariat of the Follow-up Mechanism for the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (MESICIC), to continue implementing the mandates contained in the “Recommendations of the Fourth Meeting of the Conference of States Parties to the MESICIC” (MESICIC/CEP-IV/doc.2/15 rev. 1), in accordance with the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

2. To endorse the commitment of the member states to resolutely to prevent and combat corruption and to promote transparency in order to help improve efficiency in public and private management and promote accountability, and to continue to make progress with effective implementation of the recommendations of the MESICIC while working together to continue moving forward with the Fifth Round of Review of the MESICIC.

3. To instruct the MESICIC Technical Secretariat, to continue to provide legal advice and identify opportunities for technical assistance to the Conference of States Parties and the Committee of Experts of the MESICIC; continue collaborating on the organization of on-site visits and the preparation of draft reports with recommendations for each country; carry out programs and activities to facilitate the implementation of the Convention and their recommendations; offer states parties programs, projects, studies, mechanisms for exchanges of best practices, and legal and technical cooperation tools to help them prevent, detect, and punish acts of corruption in accordance with the Convention, and provide technical support, as necessary, to the Inter-American Program of Cooperation to Fight Corruption; maintain the Anticorruption Portal of the Americas; and pursue efforts to raise funds to finance regional cooperation activities, including legal cooperation, in the fight against corruption.

4. To urge the MESICIC Technical Secretariat to continue strengthening its coordination and collaboration with the secretariats of other international cooperation agencies, entities, and mechanisms active in that area; promoting synergies and an anti-corruption culture; and discharging its various other functions under the Document of Buenos Aires and the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of States Parties to the MESICIC and of its Committee of Experts.

5. To request that the MESICIC, within the sphere of its competence and in accordance with the resources assigned in the Organization’s program-budget and other resources, implement the mandates assigned to it by the Lima Commitment on Democratic Governance against Corruption,^{2/ 3/} adopted at the Eighth Summit of the Americas held in April 2018 in Lima, Peru, and, through the Chair of the Committee of Experts, present a report on the progress made with that implementation to the Permanent Council before the forty-ninth regular session of the General Assembly.

6. To request that the General Secretariat submit a proposal to the CAAP, subject to availability of resources, to increase the budgetary allocation from the OAS regular budget assigned to the Technical Secretariat of the MESICIC, bearing in mind the commitment to “continuing to

2. The Government of the Republic of Nicaragua does not approve the Lima Commitment: ‘Democratic Governance against Corruption,’ nor other documents, declarations, communiqués, ...

3. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela does not recognize the “Lima Commitment” adopted by the “participating States” at the Eighth Summit of the Americas. In addition, it reiterates its denunciation...

strengthen the Follow-up Mechanism for the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (MESICIC), by identifying resources to bolster its operations with a view to more efficiently addressing the new challenges that corruption poses in the Hemisphere,” assumed by the Heads of State and Government in paragraph 45 in the Lima Commitment,^{4/5/} adopted at the Eighth Summit of the Americas. The methods and the amount to be used for the above purposes, without implying an increase in quotas, will be included in the resolution on the funding of the Organization and in the OAS program-budget for 2019.

7. To encourage the member states and observer states to cooperate and support the funding of the MESICIC in order to ensure that it meets its objectives.

8. To urge member states to take effective measures to combat tax avoidance, money laundering, and illicit financial flows deriving from corruption, and to identify beneficial owners

vi. Public Management Strengthening and Innovation in the Americas

CONSIDERING that democracy is essential for the social, political, and economic development of the peoples of the Americas and that effective public management, fighting corruption, and the promotion of transparency are vital components of the full exercise of democracy;

EMPHASIZING the importance of public institutions being transparent and effective and having mechanisms for public participation and accountability, and also recognizing the importance of creating synergies between the different international instruments and forums that exist for the topic;

REAFFIRMING the commitments made in the Lima Commitment^{6/7} adopted by our Heads of State and Government at the VIII Summit of the Americas, held in Lima, Peru, on April 13 and 14, 2018, especially those relating to strengthening democratic institutions, promotion of policies on integrity and transparency, open government, e-government, open data, and public procurement (paragraphs 1, 14, 17, 20, 27, 33, and 50 of the Lima Commitment CA-VIII.doc.1/18),

ALSO REAFFIRMING the importance of transparency in government and of a culture of lawfulness as essential requirements in the fight against corruption, as well as the commitment of member states to continue to promote strengthening them by means of measures and actions to prevent, detect, punish, and eradicate acts of corruption,

RESOLVES:

1 To urge the member states to promote codes of conduct with high standards of ethics, probity, transparency, and integrity, taking as reference the recommendations contained in the “Guidelines for the Management of Policies for Probity in the Public Administrations of the Americas,” and to urge the Hemisphere’s private sector, to develop similar codes of conduct.

4. See footnote 1.

5. See footnote 3.

6. See footnote 1.

7. See footnote 3.

2. To instruct the OAS General Secretariat to continue to support the member states' efforts to strengthen government institutions at the national and local levels, by means of educational and training programs on these issues, through the Inter-American Cooperation Mechanism for Effective Public Management (MECIGEP) and other initiatives.

3. To instruct the OAS General Secretariat, through the Department for Effective Public Management, to continue supporting the member states that so request in the implementation of policies for open government, e-government, open data, fiscal transparency, administrative streamlining, open budget, electronic public procurement and contracting systems, and public registry of state suppliers, taking into account the participation of civil society and other stakeholders.

4. To invite the Inter-American Network on Government Procurement (INGP) to craft a proposal for a hemispheric initiative for open contracting, in coordination with the competent national authorities, civil society, and the private sector.

vii. Technical Cooperation and Electoral Observation Missions

HIGHLIGHTING the substantive contribution made by the Organization of American States (OAS) to the strengthening and development of electoral processes and systems in member states through OAS electoral observation missions, electoral advice, and electoral technical cooperation, when so requested by a member state and consistent with the Inter-American Democratic Charter, and the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation and the Code of Conduct for International Election Observers; and

RECOGNIZING that the Inter-American Meetings of Electoral Authorities, organized by the Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation of the Secretariat for Strengthening Democracy, are the institutional fora that since 2003 have promoted the exchange of information, experiences, and successful practices, by bringing together agencies responsible for elections management in the region;

CONSIDERING that financial support from the host country is needed to ensure the sustainability of the Inter-American Meetings of Electoral Authorities, and that the Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation must have the human and financial resources, and

TAKING NOTE OF resolution AG/RES. 2905 (XLVII-O/17), "Strengthening Democracy," lifting the restrictions that prevent the Regular Fund of the Organization from being used to cover costs associated with electoral observation missions.

RESOLVES:

1. To request the General Secretariat to provide assistance to member states that so request in deploying OAS electoral observation missions and in the implementation of recommendations contained in the reports of those missions, and to invite donors to continue to support these missions in order to facilitate the planning of such missions.

2. To support the institutional strengthening of the Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation (DECO), ensuring the conditions for the development of methodological tools, the

dissemination of good electoral practices in the member states, training services and applications for the efficient management of electoral observation missions, and for the implementation of their recommendations.

3. Likewise, to instruct the General Secretariat, through the Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation, to serve as Technical Secretariat of the Inter-American Meetings of Electoral Authorities, so as to continue to offer an institutional venue for sharing experiences, lessons learned and dissemination of information on elections issues in the region, as well as the recommendations made by the Electoral Observation Missions.^{8/}

4. To request the General Secretariat to present a proposal to the CAAP, subject to the availability of resources from the OAS Regular Fund, for increasing the budget allocation for the Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation. The modalities and the amount that will be allocated for the aforementioned purposes, without involving any quota increase, will be included in the resolution on the financing of the Organization and in the program-budget of the OAS for 2019.

5. To instruct the General Secretariat to submit, for consideration by the General Assembly at its forty-ninth regular session, proposals to ensure the financial sustainability of electoral observation missions.

6. To request the General Secretariat to present an annual report to the Permanent Council on the sources of funding of electoral observation missions and on the amounts spent on each individual mission.

viii. Inclusive Dialogue for Effectively Dealing with Social Conflicts in Investments for Integral Development

REAFFIRMING, as Article 11 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter acknowledges, that democracy and social and economic development are interdependent and mutually reinforcing; and its conviction that a peaceful and constructive approach to social conflicts associated with investment projects, from a rights-based perspective and through dialogue and other peaceful means for the prevention and alternative resolution of disputes, contributes to democratic governance and integral development; and

REAFFIRMING ALSO the commitment to promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, to facilitating access to justice for all, and to building effective, responsible, and inclusive institutions at all levels,

RESOLVES:

1. To instruct the General Secretariat to continue supporting member states, upon request, in developing institutional capacities for dealing with social conflicts associated with investment projects for advancing integral development; eradicating poverty in all of its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty; and promoting equality, equity, and social inclusion.

8. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela reiterates that in instances where the General Secretariat serves as Technical Secretariat of the Inter-American Meeting of Electoral Authorities, ...

2. To request the General Secretariat to continue strengthening coordination of the projects and programs implemented by the various areas of the Organization, as well as their ties to other entities in the inter-American system and international organizations, with a view to promoting peaceful and inclusive societies, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals.

3. To request the Permanent Council to promote, subject to the availability of resources, the holding of a meeting of the CAJP to share experiences and information in this area.

ix. Follow-up to the Inter-American Democratic Charter

SHARING the conviction that democracy is one of our region's most valued accomplishments and that the peaceful transfer of power through constitutional means and in strict compliance with the constitutional rules of each of our states is the product of a continuous and irreversible process in which the region admits no interruptions or stepping backward.

HIGHLIGHTING that the Charter of the Organization of American States establishes in its preamble "that representative democracy is an indispensable condition for the stability, peace and development of the region" and that one of the essential purposes of the Organization is "[t]o promote and consolidate representative democracy, with due respect for the principle of nonintervention";

RECALLING that the Inter-American Democratic Charter states that "the peoples of the Americas have a right to democracy and their governments have an obligation to promote and defend it" and that "democracy is essential for the social, political, and economic development of the peoples of the Americas";

REAFFIRMING that "essential elements of representative democracy include, inter alia, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms; access to and the exercise of power in accordance with the rule of law; the holding of periodic, free, and fair elections based on secret balloting and universal suffrage as an expression of the sovereignty of the people, the pluralistic system of political parties and organizations, and the separation of powers and independence of the branches of government";

REAFFIRMING ALSO that "transparency in government activities, probity, responsible public administration on the part of governments, respect for social rights, and freedom of expression and of the press are essential components of the exercise of democracy";

RECALLING that the Inter-American Democratic Charter establishes that "[t]he promotion and observance of economic, social, and cultural rights are inherently linked to integral development, equitable economic growth, and to the consolidation of democracy in the states of the Hemisphere"; and

REAFFIRMING all the mandates issued in resolution AG/RES. 2835 (XLIV-O/14), "Promotion and Strengthening of Democracy: Follow-up to the Inter-American Democratic Charter,"

RESOLVES:

1. To continue promoting democratic cooperation in order to support member states, at their request, in their efforts to strengthen democratic institutions, values, practices, and governance; fight corruption; enhance the rule of law; bring about the full and effective enjoyment and exercise of human rights, and reduce poverty, inequality, and social exclusion.

2. To instruct the Permanent Council to continue the dialogue on the effectiveness of the implementation of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, taking into account all the topics addressed and discussions contained in the “Final Report” on this dialogue (CP/doc.4669/11 rev. 3), approved on December 14, 2011.

3. To request the General Secretariat to continue implementing training programs to promote the principles, values, and practices of a democratic culture, on the basis of Articles 26 and 27 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, and to improve awareness and promote the application of this inter-American instrument in the countries of the Hemisphere, upon request. Furthermore, to instruct the General Secretariat to continue to support the Permanent Council and the member states that so request with implementation of the Inter-American Program on Education for Democratic Values and Practices.

x. Meeting of Ministers of Justice or Other Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that “cooperation among authorities with responsibilities in the area of justice” is one of the ‘priority areas of the OAS, and that “the REMJA has consolidated itself as the hemispheric political and technical forum in the areas of justice and international legal cooperation,” which is essential for the development of justice systems and consolidation of the rule of law in the region; and that at the Summits of the Americas, the Heads of State and Government have supported the work carried out through the REMJA process and the implementation of its conclusions and recommendations,

RESOLVES:

1. To instruct the Department of Legal Cooperation of the Secretariat for Legal Affairs, in its capacity as the Technical Secretariat to the REMJA, to continue executing the mandates contained in the Conclusions and Recommendations of REMJA X (REMJA-X/doc.2/15 rev. 2), in accordance with the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources. To also give instructions for the Seventh Meeting of the REMJA Working Group on Legal Cooperation in Criminal Matters and REMJA XI to be convened, in keeping with the provisions of the Document of Washington, subject to the availability of financial resources in the Organization’s program-budget and other resources.

2. To instruct the REMJA Technical Secretariat to continue to: provide support, legal advice, and technical assistance to the REMJA process and to its working groups and technical meetings; prepare documents and studies to support follow-up and implementation of their recommendations; carry out programs, projects, and technical cooperation activities in pursuit thereof; manage and maintain the networks created in the REMJA area for which it is responsible; take steps to secure funding for the activities of the REMJA process; strengthen coordination and

collaboration with the secretariats of other international cooperation agencies, entities, and mechanisms in areas that concern the REMJA; and discharge the other functions assigned to it in the Document of Washington.

xi. E-Government

TAKING NOTE of section xi, on E-Government, in the resolution on Strengthening Democracy, AG/RES. 2905 (XLVII-O/17), instructing the General Secretariat to promote, as regards the Network of E-Government Leaders of Latin America and Caribbean (GEALC Network), the coordination of activities, projects, and programs, and the promotion of e-government best practices for and among its member states, upon request, with a view to furthering the digital transformation of governments;

TAKING NOTE ALSO of the Santo Domingo Commitment arising from the Eleventh Meeting of the Network of e-Government Leaders of Latin America and the Caribbean (GEALC Network), held on November 29 and 30, 2017 in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, and mindful of the importance of the use of digital technologies to meet citizens' expectations and needs, boost confidence in public institutions with greater transparency and openness, and improve government's response capability and the delivery of public services, for public policies to be citizen-driven in order to build an inclusive and sustainable future for everyone,

REAFFIRMING the commitments made in the Lima Commitment^{9/10/} adopted by our Heads of State and Government at the VIII Summit of the Americas, held in Lima, Peru, on April 12-13, 2018, especially those relating to the use of digital technologies to foster transparency and accountability, interaction with citizens, reduction of bureaucracy, getting rid of red tape, openness with information, and the strengthening of cooperation and the sharing of best practices in developing and applying those technologies; and

BEARING IN MIND that open data are a fundamental tool for combating corruption from the standpoint of ensuring the right of access to information and of helping citizens to have more information about public affairs, which will enable them to participate in a more informed way in decisions that affect them,

RESOLVES:

1. To reiterate the invitation for all OAS member states to attend the Fifth Latin America and Caribbean E-Government Ministerial Meeting, to be held in Panama City, Panama on November 15-16, 2018.

2. To take note of the invitation to member states to participate in the V International Open Data Conference (IODC) to be held for the first time in Latin America in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on September 27-28, 2018, in the framework of which the VI Latin American and Caribbean Regional Conference on Open Data will be held (ABRELATAM and CONDATOS) on September 26, 2018.

9. See footnote 1.

10. See footnote 3.

3. To promote the use of new technologies to facilitate e-government with a view to fostering transparency, interaction with citizens, and accountability in the public sector, and to provide the population with digital services.

4. To request the OAS General Secretariat, through the Department for Effective Public Management, to coordinate, through collaboration among the competent authorities in member states, with the active participation of civil society, academia, and the private sector, the crafting of a proposal for an Inter-American Open Data Program to strengthen policies for openness with information, transparency and to increase government and citizen capacity to prevent and fight corruption, taking into account the important work done at the inter-American level in this area, as well as other regional and global initiatives.

5. To request the OAS General Secretariat to submit said Program to the Permanent Council, through the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs, for consideration by the member states.

6. To underscore the role of the GEALC Network and its contribution to dialogue, cooperation and the furtherance of e-government, instructing the General Secretariat to encourage through this network coordination of activities, projects, and programs and the promotion of good e-governments practices for and among those member states that so request in order to continue to move forward with e-government transformation.

xii. Rights of the child

RESOLVES:

To promote intergenerational dialogue on the major issues impacting daily life in the region, practicing forms of coexistence that respect human dignity and are based on democratic values, acceptance of diversity of opinion, and non-violent dispute resolution. To that end, to recognize and support the actions being carried out by the Inter-American Children's Institute to facilitate the exercise by children and adolescents of their right to participation, to encourage authorities, political actors, and adults in general to listen to and respect the opinions of children and adolescents in the different spheres of expression, and to develop properly trained human resources.

II. FOLLOW-UP AND REPORTING

RESOLVES:

1. To instruct the Permanent Council to follow up on the topics addressed in this resolution through their inclusion on the work plan of the CAJP, and the General Secretariat to report to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth regular session.

2. To instruct the General Secretariat, through the areas responsible for follow-up and implementation of activities connected with the purpose of this resolution, to submit in due course during the third quarter of 2018 to the Permanent Council its 2018-2019 plan of activities for proper oversight by member states.

3. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth 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.

FOOTNOTES

1. ... of the Organization. Therefore, the MACCIH should operate in accordance with the norms of the OAS and its actions should be taken with the greatest transparency and accountability.

2. ... or resolutions issued by the Eighth Summit of the Americas, because it was not involved in negotiating them

3. ... and rejection of the decision of the Government of Peru to accord itself the power unilaterally to adopt, without any basis in law, a decision on the participation of a member state in the meetings of the SIRG (Summit Implementation Review Group) and in the Eighth Summit of the Americas. Aside from breaching the Agreement between the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States and the Government of the Republic of Peru on holding the Eighth Summit of the Americas, this practice, based on political and ideological motivations, sets a very dangerous precedent that violates the most fundamental principles of public international law, as well as basic standards governing the organization and participation of States in multilateral meetings. At the same time, we appeal to the OAS member states to consider the pertinence of keeping the Summits Secretariat in the Organization, given that in the support that it provided to the Eighth Summit of the Americas, that entity violated OAS rules recognized in the Charter of the Organization by pandering to the arbitrary decisions of the host country.

8. ... it should act in accordance with Article 132 of the Charter of the Organization by respecting the multilateral nature of meetings and not subject the participation of a member state to the arbitrary discretion of the host country.

AG/RES. 2928 (XLVIII-O/18)

PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS^{1/2/}

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2018)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

REAFFIRMING the norms and general principles of international law and the Charter of the OAS, international human rights law, and international humanitarian law, as well as the rights enshrined in the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, the American Convention on Human Rights, and other binding inter-American instruments on the subject, and the important role played by the organs of the inter-American human rights system in promoting and protecting human rights in the Americas;

RECALLING declarations AG/DEC. 71 (XLIII-O/13) and AG/DEC. 89 (XLVI-O/16); resolutions AG/RES. 2887 (XLVI-O/16); AG/RES. 2888 (XLVI-O/16) and AG/RES. 2908 (XLVII-O/17), as well as all previous resolutions adopted on this topic,

HAVING SEEN the Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly June 2017-June 2018 (AG/doc.XXX/18), in particular the section on the activities of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP), and

CONSIDERING that the programs, activities, and tasks set out in the resolutions within the purview of the CAJP help to further the essential purposes of the Organization enshrined in the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS),

i. Strengthening of the Follow-up Mechanism for Implementation of the Protocol of San Salvador

HIGHLIGHTING that, to date, sixteen member states of the OAS have ratified the Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the Area of Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, (Protocol of San Salvador), Article 19 of which provides that the States Party undertake to submit periodic reports on the progressive measures they have taken to ensure due respect for the rights set forth in the Protocol, and that the corresponding rules were established by resolution AG/RES. 2074 (XXXV-O/05) and other subsequent resolutions;

BEARING IN MIND that at its regular meeting of December 13, 2017, the Permanent Council adopted document CP/doc.5363/17, updating the appendix “Composition and Functioning of the Working Group to Examine the National Reports Envisioned in the Protocol of San Salvador” to resolution AG/RES. 2262 (XXXVII-O/07), and

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1. Guatemala reaffirms that it has the sovereign right to enforce its Constitution and its domestic laws, taking into account its priorities and development plans, and in a way that is compatible ...
 2. Trinidad and Tobago is unable to join the consensus on this document, as some areas are contrary to the laws of the Republic. Trinidad and Tobago remains firmly committed to the promotion and ...

TAKING NOTE that the Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the Area of Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (Protocol of San Salvador) was adopted on November 17, 1988; that 2018 marks the thirtieth anniversary of its adoption, and the importance of disseminating experience in the States Party of the progress indicators,

RESOLVES:

1. To commend the commitment and efforts of the States Party that met the deadlines for the presentation of national reports, and to request the States Party that have not yet done so to submit promptly the reports covering both groups of rights; and, in addition, to welcome the work of the Working Group to Examine the Periodic Reports of the States Parties to the Protocol of San Salvador, which to date has concluded the evaluation process for the first group of nine States Party and the second group of three.

2. To invite member states to consider signing, ratifying, or acceding to, as applicable, the Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the Area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Protocol of San Salvador) and to invite member states and permanent observer states, as well as individuals or public or private institutions, whether national or international, as defined in Article 74 of the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat and other provisions of the Organization of American States, to contribute to the Specific Fund for the Working Group to Examine the Periodic Reports of the States Party to the Protocol of San Salvador. To call on the States Party to consider hosting in their countries the meetings of the Working Group as a means of supporting and disseminating its work, and to urge member states to consider allocating existing funds in the Regular Fund to this mechanism.

3. To adopt the appendix to resolution AG/RES. 2262 (XXXV-O/07), "Composition and Functioning of the Working Group to Examine the National Reports Envisioned in the Protocol of San Salvador" contained in document CP/doc.5363/17, and to invite the States Party to present candidacies to fill the vacancies referred to therein before the deadlines established.

4. To invite the States Party, agencies of the inter-American human rights system, specialized human rights organizations, civil society, and other social actors to support and participate in the event "Thirty Years of the Protocol of San Salvador: Commemorating and applying social rights in the region," to be held on August 14-16, 2018, in the city of San Salvador, El Salvador, in the framework of which will take place the seventh session of the Working Group to Examine the Periodic Reports of the States Party to the Protocol of San Salvador (WGPSS).

ii. Human Rights Defenders

UNDERSCORING the OAS member states' commitment regarding the human rights of all individuals, including the right to defend and promote human rights; the important and legitimate work carried out by all those who peacefully protest, express their opinions, publicly denounce abuses and violations of human rights, provide rights education, and seek justice, truth, reparation, and non-repetition in response to human rights violations, among other activities for the promotion and protection of human rights.

RESOLVES:

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

2. To invite member states to ratify the “Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation, and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean” (Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development), with a view to ensuring a safe and propitious environment in which individuals, groups and organizations that promote and defend human rights in matters of the environment can work without threats, restrictions, attacks, and lack of security, and

3. To call upon the member states to take all necessary steps to ensure comprehensive protection for defenders and their family members, giving particular consideration to the differentiated gender, race, ethnicity, and group approaches, and coordination with beneficiaries; and to combat impunity for attacks on human rights defenders, in order to create a climate conducive to the protection of rights and fundamental freedoms.

iii. Towards the defense of autonomous official public defenders as a safeguard of personal safety and Liberty

RECALLING the adoption of the Regional Guidelines for Public Defender Systems and Comprehensive Protection for Persons Deprived of Their Liberty, the Handbooks for Monitoring Human Rights in Detention Centers by Public Defenders: General Visits and Individual Interviews, the Regional Handbook of Good Prison Practices, and the Regional Handbook: The Bangkok Rules as Key to Public Defense, all prepared by the Inter-American Association of Public Defender Offices (AIDEF), of which this General Assembly took note (AG/RES. 2887 (XLVI-O/16).

RECALLING that the General Assembly took note of the Principles and Guidelines on Public Defense in the Americas, unanimously adopted by the Inter-American Juridical Committee (CJI) in resolution CJI/RES. 226 (LXXXIX-O/16) at its 89th regular session, held in Rio de Janeiro on October 16, 2016; and

TAKING NOTE of the report on Measures to Reduce Pretrial Detention in the Americas and the Practical Guide to Reduce Pretrial Detention adopted by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (2017), which underscore the advantages of immediately involving public defenders from the time of police apprehension and throughout the process to guarantee a more effective defense, reduce the duration of pretrial detention, and prevent the commission of acts of cruelty and torture during detention,

RESOLVES:

1. To encourage member states and official public defender institutions in the Americas in particular to consider, disseminate, and apply, in the exercise of their competence, the documents prepared by the AIDEF, the Inter-American Juridical Committee, and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights mentioned in the preambular paragraphs above, and to encourage the

official public defender institutions of the Americas to strengthen or establish mechanisms for detention center monitoring, especially to prevent and report cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment during detention, incorporating a gender perspective and differentiated approaches for vulnerable persons and/or who have historically been subject to discrimination.

2. Also to encourage member states and official public defender institutions to seek absolute respect for the work of public defenders in the exercise of their functions, free from interference and undue controls from the other powers of the state, as a means to ensure the right of access to justice for all persons, especially those in vulnerable situations.

3. To urge member states and official public defender institutions in the Americas to ensure effective and equal access to justice for women, without discrimination of any kind.

iv. Right to Freedom of thought and expression, including on the Internet in electoral contexts

CONSIDERING that the exercise of the right to freedom of opinion and expression is one of the cornerstones of a democratic society and performs an essential function in electoral periods of holding political parties and leaders accountable, ensuring robust and open debate of matters of public interest, and safeguarding the right of citizens to receive information from a variety of sources for the exercise of their political rights and reaffirming the obligations of the States to guarantee the enjoyment of human rights;

UNDERSCORING the importance of access to a variety of sources of information and ideas and opportunities to disseminate them, and that a variety of media should exist in a democratic society, and bearing in mind that the Internet has become a core medium for exercising freedom of expression, and increasing people's ability to share information, ideas, and opinions instantaneously and without restrictions; and

CONCERNED over the dissemination of deliberately fake information, the use of disinformation campaigns via social media, and the improper use of personal data, including in electoral periods,

RESOLVES:

1. To affirm the obligation of States to foster an environment conducive to the exercise of freedom of expression, including via the Internet, which includes taking steps to promote it that do not impair the freedom to seek, receive, and disseminate information, and to promote, protect, and support diverse means of communication in the digital environment.

2. To reiterate that it is important that States protect the right to privacy so as to prevent the misuse of personal data, including in electoral contexts in disinformation campaigns.

3. To request the Special Rapporteurship for Freedom of Expression of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to prepare, taking into account the contributions of the member states, the Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation of the Secretariat for Strengthening Democracy, and the Department of International Law of the Secretariat for Legal Affairs, among others, practical guidelines in the form of recommendations for guaranteeing freedom

of expression and access to information from a variety of Internet sources during electoral processes without improper interference.

v. Protecting Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms while Countering Terrorism

RECALLING that antiterrorism measures must be applied with full respect for international law and the human rights of all persons, including members of national, ethnic, religious, and linguistic minorities, and that they must entail no discrimination on any grounds, including race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinions, and national or social origin; and

RECOGNIZING that terrorism and violent extremism that leads to terrorism have harmful effects on the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms,

RESOLVES:

1. To call on member states, in a framework of respect and observance of the human rights contained in the international instruments on the matter, to promote and implement at every level the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, bearing in mind that one of its pillars is ensuring respect for human rights, in order to move toward the common goal of eradicating the scourge of international terrorism, and to take into account the adoption, implementation, and application of the different international conventions and protocols on terrorism, as well as follow-up on United Nations Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005).

2. To underscore the importance of ensuring access to justice and accountability, and to urge member states to see to it that anyone who claims that their human rights or fundamental freedoms have been violated by the measures adopted or the means used to combat terrorism or violent extremism that leads to terrorism has access to justice, fair-trial guarantees, and an effective remedy, and that the victims of human rights abuses and violations obtain adequate compensation and reparation.

3. To urge member states to reaffirm their solidarity with victims of terrorism and their families, and to recognize the importance of protecting their rights and offering them adequate support, assistance, and means of rehabilitation.

vi. Persons who have disappeared and assistance to members of their family^{3/}

REAFFIRMING the responsibility of states to continue making the necessary efforts to alleviate the suffering, anxiety, and uncertainty experienced by family members of disappeared persons as a result of situations of armed conflict, armed violence, migration, or natural disasters, among others, to respond to their diverse needs, satisfy their right to the truth and justice, and, if appropriate, ensure reparations for the harm caused.

RECALLING that forced disappearance is a multiple, continuous violation of various human rights, and its widespread or systematic practice constitutes a crime against humanity in accordance with applicable international law; and

3. The United States understands that OAS resolutions do not change the current state of conventional or customary international law or impose legal obligations on States. Further, we do not read ...

HIGHLIGHTING the experience of various states with mechanisms to meet the needs of family members, the development of forensic sciences and their important contribution to the search for disappeared persons, and the documents and tools introduced by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and other organizations with experience in searching for disappeared persons and in responding to the needs of family members, as well as the minimum standards for psychosocial work proposed by the International Consensus on Principles and Minimum Standards for Psychosocial Work in Search Processes and Forensic Investigations in Cases of Enforced Disappearances, Arbitrary or Extrajudicial Executions,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge member states, in accordance with their obligations in the area of international humanitarian law and international human rights law, and taking into account existing jurisprudence on the subject, to continue to progressively adopt measures, including laws, protocols, guidelines, and other national provisions of a legal and institutional nature, to do the following:

- a. Prevent the disappearance of persons, with particular attention to persons related to vulnerable groups;
- b. Take up cases of disappeared migrants, and children and adolescents considered as disappeared persons, with a view to searching for them, identifying them, and, if possible, reuniting them with their families, and promote national coordination and regional cooperation in the areas of technical and judicial provisions;
- c. Clarify the whereabouts and the fate of disappeared persons to ensure a prompt response to family members, and consider the possibility of setting up mechanisms or entities, primarily with a humanitarian nature and vocation, to allow for a comprehensive, wide-scale investigation and, in the case of death, to prioritize the humanitarian objectives of recovery, identification, restitution, and decent disposal of the mortal remains, while at the same time complying with the obligations to investigate, prosecute, and punish the parties responsible for the disappearances;
- d. Meet the needs of the family members, including the truth about what occurred to their loved ones, recovery of the mortal remains and disposal of them, resolution of legal and administrative problems through comprehensive and affordable domestic legal processes, in which the legal situation of the disappeared persons is acknowledged through such measures as a “declaration of absence by disappearance,” provision of economic support, psychological and psychosocial care, access to justice, memorial and commemorative acts, and ensuring compensation and reparations, among other services, giving consideration to the priorities of the family members;

- e. Preserve the mortal remains of unidentified and as yet unclaimed deceased persons, as well as post-mortem information on them, to safeguard the possibility of identifying them and delivering their mortal remains to their respective families at a later date;
- f. Guarantee the participation and representation of victims and their family members in the relevant processes, and their access to justice and to mechanisms to ensure full, fair, prompt, and effective reparations; similarly, guarantee provisions for the protection of victims and witnesses in criminal courts and in other transitional justice mechanisms whose security and personal safety is affected as a result of their denunciation of the crime of forced disappearance.
- g. Strengthen technical skills involved in the search, recovery, analysis of mortal remains and associated evidence, and the use of various forensic sciences, and support training of professionals in these sciences, for the identification of mortal remains, including cases related to migrants considered as disappeared persons, in accordance with best practices and internationally recognized scientific standards;
- h. Guarantee appropriate management of information, including information related to the personal data of disappeared persons and their families, by creating centralized databases to gather, protect, and manage the data in keeping with national and international legal standards and provisions.

2. To encourage member states to ratify or adhere to the Inter-American Convention on the Forced Disappearance of Persons and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, implement them through domestic laws, and recognize the competence of the Committee against Forced Disappearance; share experiences and best practices; strengthen international cooperation and exchanges of information; and support the participation and technical assistance of international and national institutions with recognized experience in the search for disappeared persons. In addition, invite member states to continue their cooperation with the ICRC, facilitating its work and honoring its technical recommendations, with a view to consolidating the measures adopted by states to search for disappeared persons and meet the needs of their family members.

3. To encourage member states to promote national adoption of measures related to the provisions of resolution AG/RES. 2134 (XXXV-O/05) on “Persons Who Have Disappeared and Assistance to Members of their Family” and subsequent resolutions on the subject adopted by the General Assembly and to provide information on the subject, and instruct the CAJP to ensure that this information is circulated prior to the forty-ninth regular session of the OAS General Assembly.

4. To invite member states to consider promoting the legal and institutional measures applicable to disappeared persons and their family members in accordance with the resolutions on the subject adopted by the General Assembly, in the framework of the United Nations Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration and the UN Global Compact on Refugees, as well as, where pertinent, regional consultative processes on migration.

vii. The power of inclusion and the benefits of diversity^{4/}

RECALLING that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent, and inter-related and that everyone is entitled to enjoy these rights equally and without distinction; and that the principle of non-discrimination guarantees the exercise of these rights without discrimination of any kind

NOTING WITH ALARM that there continue to be reports from across the region regarding acts and expressions of exclusion, xenophobia, racism and discrimination in its multiple forms; and

REAFFIRMING that the inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family are the foundation of freedom, justice and peace, and that social inclusion is an essential precondition to the full realization of human dignity, respect for human rights, sustainable development and lasting peace in our democratic societies,^{5/}

RESOLVES:

1. To recognize inclusion as the full and meaningful participation of all persons, without discrimination of any kind, in economic, social, cultural, civic and political life.

2. To reaffirm that inclusion is a precondition to the full realization of every person's unique potential and that inclusive democratic societies recognize and respect diversity as a source of strength and cherish such diversity as an asset for the advancement and welfare of their populations.

3. To urge member states to continue their efforts towards building more inclusive communities that cement respect for the inherent dignity of the person and that foster a greater degree of economic, social, cultural, civil and political well-being for all by:

Taking steps to design and implement inclusive legislation and public policies, programs, services and institutions across all sectors, including progressive reviews of existing systems, conducive to removing existing barriers to inclusion and building sustainable democratic societies;

Promoting a culture of inclusion that respects diversity, through political leadership and an enabling environment for civil society, championing initiatives that bridge differences and foster understanding and mutual respect between those from different backgrounds, perspectives and identities;

4. To request the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs to organize, within existing resources, a special meeting where member states may share lessons learned and exchange good

4. The United States reaffirms its understanding that OAS resolutions do not change the current state of conventional or customary international law or impose legal obligations on States.

5. The United States recognizes that, while social inclusion and respect for human rights may be mutually reinforcing, the lack of social inclusion...

practices to advance the goals of this resolution, and to present the results of that meeting to the Permanent Council prior to the forty-ninth regular session of the General Assembly.

viii. Human rights and the environment

RECOGNIZING that human beings are at the center of concerns for sustainable development, and that it must be achieved in such a way as to equitably meet the development, social, and environmental needs of present and future generations, that sustainable development demands healthy ecosystems, and that the human person is the central subject of the development process and should be an active participant in it;

RECALLING resolution 70/1 of the United Nations General Assembly of September 25, 2015 entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,” which adopted a wide-ranging set of Sustainable Development Goals in order to fully implement the Agenda by 2030, with the commitment to achieve the three dimensions of sustainable development – economic, social, and environmental – in a balanced and integrated way;

REAFFIRMING the commitment of the OAS member states to Principle 10 of the 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, which recognizes that environmental issues are best handled with the participation of all concerned citizens;

TAKING NOTE that Article 11 of the Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the Area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights provides that everyone shall have the right to live in a healthy environment and to have access to public services, and that the States Party shall promote the protection, preservation, and improvement of the environment;

BEARING IN MIND the role of the Special Rapporteur on Economic, Social, Cultural, and Environmental Rights of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) and of the Working Group to examine the national reports called for in the Protocol of San Salvador;

RECALLING the work done by the OAS in this area, including the Model Inter-American Law on Access to Public Information, and

UNDERSCORING the fundamental importance to the sustainable development of the countries of the region of having broad, inclusive, and informed mechanisms for participation,

RESOLVES:

1. To welcome the adoption of the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin American and Caribbean in Escazú, Costa Rica on March 4, 2018.

2. To urge member states to address compliance with their human rights commitments and obligations relating to the enjoyment of a healthy environment, with a view to achieving the objectives and goals of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.

3. To invite all of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to consider acceding to the Escazú Agreement, which will be opened for signature on September 27, 2018, in New York City.

ix. Follow-up on recommendations of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights

RECOGNIZING the essential value of the role played by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) in the promotion and protection of human rights in the Hemisphere and urging states to follow up on its recommendations in light of resolution AG/RES. 2672 (XLI-O/11);

BEARING IN MIND that the Monitoring System for International Recommendations on Human Rights (SIMORE Paraguay), a mechanism developed by the Republic of Paraguay in collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, has been a successful tool in implementing international recommendations, which is held as good practice; and

TAKING NOTE that the System has been replicated throughout the region in countries such as Uruguay, Chile, Honduras, the Dominican Republic and Guatemala, and the Memorandum of Understanding for the Exchange of Experiences and Technical Cooperation signed between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Paraguay and the IACHR (SIMORE IACHR),

RESOLVES:

1. To recognize the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights for the initiative to put a digital system into operation to follow up on recommendations through its 2017-2021 Strategic Plan, and to urge it to continue building its capacity to follow up on its recommendations, taking into account the member states' practice in the subject area.

2. To urge the member states to strengthen their institutional capacity to follow up on and implement the inter-American human rights system's decisions and recommendations, while promoting the exchange of experiences and best practices and inviting them to consider the use and development of tools such as SIMORE, among other mechanisms to which the States are party

x. Follow-up on the Inter-American Program for Universal Civil Registry and the "Right to Identity"

CONSIDERING that the recognition of people's identities facilitates the exercise of the right to a name, to nationality, to civil registration, to family relations, and to legal personality, together with other rights enshrined in such international instruments as the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man and the American Convention on Human Rights, and understanding that the exercise of those rights is essential for the consolidation of any democratic society;

CONSIDERING ALSO that Goal 16, "Promote peaceful and inclusive societies," of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development includes target 16.9, "By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration";

RECOGNIZING the work carried out by the Universal Civil Identity Program in the Americas (PUICA) to support member states in their efforts to reduce the under-registration of births in the region;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that the Universal Civil Identity Program in the Americas (PUICA) was selected as the 2018 chair of the Global Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Group, which comprises 20 global and regional organizations;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT ALSO that 2018 marks the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Inter-American Program for Universal Civil Registry and the “Right to Identity” by means of resolution AG/RES. 2362 (XXXVIII-O/08); and

TAKING NOTE that the Latin America and Caribbean Council for Civil Registration, Identity, and Vital Statistics (CLARCIEV), for which the OAS General Secretariat serves as the Executive Secretariat, is the institutional forum that, since 2005, has been promoting the registration of births in the region, through interinstitutional ties and exchanges of knowledge and experiences among agencies responsible for civil registration, documentation, and vital statistics,

RESOLVES:

1. To instruct the General Secretariat, through its Universal Civil Identity Program in the Americas (PUICA), to continue providing assistance to those member states that so request for the strengthening of their civil registration systems in order to ensure the universal registering of births, deaths, and other changes in civil status, and of interconnections between registration systems and national identity systems in order to ensure legal identity for everyone, and thereby strengthen the protection of all human rights, particularly those of populations that are vulnerable and/or historically subject to discrimination, and allow universal and equitable access to essential public services.

2. To urge all member states to promote the access of all persons to key identity documents by implementing effective and interoperable civil registration and vital statistics systems, including simplified, free, and nondiscriminatory procedures that respect cultural diversity, taking particular care with the protection of personal information and following an approach that is aware of gender, rights, and diversity.

3. To instruct the Permanent Council to convene a special meeting, in the second half of 2018 to review the implementation status of the Inter-American Program on its tenth anniversary, based on information provided by the states and on a progress report prepared by the General Secretariat. That meeting may include contributions from experts in the field, and from organs, agencies, and entities of the inter-American and international systems.

xi. Administration of justice and human rights

RECOGNIZING the critical importance of the human-rights perspective in the administration of justice;

REAFFIRMING that the human rights perspective in the administration of justice is essential for access to justice for all, especially for potential victims and effective judicial protection of them, which has a favorable impact on the enjoyment of other rights, and

UNDERSCORING the need to continue promoting and supporting the adoption by judiciaries of performance standards with a human-rights perspective, particularly in the processes of reform of the justice administration systems that are being designed and implemented in the countries of the region,

RESOLVES:

1. To create a space in the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs for sharing experiences, best practices, and challenges in the area of the administration of justice with a human rights perspective.

2. To request the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) and the Justice Studies Center of the Americas (JSCA), within the framework of their authority and subject to available resources, to cooperate with member states that so request in strengthening the human rights perspective in the administration of justice in accordance with their domestic law and in a manner consistent with their obligations and commitments.

xii. Human rights and prevention of discrimination and violence against LGBTI persons
6/7/8/9/10/11/12/13/

RECOGNIZING the efforts undertaken by member states to address discrimination against vulnerable groups, consistent with their international human rights obligations, in the framework of the development plans and public policies of each state;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that, despite such efforts, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) persons continue to be subjected to various forms of violence and discrimination based on their sexual orientation, gender identity or expression.

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6. The Republic of Paraguay reiterates its commitment to the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international conventions signed on the topic, and it reaffirms...
 7. The State of Guatemala declares that it promotes and defends all human rights. With respect to the provisions of this section, it reaffirms the equality of all human beings under the provisions of ...
 8. This section is unacceptable to Saint Lucia, as it does not conform to its domestic laws. Furthermore, this section contains terminology not yet accepted internationally and remain undefined in ...
 9. The Government of Jamaica is fully committed to protecting the human rights of all its citizens including from any form of violence in accordance with the rule of law....
 10. The Government of Suriname remains committed to promoting and defending human rights for all and, based on the principle of equality, all who are within the territory of Suriname have an equal ...
 11. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is unable to join consensus on the approval of this section of the resolution. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines promotes and defends human rights and reaffirms ...
 12. The Government of Barbados states that this section of the resolution contains a number of issues and terms which are neither reflected in its national laws nor the subject of national consensus. ...
 13. Honduras declares its commitment to human rights and places on record its reservation to any part of the contents of this resolution that might be contrary to its Constitution.

RECOGNIZING that many challenges remain regarding the promotion and protection of the human rights of LGBTI persons; and taking into consideration the important work carried out by the IACHR Rapporteurship and the Department of Social Inclusion of the General Secretariat of the OAS on the matter;

RECALLING the report “Violence against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, and Intersex People in the Americas,” approved by the IACHR in November 2015,

RESOLVES:

1. To condemn discrimination and acts of violence on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, that occur in our Hemisphere.
2. To urge member states within the parameters of their domestic justice institutions to continue to strengthen their institutions and public policies focused on preventing, investigating, and punishing acts of violence and discrimination against LGBTI persons, and to ensure that victims of discrimination and violence enjoy access to justice and appropriate remedies under conditions of equality.
3. To urge member states within the parameters of their justice institutions to adopt measures to eliminate the barriers faced by LGBTI persons in equitable access to political participation and other aspects of public life, and to avoid interference in their private lives.
4. To encourage member states to consider producing and collecting data on violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, or expression in order to contribute to the preparation of effective public policies to prevent and respond to violence and discrimination suffered by LGBTI persons.
5. To urge member states to ensure adequate protection for human rights defenders working on issues related to acts of violence, discrimination, and human rights violations committed against LGBTI persons.
6. To urge member states to afford appropriate protection to intersex people and to implement policies and procedures, as appropriate, to ensure medical practices that are consistent with recognized human rights standards.
7. To request the IACHR and the General Secretariat to continue to pay particular attention to activities related to protection and promotion of the human rights of LGBTI persons, including the preparation of studies and regional or thematic reports and to promote exchanges of good practices; and to urge member states to support the efforts of the Commission and the General Secretariat in that connection.

xiii. Follow-up on the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and on the Plan of Action on the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples^{14/}

BEARING IN MIND the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Plan of Action on the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2017-2021);

TAKING NOTE of the First Meeting of Ibero-American High-Level Authorities and Indigenous Peoples, which adopted the IXIMUELEU Declaration and the Ibero-American Action Plan for the Implementation of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; and

APPLAUDING the adoption of the resolution “Inter-American Indigenous Peoples Week” by the Permanent Council,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge the member states, the General Secretariat, and the institutions of the OAS to take all the necessary steps to implement the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Plan of Action on the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2017-2021).

2. To request the General Secretariat, through the Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity, to create a Voluntary Contributions Specific Fund to support implementation of the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Plan of Action on the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2017-2021), and the activities to commemorate Inter-American Indigenous Peoples Week.

3. To encourage the member and observer states to contribute to the Voluntary Contributions Specific Fund to support implementation of the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Plan of Action on the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2017-2021).

4. To entrust the General Secretariat with organizing, under the banner of Inter-American Indigenous Peoples Week, a meeting of high-level authorities of member states responsible for policies toward Indigenous Peoples with representatives of Indigenous Peoples of the Americas, with the participation of representatives of the indigenous peoples of the Americas and other international and regional agencies, to promote opportunities for dialogue on challenges in connection with the rights of indigenous peoples and to consider options for the mandate, format, and costs of the potential mechanism for institutional follow-up of the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as set forth in its Plan of Action.

14. The United States does not join consensus on this section of the resolution, consistent with our persistent objections to the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples ...

- xiv. Strengthening the Inter-American Commission of Women for the promotion of gender equity and equality, the human rights of women and girls, and ending discrimination and all forms of violence against them

RECOGNIZING the importance that the OAS has placed on gender equality and equity, the empowerment of women and girls, and the full exercise of their human rights, as well as on strengthening the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), including providing it with sufficient human and financial resources to accomplish its mandates, as the main forum for generating hemispheric policies to support those objectives;

REAFFIRMING the states' acquired commitments in connection with the empowerment of women and girls for the full enjoyment of their human rights and the importance of continued progress toward gender equality; and

RECOGNIZING the efforts made by the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), civil society, and women's rights defense groups to promote and protect gender equality, further the empowerment of women and girls of the Americas in all their diversity, and eradicate violence against them,

RESOLVES:

1. To congratulate the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) on the progress made over its ninety years of work and to continue to support its efforts to meet its objectives and discharge its functions by dealing with topics of particular concern, especially: (i) the leadership and representation of women in all areas for strengthening democratic governance; (ii) the prevention of child, early and forced marriages and unions; (iii) the promotion of the empowerment and economic autonomy of women and girls; (iv) outreach to promote gender equality and human rights; and (v) the protection of the right to equal gender treatment.

2. To follow up, through the corresponding committees, on the objectives set out in the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality (IAP) and the CIM 2016-2021 Strategic Plan, adopted by the thirty-seventh Assembly of Delegates of the CIM, particularly with respect to gender mainstreaming in all OAS activities and, as a matter of priority, at ministerial meetings, at the OAS General Assembly, and in preparations for and follow-up on the Summits of the Americas.

3. To recognize the creation of the Inter-American Task Force on Women's Empowerment and Leadership and to instruct the CIM to serve as Technical Secretariat of the Task Force; in addition, to encourage member states to promote women's leadership at all levels and in all areas of public, political, and civil life as well as in the private sector, in order to strengthen democratic governance, and to consider supporting the Task Force and its specific initiatives.

4. To take note of the increase in the OAS budgetary allocation for the CIM that was approved at the forty-seventh regular session of the OAS General Assembly in 2017, and to request that the General Secretariat ensure it sufficient human and financial resources to carry out its

mandates. Similarly, to encourage member states, permanent observers, and other entities to make voluntary contributions.^{15/}

xv. Strengthening the Follow-up Mechanism on the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women (MESECVI)

RECALLING that the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belém do Pará) establishes the duty of the States Party to pursue, by all appropriate means and without delay, policies and programs to prevent, punish, and eradicate discrimination and violence against women and girls in the public and private spheres; and mindful that it is important and necessary to strengthen the Convention's follow-up mechanism, the MESECVI;

TAKING NOTE of the Third Hemispheric Report on the Implementation of the Convention of Belém do Pará and the recommendations contained therein,

RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm its commitment to strengthening the MESECVI and its Committee of Experts, and to follow up on the full implementation of the Convention by promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, by addressing the multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination and violence suffered by women belonging to vulnerable groups, and by reiterating the importance of exchanges of good practices and challenges, among all the States Party, in this Third Multilateral Evaluation Round.

2. To note the adoption of the MESECVI Strategic Plan for 2018-2023, document MESECVI-II-CE/doc.133/18 rev. 1, the axes of which are: (1) Strengthening the institutional framework of the MESECVI; (2) Contributing to the strengthening of the MESECVI States Parties' technical capacities for implementing the Convention of Belém do Pará from an approach based on intersectionality and the human rights of women throughout their entire life cycle, with emphasis on prevention and redress; (3) Assisting the States Party in identifying intersectoral responses to issues related to violence against women; and (4) Raising the awareness of society as a whole regarding violence against women; and to request that the MESECVI Technical Secretariat and the agencies of the MESECVI follow up on it for the Mechanism's effective strengthening.

3. In keeping with the recommendations contained in the Third Hemispheric Report on the Implementation of the Convention of Belém do Pará, to insist on the importance of earmarking by states of adequate budgets for the prevention of violence against women and for victim attention, in particular for the creation and strengthening of comprehensive protocols for victims of sexual violence.

4. Further to the Hemispheric Report of the MESECVI Committee of Experts on sexual violence and child pregnancy, and recognizing the efforts made by the States Party to address this problem, to request that the MESECVI Committee of Experts prepare a practical guide for action that

15. While Brazil acknowledges and supports the work of the CIM, it understands that any budget allocations must be examined in the context of the coming special session of the General Assembly.

incorporates the legislation and good practices that are being implemented in the region in connection with the topic.^{16/}

5. To request that the MESECVI Technical Secretariat promote and support the organization of dialogues among competent national authorities and the MESECVI Committee of Experts on progress and challenges with relevant topics related to the strengthening, implementation, and dissemination of the Convention of Belém do Pará, as agreed at the Seventh Conference of MESECVI States Party.

6. To reiterate to the OAS General Secretariat the importance of equipping the Mechanism's Technical Secretariat with the human, technical, and financial resources needed for its optimal functioning, including regular updates of information on web pages and social networks, for which purpose it is essential that sources of external funding be identified.

xvi. Observations and Recommendations on the 2017 Annual Report of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights

RECOGNIZING the work of the IACHR in fulfilling its function of promoting the observance, defense, and promotion of human rights and of serving as a consultative organ in those matters, particularly as regards the development of human rights protection standards on issues such as equality and nondiscrimination, among others; taking note of its thematic country and individual case reports; the adoption of resolutions containing general recommendations, such as Resolution 1/17, Human Rights and the Fight Against Impunity and Corruption; organizing observation and working visits; implementing mechanisms that seek to provide an integrated and timely response to human rights violations through the monitoring the situation of human rights in the region; and expanding technical assistance through new cooperation agreements.

HIGHLIGHTING the advances made in updating the system of individual cases and petitions and the friendly settlement mechanism, to facilitate access to justice for victims of human rights violations; the convening of public hearings; the conduct of promotional and training activities in human rights, such as the Inter-American Forum on Human Rights;

TAKING NOTE OF the report of the first year of the implementation of the 2017-2021 Strategic Plan presented by the IACHR and the results achieved in its five strategic objectives and twenty-one programs, which placed special emphasis on institutional development and results-based management in order to strengthen the capacities of the IACHR for the full implementation of its mission and mandates for the defense, promotion, and protection of human rights in the Hemisphere, by creating the Special Rapporteurship on Economic, Social, Cultural, and Environmental Rights as well as the Unit on Memory, Truth and Justice, the Unit on Older Persons, and the Unit on Persons with Disabilities;

RECOGNIZING the support of Argentina, Peru, Mexico, and Uruguay for the holding of Periods of Sessions of the IACHR away from its headquarters, which allowed the IACHR to expand its public presence in those countries, enabling greater participation of civil society and state agents,

16. The United States cannot associate itself with this section of the resolution because we are not a party to the Convention of Belem do Para. Nevertheless, the U.S. Government remains strongly ...

as well as the examination of a greater number of issues by the IACHR and the holding of working meetings between parties; and

CONSIDERING that compliance with the recommendations and decisions of the agencies of the inter-American human rights system, as applicable, is one of the central elements in ensuring the full effect and observance of human rights in OAS member states and in contributing to the consolidation of that system's legitimacy,

RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm member states' commitment to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

2. To encourage those member states that have not yet done so to consider signing, ratifying, or acceding to all the inter-American human rights instruments, particularly the American Convention on Human Rights.

3. To reaffirm its commitment to attaining full financing of the IACHR through the OAS Regular Fund and to continue implementing the decision taken by resolution AG/RES. 2908 (XLVII-O/17), xvi. Financing of the organs of the inter-American human rights system from the program-budget of the Organization for 2018. Until that commitment is fulfilled, to invite member states, observer states, and other institutions to continue making voluntary contributions, including to the Legal Assistance Fund for alleged victims and petitioners who turn to the case and petitions system. In that context, to encourage member states to evaluate the possibility of continuing to invite the Commission to conduct observation and working visits and to hold special sessions in the member states. In addition, to encourage the IACHR to continue submitting the report on its finances and resources that it customarily includes in its annual report, and to use the information contained therein in the financial statements it presents in its progress reports on implementation of the Strategic Plan 2017-2021.

xvii. Observations and Recommendations on the 2017 Annual Report of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights

RECOGNIZING that the Inter-American Court of Human Rights is the region's only human rights tribunal and that compliance with its judgments and decisions is mandatory for states that recognize its jurisdiction, and

UNDERSCORING the importance of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in the effective promotion and protection of human rights in the hemisphere, through the performance of its adjudicatory and advisory functions;

RESOLVES:

1. To recognize the contribution of the jurisprudence of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, developed through contentious cases and advisory opinions, for effective enforcement and observance of human rights in the hemisphere and of the rule of law, emphasizing as well its

work in monitoring compliance with judgments; and to urge the states to comply with its judgments in a timely manner.

2. To encourage member states to continue extending invitations to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights for it to meet away from its headquarters, insofar as it is an important mechanism for disseminating the inter-American system for protection of human rights in the region.

3. To reaffirm its commitment to attaining full financing of the Court through the Regular Fund of the Organization of American States and to continue implementing the decision taken by resolution AG/RES. 2908 (XLVII-O/17), xvi. Financing of the organs of the inter-American human rights system from the program-budget of the Organization for 2018. Until that commitment is fulfilled, to invite member states, observer countries, and other institutions to continue making voluntary contributions, within their capabilities, to the Inter-American Court. Member states and other institutions are also invited to continue to make contributions, within their capabilities, to the Legal Assistance Fund for Victims.

xviii. Gender equity and balanced geographic and legal-system representation on the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights

UNDERSCORING the importance of ensuring balanced gender representation, equitable geographic distribution, and representation of the different legal systems on the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, ensuring full and equitable access by men and women in keeping with the principles of impartiality, independence, and non-discrimination so that they can continue to carry out their mandates effectively; and

CONSIDERING that a balanced integration of gender and an equitable geographic distribution, as well as of different legal systems on the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the IACHR will result in sound treatment of the topics and problems in the region, in the areas of prevention, promotion, protection, and guarantee of human rights, with special attention to the IACHR's rapporteurships, among others,

RESOLVES:

1. To encourage member states, when selecting judges of the I-A Court HR and commissioners of the IACHR, they ensure balanced gender representation and equitable regional geographic representation, and of population groups and legal systems of the hemisphere, while guaranteeing the requirements of independence, impartiality, and recognized competence in the field of human rights.

2. To instruct the Permanent Council to invite the candidates proposed by member states for the position of judge on the Inter-American Court of Human Rights or commissioner on the IACHR to deliver a public presentation to describe their vision, proposals, and initiatives. Such presentations should be made at the same meeting of the Permanent Council and be disseminated as widely as possible.

3. To instruct the CAJP to include follow-up on this topic in its 2017-2018 work program by holding a working meeting to share best practices in the nomination and selection of candidates to the IACHR and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, as appropriate, with a view to promoting in both institutions gender parity and balance among the different regions and legal systems of the hemisphere.

4. To instruct the Permanent Council to prepare a proposal to implement gender parity in the Court's composition, and to present it to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth regular session.

xix. Recognition and Promotion of the Human Rights of People of African Descent in the Americas

BEARING IN MIND the Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination, and Related Forms of Intolerance and the Plan of Action for the Decade for People of African Descent in the Americas (2016–2025);

TAKING NOTE of the report of the Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity on the implementation of the Plan of Action for the Decade for People of African Descent in the Americas (2016-2025);

APPLAUDING the adoption by the Permanent Council of the resolution “Inter-American Week for People of African Descent in the Americas,” and

TAKING NOTE of the holding of the First Inter-American Meeting of high policy authorities for the people of African descent, to be held in the city of Lima, Peru on June 11-13, 2018,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge member states, the General Secretariat, and OAS institutions to adopt the necessary measures for implementing the Plan of Action for the Decade for People of African Descent in the Americas (2016-2025) and to mark Inter-American Week for People of African Descent in the Americas.

2. To invite the member states to consider the creation of an Inter-American Network of high policy authorities on people of African descent, in order to establish ongoing cooperation among national policy authorities for peoples of African descent in the Americas.

3. To request that the General Secretariat, through the Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity, establish a specific fund for voluntary contributions to support the implementation of the Plan of Action for the Decade for People of African Descent in the Americas (2016-2025) and the activities to commemorate Inter-American Week for People of African Descent in the Americas.

4. To encourage member states and permanent observers to contribute to the specific fund for voluntary contributions to support the implementation of the Plan of Action for the Decade for People of African Descent in the Americas (2016-2025).

5. To call upon member states that have not yet done so to consider signing, ratifying, or acceding to, as appropriate, the inter-American human rights instruments, including the Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination, and Related Forms of Intolerance, as well as the Inter-American Convention against All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance.

xx. Updating the Program of Action for the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities and Support to the Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities

BEARING IN MIND the commitments made by the states with respect to promoting the rights of persons with disabilities in the Americas, as enshrined in the Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (CIADDIS) and the Program of Action for the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities (PAD), among others, as well as the necessary revision and update of the contents of said Program in line with the shift in paradigm from a medical model to a social model, recognizing persons with disabilities as the subjects of rights in a framework of full respect for human diversity;

HAVING RECEIVED the results of the mixed-membership Working Group of the Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (CEDDIS) regarding updating the Program of Action for the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities (PAD); and

TAKING NOTE of the regional perspective report submitted by CEDDIS on the progress achieved and difficulties recorded in implementing the CIADDIS, distributed as document CP/CAJP/INF.470/18,

RESOLVES:

1. To approve the Program of Action for the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities 2016-2026 (PAD), contained in Annex 1 of the present resolution.

2. To entrust the CEDDIS with the task of establishing a mixed-membership working group comprised of its members, experts from civil society organizations, and persons with disabilities and other social stakeholders, in order to support CEDDIS' monitoring of the hemispheric implementation of the Program of Action for the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities 2016-2026 (PAD).

3. To urge the CEDDIS, in the process of following up on the implementation of the PAD, to continue developing, along with the Working Group to Examine the National Reports called for in the Protocol of San Salvador and the MESECVI, indicators to review and verify achievement of the goals of CIADDIS-PAD.

4. To encourage the member states of the Organization of American States that are not party to the CIADDIS to adhere to and ratify said Convention for the purpose of stepping up regional efforts in the area of inclusion of persons with disabilities and, at the same time, to reiterate the importance of making voluntary contributions to the Specific Fund for the Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (CEDDIS) [CP/RES. 947 (1683/09)], established for the purpose of supplementing the funding of the activities of CEDDIS and its Technical Secretariat, as well as to urge the States Party to make further efforts to implement the recommendations made by the CEDDIS in its assessments by area of action to the national reports on the implementation of the CIADDIS-PAD.

5. To recognize the work of the Department of Social Inclusion and instruct it, as the Technical Secretariat of CEDDIS and the area in charge of promoting social inclusion programs, projects, and initiatives for persons with disabilities, to continue, in coordination with member states, disseminating and promoting the rights of this collective group and its full participation in all areas of society; and to reiterate the request to the General Secretariat to make the greatest of efforts to mainstream the perspective of including persons with disabilities, using a human rights-based approach.

xxi. Human rights and business

EMPHASIZING that states have an obligation and a primary responsibility to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms against abuses perpetrated in their territory by third parties, including corporations;

RECOGNIZING that companies have the capacity to contribute to economic wellbeing, development, technological progress, and wealth, as well as the responsibility to respect human rights;

TAKING NOTE of the reports prepared on this subject by the CJI and the IACHR as well as the resolutions on the matter adopted by the General Assembly of the OAS,

TAKING NOTE ALSO of UN Human Rights Council resolution 17/4, of June 16, 2011, adopting the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights; and

TAKING NOTE FURTHER of resolution 26/9, "Elaboration of an international legally binding instrument on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights," adopted by the UN Human Rights Council on June 14, 2014;

RESOLVES:

1. To underscore the importance of continuing to make progress on the topic of human rights and business and therefore to invite member states to continue strengthening their national initiatives, as well as multilateral initiatives on the matter at the regional and global levels, and to consider their participation in the various forums where the matter is discussed through constructive dialogue among all actors involved, whether from the public sector, private sector, or civil society.

2. To request the Permanent Council, through the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP), to include on its agenda by the first quarter of 2019 at the latest, the issue of human rights and business adopting a broad and participatory vision that brings together different actors, including academia, international organizations, civil society, other social actors, and businesses, with a view to stimulating exchange of information and good practices among States.

3. To request that the Office of the Special Rapporteur on Economic, Social, Cultural and Environmental Rights (ESCER) give a presentation at the meeting of the CAJP on the subject on the progress of the consultations and work to prepare the report on Human Rights and Business: An Inter-American Standard.

xxii. Rights of the Child

CONSIDERING the demographic profile and socioeconomic characteristics of the region, where a high percentage of children, or a significant number of them are born into and develop in unfavorable environments characterized by multiple forms of poverty, violence, and instability;

BEARING IN MIND the legal obligations and the ethical imperative of providing children and adolescents in the region with the minimum conditions necessary for their full development during the different stages of the life cycle through which they must transition to reach adulthood with the capacity to exercise full citizenship;

MINDFUL of the inextricable link between the guarantee of rights, comprehensive protection of new generations, and the consolidation and deepening of democracies, and

RECOGNIZING the important work being done by the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN) as the Organization of American States' (OAS) agency specializing in child and adolescent policy, through the provision of technical assistance to member states to build their capacities to promote and protect rights through comprehensive, universal, and inclusive policies,

RESOLVES:

1. To encourage participation by children and adolescents in promoting and protecting their rights, facilitating dialogue with the authorities of the respective member states and creating opportunities for intergenerational participation and dialogue within the entities of the Organization of American States. To that end, to promote opportunities for dialogue among subregional and regional organizations for the advancement of children and adolescents, experience-sharing, and horizontal cooperation actions among States.

2. To promote the inclusion of human rights, especially the rights of the child, in primary education curricula, providing thematic training and instruction for teachers in those member states that so request.

xxiii. Strengthening the mechanisms for protection and solutions in the context of the human rights of refugees^{17/}

STRESSING the commitment undertaken by the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in the Brazil Declaration and Action Plan, which were adopted on December 3, 2014 and include responsibilities in terms of comprehensive, complementary, and sustainable solutions for refugees, including the solidarity settlement program, and others;

UNDERSCORING the recent triennial evaluation of the Brazil Declaration and Plan of Action by the countries and territories of Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as The 100 Points of Brasilia (2018), which highlight regional cooperation and the shared responsibility to find solutions to protection needs in the region;

REAFFIRMING the importance of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF), which was adopted by the member states through the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, and of their participation in the process toward the adoption of a “global compact on refugees,” which will conclude at the United Nations General Assembly in 2018;

TAKING NOTE of the San Jose Action Statement, adopted on June 7, 2016;

TAKING NOTE ALSO of the San Pedro Sula Declaration, through which Belize, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, and Panama agreed upon the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS) as a regional application of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework; and

TAKING NOTE FURTHER that the 100 Points of Brasilia considers the MIRPS as a dynamic, pioneering subregional initiative that represents a practical application of the CRRF and contributes to the development of the Global Compact on Refugees,

RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm the importance of furthering strategic and collaborative alliances and of promoting a partnership approach among all interested stakeholders in the implementation of comprehensive protection responses and durable solutions, which include states, the Organization of American States (OAS), the United Nations system; development actors such as the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the Central American Integration System (SICA); civil society and other social actors, asylum seekers, refugees, internally displaced persons, and returnees with protection needs.

2. To underscore the importance of regional mechanisms of cooperation and shared responsibility in addressing the protection situation of refugees, with solidarity and financial and technical cooperation from the international community and to identify lasting solutions and the application of complementary forms of protection and solutions such as solidarity resettlement,

17. The Government of the Republic of Nicaragua is unable to support the reference to the San José Action Statement, adopted on July 7, 2016, or to the San Pedro Sula Declaration, which agreed on ...

humanitarian visas, the Protection Transfer Arrangement, family reunification, inclusion, and labor mobility programs to help to effectively integrate them locally.^{18/}

3. To invite the member states, taking into consideration the experience of the MIRPS or similar initiatives, to develop or update their own frameworks for prevention, protection, and solutions for asylum seekers, refugees, internally displaced persons, and returnees with protection needs, and to work together to develop mechanisms for regional cooperation and shared responsibility, with the participation of all relevant actors.

4. To instruct the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs to follow up on this resolution and to report thereon on an annual basis, encouraging the exchange of experiences and best practices that have been implemented by member states, with support and technical assistance from the OAS General Secretariat and the UNHCR.

II. FOLLOW-UP AND REPORTING

RESOLVES:

1. To instruct the General Secretariat to submit during the third quarter of 2018, through the areas responsible for follow-up and execution of activities in connection with the purposes of this resolution, the plan of activities that it will carry out in the 2018-2019 period for consultation or proper oversight by member states.

2. To request the Permanent Council to instruct the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP) to include in its agenda the following matters covered by this resolution, prior to the forty-ninth regular session of the General Assembly, with a view to promoting exchanges of experiences and best practices:

- “Towards Autonomous Official Public Defenders as a Safeguard of Integrity and Personal Liberty.’ The holding, in the first quarter of 2019, of a seventh special meeting of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs of the OAS on the mechanisms for detention center monitoring that are in place in each official public defender institution in the region, to be attended by the member states and their respective official public defender institutions that provide legal assistance, members of the AIDEF, of the IACHR, through its Rapporteurship on the Rights of Persons Deprived of Liberty, and experts from the academic community, civil society, and international organizations. Attendance by members of the AIDEF will be guaranteed by that organization.
- Updating of the Program of Action for the Decade of the Americas on the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities, and support for the Committee for the Elimination of all forms of discrimination against persons with disabilities. Holding of a meeting of the CAJP to consider topics such as

18. While the United States supports regional efforts to increase burden-sharing and protection for refugees, we underscore our understanding that none of the provisions in this section of the ...

raising societal awareness, labor inclusion, and education, among others, with participation by the member states, national experts, the academic community, and civil society, as well as international organizations, for the sharing of best practices and national experiences. This meeting will be held in the last quarter of 2018, in the context of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, with resources allocated to the CAJP.

3. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth 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.

PROGRAM OF ACTION FOR THE DECADE OF THE AMERICAS FOR THE RIGHTS
AND DIGNITY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (2016–2026)

THE MEMBER STATES OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES,

BEARING IN MIND the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, the American Convention on Human Rights, the Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the Area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights—the Protocol of San Salvador, and the Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities;

STRESSING that the member states of the OAS have focused on persons with disabilities in various resolutions, among which resolution AG/RES.1249 (XXIII-O/93) “Situation of Persons with Disabilities in the American Hemisphere,” resolution AG/RES.1356 (XXV-O/95) “Situation of Persons with Disabilities in the American Hemisphere,” and resolution AG/RES.1369 (XXVI-O/96) “Panama Commitment to Persons with Disabilities in the American Hemisphere,” as well as in various declarations, such as the 1993 Declaration of Managua and the 2005 Declaration of Panama by the Fourth Summit of the Heads of State and/or Government of the Association of Caribbean States;

ALSO BEARING IN MIND that various instruments have been adopted globally to set the guidelines for disabilities, focusing on providing services to persons with disabilities and establishing their rights, in particular, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006),

RECOGNIZING AND RESPECTING the multicultural and multilingual character of persons with disabilities among indigenous peoples and cultures and the importance of their contribution to the development, plurality, and cultural diversity of our societies, the commitment to their participation in this new Program of Action for the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities (PAD) to 2026 is reiterated in order to address the intersectional nature of all of its variables aimed at achieving economic and social well-being, respecting their human rights and cultural identity;

VALUING the importance of the United Nations Declaration “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,” which contains the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2015-2030 to promote the development and social inclusion of persons with disabilities using a cross-cutting approach and, specifically, with some concrete goals;

RECALLING the Proclamation of 1981 as the International Year of Disabled Persons, the Proclamation of the International Day of Disabled Persons (1992), the Final Report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission for Social Development on Monitoring the Implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities (1996), and resolution 2005/65 of the United Nations Human Rights Committee “The Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities”;

HAVING PROGRESSED IN IMPLEMENTING the Program of Action for the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities, adopted at the thirty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly of the OAS, held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, in June 2006, and

CONSIDERING resolution AG/DEC. 89 (XLVI-O/16), approved at the second plenary session of the forty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly of the OAS, held on June 14, 2016, whereby a ten-year extension up to the year 2026 was approved; and resolution AG/RES. 2908 (XLVII-O/17) "Promotion and Protection of Human Rights" adopted at the forty-seventh regular session of the General Assembly, Chapter x, pp.104 and 105,

HEREBY ADOPT THE FOLLOWING PROGRAM OF ACTION:

I. VISION

By the year 2026, the member states will have consolidated substantive progress in building an inclusive society, one based on solidarity, accessible to all, and recognizing the full and egalitarian enjoyment and exercise of human rights and basic liberties of persons with disabilities, eliminating social prejudices, stereotypes, and stigmas and the many discriminations against groups in situations of vulnerability and/or who have been historically discriminated against, which prevents their development and full and effective participation and inclusion in society.

Persons with disabilities must be recognized and appreciated for their effective and potential contributions to the general welfare, diversity, and respect for their plurality, in both urban and rural areas, and inside groups in situations of vulnerability and/or who have been historically discriminated against.

II. MISSION

The member states pledge to prevent persons with disabilities from being victims of multiple discrimination, focusing special attention on discrimination because of their belonging to other groups in situations of vulnerability and/or who have been historically discriminated against.

The member states pledge to carry out national, regional, and local programs, recognizing, promoting, and protecting their human rights to mitigate the harmful impact of poverty and inequality on persons with disabilities compared to the rest of the population, in view of their situation of vulnerability, discrimination, and exclusion, recognizing, promoting, and protecting their human rights.

The States Parties pledge to harmonize their domestic legislation with the principles and standards of international human rights law in this area, enshrined in Article 12 of the CRPD as interpreted by General Comment No. 1 of the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The member states pledge to adopt gradually and irreversibly administrative, legislative, and judicial measures, as well as the public policies needed, to the utmost of their available resources and,

when necessary, in the framework of international cooperation, in order to progressively achieve the full exercise of the rights of persons with disabilities, without detriment to the rights that are immediately applicable by virtue of international law for the effective application of the present Program of Action, stemming from the extension of the Decade of the Americas for Persons with Disabilities (to the year 2026), in the domestic legal system, so that persons with disabilities can be on an equal footing with other persons and improve their living conditions.

They also pledge to remove administrative, judicial, or any other kind of practices that are not compatible with the vision and goals of the PAD, immediately adopting measures conducive to this end, in order to ensure that persons with disabilities are on an equal footing with other persons.

III. GOALS

1. Awareness-raising of society

To ensure promotion of knowledge about the situation of persons with disabilities, recognition of all of their human rights, protection of their dignity, their due valuation, as well as the elimination of all forms of discrimination and all constraints in terms of culture and attitudes, including social prejudices, stereotypes, and stigmas and many discriminations because of their belonging to other groups in situations of vulnerability and/or who have been historically discriminated against that prevent their development and their full and effective participation and inclusion in society.

2. Health

To broaden, enhance, and ensure the access of persons with disabilities to health services, including sexual and reproductive health services, on an equal footing with other persons and ensuring that existing services mainstream the disability perspective and, when relevant, adding that of other groups in situations of vulnerability and/or who have been historically discriminated against, especially to the services required as a consequence of their situation of disability, including prompt detection and intervention, when appropriate, and services aimed at preventing and reducing to the utmost the appearance of new deficiencies or the aggravation of those already existing. It shall be guaranteed that all health services shall be provided on the basis of the free and informed consent of the person with the disability. Also, to promote the related investigation with treatment, rehabilitation, and prevention in order to reduce to the utmost the appearance of new disabilities.

3. Rehabilitation and empowerment

To promote multidimensional systems of rehabilitation and empowerment for persons with disabilities that envisage addressing their disabilities throughout their life cycle, focusing on them at an early age and during childhood, encouraging availability, knowledge, and the use of assistive technologies and devices aimed at persons with disabilities and the training of professionals.

4. Education

To ensure and guarantee that persons with disabilities have access, on an equal footing with other persons and without any discrimination, to quality education, with cultural and inclusive

relevance, including their registration, permanence, progress, grading, accreditation, and certification in the education system at all levels, as well as lifelong learning, that would facilitate their development to the maximum of their personality, talents, and creativity, as well as their full inclusion and participation in all areas of society.

5. Work and employment

To guarantee, for persons with disabilities, full, decent, and paid inclusion in the labor force in all spheres of productive activities, in both the public and private sectors, on the basis of technical and vocational training, as well as equal opportunities for work, including the availability of accessible occupational and working environments, in line with the domestic regulatory frameworks of each country, and to ensure the provision of reasonable adjustments to this end.

6. Accessibility

To ensure the autonomous and safe access of persons with disabilities, taking into account cultural relevance and, on an equal footing with other persons, the physical environment, spaces, urban facilities, buildings, transportation services, and other services, whether public or open to the public, in both urban and rural areas, as well as guaranteeing access of persons with disabilities to information and communication systems and technologies, regardless of the technological platform involved; which includes both computer software and hardware, their interaction, and availability.

7. Citizen, political and social participation

To ensure the full and active participation and inclusion of organizations representing persons with disabilities and persons with disabilities, while respecting their political ideology, with special emphasis on women with disabilities, in public and political life, including the effective exercise of the right to vote and to run for office at all levels, with accessible electoral materials, procedures, and facilities.

Their participation in drafting, adopting, and evaluating public policies aimed at protecting and promoting their rights, on an equal footing with everyone else, shall also be promoted and guaranteed, as well as the promotion and facilitation, on the basis of various forms of support, of their participation in their own organizations and those representing them, encouraging the participation of persons with disabilities living in rural and remote areas, including those belonging to indigenous or Afro-descendant peoples or communities.

8. Participation in cultural, artistic, sports, and leisure activities

To guarantee the participation of persons with disabilities in cultural and artistic life, sports, leisure, recreation, and tourism, and to promote a culture of accessible tourism, as well as any other activity that might promote social inclusion and the integral development of individuals on an equal footing. The use of technical means shall also be promoted to develop creative, artistic, and intellectual capacities in their various manifestations.

9. Development, well-being, and social inclusion

To promote the social inclusion and development of persons with disabilities, on an equal footing with other persons, ensuring access to welfare and social security programs, which include their families, as well as to guarantee that, in the poverty abatement and elimination programs that are undertaken, the additional expenses associated with disability conditions are duly taken into account.

10. Exercising legal capacity

To ensure the support and safeguards needed for the effective exercise of the legal capacity of persons with disabilities.

11. Personal autonomy and independent living

To guarantee the legal and material conditions for the full enjoyment of personal autonomy and independent living of persons with disabilities.

12. Access to justice

To ensure that persons with disabilities have access to justice on an equal footing with other persons, guaranteeing the provision of reasonable adjustments to this end.

13. Emergency, catastrophic, and disaster situations

To guarantee the integral management of person with disabilities in a situation of risk, taking into account their needs before, during, and after the emergency, including their assistive products or means of personal assistance in order to safeguard their autonomy, displacement, and independence.

14. Life without violence

To guarantee that persons with disabilities do not suffer from situations of violence for any reason and under any context, ensuring the full and effective participation of organizations of persons with disabilities in creating mechanisms to eliminate and address violence. To ensure that persons with disabilities who have been victims of violence and abuse have an egalitarian access to the mechanisms for investigating and punishing said incidents, guaranteeing the provision of reasonable adjustments needed to this end.

15. International cooperation

To ensure the participation of the organizations of persons with disabilities in all international cooperation plans, programs, and projects as an effective instrument of support for regional and national efforts, for the purpose of creating the full inclusion of, and nondiscrimination against, persons with disabilities, preventing their exclusion.

IV. CONCRETE ACTIONS

1. Awareness-raising of society

A. Education and dissemination

- a. To promote the development of inclusive public plans, programs, and policies at all levels of the education system, so as:
 1. To create and build up a culture of positive perception about the human potential, self-determination, and individual independence, knowledge, merits, skills, and contributions to society by persons with disabilities, promoting respect for, and protection of, their dignity and rights.
 2. To mainstream the human rights approach and disabilities into academic curriculums and study programs, using a cross-cutting approach, with special emphasis on the issue of groups in situations of vulnerability and/or who have been historically discriminated against.
 3. To establish training programs aimed at civil servants from all branches of government and at the private sector on promoting and protecting human rights and basic liberties of persons with disabilities, focusing on the elimination of derogatory terms, social stigmas, uses, and customs that involve deeply rooted prejudices, stereotypes, and discriminatory attitudes against persons with disabilities.
- b. To undertake and continue public awareness-raising campaigns on persons with disabilities, including the following actions:
 1. To promote a positive image of persons with disabilities in local and national media, respecting diversity and fostering equal opportunities, including a perspective for groups in situations of vulnerability and/or who have been historically discriminated against.
 2. To mainstream in government actions or advertising campaigns those practices that integrally promote the social inclusion of persons with disabilities, taking into consideration accessibility criteria.
 3. To establish legal and judicial mechanisms so that persons with disabilities, through the organizations that represent them, can play a role in how their image is used in all

advertising campaigns by public or private institutions, in all media or communication systems.

4. To develop awareness-raising and training programs about Universal Design aimed at the public and private sectors.

B. Support role of civil society

To foster the creation of social networks, community support groups, or volunteers that promote recognition and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities and their full and effective participation in society.

2. Right to health

A. Promotion and protection of health

- a. To guarantee the access of persons with disabilities to health services, on an equal footing with other persons and with due attention to their specific needs because of their disability, in the most inclusive environment possible, as well as to guarantee the access of women, girls, and adolescents with disabilities to health services, with the required adjustments made to ensure quality comprehensive care.
- b. To guarantee that states adopt concrete and effective legislation and measures to ensure that all persons with disabilities benefit from procedures that enable them to provide their free and informed consent for medical treatments, with the application of reasonable accessibility, support, and adjustment measures.
- c. To provide persons with disabilities free or affordable health programs and services, with the same diversity and quality as those provided to other persons, including in the area of sexual and reproductive health and public health programs aimed at the general population.
- d. To promote training and accessibility of healthcare service establishments, in terms of both infrastructure and equipment and human resources, for providing services to persons with disabilities.
- e. To guarantee due and timely quality healthcare services to persons with disabilities, taking into consideration their belonging to groups in situations of vulnerability and/or who have been historically discriminated against, and to provide, free of charge or at affordable prices, the treatments and medicines needed, as well as to prevent the deterioration of health or worsening of the deficiency, while

respecting their autonomy and on the basis of their free and informed consent.

- f. To design and implement educational strategies that promote healthy lifestyles for persons with disabilities.
- g. To ensure access of persons with disabilities, on an equal footing with other persons, to the physical premises, information, and communications of establishments that provide health services in both urban and rural areas and indigenous territories, including the training of healthcare professionals to transmit this information in language that is easy to understand, planning for sign language interpreting services and interpreter-guides.
- h. To ensure that all information provided by the healthcare sector is available in the modes, means, forms, and formats that are accessible to, and apt for use by, persons with disabilities.

3. Rehabilitation and empowerment

A. Rehabilitation

- a. To develop comprehensive rehabilitation policies and programs that ensure the full inclusion, participation, and development of persons with disabilities.
- b. To promote among international organizations and regional and international funding and cooperation bodies, as well as cooperating countries, their development or funding of research activities relative to treatment, rehabilitation, and prevention in order to reduce to the utmost the appearance of new disabilities.
- c. To promote the availability of, and access to, assistive technical, technological, and biomechanical products, specialized mobile devices and applications for persons with disabilities, taking into account their socioeconomic, geographical, and cultural conditions.
- d. To strengthen existing empowerment and rehabilitation services so that all persons with disabilities can gain access to the services they need, close to their place of residence, including in rural areas and indigenous and Afro-descendant territories.
- e. To promote community-based empowerment and rehabilitation strategies with emphasis on primary healthcare services, integrated into the health system and adjusted to the specificities of each country, with the participation of organizations representing persons with disabilities in designing and implementing them.

- f. To promote the adequate training of professional and technical staff for the provision of comprehensive services to all persons with disabilities, as well as in their ethical responsibility in terms of the autonomy of persons with disabilities and obtaining their free and informed consent for any medical treatment.
- g. To promote the development of specific national training and education programs for the production and supply of equipment, assistive technical and biomechanical products, specialized mobile devices and applications, as well as the participation of persons with disabilities in these programs.
- h. To take measures for the establishment of intersectoral commitments and programs that coordinate actions for achieving the integral rehabilitation of persons with disabilities since childhood.

B. Empowerment

- a. To promote quality early stimulation programs aimed at developing the potential and skills of children with disabilities, especially during early childhood, in accordance with their specific needs.
- b. To organize and broaden general empowerment services and programs, in particular in the areas of health, employment, education, and social services that contribute to the inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities in the community.

4. Education

- a. To reassert the commitment to transitioning from special education to inclusive education.
- b. To guarantee the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the general education system, in an inclusive environment and with quality education services, considering cultural relevance.
- c. To ensure that persons with disabilities are not excluded from the general education system because of their disabilities and that children and adolescents with disabilities are not excluded from free and mandatory primary and secondary school education because of their disabilities. Also, to guarantee the access of students with disabilities to technical, higher, and vocational training, among other actions, promoting the granting of scholarships to this end.
- d. To ensure that persons with disabilities have general access to higher education, vocational training, education for older persons, virtual education,

education in gender equality, sexual and reproductive health, and lifelong learning, without any discrimination and on an equal footing with everyone else. To this end, states shall ensure that the reasonable adjustments that are needed be made.

- e. To provide the necessary didactic and teaching resources to meet the specific educational needs of the students according to their disabilities, including textbooks and reading materials in accessible modes, means, forms, and formats.
- f. To guarantee the participation and interaction of students with disabilities in all areas of school and academic life, as well as all extracurricular activities, which include, among others, securing their participation in the decisions that are taken with respect to reasonable adjustments in the teaching-learning and grading process.
- g. To eliminate illiteracy among persons with disabilities by means of effective public policies.
- h. To implement learning of the Braille reading and writing system, alternative writing, others forms and modes of alternative and augmentative communication, orientation and mobility skills, the learning of sign languages, and the promotion of the linguistic and cultural identity of deaf persons.
- i. To ensure that deaf persons obtain quality and inclusive education and bilingual education in sign and native languages, respecting multiculturalism with local, regional, and national characteristics.
- j. To ensure the dismantling of physical, communicational, technological, and attitudinal barriers preventing students with disabilities from having access to all levels of education.
- k. To promote continuing and specialized training and education in inclusive education for teachers of all levels of education and for other professionals that fosters the drafting and development of inclusive education policies, with emphasis on respect for human rights and basic liberties.
- l. To guarantee access of students with disabilities to information and communication technologies in the education system.

5. Work and employment

- a. To guarantee to persons with disabilities the right to decent employment chosen autonomously and independently in open, inclusive, and accessible working environments, in accordance with their capacities and competencies, with all the guarantees provided by law, the possibility of advancement and

being promoted and wage-earning equality on an equal footing with others, respecting their right to work and belong to a trade union.

- b. To strengthen the labor inclusion of persons with disabilities and affirmative actions for the development of the regulatory framework, public policies, plans, and programs in the area of employment and economic development.
- c. To implement national employment services that make it possible to provide formation, training, brokering services, recruitment, job adaptation, implementation of reasonable adjustments, permanence, and performance evaluation of persons with disabilities on the labor market.
- d. To promote the creation of house-based or distance work (telecommuting) using information and communication technologies as a means to facilitate greater opportunities on the labor markets for persons with disabilities.
- e. To promote the hiring of persons with disabilities in the private sector on the basis of affirmative action policies, fiscal incentives, subsidies, or special funding, among other similar actions.
- f. To provide incentives for entrepreneurial opportunities for persons with disabilities, free-lance work, the establishment of cooperatives, and the creation of micro and small businesses, as well as consolidation of those that already exist.
- g. To stimulate public and private entities to engage in the purchase and procurement of goods and services provided by the micro and small businesses of persons with disabilities.
- h. To support persons with disabilities in developing production projects and promoting products from micro and small businesses, considering the creation of funds and flexible lines of credit for such purposes.
- i. To adopt measures to guarantee that workers with disabilities who work on a permanent or intermittent basis as day laborers or in the building industry can enjoy the protection granted by law and national practices to other workers in the same sectors, in the framework of labor security and health, in particular to persons with disabilities belonging to other groups in situations of vulnerability and/or who have been historically discriminated against.
- j. To promote efforts to ensure that actions aimed at recognizing the labor capacity of workers with disabilities is taken into consideration in trade union collective bargaining agreements.
- k. To implement effective policies to support the family or community work of persons with disabilities.

1. All the information about job supply and/or merit-based competitions for civil service jobs; job training and education; economic development, promotion and creation of small and medium-sized enterprises and the solidarity-based sector must be presented in accessible modes, means, forms, and formats for each type of disability. Internet platforms and websites must be accessible and guarantee interaction with persons with disabilities.

6. Accessibility

- a. To guarantee compliance with the technical norms of access to physical premises, transportation, communications, and information and communication technologies, mainstreaming international standards into national legislation and public policies, among others, in accordance with General Comment No. 2 (2014) on Article 9: Accessibility of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- b. To promote the adoption and/or strengthening of legislative measures that might be needed:
 1. To guarantee, for persons with disabilities, accessibility to all goods and services provided by public institutions ensuring their easy use and interaction.
 2. To guarantee, for persons with disabilities, accessibility to all goods and services co-funded by public or cooperation resources ensuring their easy use and interaction.
 3. To guarantee, for persons with disabilities, full access to information, communication, and management of services of public interest that are offered online or electronically.
 4. To guarantee, for persons with disabilities, access to the autonomous use and management of personal and electronic payment systems.
 5. To guarantee, for persons with disabilities, access to information affixed to consumer products.
- c. To guarantee the full participation of persons with disabilities in designing, adjusting, implementing, and monitoring legislation, public policies, and administrative decisions in terms of access to physical premises, transportation, and information and communication technologies.
- d. To promote the dismantling of existing urban and architectural barriers in all public institutions.

- e. To take measures to ensure that all buildings or services and facilities for public use envisage universal accessibility and to foster said practice in the private sector.
- f. To promote the dismantling of existing barriers in all means of transportation to facilitate the access of persons with disabilities, aimed at guaranteeing that information relative to transportation systems takes into consideration the use of forms of transmitting information such as written language, sign languages, the Braille reading and writing system, auditory information, pictorial and high-relief information, easy-to-understand wording, and other alternative and augmentative means of communication.
- g. To guarantee the autonomous and independent access of persons with disabilities to ICTs, virtual portals, websites, multimedia contents, books regardless of their original format, the Internet, and social networks. To this end, states may wish to consider, depending on the case, the possibility of granting subsidies, tax exemptions, and access to funding plans aimed at acquiring these new systems and technologies, in line with the needs of each person with a disability.
- h. To guarantee interpreting and translation services in sign languages and interpreter-guides for deaf persons, deafblind persons, and language-minority groups with disabilities, promoting professional development and the certification needed for interpreters, translators, and interpreter-guides.
- i. To guarantee accessible facilities and services for persons with disabilities who have been displaced by armed conflicts, disasters, and emergencies, forced migration, or any other reason requiring their displacement.
- j. To guarantee the availability and usability of suitable technologies at affordable prices that guarantee the independent, autonomous, and egalitarian access of persons with disabilities to information and communications. They include alternative and augmentative devices, subtitles, screen readers and magnifiers, as well as other systems of personal support.

7. Citizen, political, and social participation

- a. To ensure the exercise of citizen rights and duties and basic liberties of persons with disabilities, harmonizing any regulatory framework, policy, or practice that would prevent or hamper their participation in the citizen, political, and social sphere.
- b. To guarantee, on an equal footing with other persons, the full participation of persons with disabilities in elections, whether as voters or candidates running for office, taking into consideration the necessary mechanisms of accessibility, including assisted voting by a person of their own choosing,

electronic voting, and distance voting, among others, adjusting electoral systems to this end.

- c. To promote access of persons with disabilities, on an equal footing, to public office and civil service in their respective countries.
- d. To consult, openly and broadly, persons with disabilities about designing, drafting, implementing, and monitoring legislation, administrative decisions, and public policies, especially those involving political, citizen, and social participation, as well as all the decisions directly affecting them, including persons with disabilities belonging to groups in situations of vulnerability and/or who have been historically discriminated against.
- e. To promote the participation in, and establishment of, organizations of persons with disabilities, as well as coordinating these organizations for the purpose of strengthening their participation in the debate on public policies at all levels and consolidating the defense of their interests. Also to promote the creation of a funding mechanism that would make it possible for organizations of persons with disabilities, representing groups in situations of vulnerability and/or who have historically been discriminated, to build up their management.
- f. To promote formation and training policies aimed at the organizations representing persons with disabilities, in order to develop their public affairs management skills.
- g. All information about human rights and basic liberties, international humanitarian law, and political, electoral, and citizen participation must be presented in modes, means, forms, and formats that are accessible to each type of disability.
- h. To promote the participation of organizations representing persons with disabilities so that they can encourage political parties to include proposals for the enforcement of the rights of persons with disabilities into their campaigns and platforms.

8. Participation in cultural, artistic, sports, and leisure activities

- a. To guarantee, by means of national plans of action, the inclusion of persons with disabilities in cultural, artistic, sports, and leisure activities, as well as to ensure their participation and that of their sports and cultural organizations in designing, adapting, implementing, and monitoring legislation, administrative decisions, and public policies for sports, leisure, entertainment, and culture.
- b. To earmark resources to foster the cultural, traditional, artistic, sports, and leisure activities of persons with disabilities.

- c. To foster the practicing of high-performance sports of persons with disabilities in recreational, leisure, and well-being modalities, involving national entities responsible for these areas.
 - d. To promote the creation and sustainability of high-performance sports entities for persons with disabilities, guaranteeing that they benefit from the relevant institutional structure and equipment.
 - e. To strengthen, in technical, administrative, and financial terms, sports organizations for persons with disabilities.
 - f. To guarantee access to, and use of, accessible sports facilities, materials, and equipment for persons with disabilities to practice sports.
 - g. To promote conditions of accessibility to tourism, recreational and leisure services, and cultural, sports, and other public events.
 - h. To promote the training of persons with disabilities so that they can work in the tourism, culture, sports, and leisure sectors.
 - i. To foster the training of operators of tourism infrastructure about the adequate treatment of persons with disabilities in order to prevent attitudes underrating them, leading to discrimination and restricting their access to, use, and enjoyment of tourism.
 - j. To guarantee, for persons with disabilities, access to all cultural assets and products, regardless of their modes, means, forms, and formats, such as printed matter, dance, theater, and audiovisual products.
 - k. To stimulate the training and professional development of persons with disabilities in artistic activities and to design programs that foster the cultural production of persons with disabilities and the communication, broadcasting, and dissemination of their cultural works and products.
 - l. To guarantee that children with disabilities have access, on an equal footing with other persons, to recreational, leisure, cultural, and sports facilities, plans, programs, and services.
9. Development, well-being, and social inclusion
- a. To ensure the participation of persons with disabilities in social and economic development by building up their capacities and fostering their productive and sustainable activities.
 - b. To guarantee access of persons with disabilities, in particular those belonging to groups in situations of vulnerability and/or who are historically

discriminated against, to social welfare programs and poverty abatement strategies, duly considering the additional expenses required or heightened by the condition of having a disability, taking into consideration, among other variables, the type of disability.

- c. To ensure access of persons with disabilities and their families, on an equal footing, to food security programs, clean water supply, basic sanitation, and housing, implementing to this end affirmative actions that ensure their effective access to, and enjoyment of, rights.
- d. To design mechanisms to ensure a level playing field for opportunities making it possible to absorb the costs of assistive products and technologies that guarantee the autonomy, independence, and security of persons with disabilities for the enjoyment of an independent life.
- e. All information about social, welfare, nutrition, food security, clean water, environmental sanitation, and housing plans, programs, and projects must be presented in modes, means, forms, and formats that are accessible to persons with any type of disability. Internet platforms and websites must be accessible and must ensure that persons with disabilities can interact with them.
- f. To create development and welfare programs for the families of children and adolescents with disabilities to make sure poverty is not an impediment to their inclusion.

10. Exercise of legal capacity

- a. To eliminate the substitute decision-making [guardianship] model for persons with disabilities and to develop relevant actions to provide access to the support these persons might need to exercise their legal capacity, as well as to take decisions.
- b. To provide adequate and effective safeguards to prevent abuses and ensure respect for the rights, will, and preferences of persons with disabilities.
- c. To design and implement a Continuing Training Program aimed at all operators of justice, in coordination with institutions specializing in issues involving the recognition of the legal capacity of persons with disabilities.
- d. To guarantee, for persons with disabilities, access to information by means of assistive systems and services and reasonable adjustments so they can make their own decisions directly, in order to guarantee the free exercise of their legal capacity, using the visualization of texts, the Braille reading and writing system, touch communication, Macrotype, easy-to-access multimedia devices, written language, hearing systems, subtitling, interpreters and

translators of sign languages, native and interpreter-guides, materials in easy-to-understand language and pictograms, among others.

- e. To call on the agencies and institutions involved, as well as the organizations representing persons with disabilities and their families, to design, create, and implement assistive services for persons with disabilities so they can exercise their legal capacity.

11. Personal autonomy and independent living

- a. To guarantee the right of persons with disabilities to live in the community, making sure they have the opportunity to choose their place of residence and with whom to live, on an equal footing with other persons.
- b. To promote the access of persons with disabilities to home-based care and other community support services to facilitate their existence and inclusion in the community and to prevent them from being isolated.
- c. States shall facilitate, by means of public programs and fiscal incentives, the access to and usability of assistive technologies and equipment for independent living, promoting mechanisms for their low-cost production.

12. Access to justice

- a. To ensure that persons with disabilities have access to justice on an equal footing with other persons.
- b. To guarantee the existence of a regulatory framework that facilitates and enables the implementation of procedural adjustments when a person with a disability participates in a judicial proceeding, at all stages of the proceeding. Such measures must take into consideration aspects relative to accessibility, belonging to other groups in situations of vulnerability, and/or who have been historically discriminated against, modality of the disability, among others.
- c. To guarantee the access to justice by providing adequate training and education to those working in the administration of justice, including civil servants of the judiciary, security personnel, and penitentiary staff.
- d. To implement effective measures to monitor the conditions in which persons with disabilities who are deprived of their liberty are living, for the purpose of ensuring that the situation of disability shall not be an aggravating factor when serving a prison sentence, arising from greater constraints on their rights or greater limitation on activities that other persons deprived of liberty can carry out. Reasonable adjustments and the right to rehabilitation, as well as the elimination of all forms of discrimination, shall be ensured.

13. Emergency, catastrophic, and disaster situations

- a. To include the cross-cutting perspective of disabilities in all risk prevention and emergency, catastrophe, and disaster service plans and programs, focusing special attention on groups in situations of vulnerability and/or who have been historically discriminated against.
- b. To ensure that all massive dissemination and prevention campaigns are presented in modes, means, forms, and formats accessible to each type of disability.
- c. To ensure training in this matter for public agents and response corps tackling emergencies.
- d. To ensure that the participation of persons with disabilities be considered when carrying out drills and drafting service protocols, guides, and manuals.
- e. To ensure that national and local contingency plans incorporate and identify attention and evacuation centers that are accessible for access and use by persons with disabilities.
- f. To promote the implementation of a voluntary registry of persons with disabilities that would facilitate their identification in the event of an emergency, catastrophe, or disaster.
- g. To ensure that the channels of humanitarian aid include equipment, products, and elements that take into consideration attention given to persons with disability.
- h. To include the perspective of disability in reconstruction processes subsequent to emergencies, catastrophes, and disasters, applying principles of universal accessibility and design, focusing attention on the specific needs of persons with disabilities.

14. Life without violence

- a. To ensure that all public and private institutions in charge of duly preventing, protecting, defending, and redressing the exploitation, violence, and abuse of groups in situations of vulnerability and/or who have been historically discriminated against include guarantees for accessible and quality protection, defense, redress, assistance, and services for persons with disabilities in all of its policies, programs, plans, projects, and actions.
- b. To implement measures to prevent, eliminate, and punish all forms of violence perpetrated in the public or private sphere against persons with disabilities, especially obstetric violence against women with disabilities.

- c. To establish comprehensive care and protection mechanisms, measures, and policies for victims with disabilities, as well as to redress the harm caused.
- d. To incorporate the denial of reasonable adjustments in any sphere of life of persons with disabilities as an act of discrimination.
- e. To conduct dissemination campaigns on accessible modes, means, forms, and formats that highlight the situation of higher vulnerability and risk of violence among persons with disabilities, especially in those groups in situations of vulnerability and/or who have been historically discriminated against.
- f. To promote, coordinate, and strengthen coordination networks and mechanisms at the intergovernmental and intersector levels, in organizations of persons with disabilities, and in the private sector, in order to address and prevent all kinds of violence against persons with disabilities.
- g. To include accessible modes, means, forms, and formats into general awareness-raising campaigns about various types of violence, as well as about the prevention, reporting, and punishment of this violence.
- h. To design, implement, execute, and monitor the plans, programs, and projects of national mechanisms for the protection against torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or sentences, for the education, awareness-raising, and prevention of all forms of torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatments or sentences against persons with disabilities, emphasizing the measures of action for institutionalized persons with disabilities or residents in care institutions or related entities.
- i. To prevent, forbid, and punish the mistreatment, sexual abuse, and exploitation of persons with disabilities, especially in the domestic and institutional sphere, in particular groups with disabilities in situations of vulnerability and/or who have been historically discriminated against, in the framework of national regulatory frameworks.

15. International cooperation

- a. To promote, from the OAS framework and in the international sphere, programs and projects for the exchange of experiences and information, training, skills creation, and institutional capacity building among states, multilateral organizations, the private sector, civil society organizations, and organizations that represent persons with disabilities.
- b. To promote and foster other cooperation initiatives among OAS member states, as a genuine mechanism for solidarity in the Americas to design and implement programs and projects that facilitate the exchange of experiences and information, strengthening human and institutional capacities, with the

collaboration and participation of multilateral organizations and organizations of persons with disabilities.

- c. To promote the establishment of a fund comprised of volunteer contributions making it possible for persons with disabilities to participate in related forums in order to build up their capacities.
- d. To instruct bodies, organs, and entities of the OAS, as well as other inter-American institutions, to collaborate with the General Secretariat in all planning and implementation aspects in the area of disabilities.
- e. To encourage specialized organizations of and for persons with disabilities to support the Secretariat and the member states in implementing the Program of Action, in line with the guidelines for the participation of civil society in OAS activities, as well as its follow-up and the general and specific assessment of the progress made by the states, under the third subparagraph of Article 33 of the CRPD.
- f. To ensure that all international cooperation projects launched, promoted, funded, or co-funded with resources from the Inter-American System or multilateral organizations guarantee the inclusive and sustainable development of persons with disabilities.
- g. To launch, promote, and create mechanisms that ensure the cross-border exchange of cultural and technological assets and products that are accessible for persons with disabilities.
- h. All information associated with international cooperation projects and programs must be presented in accessible modes, means, forms, and formats for each type of disability. Internet platforms and websites must be accessible and must guarantee the interaction of persons with disabilities.

V. STRATEGIES

- 1. States make a political commitment to put this Program of Action into practice, mainstreaming it into the corresponding national plans, for which they shall allocate the resources needed and shall ensure their timely and proper implementation, follow-up, and evaluation.
- 2. Without detriment to adopting the national measures needed, states shall review, harmonize, update, and improve their legislation for the purpose of adapting it to a hemispheric vision, to ensure the effectiveness of this Program of Action and its compatibility with international human rights instruments.

3. When preparing, developing, and implementing the corresponding legislative norms, states shall work in close collaboration with persons with disabilities and with organizations of and for persons with disabilities.
4. States shall promote the capacity building of organizations of persons with disabilities, for the purpose of creating capacity for action to strengthen state initiatives and create optimal conditions for the drafting of public policies that guarantee the enforcement of rights and respect for the inherent dignity of persons with disabilities.
5. States shall promote training or capacity building of government bodies for the coordination and implementation of international treaties and the present Program of Action, in fulfillment of international obligations and the Sustainable Development Goals associated with persons with disabilities.
6. To promote the training or capacity building of government institutions that enforce the Paris Principles for the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities.
7. To promote regional harmonization of the standards and methodologies to gather information and disaggregated statistics, as well as use a standardized classification of the classes, types, and subtypes of disabilities, bearing in mind the classifications made by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Washington Group on Disability Statistics (WG), in order to benefit from comparable national databases and the standardization of statistical information, with indicators on the quality of living of persons with disabilities that contribute to drafting effective public policies, as well as comparability in the region.
8. To strengthen mechanisms of access of the public to government information, transparency, and accountability that facilitate processes of follow-up and evaluation of the implementation of public policies for the benefit of persons with disabilities.
9. To guarantee respect for confidentiality and the proper use of statistical information, which can never be used against the rights of persons with disabilities.
10. To assign support, monitoring, and follow-up on the present Program of Action to an independent mechanism with the participation of the states and organizations of and for persons with disabilities, whose purpose shall be to plan activities conducive to the achievement of its concrete goals and actions, as well as to provide technical support to the member states and the Technical Secretariat.
11. To establish, on the basis of the present Program of Action for the Decade, targets and indicators for each goal and their corresponding concrete actions, for the purpose of ensuring a better implementation and a favorable impact on the improvement of the living conditions of persons with disabilities in the Americas.
12. Periodic reports shall be required and interactive dialogues shall be conducted with States Parties, in coordination with, and to the extent that it is relevant, the

Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (CEDDIS).

FOOTNOTES

1. ... with universally agreed on international human rights.
2. ... preservation of the rule of law and the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms of all people, as enshrined in the Constitution of Trinidad and Tobago.
3. ... this section of the resolution to imply that states must join or implement obligations under international instruments to which they are not a party.
5. ... may not be invoked to justify the failure to fulfil a State's international human rights obligations.
6. ... the contents of Title II, "Rights, Duties, and Guarantees," Chapter III, "Equality," and Chapter IV, "The Rights of the Family," of its national Constitution and related provisions. Consequently, it notes its reservation regarding the text of section xii, "and prevention of discrimination and violence against LGBTI persons Human rights and prevention of discrimination and violence against LGBTI persons." Furthermore, the expression "gender identity" as contained in other paragraphs of this resolution will be interpreted in accordance with its domestic laws.
7. ... the Constitution of the Republic of Guatemala and does not discriminate for any reason. It also considers that the lawful nonrecognition of marriage between persons of the same sex is not a discriminatory practice. Guatemala also dissociates itself from those parts that are incompatible with, or contrary to, current national law, and it reserves the right to interpret the terms of section xii.
8. ... international law, international agreements and resolutions to which Saint Lucia is signatory. Saint Lucia vigorously reiterates its adherence to its Constitution, which promotes and protects human rights of all, non-discrimination, fundamental freedoms for all persons, and the preservation of the rule of law. Saint Lucia is committed to the protection of the family as the fundamental cell unit of society in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
9. ... and the Jamaican Constitution. Jamaica, however expresses its reservation regarding terminologies such as "gender identity" and "gender expression," which are not defined in Jamaican law and have not gained international acceptance.
10. ... claim to protection of person and property. The Constitution of the Republic of Suriname stipulates that "no one shall be discriminated against on grounds of birth, sex, race, language, religion, education, political opinion, economic position or any other status."

As a multicultural society, the subject of sexual orientation and gender identity is one that still requires a broad consultation process at the national level, involving all sectors of society, including civil society. While the national process of consultations has already been initiated, so far, no final agreement has been reached on many principles expressed in this resolution, as well as on certain actions that are required with respect to relevant public policies.

The Republic of Suriname would be willing to join in the adoption of this resolution, but places on record that it can only be in a position to acknowledge some of the elements and principles addressed in this resolution once its national consultation process is concluded and consensus is reached on these matters. The Government of Surinam remains committed to the intergovernmentally agreed human rights and fundamental freedoms, as enshrined in the various global human rights instruments.

11. ... the equality of all human beings as enshrined in its Constitution. It is necessary to underscore that some of the terms in this resolution are not defined in the domestic laws of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines or internationally. Accordingly, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines disassociates itself from those terms that are incompatible with and contrary to its national laws, reserving its rights to interpret the terms of this resolution.

12. ... As such, Barbados would not be in a position to meet these requirements. However, the Government of Barbados remains committed to protecting the rights of all from harm and violence, in keeping with the rule of law and the provisions of its Constitution.

14. ... initially placed on the record in 2007 and further elaborated in our footnote to OAS General Assembly resolution AG/RES. 2888 (XLVI-O/16) of June 15, 2016. In particular, we reiterate our view that the focus of the member states of the OAS should be on implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

16. ... committed to preventing, punishing, and eradicating violence against women and, in particular, prosecuting its perpetrators. Moreover, the United States believes the term “sexual and reproductive health” is open to many interpretations and therefore the United States does not associate itself with this section.

17. ... the establishment of the MIRPS, since Nicaragua has not signed those instruments and, therefore, their effects are not binding upon the Nicaraguan Government.

18. ...resolution create or affect the rights or obligations of States under international law.

AG/RES. 2929 (XLVIII-O/18)

RESOLUTION ON THE SITUATION IN VENEZUELA^{1/2/3/}

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2018)

CONSIDERING that the Charter of the Organization of American States recognizes that representative democracy is an indispensable condition for the stability, peace, and development of the region and that one of the purposes of the OAS is to promote and consolidate representative democracy;

REAFFIRMING the right of the peoples of the Americas to democracy and the obligation of their governments to promote and defend it;

BEARING IN MIND that respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms; access to and the exercise of power in accordance with the rule of law; the holding of periodic, free, and fair elections based on secret balloting and universal suffrage as an expression of the sovereignty of the people, the pluralistic system of political parties and organizations, and the separation of powers and independence of the branches of government are, among other things, essential elements of representative democracy;

TAKING NOTE of the report of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights “Democratic Institutions, the Rule of Law and Human Rights in Venezuela,” published on February 12, 2018, which reflects the political, economic, social, and humanitarian crisis in that country;

RECALLING that, through its resolution CP/RES. 1095 (2145/18) of February 23, 2018, the Permanent Council requested the Government of Venezuela to reconsider the convening of presidential elections and to implement the measures necessary to prevent the worsening of the humanitarian situation, including accepting the assistance offered by the international community;

CONSIDERING that the aggravation of the political, economic, social, and humanitarian crisis that has caused a deterioration in the standard of living in that country is generating an increasing emigration of Venezuelan citizens and is having impacts on the capacity of some countries of the Hemisphere to meet their different needs, including those pertaining to security, as evidenced at the meeting of the Permanent Council held on April 30, 2018;

RECALLING that resolution CP/RES. 1078 (2108/17) of April 3, 2017, declared that an unconstitutional alteration of the constitutional order of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela had occurred;

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1. Antigua and Barbuda registers its objection to this resolution and does not consider itself bound by its provisions. Antigua and Barbuda was excluded from the drafting and the discussion of the original ...
 2. Bolivia: As it includes references to resolutions unlawfully adopted, this resolution is void, since neither due process nor the norms of the Organization were observed ...
 3. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela does not recognize this act in violation of the United Nations Charter the OAS Charter, and international law. It is void, offensive, and null. ...

UNDERSCORING that diplomatic initiatives offered by the Permanent Council and undertaken by several member states have either been rebuffed by the Venezuelan Government, or failed until now,

RESOLVES:

1. To declare that the electoral process as implemented in Venezuela, which concluded on May 20, 2018, lacks legitimacy, for not complying with international standards, for not having met the participation of all Venezuelan political actors, and for being carried out without the necessary guarantees for a free, fair, transparent and democratic process.

2. To reaffirm that only through a national dialogue with the participation of all Venezuelan political actors and stakeholders can national reconciliation be achieved and the necessary conditions agreed upon for holding a new electoral process that truly reflects the will of the Venezuelan citizens and peacefully resolves the current crisis in that country.

3. To reiterate that an unconstitutional alteration of the constitutional order of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has occurred, as stated in resolution CP/RES. 1078 (2108/17) of April 3, 2017.

4. To urge the Government of Venezuela to take steps to guarantee the separation and independence of the constitutional branches of power and restore the full authority of the National Assembly, the rule of law, and the guarantees and liberties of the population.

5. To urge the Government of Venezuela to allow the entry of humanitarian aid and to implement epidemiological surveillance measures in its country to prevent the aggravation of the humanitarian and public health crisis, particularly against the reappearance of diseases such as measles, malaria, and diphtheria

6. To invite the member states to implement measures to address the humanitarian emergency in Venezuela, including supplying medicines, as well as considering contributions to the competent international organizations to strengthen the institutional capacities of the recipient countries.

7. To instruct the Permanent Council to identify, in coordination with the relevant inter-American and international institutions, the appropriate measures to support the member states that are receiving an increasing number of Venezuelan migrants and refugees.

8. To call upon the member and permanent observer states to implement, in accordance with their respective legal frameworks and applicable international law, the measures deemed appropriate at the political, economic, and financial levels to assist in the restoration of democratic order in Venezuela.

9. To remain seized of the situation in Venezuela in order to support diplomatic actions and additional measures that facilitate the restoration of democratic institutions and social peace, and that promote full respect for human rights and full adherence to the rule of law, within the

constitutional framework of Venezuela and in a manner consistent with its international obligations and commitments.

10. To apply, in strict accordance with the letter and spirit of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, the mechanisms for the preservation and defense of representative democracy provided under its Articles 20 and 21.

FOOTNOTES

1. ... text and was given sight of it only on the afternoon before its adoption by the General Assembly. Notwithstanding, Antigua and Barbuda proposed alternative language which would have produced a strong and constructive resolution and deeply regrets that its proposals were not considered by the General Committee.

Antigua and Barbuda also objects to the exclusion from deliberations of the Member State about which the resolution is concerned and reiterates the principle of the non-intervention in the internal affairs of Member States as contained in the letter of the Charter of the OAS.

Antigua and Barbuda rejects all references in the resolution to the Permanent Council Meeting which was illegally held on April 3rd 2017 and the resulting declaration.

Antigua and Barbuda does not consider this resolution on the Situation in Venezuela as having achieved consensus among Member States and as such does not provide any legal basis for future reference or action.

2. ... in the adoption of the resolution of April 3, 2017.

3. ... This act of force disregards the principle of nonintervention in the affairs of other States; its intent is to justify the imposition of unilateral coercive measures.

This aggression disregards the right of the Venezuelan people, exercised on May 20, 2018, to choose, without external interference, its political, economic, and social system and to organize as best suits it. In Venezuela, the Venezuelans decide.

The intent is to justify an intervention, including military, on the pretext of humanitarian concerns. If, based on international cooperation principles, they wish to support the Venezuelan people, let them lift the unilateral coercive economic and financial measures. Let them unfreeze Venezuela's funds.

The intent is to validate an unlawful factual situation by citing a fake resolution arising from a bogus Permanent Council meeting held on April 3, 2017, in flagrant violation of the rules governing the OAS and international law.

Unfortunately, this aggression against a member state of this Organization coincides with the commemoration of its 70th anniversary, and unfortunately it is the Monroe Doctrine that will guide the OAS of the future. Venezuela is for the Venezuelans.

The Government of the Constitutional President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Nicolás Maduro Moros, reiterates its commitment to promote and strengthen democracy and to respect for all human rights based on the principle of nonintervention, and reaffirms its intent to maintain bilateral and multilateral relations taking full account of respect for the principle of the sovereign equality of all States and the right of peoples to free self-determination as elements essential to maintaining America as a zone of peace.

Therefore, on behalf of the Venezuelan people, we utterly reject the decisions taken by 19 countries today. The people are meeting the difficulties with dignity and the challenges will be surmounted among Venezuelans, not letting interventionism impact our country.

Venezuela is free and sovereign. Long live the Unified Latin American Homeland and long live the Venezuelan Fatherland.

DECISION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE PROPOSAL TO REFORM
THE STATUTE OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL OF THE OAS

The General Assembly decided to assign to the Permanent Council the continuation of the deliberations on the proposal to reform the Statute of the Administrative Tribunal of the OAS for it, through the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs, to complete the respective study.