

ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY



TWENTY-EIGHTH REGULAR SESSION  
CARACAS, VENEZUELA  
June 1-3, 1998

# PROCEEDINGS VOLUME I

AG/DEC. 16 - AG/DEC. 19 (XXVIII-O/98)  
AG/RES. 1532 - AG/RES. 1606 (XXVIII-O/98)

CERTIFIED TEXTS OF THE DECLARATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

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ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES  
**GENERAL ASSEMBLY**



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**VOLUME I**

**AG/DEC. 16 – 19 (XXVIII-O/98)**

**AG/RES. 1532 – 1606 (XXVIII-O/98)**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that this volume contains the official texts of the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly of the Organization of American States at its twenty-eighth regular session, held in Caracas, Venezuela, from June 1 – 3, 1998.

Christopher R. Thomas  
Assistant Secretary General  
in charge of the General Secretariat  
Organization of American States

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AG/DEC. 16 (XXVIII-O/98)

REAFFIRMATION OF CARACAS

(Declaration adopted at the second plenary session,  
held on June 2, 1998)

We, the foreign ministers and heads of delegation of the member countries of the Organization of American States, meeting in Caracas at this twenty-eighth regular session of its General Assembly, in the year marking the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the Charter;

After a half-century of progress toward a spirit of unity in the Hemisphere around the historic mission of providing for our peoples a land of freedom and an environment conducive to their integral development;

In view of the confirmed role of hemispheric partnership as essential to the welfare of our people and to strengthening a system of individual freedom and social justice based on respect for human rights within a framework of democratic institutions;

I

RECALLING that the political will to strengthen the Organization and employ it as the natural forum for political dialogue, understanding, and cooperation in the Hemisphere in pursuit of the aims of the Charter was affirmed at the centennial of the inter-American system, by the General Assembly session in Asunción;

REITERATING, in the light of the Santiago Commitment to Democracy and the Renewal of the Inter-American System, our will to promote the revitalization of the Organization of American States;

EMPHASIZING, as did the General Assembly in Nassau, that international cooperation is crucial to solving the economic, social, and environmental problems of the countries of the Hemisphere;

NOTING that, the General Assembly, in Managua, when democracy, peace, and development were acknowledged to be inseparable and indivisible parts of a renewed and integral view of solidarity in the Americas, affirmed the need for greater opportunities for the development of our peoples, based on the commonality of inter-American interests, genuine interdependence, mutual benefits, and a spirit of shared responsibility;

REAFFIRMING the value of integration, recognized by the General Assembly, in Belém do Pará, as an instrument for creating new economic and social realities and a decisive factor in freeing the Hemisphere of extreme poverty;

MINDFUL, in view of the challenges of globalization facing the hemispheric community, of the relevance of the objective, set forth by the General Assembly in Montrouis, of strengthening the capacity of multilateral organizations to promote cooperation among nations of the Hemisphere;

FIRM in the conviction, stated by the General Assembly in Panama, that multilateralism, through international cooperation, political dialogue, and joint efforts, in the context of full respect for the sovereign will of states, is an effective instrument for realizing shared aspirations and overcoming the challenges facing the Hemisphere;

REAFFIRMING that this historic occasion calls for coordinated efforts to develop, strengthen, and hone existing consensus-building mechanisms, an idea which led the General Assembly in Lima to define the OAS as the foremost instrument for consolidating a new hemispheric relationship characterized by partnership for development;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the important contribution of the Summits of the Americas to strengthening the OAS and revitalizing its agenda;

## II

EMPHASIZING that the 1985 Protocol of Cartagena de Indias, the 1991 Santiago Commitment, General Assembly resolution AG/RES. 1080 (XXI-O/91) of 1991, and the 1992 Protocol of Washington give the Organization of American States an important role in defending and promoting democracy in the Hemisphere;

VALUING the action taken by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, in promoting and protecting the rights recognized in the 1948 American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man and the 1969 American Convention on Human Rights (Pact of San José);

CONFIRMING that the body of inter-American human rights law has been developed, since the Pact of San José, by way of the Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights to Abolish the Death Penalty; the Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the Area of Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (Protocol of San Salvador); the Inter-American Convention to Prevent and Punish Torture; the Inter-American Convention on Forced Disappearance of Persons, and the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belém do Pará);

AWARE that reinforcing democracy, peace, and the full enjoyment of human rights is central to the hemispheric agenda and a fundamental aim of the Organization;

CONVINCED that, with the entry into force of the Protocol of Managua, the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI)—a forum for inter-American dialogue that promotes joint action to address the challenges of development—is a key instrument for realizing the objectives of partnership for development and overcoming poverty;

HIGHLIGHTING the Strategic Plan for Partnership for Development 1997-2001 as a tool for defining policies, programs, and measures for CIDI in the areas of social development and the creation of productive employment, education, economic diversification and integration, trade liberalization and market access, scientific development and exchange and transfer of technology, strengthening of democratic institutions, sustainable development of tourism, sustainable development and the environment, and culture, which are priorities of multilateral cooperation;

RECOGNIZING that responsible and organized participation by communities guarantees the stability of democracy, governability, and integral development;

REAFFIRMING the need to incorporate sustainable development strategies, since they are essential to achieving economic, social, and environmental goals in a balanced and complementary manner;

POINTING TO progress made toward establishing the Free Trade Area of the Americas and the formal startup of negotiations as evidence of our countries' capacity for economic consensus, based on coexistence with bilateral and subregional agreements, as described in the March 1998 Ministerial Declaration of San José;

DETERMINED to strengthen the hemispheric response, with the entry into force of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption, to a syndrome that undermines the legitimacy of public institutions and subverts the moral order and integral development of nations;

CONFIRMING our staunch commitment to fighting terrorism in all its forms, as provided in the Declaration and Plan of Action on Hemispheric Cooperation to Prevent, Combat, and Eliminate Terrorism, as an expression of our strong condemnation and repudiation of all forms of terrorism, by whomever and however they are perpetrated, as acts that constitute a violation of the essential rights of individuals;

STRESSING that the confidence- and security-building measures recommended at the Santiago and San Salvador Regional Conferences are an important contribution to transparency, mutual understanding, regional security, and peace;

CONVINCED that strengthening representative democracy, economic and social development, stepping up integration processes, and partnership between member states are fundamental to reinforcing peace and security in the region;

RECALLING the mandate issued to the OAS at the Second Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Americas to revitalize and strengthen the institutions of the inter-American system related to the various aspects of hemispheric security;

REAFFIRMING that the hemispheric security climate has also been enhanced by the General Assembly decision to reaffirm the goals of achieving global elimination of antipersonnel land mines and converting the Western Hemisphere into an antipersonnel-land-mine-free zone, in addition to completing mine-clearing in Central America by the year 2000 and continuing with the Mine-Clearing Assistance Program in that region; recognizing as well the importance of programs for the

preventive education of civilians as to the danger of antipersonnel mines, the physical and psychological rehabilitation of victims, and the socioeconomic recovery of demined areas;

REITERATING that the full ratification and imminent entry into force of the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials is key to combating and eradicating this serious problem and, at the same time, helps to increase confidence, security, and cooperation among states;

PERSUADED of the need to foster greater understanding of the special security concerns of small island states;

CONVINCED of the importance of the Anti-drug Strategy in the Hemisphere as a coordinated response by the Americas to reduce the illicit consumption and production of, and illicit traffic in, narcotics and psychotropic substances;

REITERATING the importance of the Declaration and Plan of Action of the Second Summit of the Americas in galvanizing an alliance against drugs, together with the aim of increasing mutual trust, dialogue, and hemispheric cooperation by developing a single, objective, multilateral process of governmental evaluation to follow up on the individual and collective progress of efforts by the Hemisphere and by all its countries to address the various manifestations of the problem;

### III

MINDFUL that, just as this 50th anniversary is an invitation to celebrate the commonality of democratic values in the Hemisphere, it also commits us to achieving the full promotion and protection of the essential human rights and to establishing circumstances in which human beings can progress both spiritually and materially;

REAFFIRMING that fighting poverty is essential to peaceful coexistence, social harmony, and developing and strengthening democratic institutions;

RECALLING that, at the Second Summit of the Americas, held in Santiago, the Heads of State and Government of the Hemisphere reaffirmed the importance of education as a prerequisite to and determining factor in the social, cultural, political, and economic development of our nations;

RECALLING once more that economic growth is essential, but not sufficient in itself, for improving the quality of life, overcoming poverty, and eliminating discrimination and social exclusion, and that the region's experience shows the need for growth aimed at promoting economic development with equity and social justice; and

MINDFUL that the ideals of peace, social justice, integral development, and solidarity are constant challenges for our democracies,



REAFFIRM:

The intent to strengthen multilateralism as an expression of the unity that guides our efforts to reinforce the principles and accomplish the purposes enshrined in the Charter of the Organization of American States;

The firm commitment to review the institutional structure of the inter-American system, particularly the Organization of American States, in order to strengthen and update its responsiveness to the challenges of the coming century, adapt it to new realities in the Hemisphere, achieve greater complementarity between its various bodies, and lend it the necessary organizational efficiency, as mandated by our Heads of State and Government in the Declaration of Santiago, adopted at the Second Summit of the Americas;

The intention to continue an ongoing and creative effort to safeguard and consolidate democracy in the Hemisphere while respecting the principles of self-determination and nonintervention;

The commitment to build a culture of peace, development, and nonviolence, recognizing the right to peace as inalienable and intrinsic to human dignity;

The decision to establish, as a priority area of the Organization's activities, mechanisms for support, cooperation, and follow-up of justice system reform processes for those member states that so request;

The determination to continue to strengthen and fine-tune the inter-American system for the promotion and protection of human rights and to promote the inter-American program for the international promotion of human rights, noting that promotion and protection are related and mutually reinforcing concepts;

The decision, adopted at the Second Summit of the Americas, to promote the signature or ratification of, or accession to, as appropriate, the instruments that make up the body of inter-American law pertaining to human rights;

The commitment to complete the preparation of legal instruments to protect the rights of indigenous populations and to eliminate all forms of discrimination against persons with disabilities, and to make further progress in the study and development, in accordance with inter-American instruments, of measures designed to improve detention and prison conditions; promote and protect women's rights and institute a gender equity perspective at all levels; promote and safeguard the human rights of all migrant workers and their families; address the situation of refugees, repatriated persons, and internally displaced persons; promote the establishment and observance of the rights of children in the Americas; and guarantee respect for freedom of expression;

The intent to foster more active participation by civil society in public affairs;

The decision to continue supporting economic integration efforts with a view to achieving and consolidating free trade in the Americas and, in particular, strengthening the actions taken by the Organization regarding the legal development of integration;

The intent to promote the stability of democratic institutions in the countries of the Hemisphere, for which we confirm the approach taken in the Inter-American Program for Cooperation in the Fight against Corruption, in the Declaration and the Plan of Action on Hemispheric Cooperation to Prevent, Combat, and Eliminate Terrorism, in the Anti-drug Strategy in the Hemisphere, in combating money laundering, and in the Strategic Plan for Partnership for Development 1997-2001, and we point to the importance of sharing experience to prevent illegal contributions to electoral campaign funds;

The commitment to consolidate the significant strides made in confidence and security in the Hemisphere, as a true expression of the culture and tradition of peace in the region and the democratic values that shape that peace;

The intent to continue consultations and the sharing of ideas in the Hemisphere to further the limitation and control of conventional weapons in the region;

The certainty that the security of small island states, faced with special concerns of various kinds, could be increased if policy dialogue and cooperation programs for this subregion were strengthened;

The commitment to make the utmost effort, at the highest level, to ensure the earliest possible implementation of the mandate, issued at the Second Summit of the Americas, to develop a single, objective, multilateral evaluation process to follow up on individual and collective efforts by the Hemisphere as a whole and by all its countries to address the various manifestations of the drug problem;

The determination to consolidate the agreements adopted at the Summit of the Americas on Sustainable Development in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, and, for that purpose, to strengthen existing mechanisms within the Organization; and

The firm intent to implement the actions entrusted to the Organization of American States by the Summits of the Americas in Miami and Santiago and to coordinate with other institutions in the inter-American system to carry out those tasks.

Therefore, we, the foreign ministers and heads of delegation of the OAS member states, on behalf of our peoples, and during this Assembly session marking the 50th anniversary of the Organization, reaffirm the commitment to the defense and promotion of representative democracy and human rights in the region, the firm will to achieve development with social justice, and the determination to make the Americas a land of peace and well-being.

Caracas, June 1, 1998

AG/DEC. 17 (XXVIII-O/98)

DECLARATION ON THE QUESTION OF THE MALVINAS ISLANDS

(Declaration adopted at the third plenary session,  
held on June 2, 1998)

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

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

WELCOMES the reaffirmation of the will of the Argentine Government to continue exploring all possible avenues for peaceful settlement of the controversy and, in particular, its positive views concerning the inhabitants of the Malvinas Islands; and

DECIDES to continue to examine the question of the Malvinas Islands at its subsequent sessions until a definitive solution is reached thereon.

AG/DEC. 18 (XXVIII-O/98)

DECLARATION ON EQUAL RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITY  
FOR WOMEN AND MEN AND GENDER EQUITY IN  
INTER-AMERICAN LEGAL INSTRUMENTS

(Declaration adopted at the third plenary session,  
held on June 2, 1998)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING that the Charter of the Organization of American States proclaims the fundamental rights of the individual without distinction as to race, nationality, creed, or sex as one of its fundamental principles;

BEARING IN MIND that the purpose of all inter-American legal instruments relating to the rights of the individual has been to consider the individual as having these rights, without discrimination of any kind;

RECOGNIZING that, notwithstanding the progress made in the promotion and protection of the rights of the individual and, in particular, in equality of women and men before the law, equal opportunity for women and men, and gender equity, a number of specific initiatives need to be carried out to promote these concepts at both the national and international levels;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the "Opinion of the Inter-American Juridical Committee on the Draft Protocol of Amendment to the Charter of the OAS and the Draft Resolution on Amendment of the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man" (CJI/doc.30/98 rev. 2) of March 18, 1998; and

ON THE OCCASION of the 50th anniversary of the Charter of the Organization of American States,

DECLARES that all inter-American legal instruments relating to the rights of individuals should be applied by the member states of the OAS as well as by its organs, specialized agencies, and departments, in such a way as to ensure equality of women and men before the law, equal opportunity for women and men, and gender equity.

URGES the member states to unequivocally embrace the aforementioned principle when applying those legal instruments.

CALLS UPON the member states to take concrete steps to promote equality of women and men before the law, equal opportunity for men and women, and gender equity, at both the national and international levels.

RECOMMENDS to the member states that any relevant inter-American instruments adopted in the future on the rights of individuals expressly ensure the equality of women and men before the law, equal opportunity for men and women, and gender equity.

AG/DEC. 19 (XXVIII-O/98)

DECLARATION ON GUYANA

(Declaration adopted at the fifth plenary session,  
held on June 3, 1998)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

AWARE that the December 1997 general and regional elections in Guyana were free and fair, as attested to by the report of the OAS Observer Mission;

AWARE that the main opposition party in Guyana refused to accept the results of these elections declared by the Elections Commission;

AWARE that, following opposition demonstrations, which resulted in violence against citizens in the capital city Georgetown, an agreement brokered by the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) between the Government and the main opposition party decided on, among other measures, an independent audit of the elections, to the results of which both parties agreed to abide;

AWARE that, the results of the audit were delivered to the political parties on June 2, 1998, in Georgetown, Guyana, by the Chairman of CARICOM; and

AWARE that a state of tension exists among the citizens of Guyana in the wake of the delivery of the results of the said audit,

NOW, THEREFORE,

URGES all political parties in Guyana to accept the unequivocal results of the audit.

CALLS on all Guyanese to respect and obey the rule of law.

SUPPORTS the maintenance of the rule of law by the appropriate Guyanese authorities and institutions.

URGES all political parties and social forces to work in cooperation for the continued political, social, and economic development of Guyana.

AG/RES. 1532 (XXVIII-O/98)

FREE TRADE AND INVESTMENT IN THE HEMISPHERE

(Resolution adopted at the third plenary session,  
held on June 2, 1998)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING:

That, through its resolution AG/RES. 1364 (XXVI-O/96), "Free Trade and Investment in the Hemisphere," it instructed the Inter-American Juridical Committee to examine and decide upon the validity under international law of the Helms-Burton Act; and

The opinion of the Inter-American Juridical Committee (RES/CJI.II-14/96), in which the Committee unanimously concluded that "the bases and potential application of the legislation which is the subject of this opinion," in the areas referred to above, "are not in conformity with international law"; and

HAVING SEEN the report of the Permanent Council on free trade and investment in the Hemisphere (AG/doc.3718/98),

RESOLVES:

1. To take note of the report of the Permanent Council on free trade and investment in the Hemisphere, presented pursuant to resolution AG/RES. 1447 (XXVII-O/97).
2. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth regular session on developments in this regard.

AG/RES. 1533 (XXVIII-O/98)

SPECIAL PROGRAM OF SUPPORT FOR GUATEMALA

(Resolution adopted at the third plenary session,  
held on June 2, 1998)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the report of the Permanent Council on the Special Program of Support for Guatemala (AG/doc.3718/98);

RECALLING the mandate to cooperate with and support the strengthening of democracy and the peace process, issued to the General Secretariat in resolution MRE/RES. 2/93 of the ad hoc Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs on Guatemala and in resolution AG/RES. 1466 (XXVII-O/97), adopted in June 1997 by the General Assembly in Lima, Peru;

CONSIDERING:

That the peace agreements signed in Guatemala City on December 29, 1996, put an end to over three decades of internal conflict;

The firm commitment of the Government of Guatemala to implement the accords and thereby strengthen peace and democracy in Guatemala; and

The solidarity of the international community, expressed in its commitment to continue supporting the country in its efforts to carry out those accords fully; and

BEARING IN MIND the progress made toward fulfilling the decisions made by the foreign ministers and heads of delegation of the member states of the Organization of American States by way of resolution AG/RES. 1466 (XXVII-O/97),

RESOLVES:

1. To congratulate the Government and people of Guatemala on the progress made in implementing the peace accords.

2. To recognize the work of the General Secretariat in implementing resolution AG/RES. 1466 (XXVII-O/97).

3. To reaffirm its support for the Government and people of Guatemala in their efforts to strengthen democracy and build a firm and lasting peace in that country.

4. To instruct the General Secretariat to continue to support fully the efforts to strengthen democracy and peace, to rebuild, and to achieve reconciliation in Guatemala, through the



Special Program of Support adopted by the General Assembly in resolution AG/RES. 1378 (XXVI-O/96).

5. To request the General Secretariat to maintain and broaden the components of the program referred to in the preceding operative paragraph, in accordance with the express request of the Government of Guatemala and within resources assigned in the program-budget and other resources, with particular emphasis on technical assistance for elections, the Culture of Dialogue in Guatemala: Program for Resource Development for Building Peace (PROPAZ), democratic values and policy management, legal support to the Guatemalan Congress in its efforts to implement the commitments derived from or related to the peace accords, and mine-clearing assistance in Guatemala.

6. To renew its request to the General Secretariat to continue to coordinate with the United Nations General Secretariat and other international organizations for the purposes set forth in this resolution.

7. To request the Secretary General to present a progress report to the Permanent Council on the Special Program of Support for Guatemala before the twenty-ninth regular session of the General Assembly.

AG/RES. 1534 (XXVIII-O/98)

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

(Resolution adopted at the third plenary session,  
held on June 2, 1998)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the reports of the Special Committee on Inter-American Summits Management to the foreign ministers, presented in compliance with resolution AG/RES. 1448 (XXVII-O/97) (AG/doc.3718/98), as well as the chart of initiatives of the Santiago Plan of Action of the Second Summit of the Americas (CP/doc.3059/98 rev. 2);

RECALLING the Summit of the Americas in Miami; the Summit of the Americas on Sustainable Development in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia; and the Second Summit of the Americas, held in Santiago, Chile;

CONSIDERING:

That, in resolution AG/RES. 1349 (XXV-O/95), the General Assembly set up a Special Committee of the Permanent Council on Inter-American Summits Management, open to participation by all member states, to ensure effective, timely, and appropriate follow-up of the activities assigned to the Organization by the Summit of the Americas and to coordinate, if it is so decided, the preparation, participation, and follow-up by the OAS at future summits involving all member states and at which the OAS might be called upon to participate in their execution and follow-up;

That, in resolutions AG/RES. 1377 (XXVI-O/96) and AG/RES. 1448 (XXVII-O/97), the General Assembly reaffirmed the mandate of the Special Committee and instructed it to submit a written report each year to the foreign ministers at the regular session of the General Assembly on the progress made in implementing that resolution;

That the Second Summit of the Americas was held in Santiago, Chile, on April 18 and 19, 1998, and that the Heads of State and Government of the Hemisphere signed the Declaration of Santiago and the Plan of Action;

That the Santiago Plan of Action establishes that “the Governments will bear primary responsibility for implementation of the mandates of the Summit,” and that “in accordance with Summit decisions, international organizations will have responsibilities in implementing this process and, as appropriate, according to Summit mandates, support will be provided by private sector organizations and civil society”;

That, also in the Santiago Plan of Action, the Heads of State and Government entrusted the OAS with various mandates; and

That, likewise in the Santiago Plan of Action, the Heads of State and Government instructed the OAS General Secretariat to act as a record-keeping mechanism (institutional memory of the process) and provide technical support to the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG); and

RECOGNIZING the importance of coordinated and efficient follow-up to the Santiago Plan of Action of the Second Summit of the Americas so as to ensure timely and effective implementation of the initiatives entrusted to the OAS and other organs, agencies, and entities of the inter-American system by the Heads of State and Government of the Hemisphere,

RESOLVES:

1. To thank the Permanent Council for the report of its Special Committee on Inter-American Summits Management and to express its satisfaction with the important work carried out by that Special Committee in implementing resolution AG/RES. 1349 (XXV-O/95) and other resolutions on the subject.

2. To thank also the organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization for their special support in implementing the initiatives of the Plan of Action of the Summit of the Americas in Miami and the Summit of the Americas on Sustainable Development in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, and to urge continued implementation of the Miami Plan of Action and the Santa Cruz Plan of Action, in accordance with the mandates of the Second Summit of the Americas, held in Santiago.

3. To reaffirm the mandate issued to the Permanent Council to coordinate, through its Special Committee on Inter-American Summits Management, the activities arising from the Summits of the Americas held in Miami in 1994 and in Santiago in 1998.

4. To note with satisfaction the report of the Permanent Council on the Second Summit of the Americas and to approve the chart of initiatives of the Santiago Plan of Action of the Second Summit of the Americas (CP/doc.3059/98 rev. 2).

5. To request the organs, agencies, and entities of the inter-American system mentioned in the chart to give priority to carrying out the initiatives of the Santiago Plan of Action and to provide the Special Committee on Inter-American Summits Management with regular progress reports on implementation in those areas.

6. To instruct the General Secretariat to follow up on the initiatives that it has been mandated to implement in the Santiago Plan of Action.

7. To instruct the Permanent Council to submit a written progress report to the foreign ministers at each regular session of the General Assembly on the implementation of this resolution.

AG/RES. 1535 (XXVIII-O/98)

CELEBRATION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

(Resolution adopted at the third plenary session,  
held on June 2, 1998)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the report of the Permanent Council on the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Organization of American States (AG/doc.3718/98);

CONSIDERING that, in resolution AG/RES. 1462 (XXVII-O/97), the General Assembly instructed the General Secretariat to make preparations for events marking the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the OAS;

BEARING IN MIND that resolution AG/RES. 1462 (XXVII-O/97) emphasized that the 50th anniversary of the OAS provides “an excellent opportunity to reaffirm the purposes and principles of the Organization and to strengthen it as an institution, so as to address the new challenges posed by the coming century”; and

RECALLING that, in the Commitment of Lima: Toward a Culture of Peace and Development in the Americas, the foreign ministers and heads of delegation of the member states reaffirmed that “the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the OAS should be the opportunity to reinforce its process of modernization and institutional strengthening that will permit it to attain dynamically and functionally its purposes and principles,”

RESOLVES:

1. To thank and congratulate the Government of the Republic of Colombia for the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Organization of American States, held in Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia, on April 29 and 30, 1998.

2. To support the Declaration of Santafé de Bogotá and reaffirm the importance of the principles contained therein.

AG/RES. 1536 (XXVIII-O/98)

COOPERATION BETWEEN THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES AND  
THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

(Resolution adopted at the third plenary session,  
held on June 2, 1998)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the report of the General Secretariat on the implementation of resolution AG/RES. 1468 (XXVII-O/97), "Cooperation between the Organization of American States and the United Nations System,"

RESOLVES:

1. To reiterate to the Secretary General of the Organization of American States its satisfaction with the technical cooperation activities carried out jointly by the two organizations under the OAS/UN Cooperation Agreement.
2. To express its recognition to the Assistant Secretary General of the Organization of American States for the efficient coordination and the implementation of mechanisms for coordination between the two organizations.
3. To request the Secretary General to continue and strengthen cooperation activities between the two organizations, and to facilitate an increase in intersectoral contact among the persons in charge of the technical areas of the two organizations under the terms of the OAS/UN Cooperation Agreement; and, further, to request him to report on these activities to the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth regular session.

AG/RES. 1537 (XXVIII-O/98)

COOPERATION BETWEEN THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE ORGANIZATION  
OF AMERICAN STATES AND THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE  
CENTRAL AMERICAN INTEGRATION SYSTEM

(Resolution adopted at the third plenary session,  
held on June 2, 1998)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the report of the General Secretariat on implementation of resolution AG/RES. 1469 (XXVII-O/97), "Cooperation between the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States and the General Secretariat of the Central American Integration System,"

RESOLVES:

1. To take note of the report of the Secretary General on implementation of resolution AG/RES. 1469 (XXVII-O/97).
2. To request the Secretary General to intensify measures to make the cooperation activities of the Organization of American States and the Central American Integration System more effective.
3. To renew its request to the General Secretariat to continue to prepare, in consultation with the General Secretariat of the Central American Integration System, a cooperation plan to strengthen integration and cooperation in Central America, using the procedures for designing and executing projects within the Inter-American Council for Integral Development.
4. To express to the Secretary General its gratification over the execution of the Project for the Sustainable Development of Border Areas in the Central American Isthmus, sponsored by the Unit for Sustainable Development of the OAS General Secretariat in response to an initiative by the Forum of Central American Vice Presidents held in Honduras in September 1996.
5. To request the Secretary General to report on the implementation of this resolution to the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth regular session.

AG/RES. 1538 (XXVIII-O/98)

COOPERATION BETWEEN THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES  
AND THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY

(Resolution adopted at the third plenary session,  
held on June 2, 1998)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the report of the General Secretariat on the implementation of resolution AG/RES. 1470 (XXVII-O/97), "Cooperation between the Organization of American States and the Caribbean Community,"

RESOLVES:

1. To take note of the report of the Secretary General on the implementation of resolution AG/RES. 1470 (XXVII-O/97).
2. To renew its request to the Secretary General that he continue efforts to intensify and enhance cooperative ties between the Organization of American States and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).
3. To express to the Assistant Secretary General of the OAS its satisfaction with the organization of the Second OAS-CARICOM General Meeting on Cooperation, which took place at OAS headquarters on April 23 and 24, 1998, pursuant to resolution AG/RES. 1470 (XXVII-O/97).
4. To request the General Secretariat to establish a mechanism for following up on joint technical cooperation activities with a view to attainment of the objectives agreed upon at the Second OAS-CARICOM General Meeting on Cooperation.
5. To request the Secretary General to report to the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth regular session on the implementation of this resolution.

AG/RES. 1539 (XXVIII-O/98)

THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES AND CIVIL SOCIETY

(Resolution adopted at the third plenary session,  
held on June 2, 1998)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

The Standards on Cooperative Relations between the Organization of American States and the United Nations, Its Specialized Agencies, and Other National and International Organizations [AG/RES. 57 (I-O/71)];

The Report by the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs on the status of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) in the OAS (CP/doc.2946/97);

The resolution "Status of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in the OAS" [CP/RES. 704 (1129/97)]; and

The civil society initiative contained in the Plan of Action of the Second Summit of the Americas;

RECOGNIZING:

That through informal practice that has developed and expanded in recent years, and via groundbreaking formal arrangements in the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL) and elsewhere, many NGOs have made and are continuing to make valuable contributions to the Organization by participating actively, as appropriate, in the deliberations of several OAS bodies and by assisting in the implementation of OAS-sponsored technical cooperation projects;

That member states and various OAS bodies have considered this experience with NGO involvement very favorable;

That the Summit of the Americas, held in Miami, the Summit of the Americas on Sustainable Development, in Santa Cruz, the Second Summit of the Americas, in Santiago, and the inter-American programs adopted in the priority areas contained in the Strategic Plan for Partnership for Development 1997-2001 [adopted by the General Assembly through resolution AG/RES. 1511 (XXVII-O/97)] all acknowledge the importance of civil society; and

That the civil society initiative contained in the Plan of Action of the Second Summit of the Americas states that "the Organization of American States (OAS) may serve as a forum for the exchange of experiences and information" and entrusts "the OAS to encourage support among



Governments and civil society organizations, and to promote appropriate programs to carry out this initiative”; and

CONSIDERING:

That as a policy forum of a community of democratic nations, the OAS should reflect in its practices and procedures the values of openness, transparency, and participation by interested parties, which are basic principles of democracy; and

That implementing the mandates assigned to the OAS by the Heads of State and Government at the Summits of the Americas is a high priority,

RESOLVES:

1. To instruct the Permanent Council to examine ways to increase the degree to which appropriate nongovernmental organizations and civil society organizations may become more closely involved in, and contribute to, the activities of the Organization, and ways to implement the tasks entrusted to the OAS in the Santiago Plan of Action with respect to civil society. In this process, representatives of civil society organizations may be asked for their views on the matter.

2. To instruct the Permanent Council to present a progress report on the implementation of this resolution to the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth regular session.

AG/RES. 1540 (XXVIII-O/98)

ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK PERFORMED BY THE  
SUBSIDIARY ORGANS OF THE OAS COUNCILS<sup>2/</sup>

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2. This resolution is superseded by the resolution “Modernization of the OAS and Renewal of the Inter-American System” [AG/RES. 1603 (XXVIII-O/98)], which was adopted at the fifth plenary session, held on June 3, 1998.

AG/RES. 1541 (XXVIII-O/98)

ANNUAL SCHEDULE OF CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

(Resolution adopted at the third plenary session,  
held on June 2, 1998)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the report by the Permanent Council on the chronological list of conferences and meetings (AG/doc.3718/98);

RECALLING its resolution "Annual Schedule of Conferences and Meetings of the Organization of American States," [AG/RES. 205 (V-O/75)], which, *inter alia*, instructed the General Secretariat to present a full list of conferences or meetings by categories to the Permanent Council each year and to also provide the Council every three months with a chronological list containing only the date, designation, and place of each meeting;

RECOGNIZING that the General Secretariat has up to the present time complied with the provisions of the above-mentioned resolution;

BEARING IN MIND that since the date of the above-cited resolution significant developments have taken place within the Organization that impact on the holding of conferences by the Organization itself, as well as by its councils, the General Secretariat, and the organs, agencies, and entities of the inter-American system;

AWARE of the advanced information-processing technologies available to the Organization and to member states;

CONSIDERING that the utilization of these technologies would greatly facilitate the timely and efficient provision of information on conferences and meetings and would also afford easy and ready access to such information by member states; and

REAFFIRMING that the Permanent Council should be kept informed of the conferences and meetings scheduled by the Organization, including its councils and the General Secretariat, and by the organs, agencies, and entities of the inter-American system,

RESOLVES:

1. To instruct the General Secretariat, through its Secretariat for Conferences and Meetings and in collaboration with the Department of Public Information, to provide henceforth to the Permanent Council the annual schedule of conferences and meetings, as described in resolution AG/RES. 205 (V-O/75), by publishing it on the OAS Home Page on the Internet.

2. To instruct the General Secretariat, through its Secretariat for Conferences and Meetings, to update the said annual schedule of conferences and meetings as necessary, based on updated information presented by the respective conference or meeting organizers, and also in accordance with any recommendations by member states presented through the Permanent Council or the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development.

3. To request the inclusion in the said annual schedule of any conferences or meetings, differentiated by category, being held within the Hemisphere which may be of interest to member states.

4. To instruct the General Secretariat, through its Secretariat for Conferences and Meetings, and in collaboration with the Department of Public Information and the Department of Management Systems and Information Technology, to design forthwith an improved format for the publication of the said annual schedule on the Internet, and to submit it to the Permanent Council for its consideration.

5. To request that the various organs, agencies, and entities of the inter-American system provide, in a timely manner, to the General Secretariat, through the Secretariat for Conferences and Meetings, pertinent written information on their respective conferences and meetings.

6. To request that the Secretary General transmit this resolution to the organs, agencies, and entities of the inter-American system.

AG/RES. 1542 (XXVIII-O/98)

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE CONTROL COMMISSION

(Resolution adopted at the third plenary session,  
held on June 2, 1998)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the observations and recommendations of the Permanent Council (AG/doc.3718/98) on the Annual Report of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) (CP/doc.3008/98);

REAFFIRMING its commitment to the principles and purposes set forth by the Organization in the Inter-American Program of Action of Rio de Janeiro against the Illicit Use and Production of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and Traffic Therein; the Declaration and Program of Action of Ixtapa; the Inter-American Program of Quito: Comprehensive Education to Prevent Drug Abuse; and, most recently, the Anti-Drug Strategy in the Hemisphere, approved in Buenos Aires in October 1996;

RECALLING:

The drug control initiatives in the Plan of Action of the First Summit of the Americas, held in Miami, in 1994, and the activities undertaken by CICAD to implement them; and

The Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action of the Second Summit of the Americas, held in Santiago, Chile, in 1998; and

RECOGNIZING the continued excellence of the work carried out by CICAD and its assistance to member states in combating illicit drug trafficking throughout the Hemisphere,

RESOLVES:

1. To take note of, endorse, and transmit to the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) the observations and recommendations made by the Permanent Council on its Annual Report.

2. To note with satisfaction and commend CICAD's support to member states, through their national drug control commissions, in their international coordination efforts; and to instruct CICAD to continue providing such assistance.

AG/RES. 1543 (XXVIII-O/98)

ADOPTION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE CONTROL COMMISSION'S  
MODEL REGULATIONS FOR THE CONTROL OF THE INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT  
OF FIREARMS, THEIR PARTS AND COMPONENTS, AND AMMUNITION

(Resolution adopted at the third plenary session,  
held on June 2, 1998)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the recommendations and observations of the Permanent Council on the annual reports submitted in compliance with Article 91.f of the Charter of the Organization of American States (AG/doc.3698/98) and, in particular, those relating to the Annual Report of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) (CP/doc.3008/98);

RECALLING General Assembly resolutions AG/RES. 1045 (XX-O/90), AG/RES. 1115 (XXI-O/91), and AG/RES. 1197 (XXII-O/92), instructing CICAD to perform studies, hold seminars, and establish a group of experts to address, through model regulations, the control of illicit transnational movements of firearms and explosives and their linkages to drug trafficking;

RECOGNIZING the importance given to the efforts of CICAD to develop the said Model Regulations, as reiterated in General Assembly resolution AG/RES. 1445 (XXVII-O/97);

NOTING that the said Model Regulations were developed as instructed, and that they were approved at the twenty-second regular session of CICAD, held in 1997 in Lima, Peru; and

NOTING FURTHER that since the Model Regulations were approved by CICAD, the Inter-American Convention Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials, was adopted under General Assembly resolution AG/RES. 1 (XXIV-E/97) of the twenty-fourth special session thereof, held in Washington, D.C., on November 13, 1997,

RESOLVES:

1. To adopt the Model Regulations for the Control of the International Movement of Firearms, Their Parts and Components, and Ammunition, as adopted at the twenty-second regular session of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), held in 1997 in Lima, Peru.

2. To encourage member states to apply the Model Regulations as they deem appropriate.

3. To commend the CICAD Group of Experts for the progress it made in drafting the Model Regulations.

4. To request that the Group of Experts hold future meetings for the purpose of further improving these Model Regulations.

AG/RES. 1544 (XXVIII-O/98)

AMENDMENTS TO THE MODEL REGULATIONS CONCERNING LAUNDERING OFFENSES  
CONNECTED TO ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING AND RELATED OFFENSES AND  
TO THE MODEL REGULATIONS TO CONTROL CHEMICAL PRECURSORS AND  
CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES, MACHINES AND MATERIALS OF THE  
INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE CONTROL COMMISSION

(Resolution adopted at the third plenary session,  
held on June 2, 1998)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

The recommendations and observations of the Permanent Council on the annual reports submitted in compliance with Article 91.f of the Charter of the Organization of American States (AG/doc.3698/98), and in particular those relating to the Annual Report of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) (CP/doc.3008/98);

The final report of the follow-up meeting of the CICAD Group of Experts on Money Laundering, held in Santiago, Chile, in October 1997, including progress under the ongoing system of assessment of money laundering of the Plan of Action of Buenos Aires, improved measures to control that offense, and the text of amendments to the Model Regulations Concerning Laundering Offenses Connected to Illicit Drug Trafficking and Related Offences, approved by the Commission at its twenty-second regular session, held in Lima, Peru, in November 1997 (CICAD/doc.901/97); and

The final report of the meeting of the CICAD Group of Experts on the Control of Chemical Precursors and Chemical Substances, Machines, and Materials, held in Fort de France, Martinique, in June 1997, including proposals to amend the Model Regulations to Control Chemical Precursors and Chemical Substances, Machines, and Materials, approved by the Commission at its twenty-second regular session, held in Lima, Peru, in November 1997 (CICAD/doc.897/97); and

CONSIDERING:

That the CICAD Groups of Experts are open to all member countries and thus provide an opportunity for a broad variety of interests to be reflected;

That the above-mentioned assessment and Model Regulations of CICAD are important instruments in the development of a coordinated hemispheric response to illicit drug trafficking and related offenses;

That the Model Regulations depend upon the input of the experts of the member countries to keep them dynamic, timely, and relevant; and



That the Commission has approved the above-mentioned Model Regulations,

RESOLVES:

1. To note with satisfaction the reports of the meetings of the Groups of Experts of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD).
2. To adopt the amendments to CICAD's Model Regulations Concerning Laundering Offenses Connected to Illicit Drug Trafficking and Related Offenses, approved by the Commission at its twenty-second regular session, held in Lima, Peru, in November 1997 (CICAD/doc.901/97), and to recommend them to member states for adoption into national law.
3. To take note of the progress made by the CICAD Group of Experts on the control of chemical precursors toward amendment of the Model Regulations to Control Chemical Precursors and Chemical Substances, Machines, and Materials, and to encourage the completion of this important work.
4. To urge member states to give strong political support to bring into effect CICAD's Model Regulations by means of legal instruments at the national level and to provide the institutional support for their appropriate application, with due regard for the ongoing work of CICAD's Groups of Experts.

AG/RES. 1545(XXVIII-O/98)

STUDY OF THE ADVISABILITY OF PREPARING A DRAFT INTER-AMERICAN  
CONVENTION TO COMBAT MONEY LAUNDERING

(Resolution adopted at the third plenary session,  
held on June 2, 1998)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

The report of the Permanent Council on the study of the advisability of preparing a draft Inter-American Convention to Combat Money Laundering (CP/doc.3041/98); and

The Final Report of the Meeting of the Group of Experts of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) on Money Laundering, held in Santiago, Chile, in October 1997 (CICAD/LAVEX/doc.12/97);

CONSIDERING:

That, in resolution AG/RES. 1459 (XXVII-O/97), "Combating Money Laundering," the General Assembly extended the mandate given to the Working Group to Study a Draft Inter-American Convention on Money Laundering so that it could continue to study the advisability of preparing a draft inter-American convention on the matter; and

That, in resolution AG/RES. 1459 (XXVII-O/97), the CICAD Group of Experts was requested to examine the various national and international instruments in force on this subject and present a technical analysis providing a basis for study and decisions by the Working Group; and

MINDFUL of the work being done by the CICAD Group of Experts on Money Laundering,

RESOLVES:

1. To thank the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) for the information presented to the Permanent Council Working Group on Money Laundering.

2. To reiterate to the CICAD Group of Experts that it should continue to examine, in coordination with the Executive Secretariat, and from an essentially technical perspective, the various national and international instruments in force on this subject and present a technical analysis providing a basis for study and decisions by the Working Group on Money Laundering.

3. To urge the governments of member states that have not yet done so to transmit to CICAD the bilateral agreements and internal legislation on combating money laundering.

AG/RES. 1546 (XXVIII-O/98)

EVALUATION OF THE WORKINGS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM FOR THE  
PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS WITH A VIEW TO  
ITS STRENGTHENING AND IMPROVEMENT

(Resolution adopted at the third plenary session,  
held on June 2, 1998)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the report of the Permanent Council on evaluation and improvement of the inter-American system for the promotion and protection of human rights (AG/doc.3718/98), presented in compliance with resolution AG/RES. 1488 (XXVII-O/97);

BEARING IN MIND that the member states of the Organization of American States have proclaimed in Article 3 of the Charter of the Organization, as one of its principles, respect for the fundamental rights of the individual, without distinction as to race, nationality, creed, or sex;

AWARE that the promotion and international protection of human rights enhances and complements the protection offered by the internal law of member states and is based upon the dignity of the individual; and

CONSIDERING:

That it would be desirable to continue efforts to strengthen and improve the inter-American human rights system, including the possibility of evaluating applicable legal instruments and the working methods and procedures of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights;

That this year marks the 50th anniversary of both the signing of the OAS Charter and the adoption of the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, instruments that gave rise to the inter-American system for the promotion and protection of human rights and have had a decisive influence on its subsequent development; and

That the Heads of State and Government expressed in the Plan of Action of the Second Summit of the Americas, held in Santiago, Chile, in April 1988, the need to strengthen and improve the inter-American human rights system by way of concrete initiatives,

RESOLVES:

1. To promote concrete initiatives and measures to strengthen and improve the inter-American system for the promotion and protection of human rights, in order to strengthen its institutional structure and promote its ties with national systems and regional bodies that promote and protect human rights.

2. To instruct the Permanent Council to continue, through its Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs, its comprehensive consideration of the various aspects of strengthening and improving the inter-American system for the promotion and protection of human rights, issuing recommendations, should it see fit, through the relevant bodies, on possible amendments to applicable legal instruments, among other subjects.

3. To instruct the Permanent Council to promote dialogue, through its Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs, to strengthen and improve the inter-American system for the promotion and protection of human rights, with appropriate cooperation from the agencies and entities of the inter-American system and, when fitting, from the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights and, also when fitting, from other governmental and nongovernmental organizations and institutions.

4. To forward this resolution to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

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

AG/RES. 1547 (XXVIII-O/98)

INTERNATIONAL PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS  
IN THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM

(Resolution adopted at the third plenary session,  
held on June 2, 1998)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the report of the Permanent Council on the international promotion of human rights in the inter-American system (AG/doc.3718/98), presented pursuant to resolution AG/RES. 1489 (XXVII-O/97);

BEARING IN MIND that the member states of the Organization of American States have proclaimed in the Charter of the Organization, as one of its principles, respect for the fundamental rights of the individual without distinction as to race, nationality, creed, or sex;

RECALLING that Article 106 of the OAS Charter provides that the “principal function” of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) “shall be to promote the observance and protection of human rights and to serve as a consultative organ of the Organization in these matters”;

CONSIDERING:

That, in the present context of the Hemisphere, where representative democracy is the norm, the international promotion of human rights is of vital importance and should be vigorously pursued in the inter-American system;

That the Heads of State and Government who participated in the Second Summit of the Americas, held in Santiago, Chile, in April 1998, affirmed, in the Santiago Declaration, that “respect for and promotion of human rights and the fundamental freedoms of all individuals is a primary concern of our governments”; and

That, in the Plan of Action of the aforementioned Summit of the Americas, the Heads of State and Government agreed to “strengthen the inter-American human rights system through concrete initiatives and measures which aim to reinforce its institutional structure and promote its links with national systems and regional entities that promote and protect human rights”;

NOTING that the General Assembly, in its resolution AG/RES. 1489 (XXVII-O/97), “International Promotion of Human Rights in the Inter-American System,” requested the IACHR to prepare, without reducing its protection activities and in collaboration and/or consultation with other pertinent organs and entities, a draft Inter-American Program for the International Promotion of Human Rights; and

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that, in compliance with resolution AG/RES. 1489 (XXVII-O/97), the IACHR presented the draft “Inter-American Program for the International Promotion of Human Rights” in Chapter IV of its annual report,

RESOLVES:

1. To thank the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) for preparing the draft Inter-American Program for the International Promotion of Human Rights.

2. To instruct the Permanent Council to begin its consideration of the draft program presented by the IACHR, taking into account the conclusions of the special meeting of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs on the international promotion of human rights in the inter-American system, contained in resolution AG/RES. 1489 (XXVII-O/97), and the contributions of the competent organs, agencies, and entities of the system, and to adopt those new actions and initiatives contained in the draft that it deems appropriate, until the program is adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth regular session.

3. To instruct the General Secretariat, once the Permanent Council has considered the draft program, and in consultation with the member states, to support the efforts of the competent organs, agencies, and entities of the inter-American system, particularly the IACHR, to carry out the actions and initiatives cited in the preceding paragraph, without reducing its protection activities, and within resources allocated in the program-budget to be adopted by the General Assembly at the special session its holds after its twenty-eighth regular session, in addition to other resources.

4. To instruct the Permanent Council to follow up on the actions and measures adopted pursuant to paragraph 2, and to request that it report to the General Assembly in due course.

AG/RES. 1548 (XXVIII-O/98)

THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF ALL MIGRANT  
WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

(Resolution adopted at the third plenary session,  
held on June 2, 1998)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

The annual report of the Permanent Council on the human rights of all migrant workers and their families (AG/doc. 3718/98); and

The annual report of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) (CP/doc.3036/98), which, in Chapter VI, entitled "Special Studies," contains a "progress report on the situation of migrant workers and their families" that lists measures adopted by the Commission, particularly with respect to preparation of a questionnaire on the subject;

CONSIDERING:

That the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man proclaims that all persons are equal before the law and have the rights and duties enshrined in that declaration, without distinction as to race, sex, language, creed, or any other factor;

That the American Convention on Human Rights recognizes that the essential human rights are not derived from one's being a national of a particular state but are based upon attributes of the human person, for which reason they merit international protection;

That all states parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; and the Convention on the Rights of the Child must guarantee the rights recognized in those legal instruments to all individuals present within their territories and subject to their jurisdictions;

That all states parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights should pledge to guarantee the exercise of the rights set forth therein, without discrimination of any kind, particularly with regard to national origin;

That in the Declaration of Santiago the Heads of State and Government participating in the Second Summit of the Americas reaffirmed that "respect for and promotion of human rights and the fundamental freedoms of all individuals is a primary concern of our governments," and that, for that reason, they decided to "make a special effort to guarantee the human rights of all migrants, including migrant workers and their families";

That in the Plan of Action of the Second Summit of the Americas the Heads of State and Government agreed to adopt "effective measures, including the strengthening of public awareness, to prevent and eradicate violations of human rights and eliminate all forms of discrimination against them, particularly racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance";

That in that Plan of Action they decided to "seek full respect for, and compliance with, the 1963 Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, especially as it relates to the right of nationals, regardless of their immigration status, to communicate with a consular officer of their own State in case of detention"; and

That the sovereign right of each state to formulate and apply its migration laws in the way that best meets its national interests, always in keeping with the principles and rules of international law and in a spirit of cooperation;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the statements made on the rights of migrant workers and their families in the context of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) and, in particular, the references to this especially vulnerable population group in the Strategic Plan for Partnership for Development 1997-2001 and the Inter-American Program to Combat Poverty and Discrimination;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT ALSO that many migrant workers and their families are compelled to leave their homes in search of better opportunities and to escape the poverty that the member states are committed to eradicating, as noted in the Inter-American Program to Combat Poverty and Discrimination;

BEARING IN MIND the vulnerable situation in which migrant workers and their families often find themselves, in part because they do not live in their states of origin; because of difficulties owing to differences of language, customs, and culture; and because their circumstances often lead to the breakdown of the family; and

CONVINCED that it is necessary to intensify efforts to improve the situation of all migrant workers and their families and guarantee their rights and their dignity,

RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm that the principles and standards set forth in the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man and the American Convention on Human Rights apply to all persons, including migrant workers and their families.

2. To urge the states to observe the applicable international human rights instruments and, in keeping with the legal system of each country, to guarantee the human rights of all migrants, including migrant workers and their families.

3. To urge the states to seek full respect for, and compliance with, the 1963 Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, especially as it relates to the right of nationals, regardless of their immigration status, to communicate with a consular officer of their own State in case of detention.



4. To thank the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) for its work on behalf of the rights of all migrant workers and their families, and to urge it to intensify its efforts with a view to presenting a thorough report on their situation.

5. To urge the Permanent Council to continue supporting the work of the IACHR in this area and to take into account the efforts of other international organizations on behalf of migrant workers and families with a view to helping to improve their situation in the Hemisphere, in particular, when appropriate, those of the Working Group of Intergovernmental Experts on the Human Rights of Migrants of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights.

6. To urge the member states of the Organization to reply to the questionnaire prepared by the IACHR on migrant workers and their families within the timeframe specified by the Special Rapporteur, so that he may proceed with his work.

7. To request the IACHR, on the basis of responses received from member states as provided for in the previous paragraph, to complete the report on migrant workers and their families and present it to the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth regular session.

8. To urge the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) to carry out projects and activities to benefit all migrant workers and their families, as an expression of inter-American solidarity and an essential element in the integral development of the member states.

9. To request the councils of the Organization to report and present recommendations to the General Assembly in due course on the implementation of this resolution in their particular areas of competence.

AG/RES. 1549 (XXVIII-O/98)

PROPOSED AMERICAN DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS  
OF INDIGENOUS POPULATIONS

(Resolution adopted at the third plenary session,  
held on June 2, 1998)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the report of the Permanent Council on the “American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Populations”; and

CONSIDERING:

That, in resolution AG/RES. 1022 (XIX-O/89), the General Assembly requested the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) to prepare a juridical instrument relative to the rights of the Indian peoples, and that the instrument was presented to the Assembly at its twenty-seventh regular session;

That, in resolution AG/RES. 1479 (XXVII-O/97), the General Assembly urged the member states to present, by December 31, 1997, their observations and recommendations on the “Proposed American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples” prepared by the IACHR, and requested the Inter-American Juridical Committee (CJI) and the Inter-American Indian Institute (III) to transmit their comments on that proposed declaration to the Permanent Council, taking into account those observations and recommendations; and

That the III, the CJI, and several member states have already submitted their comments to the Permanent Council,

RESOLVES:

1. To acknowledge the progress made in studying the “Proposed American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples” prepared by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR).

2. To thank the Inter-American Indian Institute (III), the Inter-American Juridical Committee (CJI), and the member states for their comments on the “Proposed American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.”

3. To instruct the Permanent Council to continue to consider the “Proposed American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Populations”; to convene a meeting of government experts on this subject, taking into account the observations of the member states and the opinions of the III and the CJI, during the second half of 1998, in keeping with resources allocated in the program-

budget and other resources; and to take the measures it considers appropriate with a view to the adoption of a declaration by the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth regular session.

AG/RES. 1550 (XXVIII-O/98)

ASSAULTS UPON FREEDOM OF THE PRESS  
AND CRIMES AGAINST JOURNALISTS

(Resolution adopted at the third plenary session,  
held on June 2, 1998)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the request of the Secretary General that the item “Crimes against journalists” be included on the agenda for the twenty-eighth regular session of the General Assembly;

BEARING IN MIND that Article 3.1 of the Charter of the Organization of American States establishes as one of its principles that “the American States proclaim the fundamental rights of the individual without distinction as to race, nationality, creed, or sex”;

RECALLING:

That Article I of the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man states that “every human being has the right to life, liberty and the security of his person”; and

That Article IV of the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man provides that “every person has the right to freedom of investigation, of opinion, and of the expression and dissemination of ideas, by any medium whatsoever”;

REAFFIRMING that Article 4 of the American Convention on Human Rights provides that “every person has the right to have his life respected”;

REITERATING the full validity in every democratic society of freedom of expression, which should be subject not to prior censorship but, rather, to subsequent liability arising from the abuse of that freedom, in accordance with domestic law legitimately enacted by states to ensure respect for the rights or reputation of others, or to protect national security, public order, health, or public morals;

BEARING IN MIND that, at the Second Summit of the Americas, held in Santiago, Chile, in April 1998, the Heads of State and Government expressed their support for the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) in this area, in particular the recently established position of Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression;

CONSIDERING that, at that same Summit of the Americas, the Heads of State and Government reaffirmed in Santiago “the importance of guaranteeing freedom of expression, information, and opinion”; and

CONSIDERING that, *inter alia*, the Hemispheric Conference on Unpunished Crimes against Journalists, held in Guatemala in 1997, reported that in recent years assaults have been made upon the right to life of media professionals in the performance of their duties,

RESOLVES:

1. To condemn vehemently assaults upon freedom of the press and crimes against journalists.
2. To urge the member states to strengthen the measures needed for the investigation and punishment, in accordance with their domestic law, of assaults upon freedom of expression and crimes against journalists.
3. To reaffirm that the communications media make an indispensable contribution to strengthening democratic systems in the Hemisphere.
4. To urge the member states to support the work of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, whose position was recently established by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.
5. To instruct the Permanent Council to study the advisability of preparing an Inter-American Declaration on Freedom of Expression.
6. To request the Permanent Council to report in due course to the General Assembly on the implementation of this resolution.

AG/RES. 1551 (XXVIII-O/98)

PROMOTION OF REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY

(Resolution adopted at the third plenary session,  
held on June 2, 1998)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

The report of the Permanent Council on the promotion of representative democracy (AG/doc.3718/98); and

The Santiago Declaration and the Plan of Action of the Second Summit of the Americas, held in 1998;

BEARING IN MIND 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 its purposes is “to promote and consolidate representative democracy, with due respect for the principle of nonintervention”;

CONSIDERING:

Resolution AG/RES. 1063 (XX-O/90), in which the General Assembly requested the Secretary General “to establish within the General Secretariat a Unit for the Promotion of Democracy,” and resolution CP/RES. 572 (882/91), in which the Permanent Council adopted the Program of Support for the Promotion of Democracy; and

That, pursuant to resolution CP/RES. 572 (882/91), the Unit “will be available to perform such tasks as the competent authorities may entrust to it in support of democracy in the Hemisphere”;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

Resolutions AG/RES. 1080 (XXI-O/91), AG/RES. 1402 (XXVI-O/96), and AG/RES. 1475 (XXVII-O/97), “Promotion of Representative Democracy,” in which the Permanent Council was instructed to prepare a series of proposed incentives to preserve and strengthen democratic systems; and

Resolutions CJI/RES. I-3/95 and CJI/RES. I-2/96 of the Inter-American Juridical Committee, (CJI) as well as the studies and public information activities of that Committee in the area of democracy in the inter-American system; and

RECALLING:

That, in the 1991 Santiago Commitment to Democracy and the Renewal of the Inter-American System, the foreign ministers and heads of delegation of the member states declared their inescapable commitment to the defense and promotion of representative democracy and human rights in the region, in keeping with the principle of nonintervention;

That, in the Declaration of Managua for the Promotion of Democracy and Development, the foreign ministers and heads of delegation of the member states declared that the support and cooperation provided by the OAS—to strengthen democratic institutions through programs that help the states requesting such assistance increase their own ability to improve their political organization models—are fundamental to this new hemispheric commitment; and, in that regard, they underscored the contribution made by the Unit for the Promotion of Democracy and the Permanent Council toward preparing proposed incentives for the preservation and strengthening of democratic systems in the Hemisphere;

That, in the 1994 Declaration of Principles of the First Summit of the Americas, the Heads of State and Government asserted that democracy is the sole political system which guarantees respect for human rights and the rule of law while it safeguards cultural diversity, pluralism, respect for the rights of minorities, and peace within and among nations, and that democracy and development reinforce one another;

That, in the Santiago Declaration of the Second Summit of the Americas, held in Santiago, Chile, in April 1998, the Heads of State and Government reiterated the importance of strengthening democratic systems in the Hemisphere and, in particular, they pledged to redouble their efforts to develop education for democracy, the capabilities of regional and local governments, more active participation by civil society, respect for and promotion of human rights, and improvement of justice systems; and

That the Plan of Action of the Second Summit of the Americas urges governments to enhance cooperation with and support for the efforts of the Organization of American States in the aforementioned activities,

RESOLVES:

1. To take note of the report of the Permanent Council on the promotion of representative democracy.
2. To instruct the Permanent Council, through the Working Group on Representative Democracy, to:
  - a. Continue to give guidance, as necessary, to the General Secretariat regarding its activities in the area of democracy and, in particular, to the Unit for the Promotion of Democracy in the pursuit of its objectives and the implementation of its work plans;

- b. Promote cooperation in related activities and, when appropriate, coordination between the Unit for the Promotion of Democracy and the various organs, agencies, and entities of the OAS, in order to strengthen the promotion and defense of representative democracy in the region, and to examine the inventory of activities related to the promotion and defense of representative democracy in the region;
- c. Study and approve, by the end of 1998, the 1999 Annual Work Plan of the Unit for the Promotion of Democracy, ensuring that said plan includes the activities required to implement the relevant initiatives of the Plan of Action of the Second Summit of the Americas;
- d. Continue examining matters related to the analysis and design of programs for promoting ties and exchanges among young leaders in the Hemisphere, since this is an issue that holds special interest for member states;
- e. Continue examining the quarterly progress reports on the activities of the Unit for the Promotion of Democracy, including data on the level of budgetary execution, which will be presented by the General Secretariat within 45 days following the end of each quarter, and include its comments and observations in its annual report;
- f. Continue studying incentives to preserve and strengthen democratic systems;
- g. Study the results of the seminar "Democracy in the Inter-American System," which was held at the request of the Inter-American Juridical Committee (CJI) in January 1997, including the resolutions of that body, CJI/RES. I-3/95, "Democracy in the Inter-American System," and CJI/RES. I-2/96, "Democracy in the Inter-American System," and any other documents it considers pertinent.

3. To instruct the General Secretariat to continue to conduct studies and seminars and to continue to promote or sponsor research work to strengthen democracy in the region, through the Unit for the Promotion of Democracy.

4. To take note of the discussion of the Working Group on Representative Democracy on the proposal to establish, within the General Secretariat, a permanent voluntary fund to finance electoral observer missions that the member states may request; and to instruct the General Secretariat to reformulate the study of that fund and submit it for consideration by the Permanent Council, through that Working Group.

5. To urge the General Secretariat to continue, through the Unit for the Promotion of Democracy, developing programs for the promotion, exchange, and training of young leaders in the Hemisphere, and to report periodically on progress in this area to the Permanent Council, through the Working Group on Representative Democracy.



6. To request that the Permanent Council, in studying the organization of the work of the subsidiary bodies of the Councils, in keeping with resolution AG/RES. 1446 (XXVII-O/97), take account of the active and comprehensive work program and the basic topics on the agenda of the Working Group on Representative Democracy, as well as the mandates contained in the Plan of Action of the Second Summit of the Americas in this area.

7. To instruct the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth regular session on the implementation of this resolution.

AG/RES. 1552 (XXVIII-O/98)

ENHANCEMENT OF PROBITY IN THE HEMISPHERE AND FOLLOW-UP ON  
THE INTER-AMERICAN PROGRAM FOR COOPERATION  
IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION

(Resolution adopted at the third plenary session,  
held on June 2, 1998)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the report of the Permanent Council on the Inter-American Program for Cooperation in the Fight against Corruption (AG/doc.3718/98), in compliance with the General Assembly mandate contained in resolution AG/RES. 1477 (XXVII-O/97); and

CONSIDERING:

That the Charter of the Organization of American States, in its preamble, states that “representative democracy is an indispensable condition for the stability, peace and development of the region” and that “juridical organization is a necessary condition for security and peace founded on moral order and on justice”;

That the member states, in signing the Inter-American Convention against Corruption, stated in its preamble that they were “convinced that corruption undermines the legitimacy of public institutions and strikes at society, moral order and justice, as well as at the comprehensive development of peoples”;

That, at its twenty-seventh regular session, held in Lima, Peru, the General Assembly adopted, through resolution AG/RES. 1477 (XXVII-O/97), the Inter-American Program for Cooperation in the Fight against Corruption, which envisages, among other activities, a meeting of national authorities and a seminar of representatives of international organizations;

That the General Assembly also instructed the Permanent Council to supervise the implementation of this program;

That the purposes of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption are to promote and strengthen the development by each of the states parties of the mechanisms needed to prevent, detect, punish, and eradicate corruption, and to promote, facilitate, and regulate cooperation among the states parties to ensure the effectiveness of measures and actions to prevent, detect, punish, and eradicate corruption in the performance of public functions and acts of corruption specifically related to such performance;

That the Heads of State and Government affirmed in the Plan of Action adopted at the Second Summit of the Americas, held in Santiago, Chile, in April 1998, that the governments “will foster within the OAS framework, and in accordance with the mandate set forth in the Inter-American

Program to Combat Corruption, appropriate follow-up on the progress achieved under the Inter-American Convention against Corruption” and decided to “sponsor in Chile a Symposium on Enhancing Probity in the Hemisphere to be held no later than August 1998”; and

That the Republic of Chile has offered to host a meeting on enhancing probity in the Hemisphere, designed to follow up on the progress made with respect to the Inter-American Convention against Corruption and on the activities envisaged in the aforementioned Program,

RESOLVES:

1. To convene, within allocated resources approved in the program-budget and other resources, a symposium for enhancing probity in the Hemisphere, the agenda for which is set forth below:

- a. National institutions and regulations
- b. New legal and administrative measures: The experience of intergovernmental organizations
- c. Cooperative institution-building
- d. Means of collaboration between national institutions and other sectors of society
- e. Inter-American Convention against Corruption
- f. The role of intergovernmental organizations in anti-corruption activities
- g. Second Summit of the Americas
- h. Conclusions and recommendations

2. To thank Chile for its offer to host a meeting on enhancing probity in the Hemisphere and to accept that offer.

3. To request the member states to continue to provide the General Secretariat with information on related legislation, as well as any other information deemed appropriate within the framework of the Inter-American Program for Cooperation in the Fight Against Corruption, including identification of the competent authority or authorities in anti-corruption efforts.

4. To request the Permanent Council to present a report on the implementation of this resolution to the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth regular session.

AG/RES. 1553 (XXVIII-O/98)

HEMISPHERIC COOPERATION TO PREVENT, COMBAT,  
AND ELIMINATE TERRORISM

(Resolution adopted at the third plenary session,  
held on June 2, 1998)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the report of the Permanent Council on hemispheric cooperation to prevent, combat, and eliminate terrorism (AG/doc.3718/98);

BEARING IN MIND the Declaration and the Plan of Action on Hemispheric Cooperation to Prevent, Combat, and Eliminate Terrorism, adopted in Lima at the Inter-American Specialized Conference on Terrorism in 1996;

CONSIDERING that among the measures recommended in the Plan of Action on Hemispheric Cooperation to Prevent, Combat, and Eliminate Terrorism is the follow-up, within the OAS framework, on progress made in implementing that Plan of Action, promotion of "the prompt signing and ratification of and/or accession to international conventions related to terrorism, in accordance with their domestic laws," and initiation of a study "within the framework of the OAS and on the basis of an evaluation of existing international instruments, [on] the need for and advisability of a new inter-American convention on terrorism"; and

BEARING IN MIND ALSO that, in the Plan of Action adopted at the Second Summit of the Americas, held in Santiago, Chile, the Heads of State and Government agreed to convene, under the auspices of the Organization of American States, the Second Inter-American Specialized Conference on Terrorism, to evaluate progress made and define future courses of action to prevent, combat, and eliminate terrorism,

RESOLVES:

1. To reiterate the importance of the Declaration and the Plan of Action on Hemispheric Cooperation to Prevent, Combat, and Eliminate Terrorism, adopted in Lima at the Inter-American Specialized Conference on Terrorism in 1996.

2. To reiterate also that the observance of international law, full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, respect for the sovereignty of states, the principle of nonintervention, and strict observance of the rights and duties of states as embodied in the OAS Charter constitute the overall framework for preventing, combating, and eliminating terrorism.

3. To reiterate as well its strongest condemnation of all forms of terrorism, by whomever and however they are perpetrated, and to repudiate these acts, which have serious

consequences and which, as pointed out in the Plan of Action of the First Summit of the Americas, constitute a systematic and deliberate violation of the rights of individuals.

4. To instruct the Permanent Council to continue its study of the recommendations and proposals made at the Meeting of Government Experts held in May 1997 to examine ways to improve the exchange of information and other measures for cooperation among member states to prevent, combat, and eliminate terrorism.

5. To instruct the Permanent Council to continue considering appropriate means and mechanisms for follow-up and implementation, as appropriate, of the measures recommended in the Plan of Action on Hemispheric Cooperation to Prevent, Combat, and Eliminate Terrorism, adopted at the Inter-American Specialized Conference on Terrorism, held in Lima, Peru, in April 1996, including a study of the necessity and advisability of a new inter-American convention on the subject, in the light of the evaluation of existing international instruments.

6. To urge member states that have not yet done so to sign, ratify, and/or accede to, in accordance with their domestic laws, the international conventions related to terrorism referred to in United Nations General Assembly resolution 51/210 and the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings, open to signature since January 12, 1998, at United Nations headquarters.

7. To instruct the Permanent Council to carry out preparatory work for the Second Inter-American Specialized Conference on Terrorism, with a view to its convocation.

8. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly on the implementation of this resolution at its twenty-ninth regular session.

AG/RES. 1554 (XXVIII-O/98)

MEETING OF GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES ON  
ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS

(Resolution adopted at the third plenary session,  
held on June 2, 1998)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the report of the Permanent Council on the Meeting of Government Representatives on Electoral Campaign Contributions (AG/doc.3718/98) and the final report of that meeting (RECEL/doc.19/98 rev. 2);

BEARING IN MIND that the Meeting of Government Representatives on Electoral Campaign Contributions was held in February 1998 in Caracas, Venezuela, according to the terms established by the General Assembly in resolution AG/RES. 1485 (XXVII-O/97);

CONSIDERING:

That the General Assembly, in resolution AG/RES. 1485 (XXVII-O/97), requested the Permanent Council to report on the fulfillment of the resolution at its twenty-eighth regular session; and

That the Meeting of Government Representatives on Electoral Campaign Contributions adopted recommendations on the subject (RECEL/doc.19/98 rev. 2); and

REITERATING that there is increasing concern in the Hemisphere that the effective exercise of representative democracy, a fundamental principle enshrined in the OAS Charter, may be threatened by contributions that undermine the integrity of the electoral process,

RESOLVES:

1. To thank the Government of the Republic of Venezuela for hosting the Meeting of Government Representatives on Electoral Campaign Contributions and for ensuring its success.

2. To instruct the Permanent Council to take any measures it deems advisable so as to continue its consideration of the topic, bearing in mind the recommendations adopted at the Meeting of Government Representatives on Electoral Campaign Contributions, including consideration of convening a second governmental meeting, and to present its report to the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth regular session.

3. To instruct the General Secretariat to continue to compile laws governing electoral campaign contributions and to continue its comparative studies of those laws.

AG/RES. 1555 (XXVIII-O/98)

CONSIDERATION OF THE SITUATION OF THE PERMANENT OBSERVERS  
AND THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE COOPERATION ACTIVITIES  
AND PROGRAMS OF THE ORGANIZATION

(Resolution adopted at the third plenary session,  
held on June 2, 1998)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the report of the Permanent Council on consideration of the situation of the permanent observers and their participation in the cooperation programs and activities of the Organization (AG/doc.3718/98), submitted in compliance with resolution AG/RES. 1491 (XXVII-O/97);

BEARING IN MIND that the Permanent Council, pursuant to resolution AG/RES. 1491 (XXVII-O/97), is considering the possibility of establishing criteria governing all aspects of participation by those states in the cooperation activities and programs of the Organization;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the analysis conducted in due course by the Permanent Council on this matter and, especially, the conclusions and recommendations contained in Permanent Council resolution CP/RES. 619 (978/94), "Procedures for Granting the Status of Permanent Observer to the Organization"; and

CONSIDERING the advisability of continuing with the study of this important topic,

RESOLVES:

1. To instruct the Permanent Council to continue its consideration of the situation of the permanent observers and their participation in the cooperation activities and programs of the Organization, in the light of the studies prepared by the General Secretariat in keeping with resolution CP/RES. 619 (978/94), and to present a final report on the matter to the General Assembly during its twenty-ninth regular session.

2. To request the General Secretariat to complete the studies requested in the resolution referred to in the previous paragraph, under the coordination of the Secretariat for Legal Affairs, and to institute, through the pertinent departments, appropriate administrative measures to facilitate and lend greater productivity to participation by the permanent observers.

AG/RES. 1556 (XXVIII-O/98)

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN JURIDICAL COMMITTEE

(Resolution adopted at the third plenary session,  
held on June 2, 1998)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the observations and recommendations of the Permanent Council on the Annual Report of the Inter-American Juridical Committee (CJI) (CP/doc.3637/98) and the presentation of the report given by the Chair of the CJI, Dr. Eduardo Vío Grossi; and

CONSIDERING:

That Article 53 of the OAS Charter establishes the CJI as one of the organs of the Organization;

That Article 54.f of the Charter of the Organization of American States includes among the powers of the General Assembly that of considering the observations and recommendations presented by the Permanent Council, in accordance with the provisions of Article 91.f of the Charter, on the reports of the organs and agencies of the Organization; and

That the CJI presented its annual report to the Permanent Council, which has submitted its observations and recommendations thereon to the General Assembly,

RESOLVES:

1. To accept and transmit to the Inter-American Juridical Committee (CJI) the observations and recommendations made by the Permanent Council of the Organization on its annual report.

2. To express its satisfaction with the work of the CJI in dealing with the priority issues of the Organization and, especially, to recognize its support to the General Assembly, the Permanent Council, and that Council's Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs in preparing draft conventions and other studies requested of it.

3. To thank the CJI for the observations contained in resolution CJI/RES.9/LI/97 on the draft Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination by Reason of Disability, presented in compliance with resolution AG/RES. 1487 (XXVII-O/97).

4. To request that the CJI continue studying the various legal topics related to integration and, particularly, that it identify those subjects it considers most important in terms of the current process of hemispheric integration; and, further, to recognize the importance of maintaining proper coordination, in this area, among the CJI, the Permanent Council, the Special Committee on Trade, and the General Secretariat through the Secretariat for Legal Affairs and the Trade Unit.



5. To request the CJI to continue studying the different topics related to enhancing the administration of justice in the Americas, maintaining the highest degree of cooperation with other organs of the Organization working in this area.

6. To urge the CJI to continue its study of democracy in the inter-American system, taking into account the latest developments and studies in this area.

7. To recommend to the CJI that it continue its studies on inter-American cooperation against terrorism, bearing in mind the decisions reached by the member states of the Organization at the Inter-American Specialized Conference on Terrorism, held in Lima, Peru, in April 1996, and the findings of the Meeting of Government Experts on Cooperation to Prevent, Combat, and Eliminate Terrorism, held in May 1997, in Washington, D.C.

8. To note the importance of holding the March 1998 session of the CJI in Santiago, Chile, and, to that end, to recommend that, in special cases, future sessions be held at the headquarters of the Organization or in member states, in keeping with Article 105 of the OAS Charter, the aim being to bring about a better understanding of its work and to publicize it more widely; and to recall that any regular sessions, which the CJI holds away from its headquarters, must be financed with the regular budget of that Committee.

9. To note with satisfaction and recognize the validity of holding meetings of the CJI with consultants and legal advisors from the foreign ministries of the member states of the Organization; and to support the CJI as it holds the third meeting of this type in August 1998, in Rio de Janeiro, in order to continue developing closer ties between the CJI and the legal consultants of the foreign ministries of the member states.

10. To emphasize the importance of holding the Course on International Law organized each year by the CJI, in cooperation with the General Secretariat; to request the Secretariat and the members of the Committee to publicize it as much as possible in all member states, especially in the English-speaking countries; and to support the Committee's efforts to make it possible for more professors to attend the course and to increase the number of fellowship students attending the course whose expenses are paid by member states.

11. To encourage the CJI to continue its cooperation activities with other international and national agencies, both governmental and non-governmental, to expand mutual understanding of present legal developments at the international level.

12. To take note of the agenda adopted by the CJI for its upcoming regular sessions; and to recommend elimination of agenda items that are not priority interests for the Organization and the incorporation into the agenda of the agreements and decisions adopted by the General Assembly that are related to its area of competence.

13. To underscore the need to give the CJI the necessary administrative and budgetary support to enable it to address the current inter-American agenda and make the corresponding recommendations.

14. To reiterate the need to continue to forge closer ties between the CJI and the political bodies of the Organization, especially the Permanent Council's Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs.

AG/RES. 1557 (XXVIII-O/98)

INTER-AMERICAN PROGRAM FOR THE  
DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

(Resolution adopted at the third plenary session,  
held on June 2, 1998)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

The report of the Permanent Council on the Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law (AG/doc.3718/98);

The Charter of the Organization of American States, which reaffirms in Article 3 that “international law is the standard of conduct of States in their reciprocal relations”; and

The Declaration of Panama on the Inter-American Contribution to the Development and Codification of International Law [AG/DEC. 12 (XXVI-O/96)], in which the General Assembly declared “[I]ts renewed and most staunch commitment to continue promoting the progressive development and codification of inter-American international law in the framework of the Organization of American States as a suitable way to strengthen relations of peace and solidarity among the states of the Americas, with full respect for their sovereignty and the principle of nonintervention,” as well as “its interest in promoting the broadest possible awareness of the inter-American legal system” and “its decision that the Permanent Council, through its Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs, promote procedures for more effective cooperation and coordination among the various bodies of the Organization on legal matters”; and

CONSIDERING:

That the General Assembly, in resolution AG/RES. 1471 (XXVII-O/97), adopted the Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law, which envisioned the various activities that have been under way in the General Secretariat;

That the multilateral treaties adopted within the framework of the Organization of American States constitute a valuable legal heritage that must be preserved and given wide dissemination;

That increased awareness of current issues at the level of the Organization’s political bodies facilitates the study, discussion, negotiation, and development of new legal instruments within the inter-American system;

That it is essential to disseminate legal studies of the inter-American system; and

That cooperation to promote the development, dissemination, and teaching of international law in the inter-American context is an indispensable undertaking,  
RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm the importance of the Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law as an indispensable means of increasing awareness and understanding of the international law established within the inter-American system and of applying and strengthening that body of law.

2. To instruct the General Secretariat that, through the Secretariat for Legal Affairs and in consultation with the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs of the Permanent Council, it should continue to implement this program, assigning priority to the provisions of the chapter on the teaching of inter-American international law, especially the organization of courses at the subregional or national level and the conduct of international law symposia involving eminent jurists and other experts, so as to enhance the study of current legal issues.

3. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth regular session on the implementation of this resolution.

AG/RES. 1558 (XXVIII-O/98)

SIXTH INTER-AMERICAN SPECIALIZED CONFERENCE ON PRIVATE  
INTERNATIONAL LAW (CIDIP-VI)

(Resolution adopted at the third plenary session,  
held on June 2, 1998)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the report of the Permanent Council on the Sixth Inter-American Specialized Conference on Private International Law (CIDIP-VI); and

CONSIDERING:

That, in resolution AG/RES. 1393 (XXVI-O/96), the General Assembly convened CIDIP-VI, which will be held on a date and at a place to be determined by the Permanent Council, and instructed the Council to approve the draft rules of procedure and agenda for CIDIP-VI and submit them to the governments of the member states for approval, taking into account the eight items mentioned in that resolution;

That, in resolution AG/RES. 1472 (XXVII-O/97), the General Assembly urged the Permanent Council to continue its study of agenda items for CIDIP-VI;

That, at the first meeting of the First Committee at the twenty-seventh regular session of the General Assembly, held in Lima, Peru, the Government of Guatemala offered to host the Conference, and that this offer was accepted by the Permanent Council in resolution CP/RES. 705 (1132/97); and

That, given the technical complexity of the subject, it is advisable to hold a meeting of experts to define the precise scope of the topics proposed for CIDIP-VI and begin the preparatory work for the Conference,

RESOLVES:

1. To receive from the Permanent Council the report on the Sixth Inter-American Specialized Conference on Private International Law (CIDIP-VI), in keeping with resolution AG/RES. 1472 (XXVII-O/97).

2. To instruct the Permanent Council to convene a meeting of experts designated by the member states to:

a. Define the precise scope of the topics proposed for CIDIP-VI, which are:

i. Standardized commercial documentation for international trade. It includes the revision and update of the 1989 Inter-American

Convention on Contracts for the International Carriage of Goods by Road, with the incorporation of bills of lading.

- ii. International loan contracts of a private nature, in particular the uniformity and harmonization of secured transactions law.
- iii. Conflict of laws on extracontractual liability, with an emphasis on competency of jurisdiction and applicable law with respect to civil international liability for crossboundary pollution. Reconciliation of the English, French, and Portuguese texts with the Spanish text of the Inter-American Convention on the Law Applicable to International Contracts.

b. Begin the preparatory work for CIDIP-VI.

3. To instruct the Permanent Council to set the date for CIDIP-VI once the appropriate preparatory work has been completed, within resources allocated in the program-budget to be adopted at the special session of the General Assembly held after the twenty-eighth regular session, and with other resources.

4. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly in due course on the implementation of this resolution.

AG/RES. 1559 (XXVIII-O/98)

LEGAL DEVELOPMENT OF INTEGRATION

(Resolution adopted at the third plenary session,  
held on June 2, 1998)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the report of the Permanent Council on legal development of integration;

BEARING IN MIND that the General Assembly, at its twenty-seventh regular session, in operative paragraph 2 of resolution AG/RES. 1493 (XXVII-O/97), "Legal Development of Integration," recommended that the Permanent Council "draw up a work plan in this area on the basis of the recommendations made at the Meeting of Experts of the Working Group on Legal Development of Integration"; and

BEARING IN MIND ALSO the Declaration of Santiago of the Second Summit of the Americas, held in Santiago, Chile, in April 1998, in which the intent to establish a hemispheric free trade area by 2005 was reaffirmed,

RESOLVES:

1. To request the OAS General Secretariat to prepare or compile the necessary documents, as appropriate, through its own departments and in coordination with other institutions, for more detailed study of the following topics and the issuance of recommendations thereon:

- a. Comparative analysis of pertinent legal provisions in the member states and their legal implications for the establishment of a hemispheric free trade area;
- b. Analysis of legal mechanisms and instruments that may be necessary for compatibility between bilateral and subregional agreements and a hemispheric free trade area;
- c. A list of rights and obligations stemming from bilateral and subregional agreements and an inventory of legal instruments necessary for establishing a free trade area in the Hemisphere.

2. To request the General Secretariat to present the aforementioned studies and recommendations to the Permanent Council for consideration before June 1, 1999.

3. To instruct the Permanent Council to prepare, by the second half of 1999, the agenda for a meeting of government authorities and other experts, within the resources allocated in the program-budget and other resources, which shall be convened in the first quarter of 2000, in follow-up

to the March 1997 meeting in Montevideo, Uruguay, and to take into account for that purpose, among other things, the recommendations arising from the aforementioned studies.

4. To instruct the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly in due course on the implementation of this resolution.



AG/RES. 1560 (XXVIII-O/98)

PROCEDURES FOR PREPARING AND ADOPTING INTER-AMERICAN LEGAL  
INSTRUMENTS WITHIN THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

(Resolution adopted at the third plenary session,  
held on June 2, 1998)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the report of the Permanent Council on procedures for preparing and adopting inter-American legal instruments within the Organization of American States (AG/doc.3718/98);

CONSIDERING:

That, in resolution AG/RES. 1329 (XXV-O/95), the General Secretariat was instructed to “prepare draft guidelines covering the entire process of preparation of inter-American legal instruments for review and comment by the Inter-American Juridical Committee,” and for submission to the Permanent Council, which was to present a report to the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth regular session; and

That, in resolutions AG/RES. 1391 (XXVI-O/96) and AG/RES. 1483 (XXVII-O/97), the General Assembly requested the Permanent Council to continue its consideration of the topic, taking into account the studies prepared by the General Secretariat and the Inter-American Juridical Committee, as well as the observations of the member states, so that it might present a report on the draft guidelines referred to in the preceding paragraph to the General Assembly;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that the General Secretariat prepared the requested report (CP/CAJP-1289/97); that, in turn, the Inter-American Juridical Committee submitted its observations to the Permanent Council (CP/doc.2859/97 add. 2); and that several states have already made their observations; and

RECOGNIZING the significance of the progress made to date in preparing the report on draft guidelines covering the entire process of preparing inter-American legal instruments for possible adoption,

RESOLVES:

To request the Permanent Council to conclude its consideration of the Report and the Draft Guidelines for Preparing and Adopting Inter-American Legal Instruments within the Organization of American States, taking into account the studies prepared by the General Secretariat and the Inter-American Juridical Committee, along with the observations and comments of the member states, and to submit them to the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth regular session.

AG/RES. 1561 (XXVIII-O/98)

ENHANCEMENT OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE IN THE AMERICAS

(Resolution adopted at the third plenary session,  
held on June 2, 1998)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the report of the Permanent Council on enhancement of the administration of justice in the Americas (AG/doc.3718/98), submitted in compliance with resolution AG/RES. 1481 (XXVII-O/97);

CONSIDERING that the General Assembly, in resolution AG/RES. 1481 (XXVII-O/97), reaffirmed the desirability of carrying out activities to achieve greater judicial cooperation in the region and to increase awareness of international rules of law, in particular those originating in the inter-American system;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the provisions of the Declaration of Panama on the Inter-American Contribution to the Development and Codification of International Law [AG/DEC. 12 (XXVI-O/96)], in particular paragraphs 12 and 13;

BEARING IN MIND that the Heads of State and Government, at the Second Summit of the Americas, held in Santiago, Chile, decided to approve the holding of such activities within the framework of the Organization; and

CONSIDERING that various successful activities have been in progress in this area,

RESOLVES:

1. To instruct the Permanent Council, in coordination with the General Secretariat and the Inter-American Juridical Committee, in collaboration with national and international institutions involved with this subject, and in keeping with resources allocated in the program-budget and other resources, to continue to organize seminars or workshops aimed at achieving greater judicial cooperation in the region and at increasing awareness of international rules of law, in particular those originating in the inter-American system, and to consider and forward through appropriate channels any requests put to the Organization by member states for assistance in improving the administration of justice in their countries.

2. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly in due course on the implementation of this resolution.

AG/RES. 1562 (XXVIII-O/98)

SECOND MEETING OF MINISTERS OF JUSTICE OR OF MINISTERS OR  
ATTORNEYS GENERAL OF THE AMERICAS

(Resolution adopted at the third plenary session,  
held on June 2, 1998)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the report of the Permanent Council on the Meeting of Ministers of Justice (AG/doc.3718/98) and the final report of the Meeting of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA/doc.33/97);

BEARING IN MIND that the Meeting of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in December 1997, as decided by the General Assembly in resolution AG/RES. 1482 (XXVII-O/97); and

CONSIDERING:

That the Meeting of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas recommended the continued strengthening of justice systems in the Hemisphere, a multidisciplinary approach to modernizing those systems, continued improvement of inter-American legal instruments for cooperation on legal matters, and intensified efforts to fight corruption, organized crime, and transnational crime;

That the meeting also recommended that the General Secretariat of the Organization be requested to promote a study on obstacles to the effective application of judicial cooperation treaties, drawing upon information provided by the states on such obstacles;

That, in addition, the meeting recommended fostering within the Organization the sharing of experience at the national level, as well as technical cooperation, both in matters of prison and penitentiary policy and in matters of criminal prosecution systems, access to justice, and judicial administration;

That the meeting further recommended support for periodic Meetings of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas, held within the OAS framework, with technical assistance from the General Secretariat; and that, to that end, it decided "to thank the Republic of Peru for its offer to host the Second Meeting of Ministers of Justice of the Americas, to be held during the second half of 1998, and to accept that offer"; and

That during the Second Summit of the Americas, held in Santiago, Chile, the Heads of State and Government decided to support those recommendations in their Plan of Action,

RESOLVES:

1. To thank the Government of Argentina for hosting the Meeting of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas, and for its efficient organization of that meeting, which was a contributing factor in the success achieved.

2. To request the General Secretariat to conduct a study on obstacles to the effective application of treaties on legal and judicial cooperation.

3. To urge states to assist the General Secretariat in conducting the study entrusted to it by providing observations or reports on such obstacles.

4. To convene the Second Meeting of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas, and to instruct the Permanent Council to prepare the preliminary documents, set the date, and draw up the agenda for that meeting, so that it may be held before the next regular session of the General Assembly, within resources allocated in the program-budget, that will be adopted by the General Assembly at the special session it will hold after this regular session, and other resources.

5. To thank the Government of Peru for its offer to host that meeting.

6. To request the Permanent Council to present a report on the implementation of this resolution to the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth regular session.

AG/RES. 1563 (XXVIII-O/98)

THE PREVENTION OF AND WAR ON CRIME

(Resolution adopted at the third plenary session,  
held on June 2, 1998)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the report of the Permanent Council on improvement of public safety and security (AG/doc.3718/98);

CONSIDERING:

That, in resolution AG/RES. 1490 (XXVII-O/97), the General Assembly instructed the Permanent Council to study and analyze the report presented by the General Secretariat pursuant to resolution AG/RES. 1380 (XXVI-O/96); and

That, pursuant to the mandate in resolution AG/RES. 1490 (XXVII-O/97), the General Secretariat presented to the Permanent Council, through its Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs, a proposal for the establishment of a "Special Program of Support for National Efforts in the Prevention of and War on Crime"; and

RECALLING the Declaration of Montrouis: A New Vision of the OAS, which sets forth the intent "to foster an exchange of experiences in the prevention of and war on crime and to study possible measures to improve public safety,"

RESOLVES:

1. To instruct the Permanent Council to continue its consideration of the topic of the prevention of and war on crime.

2. To instruct the Permanent Council to prepare the agenda and set the date for a meeting of government experts, in accordance with resources allocated in the program-budget and other resources, to facilitate a broad hemispheric discussion that will set the parameters and guidelines for addressing inter-American cooperation in these areas and provide a basis on which the OAS may develop a multilateral program in this area, and to convene that meeting as soon as possible.

3. To instruct the Permanent Council, in coordination with the General Secretariat, to consult and meet with experts from think tanks and multilateral agencies specializing in this field, in preparation for the meeting of government experts, and to request the Secretary General to identify and submit to the Permanent Council a list of experts.

4. To request the General Secretariat to prepare a report on relevant international experience in this area and, in particular, on United Nations crime-prevention and crime-fighting efforts, so as to identify further measures that might be taken in the inter-American context.

5. To instruct the General Secretariat to seek assistance and support—including financial assistance—from other multilateral organizations, such as the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the World Bank, and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), as well as OAS permanent observers, in designing and executing the proposed activities.

6. To instruct the Permanent Council to report in due course to the General Assembly on the fulfillment of this resolution.

AG/RES. 1564 (XXVIII-O/98)

DRAFT INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS  
OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

(Resolution adopted at the third plenary session,  
held on June 2, 1998)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the report of the Permanent Council on the draft Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (AG/doc.3718/98);

CONSIDERING that Article 3, subparagraphs (j) and (l), respectively, of the Charter of the Organization of American States affirms that "social justice and social security are bases of lasting peace" and that "the American States proclaim the fundamental rights of the individual without distinction as to race, nationality, creed, or sex";

CONSIDERING also that the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man proclaims that all human beings are born free and equal, in dignity and in rights, and that the rights and freedoms of every person must be respected without distinction of any kind;

RECALLING that the Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the area of Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, or "Protocol of San Salvador," recognizes that "everyone affected by a diminution of his physical or mental capacities is entitled to receive special attention designed to help him achieve the greatest possible development of his personality";

RECALLING also that, in the Declaration of Principles of the Summit of the Americas, the Heads of State and Government, meeting in Miami in 1994, declared that "it is...unacceptable that some segments of our populations are marginalized and do not share fully in the benefits of growth," and stated as a goal "to better meet the needs of the population, especially the needs of women and the most vulnerable groups, including indigenous people, the disabled, children, the aged, and minorities";

BEARING IN MIND that, in resolution AG/RES. 1487 (XXVII-O/97), the General Assembly instructed the Permanent Council to convene a special meeting of the Working Group, with the participation of legal or other experts designated by the member states, to reformulate the draft Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities, which was to be submitted to the General Assembly for consideration at its twenty-eighth regular session; and

NOTING that the meeting was held in March 1998, at OAS headquarters, and that significant progress has been made in reformulating the draft Convention,

RESOLVES:

1. To reiterate the firm and unwavering commitment of the Organization of American States to promoting and defending the rights of persons with disabilities in the Hemisphere.

2. To acknowledge the important progress made to date in preparing the draft Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities by the working group established for that purpose.

3. To renew its instructions to the Permanent Council to complete at the earliest possible date, taking into account the observations of the member states, the draft Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities, for presentation to and consideration by the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth regular session, to be held in Guatemala in 1999.

4. To reiterate the importance of adopting an Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities and of making every effort necessary to ensure that this legal instrument is adopted and signed at the aforementioned session of the General Assembly.

5. To instruct the Permanent Council that, in keeping with resources allocated in the program-budget that will be adopted at the special session of the General Assembly held after the twenty-eighth regular session, and with other resources, it convene a special meeting of the Working Group at OAS headquarters, in which legal or other experts designated by member states will participate.

6. To urge member states that have not yet done so to consider signing, ratifying, or acceding to the Protocol of San Salvador, as appropriate, so that it may enter into force as soon as possible.



AG/RES. 1565 (XXVIII-O/98)

PROMOTION OF AND RESPECT FOR INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

(Resolution adopted at the third plenary session,  
held on June 2, 1998)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

CONSIDERING its resolutions AG/RES. 1270 (XXIV-O/94), AG/RES. 1335 (XXV-O/95), AG/RES. 1408 (XXVI-O/96), and AG/RES. 1503 (XXVII-O/97) regarding international humanitarian law;

CONCERNED about the large number of armed conflicts still taking place in various parts of the world, and about persistent violations of international humanitarian law, particularly against children, women, displaced persons, and civilians in general;

CONVINCED of the continuing value of the fundamental principles and established rules of international humanitarian law, and of the need and obligation of the states parties to the 1949 Geneva Conventions, and to the 1977 Additional Protocols thereto, not only to respect, but also to enforce, in all circumstances, the provisions of those treaties;

CONSIDERING that international humanitarian law prohibits the use of weapons, projectiles, materiel, and methods of warfare that have indiscriminate effects or cause excessive injury or unnecessary suffering;

NOTING that all states are bound to respect the relevant rules of customary international humanitarian law;

STRESSING the need to strengthen the existing body of international humanitarian law by achieving its universal acceptance, the need for wide dissemination and full implementation of that law at the national level, and the need to punish all violations of its provisions;

CONSIDERING:

That the Organization of American States proclaims the fundamental rights of the individual and encourages the promotion of those rights; and

That the Organization's member states should spread awareness of international humanitarian law in their countries and take all measures necessary to facilitate its effective implementation;

RECOGNIZING the continuing effort of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to promote and disseminate knowledge of international humanitarian law, and the activities it carries out in its capacity as a neutral and independent organization in situations of armed conflict and of internal armed violence;

CONSIDERING the first report submitted by the ICRC to the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs of the OAS Permanent Council (March 1998) on the status of efforts undertaken by the member states to promote the national application of international humanitarian law in their legal and administrative systems;

RECALLING the cooperation agreement signed by the General Secretariat of the OAS and the ICRC in Washington, D.C., on May 10, 1996, as well as the seminars on international humanitarian law organized jointly by the OAS and the ICRC; and

CONSIDERING that the international conference to establish an International Criminal Court will be held in Rome from June 15 to July 17, 1998,

RESOLVES:

1. To call upon all member states that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the 1977 Additional Protocols I and II to the Geneva Conventions at the earliest possible date.

2. To call upon all member states that are already parties to Additional Protocol I, and those that intend to become parties, to consider making the declaration provided for under Article 90 of that Protocol.

3. To call upon member states:

a. That have not yet done so to consider acceding to the 1980 United Nations Convention on Conventional Weapons and its annexed Protocols;

b. That are already parties to the aforementioned convention to consider ratifying its amended Protocols II and IV thereto, and to request them to inform the Secretary General when they have done so;

c. That have signed the 1997 Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production, and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on their Destruction to consider at the earliest stage the national ratification thereof and to declare at the time of ratification that they will provisionally apply its core prohibitions; and

d. That have not signed the 1997 Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production, and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on their Destruction to observe the new standards established by the Convention and to consider signing and ratifying it at an early date.

4. To invite those member states that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the 1954 Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict.

5. To call on member states to continue to consider the adoption, as necessary, of national enabling law and regulations pertaining to international humanitarian law, and to apply and

disseminate international humanitarian law as widely as possible and monitor its implementation, with particular emphasis on:

- a. the adoption of appropriate criminal law to punish war crimes and other violations of international humanitarian law;
- b. the adoption of laws and other measures to prevent the misuse of the Red Cross and Red Crescent emblems and other symbols provided for in the principal humanitarian law instruments; and
- c. the widest possible dissemination of the humanitarian treaties among their armed forces, security forces, and other relevant groups, the incorporation of international humanitarian law instruction into their official training programs, and the appointment and training of persons qualified in international humanitarian law, including legal advisers within the armed forces.

6. To call upon member states to consider the establishment of national advisory committees or similar bodies to facilitate and ensure the effective implementation of international humanitarian law and, where these exist, to facilitate the exchange of information on their tasks and activities.

7. To urge the member states to participate actively in the conference to be held soon in Rome, with a view to the establishment of an International Criminal Court to punish war crimes and crimes against humanity.

8. To urge the member states to take all necessary measures to ensure that the personnel of humanitarian organizations are protected and respected within their territories.

9. To urge member states and all other parties to armed conflicts to adopt all necessary measures to end the use of children as soldiers, which violates international humanitarian law, and to ensure their demobilization and reintegration into society, including proper education and training, in a manner that fosters their self-respect and dignity.

10. To urge member states, as conflicts and other complex crises unfold, to preserve the independence, neutrality, and impartiality of humanitarian action and, to the extent possible, to separate humanitarian responses from political and military actions.

11. To invite member states to continue to cooperate with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in its various areas of responsibility and to facilitate its work.

12. To instruct the Permanent Council to organize, in collaboration with the ICRC, a special meeting of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs on the promotion of and respect for international humanitarian law, in keeping with resources allocated in the program-budget to be adopted at the special session held by the General Assembly after its twenty-eighth regular session, and with other resources.

13. To request the Permanent Council to report on the implementation of this resolution to the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth regular session.

AG/RES. 1566 (XXVIII-O/98)

CONFIDENCE- AND SECURITY-BUILDING IN THE AMERICAS

(Resolution adopted at the third plenary session,  
held on June 2, 1998)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

BEARING IN MIND that, under Article 2 of the Charter of the Organization of American States, one of the essential purposes of the Organization is to strengthen the peace and security of the Hemisphere;

RECALLING its resolutions AG/RES. 1121 (XXI-O/91) and AG/RES. 1123 (XXI-O/91) on strengthening peace and security in the Hemisphere, and AG/RES. 1179 (XXII-O/92), AG/RES. 1237 (XXIII-O/93), AG/RES. 1284 (XXIV-O/94), AG/RES. 1288 (XXIV-O/94), AG/RES.1353 (XXV-O/95), AG/RES. 1409 (XXVI-O/96), and AG/RES. 1494 (XXVII-O/97) on confidence- and security-building measures;

RECOGNIZING that the recommendations of the San Salvador Regional Conference on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures in Follow-up to the Santiago Conference, held in San Salvador in February 1998 and of the Regional Conference on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures, held in Santiago in November 1995, the contribution of the Meeting of Experts on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures, held in Buenos Aires in March 1994, and the pertinent OAS General Assembly resolutions identify experiences in the application of confidence- and security-building measures in the Americas and foster an exchange of such experiences;

EMPHASIZING the importance of the Declarations of San Salvador and Santiago on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures, which recommend that confidence- and security-building measures be applied in the manner deemed most appropriate;

RECOGNIZING the consolidation of democracy in the region, efforts to promote disarmament, international peace, and security, and the willingness of states to continue strengthening confidence and security in the Hemisphere;

NOTING the significant progress made in identifying and applying confidence- and security-building measures since the adoption of the Declaration of Santiago, which has helped to reduce factors that generate distrust and has contributed to the promotion of transparency and mutual confidence, in keeping with the purposes and principles of the OAS Charter, respect for international law, and the promotion of friendly and cooperative relations among states in the region;

REAFFIRMING:

That respect for international law, faithful adherence to treaties, the peaceful settlement of disputes, respect for state sovereignty and the principle of nonintervention, and prohibition of the use

or threat of use of force, as set forth in the charters of the Organization of American States and the United Nations, are the basis for peaceful coexistence and security in the Hemisphere and constitute the framework for the development of confidence- and security-building measures;

That support for democratic processes strengthens coexistence among states and security in the Hemisphere;

That the growing application of confidence- and security-building measures is an expression of the political will of the states to strengthen peace and security in the Hemisphere, and that their implementation in the most appropriate manner, in accordance with the geographic, political, social, cultural, and economic conditions of each country or region, contributes to increasing security in the Hemisphere; and

That the application of confidence- and security-building measures, through practical and useful actions, will facilitate more far-reaching cooperation processes in the future in areas such as arms control and hemispheric security; and

NOTING WITH SATISFACTION the report of the Permanent Council on the activities of the Committee on Hemispheric Security (AG/doc.3718/98),

RESOLVES:

1. To urge member states to implement in the manner they deem most appropriate the recommendations of the Declarations of San Salvador and Santiago on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures and of resolution AG/RES. 1179 (XXII-O/92).

2. To call on all member states to continue to provide the General Secretariat, prior to April 15 each year, with information on the application of confidence- and security-building measures, so as to facilitate, in particular, the preparation of the complete and systematic inventory of these measures, in light of the provisions of the Declarations of San Salvador and Santiago and resolutions AG/RES. 1284 (XXIV-O/94) and AG/RES. 1288 (XXIV-O/94).

3. To urge member states to continue promoting transparency in matters related to defense policy, among other aspects, with regard to modernizing the armed forces, comparing military expenditures in the region, and improving the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms.

4. To reiterate the importance of full participation by all member states in the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms, and of providing the required information for the preparation of the United Nations Standardized International Reporting of Military Expenditures, in accordance with the pertinent resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly.

5. To renew its request to member states to provide the Secretary General of the Organization of American States, by June 15 of each year, with the information referred to in the preceding paragraph.

6. To instruct the Permanent Council to hold a meeting to be attended by available experts from the member states that participated in the group of experts on the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms, so that they may provide information on the results of the group's work, and to promote the holding of a special meeting of the Committee on Hemispheric Security to exchange views on the best way to increase participation in that Register.

7. To request the Permanent Council to establish contacts, through the Committee on Hemispheric Security and with support from the General Secretariat, with a view to holding, as soon as possible, the meeting of parliamentarians on confidence- and security-building measures envisaged in the Declaration of San Salvador.

8. To urge member states once again to continue consultations and the exchange of ideas within the Hemisphere so as to make progress in the limitation and control of conventional arms in the region; and to instruct the Permanent Council to endeavor, through the Committee on Hemispheric Security, to advance the development of the most appropriate approach at the hemispheric level to strengthening dialogue aimed at addressing questions related to the handling of conventional arms.

9. To instruct the Permanent Council to endeavor, through the Committee on Hemispheric Security, to advance the development of the most appropriate approach, at the hemispheric level, to strengthening dialogue aimed at addressing questions related to small arms and trafficking therein.

10. To instruct the Permanent Council to hold each year a special meeting of the Committee on Hemispheric Security, in which experts would participate, and which would be dedicated to the analysis and exchange of information on the confidence- and security-building measures identified in the Declarations of San Salvador and Santiago and in the relevant mandates of the General Assembly, with a view to assessing related progress and their implementation in the Hemisphere.

11. To instruct the General Secretariat to update each year, on the basis of information submitted by the member states, the roster of experts on confidence- and security-building measures, and to circulate it to the member states each year by the month of June.

12. To urge the member states to exchange experiences in confidence- and security-building measures in order to strengthen international peace and security.

13. To encourage the exchange of experiences in strengthening confidence- and security-building measures with other regions that include, as appropriate, the participation of the Committee on Hemispheric Security as an observer in meetings of other international organizations working on the subject, such as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, within allocated resources approved in the program-budget and other resources.

14. To instruct the Permanent Council to consider, through the Committee on Hemispheric Security, the possibility of holding, in due course, another regional conference on confidence- and security-building measures, as well as a high-level meeting on the special security concerns of small island states, and to report thereon to the General Assembly.

15. To instruct the Permanent Council, working through the Committee on Hemispheric Security, to:

- a. Follow up on and expand topics related to the strengthening of confidence- and security-building measures;
- b. Analyze the meaning, scope, and implications of international security concepts in the Hemisphere, with a view to developing the most appropriate common approaches by which to manage their various aspects, including disarmament and arms control; and
- c. Identify ways to revitalize and strengthen agencies of the inter-American system related to the various aspects of hemispheric security.

16. To hold the Special Conference on Security once the tasks envisaged in the previous paragraph have been completed.

17. To renew its invitation to the Inter-American Defense Board (IADB) to provide to the Committee on Hemispheric Security, pursuant to resolution AG/RES. 1240 (XXIII-O/93), advisory and consultative services in matters related to confidence- and security-building measures of a military nature; and to ask it to keep an updated inventory of these measures and to prepare draft guidelines for the standardized presentation of the information provided by member states in keeping with resolution AG/RES. 1409 (XXVI-O/96).

18. To instruct the Secretary General to provide specialized support to the Committee on Hemispheric Security, within existing budgetary resources, and to strengthen that of a technical-administrative nature which currently exists, so that the Committee may fulfill the mandates entrusted to it by the General Assembly and the Second Summit of the Americas; and to report to the Permanent Council on this mandate prior to the first meeting held by that Committee after the twenty-eighth regular session of the General Assembly.

19. To request that the Permanent Council report to the General Assembly on the implementation of this resolution.

20. To transmit this resolution to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and to other regional organizations, as appropriate.



AG/RES. 1567 (XXVIII-O/98)

SPECIAL SECURITY CONCERNS OF SMALL ISLAND STATES

(Resolution adopted at the third plenary session,  
held on June 2, 1998)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the Permanent Council report on the special security concerns of small island states (AG/doc.3718/98);

BEARING IN MIND the conclusions and recommendations of the High-Level Meeting on the Special Security Concerns of Small Island States (SEPEIN/doc.7/98 rev. 1) and the Declaration of San Salvador on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures (COSEGRE.II/doc.7/98 rev. 3);

RECOGNIZING:

That the small island states have concluded that their security is multidimensional in scope and application and encompasses, *inter alia*, the military-political aspects traditionally associated with the security of states; the protection and preservation of the state's sovereignty and territorial integrity; freedom from external military attack and coercion; freedom from external interference by states or by non-state agents in its internal political affairs; protection from environmental conditions and ecological disasters which could imperil its viability; the link between trade, economic development, and security; and the ability to maintain and protect democratic institutions which ensure domestic tranquility;

That the security of small island states can be strengthened by collaboration among small island states and between these states and other states in the Hemisphere;

That the security of small island states can be enhanced by the application of those confidence- and security-building measures identified in the Declarations of Santiago and San Salvador on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures; and

That the High-Level Meeting on the Special Security Concerns of Small Island States concluded that the security of small island states can be enhanced by declaring the Caribbean a Zone of Peace;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the recommendation of the San Salvador Regional Conference on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures in Follow-up to the Santiago Conference: that the General Assembly consider convening another high-level meeting on the special security concerns of small island states when appropriate;

RECALLING:

That the member states, pursuant to Article 1 of the Charter of the Organization of American States, have pledged “to achieve an order of peace and justice, to promote their solidarity, to strengthen their collaboration, and to defend their sovereignty, their territorial integrity, and their independence”; and Article 2.a of the Charter, which establishes that one of the essential purposes of the Organization is “to strengthen the peace and security of the continent”; and

That Article 3.b of the Charter establishes that “international order consists essentially of respect for the personality, sovereignty, and independence of States, and the faithful fulfillment of obligations derived from treaties and other sources of international law”; and

ACKNOWLEDGING the important work undertaken by the OAS General Secretariat and other organs, agencies, and entities of the inter-American system in order to assist the small island states in addressing the special security concerns of these states,

RESOLVES:

1. To take note of the Report of the High-Level Meeting on the Special Security Concerns of Small Island States, held on February 25, 1998, in San Salvador, El Salvador; and to recognize its appreciation of the generous hospitality extended by the Government of El Salvador.

2. To instruct the Permanent Council to study, through its Committee on Hemispheric Security and in collaboration with the General Secretariat, ways to generate greater awareness and understanding of the special security concerns of the small island states and to identify and promote the application of new measures of cooperation to address these concerns.

3. To encourage member states of the Organization of American States to exchange and share information which could strengthen the security and defense capabilities of small island states.

4. To urge member states to support efforts by the small island states to deal with their special security concerns, particularly those of an economic and financial nature, taking into consideration their vulnerability and level of development.

5. To instruct the General Secretariat to strengthen programs of cooperation in small island states to prevent and mitigate the effects of natural disasters, based on the request and authorization of the states involved.

6. To engage in discussions to develop a cooperation program, taking into account the Declarations of Santiago and San Salvador on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures, which would address maritime and air transport of nuclear and other hazardous wastes, especially through the Caribbean; and, where appropriate, to work with the relevant international organizations to strengthen or develop standards governing the transport of such goods and its safety.

7. To adopt policies to preserve the natural environment of the Caribbean, including policies on the movement of hazardous waste pursuant to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal.

8. To urge member states to cooperate with the small island states in the eradication of transnational criminal activity that threatens the stability and security of the said small island states; and to instruct the Permanent Council and its appropriate committees and working groups, in collaboration with the General Secretariat, to identify ways in which to combat such criminal activity and to support the small island states in their efforts to eradicate the said activity.

9. To instruct the General Secretariat to cooperate, within allocated resources approved in the program-budget and other resources, with the small island states, through the University of the West Indies (UWI), to advance the examination of the special security concerns of these member states.

10. To request that the Permanent Council study the proposal that security for small island states can be enhanced by declaring the Caribbean a Zone of Peace, and to report on its findings to the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth regular session.

11. To request that the Permanent Council continue its consideration of the special security concerns of small island states with a view to convening, when appropriate, another high-level meeting on this issue, and to carrying out the requisite preparatory work for that meeting.

12. To instruct the General Secretariat to continue to implement appropriate action to address the special security concerns of small island states, including those identified at the High-Level Meeting on the Special Security Concerns of Small Island States, held in San Salvador in February 1998, and at the special meeting of the Committee on Hemispheric Security held in October 1996.

13. To instruct the General Secretariat to report to the Permanent Council, through its Committee on Hemispheric Security and prior to the twenty-ninth regular session, on its compliance with the provisions of this resolution.

14. To instruct the Permanent Council to report on the implementation of this resolution to the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth regular session.

15. To request that the OAS Secretary General transmit this resolution, along with the Final Report of the High-Level Meeting on the Special Security Concerns of Small Island States and the Declaration of San Salvador on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures, to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and to other appropriate international organizations.

AG/RES. 1568 (XXVIII-O/98)

SUPPORT FOR THE MINE-CLEARING PROGRAM IN CENTRAL AMERICA

(Resolution adopted at the third plenary session,  
held on June 2, 1998)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

BEARING IN MIND that the presence of thousands of antipersonnel mines sown indiscriminately in Central America continues to constitute a threat to the population and has deadly effects, primarily on innocent civilians, causing tragedy to individuals and families, standing in the way of socioeconomic development in vast, rich rural areas, and affecting border integration in those areas;

CONSIDERING:

That the Central American countries have given top priority to mine-clearing operations and have reaffirmed, in a declaration issued in Ottawa, Canada, on December 3, 1997, their commitment to the region's people to become an antipersonnel-mine-free zone by the year 2000; and

That, in the same declaration, the Central American countries reiterated their commitment to implement, with support from the international community, programs to provide assistance and rehabilitation services to antipersonnel-mine victims so as to bring about their reintegration into society and the socioeconomic reclamation of the demined areas to further development and integration in the region;

RECOGNIZING:

That the Organization of American States adopted the goal of completing mine-clearing operations in Central America by the year 2000;

The efforts being made by the Governments of Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua to complete anti-personnel mine-clearing activities;

The work accomplished by El Salvador, a country that has completed its national Mine-Clearing Plan, as well as its support for and solidarity with the mine-clearing programs under way in the other states of the region; and

The important responsibility assumed by Central America in its constant denunciation of the use of these weapons, as well as its efforts to include the humanitarian aspects of the problem in every relevant international instrument;

NOTING WITH SATISFACTION:

The important contribution by member states, such as Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Peru, the United States, Uruguay, and Venezuela, and by permanent observers, such as France, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, the Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, to the Mine-Clearing Program in Central America; as well as that of Denmark;

The joint Mexico-Canada-Central American states cooperation program to provide care to antipersonnel-land-mine victims in Central America, with technical assistance by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO);

The important coordination and fund-raising work of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States, through the Unit for the Promotion of Democracy, for the Mine-Clearing Program in Central America and for programs aimed at the physical and psychological rehabilitation of victims and the socioeconomic reclamation of demined areas; and

The valuable support of the Committee on Hemispheric Security and the technical assistance provided to the Mine-Clearing Program in Central America by the Inter-American Defense Board;

RECALLING resolution AG/RES. 1498 (XXVII-O/97), "Support for the Mine-Clearing Program in Central America," in which the General Assembly renews its appeal to the member states, the permanent observers, and the international community in general to lend their assistance to the Central American countries affected by the presence of antipersonnel mines, especially by supporting preventive education programs for the civilian population and the physical and psychological rehabilitation of victims; and

HAVING SEEN the Permanent Council document "The Organization of American States' Mine-Clearing Assistance Program in Central America—Responsibilities of Participants" (GT/PDCA-7/97 rev. 1),

RESOLVES:

1. To reiterate that the OAS endorses the commitment of the Central American states to their region to become an antipersonnel-mine-free-zone by the year 2000, with the valuable support of the international community.

2. To reiterate its appeal to the member states and permanent observers, as well as to the international community as a whole, to continue cooperating in and supporting the Organization's Mine-Clearing Program in Central America and also to offer their support to programs aimed at preventive education for the civilian population on the danger of said mines, the physical and psychological rehabilitation of victims, and the socioeconomic reclamation of demined areas.

3. To urge the General Secretariat to continue to provide, within resources assigned in the program-budget and other resources, the necessary support for the Central American countries to continue mine-clearing programs and programs aimed at preventive education, rehabilitation of victims, and reclamation of demined areas.

4. To request the Inter-American Defense Board to continue to provide technical assistance to the Mine-Clearing Program in Central America.

5. To request the Inter-American Council for Integral Development to develop, with the appropriate offices of the OAS, as part of its cooperation program, and in keeping with the Strategic Plan for Partnership for Development 1997-2001, programs of socioeconomic and educational support to communities in Central America where anti-personnel mine-clearing has been completed.

6. To request the Pan American Health Organization to continue its technical support to the joint Mexico-Canada-Central American states program to provide care to antipersonnel-mine victims in Central America.

7. To request that the organs, agencies, and entities of the inter-American system offer their collaboration on the demining programs and on those aimed at preventive education for the civilian population on the danger of antipersonnel mines, the physical and psychological rehabilitation of victims, and the socioeconomic reclamation of demined areas in Central America.

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

9. To request the General Secretariat to present a report on the implementation of this resolution to the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth regular session.

AG/RES. 1569 (XXVIII-O/98)

THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE AS AN  
ANTIPERSONNEL-LAND-MINE-FREE ZONE

(Resolution adopted at the third plenary session,  
held on June 2, 1998)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the report of the Permanent Council on hemispheric security (AG/doc.3718/98) and, in particular, the section on the Western Hemisphere as an antipersonnel-land-mine-free zone;

RECALLING:

Its resolution “The Western Hemisphere as an Antipersonnel-Land-Mine-Free Zone” [AG/RES. 1496 (XXVII-O/97)], which reaffirmed the goals of the global elimination of antipersonnel land mines and the conversion of the Western Hemisphere into an antipersonnel-land-mine-free zone; and

Its resolutions AG/RES. 1299 (XXIV-O/94), AG/RES. 1335 (XXV-O/95), AG/RES. 1343 (XXV-O/95), and AG/RES. 1411 (XXVI-O/96), also on antipersonnel land mines;

WELCOMING the unwavering support of the international community and, in particular, the active participation of member states of the Organization of American States in the campaign to rid the world of antipersonnel land mines;

OBSERVING:

That the Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction contributes to the goal of making the Western Hemisphere an antipersonnel-land-mine-free zone;

That of the 124 states that have signed the Ottawa Convention, 33 are member states of the Organization; and

That out of a total of 40 ratifications required to bring the Convention into effect, as of June 2, 1998, 23 countries had ratified it, six of them member states of the Organization;

RECOGNIZING:

The importance of bringing the Ottawa Convention into effect as soon as possible and of advancing the implementation of the program for mine action related to that Convention in order to rid the world of the indiscriminate and harmful effects of antipersonnel land mines; and

The contribution to hemispheric security of various bans, moratoria, and other restrictions on antipersonnel land mines already adopted by some member states;

RECALLING ALSO that the importance of making progress on the antipersonnel land mines issue was emphasized both at the San Salvador Regional Conference on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures and at the Second Summit of the Americas;

RECOGNIZING the importance of the Organization's activities in support of demining, as well as the cooperation efforts of a humanitarian nature to provide assistance to victims of these weapons so that affected states may be freed from this scourge in an urgent manner, thereby contributing to the conversion of the Western Hemisphere into an antipersonnel-land-mine-free zone; and

EXPRESSING its satisfaction with the establishment of the OAS Register of Antipersonnel Land Mines, and with the submission of information for this Register by member states,

RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm the goals of the global elimination of antipersonnel land mines and the conversion of the Western Hemisphere into an antipersonnel-land-mine-free zone.

2. Once again, to call upon member states that have not yet done so to declare and implement moratoria on the production, use, and transfer of all antipersonnel land mines in the Western Hemisphere at the earliest possible date and to inform the Secretary General when they have done so.

3. Once again, to urge member states that have not yet done so to become parties to the 1980 United Nations Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects and its protocols, including Protocol II as amended; to urge those member states which are already parties to this Convention to ratify Protocol II as amended at the earliest possible date; and to request member states to inform the Secretary General when they have done so.

4. Once again, to urge member states, as they work towards the goals adopted in resolution AG/RES. 1411 (XXVI-O/96), to continue to implement measures aimed at suspending the spread of antipersonnel land mines, such as stockpile destruction; and to encourage member states to adopt domestic legislation, as necessary, to prohibit the private possession and transfer of antipersonnel land mines and to inform the Secretary General when they have done so.

5. To urge member states to submit by April 15 of each year information for inclusion in the OAS Register of Antipersonnel Land Mines, established by Permanent Council resolution CP/RES. 724 (1162/98), in keeping with the provisions of resolution AG/RES. 1496 (XXVII-O/97).

6. To urge member states that have not yet signed or ratified the Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction to consider doing so as soon as possible to ensure its earliest possible entry into force.



7. To call upon member states that have signed the Ottawa Convention to report to the General Secretariat on the status of their ratification process.

8. To request that the Permanent Council, through its Committee on Hemispheric Security, consider the possibility of developing new demining programs in the Americas to assist affected member states, upon their request, in fulfilling their commitment to convert the Western Hemisphere into an antipersonnel-land-mine-free zone.

9. Also to encourage member states, in conformity with the agreements in the Plan of Action of the Second Summit of the Americas, to take action and support "international humanitarian demining efforts in this area, with the goal of ensuring that priority is given to mines that threaten civilians and of ensuring that land can be restored for productive purposes. The latter will take place through effective regional and international cooperation and coordination, as requested by the affected States, to survey, mark, map, and remove mines; effective mine awareness for the civilian population and assistance to victims; and development and deployment of new mine detection and clearance technologies, as appropriate."

10. To request that the General Secretariat continue to provide, as necessary, to the United Nations, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and other appropriate international organizations, updated information on OAS activities to promote the elimination of all use, stockpiling, production, and transfer of antipersonnel land mines and to promote programs supporting the removal of such mines.

11. To instruct the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth regular session on each of the topics addressed in this resolution.

AG/RES. 1570 (XXVIII-O/98)

COOPERATION FOR HEMISPHERIC SECURITY

(Resolution adopted at the third plenary session,  
held on June 2, 1998)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the Permanent Council report (AG/doc.3718/98) and the section dealing with hemispheric security;

BEARING IN MIND:

That, in Article 2 of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), the member states proclaim that one of the essential purposes of the Organization is “to strengthen the peace and security of the continent”; and

That another of the essential purposes of the Charter of the OAS is to achieve an effective limitation of conventional weapons that will make it possible to devote the largest amount of resources to the economic and social development of the member states;

RECOGNIZING that economic and social development and cooperation among its member states are fundamental for attaining these goals;

REAFFIRMING:

That it is necessary and opportune to continue to increase dialogue to build peace, confidence, and security in the region; and

That peace is not merely the absence of war but also consists of interdependence and cooperation to foster economic and social development; and that, in addition, disarmament, arms control and limitations, human rights, the strengthening of democratic institutions, environmental protection, and improvement of the quality of life for all are indispensable factors in the establishment of peaceful and more secure democratic societies;

RECALLING its resolutions “Cooperation for Hemispheric Security” [AG/RES. 1415 (XXVI-O/96)]; “Confidence- and Security-Building Measures in the Americas” [AG/RES. 1494 (XXVII-O/97)]; “Second Regional Conference on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures” [AG/RES. 1495 (XXVII-O/97)]; “The Western Hemisphere as an Antipersonnel-Land-Mine-Free Zone” [AG/RES. 1496 (XXVII-O/97)]; “Special Security Concerns of Small Island States” [AG/RES. 1497 (XXVII-O/97)]; “Support for the Mine-Clearing Program in Central America” [AG/RES. 1498 (XXVII-O/97)]; “Consolidation of the Regime Established in the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean” [AG/RES. 1499 (XXVII-O/97)]; “Mutual Confidence in the

Americas” [AG/RES. 1500 (XXVII-O/97)]; and “Global Solidarity in Hemispheric Affairs” [AG/RES. 1501 (XXVII-O/97)]; and  
CONSIDERING:

That, through its said resolution “Mutual Confidence in the Americas,” the General Assembly instructed the Permanent Council to consider the desirability of approving a legal framework for the issue of advance notification of major arms acquisitions covered by the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms, and, should it decide that such a framework is desirable, prepare a draft thereof; and

That, through its resolution AG/RES. 1501 (XXVII-O/97), “Global Solidarity in Hemispheric Affairs,” the General Assembly requested the Permanent Council to present to it any comments or observations it considers pertinent to the implementation of that resolution,

RESOLVES:

1. To take note of the report of the Permanent Council on hemispheric security.
2. To reiterate the advisability of and need for greater dialogue and exchange of information on cooperation in peace, confidence, and security issues among the nations of the Hemisphere.
3. To reiterate its instruction to the Permanent Council that, through its Committee on Hemispheric Security, it consider the desirability of approving a legal framework for the issue of advance notification of major arms acquisitions covered by the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms, as a means of achieving an effective limitation of conventional weapons that will make it possible to devote the largest amount of resources to the economic and social development of the member states, in accordance with Article 2.g of the Charter; and that, should it decide that such a framework is desirable, it prepare a draft thereof for consideration by the member states.
4. To reiterate the request to the Permanent Council to forward to the General Assembly the comments and observations it considers necessary regarding the implementation of resolution AG/RES. 1501 (XXVII-O/97), “Global Solidarity in Hemispheric Affairs.”
5. To request that the Permanent Council report on the implementation of this resolution to the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth regular session.

AG/RES. 1571 (XXVIII-O/98)

CONSOLIDATION OF THE REGIME ESTABLISHED IN THE TREATY FOR  
THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN LATIN AMERICA  
AND THE CARIBBEAN

(Resolution adopted at the third plenary session,  
held on June 2, 1998)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING resolution AG/RES. 1499 (XXVII-O/97), on the importance of achieving full consolidation of the regime established in the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco), within the framework of cooperation for security in the Hemisphere and regional contributions to global security;

RECOGNIZING:

That the creation of nuclear-weapon-free zones is an important step toward disarmament, which significantly strengthens all aspects of the international nonproliferation regime;

That the Treaty of Tlatelolco is one of the most momentous contributions to international law and to the ceaseless efforts to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons and guarantee international peace and security; and

That the Treaty of Tlatelolco has become the model for the establishment of other nuclear-weapon-free zones in various regions of the world, such as the South Pacific (Treaty of Rarotonga), Southeast Asia (Treaty of Bangkok), and Africa (Treaty of Pelindaba), which, when they enter into force, will cover more than half the countries of the world and all of the Southern Hemisphere;

POINTING TO the success of the pioneering effort made by the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to achieve the first populated nuclear-weapon-free zone, an undertaking which involves all nuclear-weapon states and the countries in the Hemisphere and elsewhere that, *de jure* or *de facto*, bear international responsibility for territories located within the Treaty's zone of application;

BEARING IN MIND that in 1997 the 30th anniversary of the opening for signature of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco) was commemorated; and

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that the Treaty of Tlatelolco is now in force for 32 sovereign states of the region,

RESOLVES:

1. To welcome the specific steps taken by a number of countries to consolidate the military denuclearization regime established by the Treaty of Tlatelolco.

2. To urge the governments of Latin America and the Caribbean to contribute to consolidating the military denuclearization regime established by the Treaty and to its enhancement through the ratification, by all the signatory states, of the Treaty and the amendments arising from resolutions of the General Conference of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL): 276 (E-V) of July 3, 1990; 268 (XII) of May 10, 1991; and 290 (VII) of August 26, 1992.

3. To renew its appeal to the governments that have not yet done so to negotiate, as soon as possible, multilateral or bilateral agreements with the International Atomic Energy Agency for application of that Agency's safeguards to their nuclear activities, as stipulated in Article 13 of the Treaty of Tlatelolco.

4. To recognize the importance of strengthening the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL) as the appropriate legal and political forum for ensuring unqualified observance of the Treaty in its zone of application and cooperation with the agencies of other nuclear-weapon-free zones.

5. To reaffirm its commitment to continue striving for a universal, genuine, and nondiscriminatory nonproliferation regime in all its aspects.

6. To transmit this resolution to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and to other relevant international organizations.

AG/RES. 1572 (XXVIII-O/98)

FIRST MEETING OF MINISTERS OF EDUCATION

(Resolution adopted at the third plenary session,  
held on June 2, 1998)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

CONSIDERING:

That the General Assembly, in its resolution AG/RES. 1524 (XXVII-O/97), urged the member states to promote the use of mechanisms of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI), particularly its regular and specialized ministerial meetings, to follow up on the decisions adopted at the Summits of the Americas, as well as to formulate and develop initiatives that facilitate the implementation of these decisions;

That the Heads of State and Government, meeting at the Second Summit of the Americas, decided that, "in the case of specific mandates that require the convening of sectoral ministerials, these meetings, when appropriate, will take place under the aegis of the OAS Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI)";

That the Plan of Action of the Second Summit of the Americas assigned the task of developing a plan to implement the education initiative to the Meeting of Ministers of Education, which will be convened by the OAS under the Strategic Plan for Partnership for Development 1997-2001 and held in Brazil in July 1998; and

That CIDI, in resolution CIDI/RES. 43 (III-O/98), resolved to provide support for the First Meeting of Ministers of Education of CIDI, convened a preparatory meeting of CIDI to devise a preliminary draft Inter-American Education Program, and instructed the Nonpermanent Specialized Committee on Education to consider the education projects once the proposals arising from the meeting have been incorporated,

RESOLVES:

1. To emphasize the importance to partnership for development of the first Meeting of Ministers of Education in the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) framework, which will continue the important dialogue and cooperation that have been under way for many years at the OAS.

2. To endorse the decision of CIDI to support the First Meeting of Ministers of Education of CIDI, and to point to that meeting as an example of the use of CIDI mechanisms to follow up on the Second Summit of the Americas.

3. To instruct CIDI to provide, through the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CEPCIDI), its fullest support to the ministers of education that so request to:

- a. Undertake necessary preparations to hold the First Meeting of Ministers of Education of CIDI;
- b. Devise and develop the Inter-American Education Program;
- c. Assist in the implementation of the education initiative of the Second Summit of the Americas, with full respect for consensus, essential to the Summit process.

AG/RES. 1573 (XXVIII-O/98)

PROPOSAL TO TRANSFORM THE INTER-AMERICAN  
PORT AND HARBOR CONFERENCE INTO THE  
INTER-AMERICAN PORTS COMMISSION

(Resolution adopted at the third plenary session,  
held on June 2, 1998)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

Resolution AG/RES. 1515 (XXVII-O/97), "Request to Transform the Inter-American Port and Harbor Conference into an Inter-American Ports Commission"; and

Resolution CIDI/RES. 29 (III-O/98), "Proposal to Transform the Inter-American Port and Harbor Conference into a Special Inter-American Committee on Ports";

CONSIDERING:

That according to Article 77 of the Charter of the Organization, the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) has the authority to establish the subsidiary organs that it deems appropriate, with the approval of the General Assembly;

That there is a need to reorient toward CIDI the dialogue currently taking place in some specialized conferences whose topics correspond to the areas of inter-American cooperation within the purview of CIDI; and

That the Inter-American Port and Harbor Conference does not have an organizational plan to govern its structure and functioning that has been approved by the General Assembly, as stipulated in Article 29 of resolution AG/RES. 85 (II-O/72), "Standards for Inter-American Specialized Conferences"; and

BEARING IN MIND that CIDI approved the establishment of the Special Inter-American Committee on Ports contingent upon acceptance by the Permanent Executive Committee of CIDI (CEPCIDI) of the opinions set forth in operative paragraph 1 of resolution CIDI/RES. 29 (III-O/98), "Proposal to Transform the Inter-American Port and Harbor Conference into a Special Inter-American Committee on Ports," and of its legal-institutional structure, as well as its financial implications for the Organization,



RESOLVES:

1. To approve the establishment of the Special Inter-American Committee on Ports, contingent upon the acceptance by the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CEPCIDI) of the requirements specified in resolution CIDI/RES. 29 (III-O/98).

2. To dissolve the Inter-American Port and Harbor Conference once the Special Inter-American Committee on Ports begins to function.

AG/RES. 1574 (XXVIII-O/98)

SPECIALIZED CONFERENCES

(Resolution adopted at the third plenary session,  
held on June 2, 1998)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

Articles 73, 122, and 123 of the Charter of the Organization; subparagraph (e) of Article 3 of the Statutes of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI); resolution AG/RES. 85 (II-O/72), "Standards for Inter-American Specialized Conferences"; resolution AG/RES. 1521 (XXVII-O/97), "Reinforcement of Statistical and Computer Science Services for Partnership and Integral Development in the Hemisphere"; the document "Presentation of the Activities of CIE," prepared by the Chair of the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Statistical Conference (COM/CIE); the document "Proposal to Transform the Specialized Conference into an Inter-American Ports Commission and Its Regulatory, Budgetary, Administrative and Institutional Impact on the Organization," prepared by the Chair of the Permanent Technical Committee on Ports; resolution AG/RES. 108 (III-O/73), "Draft Organization Plan of the Pan American Highway Congresses"; resolution AG/RES. 1084 (XXI-O/91), "Organization Plan of the Inter-American Statistical Conference"; resolution AG/RES. 109 (III-O/73), "Organization of the Inter-American Travel Congresses"; and the recommendations contained in document CEPCIDI/doc.147/98, "Specialized Conferences";

Resolution CIDI/RES. 18 (II-O/97), "Specialized Conferences," which instructs the Permanent Executive Committee of CIDI (CEPCIDI) to "study those Specialized Conferences whose topics correspond to the areas of inter-American cooperation within the purview of CIDI, with a view to making recommendations, as appropriate, to adapt and reorient their work and structure in accordance with the Strategic Plan"; and

The recommendations contained in CIDI/RES. 28 (III-O/98), "Specialized Conferences"; and

CONSIDERING:

That CIDI has the authority to propose to the General Assembly the holding of specialized conferences, in areas within its competence, to deal with special technical matters or to consider specific aspects of inter-American cooperation; to convoke them in urgent cases, in the manner provided for in resolution AG/RES. 85 (II-O/72); and to coordinate, when appropriate, the holding of said specialized conferences in the framework of the specialized or sectoral meetings of CIDI;

That there is a need to reorient toward CIDI the dialogue currently taking place in some specialized conferences whose topics correspond to the areas of cooperation of CIDI;

That the specialized conferences created by the General Assembly and coordinated by the then Inter-American Economic and Social Council (CIES) have diverse legal frameworks, since they differ in structure, frequency of meetings, participants, and operating mechanisms;

That the activities of the Inter-American Travel Congress, the Inter-American Statistical Conference, the Inter-American Port and Harbor Conference, and the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor contribute to the Strategic Plan for Partnership for Development 1997-2001;

That some of these specialized conferences are receiving financial resources to carry out projects and other cooperation activities;

That the Statutes of the Special Multilateral Fund of CIDI (FEMCIDI) permit the establishment of subaccounts as well as the use of specific funds as an additional financing mechanism which may be established with individual contributions from those national institutions that wish to promote the development of specific areas of cooperation;

That the Pan American Highway Congress has not met in seven years; and

That the Inter-American Statistical Conference and the Meeting of Statistics Directors of the Americas hold joint meetings every two years at the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in Santiago, Chile,

RESOLVES:

1. To instruct the Inter-American Travel Congress to hold its meetings at the ministerial level within the framework of the sectoral meetings of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI), in keeping with the priority of sustainable development of tourism established in the Strategic Plan for Partnership for Development 1997-2001.

2. To instruct the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor to hold its meetings at the ministerial level within the framework of the sectoral meetings of CIDI, in keeping with the priority of social development and creation of productive employment established in the Strategic Plan for Partnership for Development 1997-2001.

3. To instruct the Permanent Executive Committee of CIDI (CEPCIDI) to convene a special joint meeting of that body and the Inter-American Statistical Conference (CIE) at the headquarters of the General Secretariat of the Organization, prior to September 30, 1998, in order to decide on the participation of the CIE in the area of hemispheric cooperation and to delegate to CEPCIDI the authority to decide on the issue based on the outcome of the joint meeting. Meeting expenses shall be limited to the normal expenses of a regular meeting of CEPCIDI at the headquarters of the Organization.

4. To instruct CEPCIDI to draft a new legal framework which defines the structure and functioning of the specialized conferences in the framework of partnership for development.

5. To recognize the valuable contribution made by the Pan American Highway Congresses and to dissolve them so that OAS activities may focus on the priority areas established in the Strategic Plan for Partnership for Development 1997-2001.

6. To instruct CEPCIDI to report to CIDI on the implementation of this resolution.

AG/RES. 1575 (XXVIII-O/98)

CONTINUING PARTICIPATION IN THE INTER-AMERICAN COUNCIL  
FOR INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT BY MEMBER STATES THAT  
HAVE NOT RATIFIED THE PROTOCOL OF MANAGUA

(Resolution adopted at the third plenary session,  
held on June 2, 1998)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN resolution AG/RES. 2 (XXII-E/96), "Participation of Member States That Have Not Ratified the Protocol of Managua in the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) When Said Protocol Enters into Force," and resolutions AG/RES. 1442 (XXVI-O/96), AG/RES. 1507 (XXVII-O/97), and CIDI/RES. 24 (II-O/97), on continuation of the aforementioned participation;

EMPHASIZING the amendments made to the Charter of the Organization of American States to incorporate the elimination of extreme poverty as a basic objective of integral development (Protocol of Washington) and to establish an Inter-American Council for Integral Development to promote cooperation among the American states for the purpose of achieving their integral development and, in particular, helping to eliminate extreme poverty (Protocol of Managua); and

CONSIDERING that as of the date of this resolution there are still member states that have not ratified the Protocol of Managua,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge member states that have signed and not ratified the Protocol of Washington, which incorporates the elimination of extreme poverty as a basic objective of development, and the Protocol of Managua, which establishes the Inter-American Council for Integral Development, to consider doing so as soon as possible.

2. To extend the period during which its resolution AG/RES. 2 (XXII-E/96), "Participation of Member States That Have Not Ratified the Protocol of Managua in the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) When Said Protocol Enters into Force," will remain in force until the next regular session of the General Assembly, which will review the situation, if at that time there are still member states that have not ratified the Protocol of Managua.

AG/RES. 1576 (XXVIII-O/98)

CREATION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

(Resolution adopted at the third plenary session,  
held on June 2, 1998)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN Articles 93 and 77 of the Charter of the Organization and resolution CIDI/RES. 41 (III-O/98); and

CONSIDERING:

That the Common Market of Scientific and Technological Knowledge (MERCOCYT) program was established by the Inter-American Council for Education, Science, and Culture (CIECC) through its resolution CIECC/RES. 844/93, with the support of the General Assembly, as a program of the OAS member states to promote cooperation and the exchange of information on science and technology, as well as on human resource training in those areas;

That the Hemispheric Meeting of Ministers responsible for Science and Technology, convened by the Summit of the Americas in Miami and held in Cartagena, Colombia, in March 1996, adopted a Declaration and a Plan of Action and instructed the MERCOCYT program committee to follow up on those initiatives and organize a specialized forum within the framework of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI);

That, in the Declaration of Cartagena, it was agreed that actions would be pursued to promote greater research capabilities in areas of national and regional interest, strengthen systems of innovation to further technological development, and apply knowledge to achieve sustainable and equitable development;

That the Strategic Plan for Partnership for Development 1997-2001 establishes as one of its priorities scientific development and the exchange and transfer of technology; indicates that CIDI will coordinate with the MERCOCYT program committee the follow-up to the recommendations of the Plan of Action of Cartagena; and states that emphasis will be placed on implementing MERCOCYT; and

That the General Assembly has urged the member states to promote the use of CIDI mechanisms to follow up on the decisions of the Summits of the Americas, as well as to formulate and develop initiatives by which to implement those decisions,

RESOLVES:

To approve the establishment of the Inter-American Science and Technology Committee, as a subsidiary body of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI), with the nature, purpose, structure, and functions that CIDI defined through resolution CIDI/RES. 41 (III-O/98).

AG/RES. 1577 (XXVIII-O/98)

CIDI ACTION IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE MANDATES  
ON THE FOLLOW-UP OF ACTIVITIES OF CIES AND CIECC

(Resolution adopted at the third plenary session,  
held on June 2, 1998)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

Resolution AG/RES. 1508 (XXVII-O/97), "Follow-up to the Activities of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council and the Inter-American Council for Education, Science, and Culture," through which the General Assembly extends the deadline for fulfilling the mandates set forth in resolution CIDI/RES. 21 and instructs the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) to present a report at its twenty-eighth regular session;

Resolution CIDI/RES. 31 (III-O/98), "CIDI Action in Compliance with General Assembly Resolutions on the Activities of CIES and CIECC," through which CIDI transmits to the General Assembly a report on this issue and identifies the actions which will be carried out by the organs of CIDI to complete the fulfillment of the General Assembly mandates on follow-up to the activities of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council (CIES) and the Inter-American Council for Education, Science, and Culture (CIECC); and

The description of activities carried out and to be carried out, which are identified in the "Report on Follow-up to the Activities of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council and of the Inter-American Council for Education, Science, and Culture" contained in document CEPCIDI/doc.150/98 Rev.; and

CONSIDERING that the activities which CIDI has resolved to carry out to complete the fulfillment of the General Assembly resolutions regarding follow-up to the activities of CIES and CIECC are embodied in the Strategic Plan for Partnership for Development 1997-2001,

RESOLVES:

1. To take note of the "Report on Follow-up to the Activities of Inter-American Economic and Social Council and of the Inter-American Council for Education, Science, and Culture" contained in the document CEPCIDI/doc.150/98 rev.

2. To express its satisfaction with the progress achieved by CIDI in follow-up to the activities of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council (CIES) and the Inter-American Council for Education, Science, and Culture (CIECC) as part of the process of strengthening technical cooperation at the OAS, in particular: the establishment of a new cooperation structure; strengthening the OAS's role as a forum for hemispheric dialogue; inter-American cooperation programs to combat



poverty and discrimination and promote sustainable development, sustainable development of tourism, and culture; the funding of projects according to priorities established by the member states; coordination with other cooperation agencies; and information on OAS cooperation activities.

3. To urge the sectoral political and technical authorities of the member states, as well as the specialized national institutions, to participate in the efforts, which CIDI carries out for the following purposes:

- a. To promote mechanisms for partnership for integral development, in particular the specialized and sectoral meetings of CIDI;
- b. To develop a strategy for raising additional funds for partnership for development;
- c. To establish an information network which brings together the resources of institutions that provide cooperation in the Hemisphere and which helps to match offers of and requests for cooperation;
- d. To develop a support mechanism for education and training of human resources;
- e. To encourage the holding of programming meetings to identify projects of common strategic interest to the member states;
- f. To focus on partnership for development, in order to concentrate funds on activities with a greater qualitative impact in areas of greatest importance in terms of the priorities established in the Strategic Plan for Partnership for Development 1997-2001; and
- g. To promote contact among the national institutions of the Hemisphere in order to expand partnership for development and, in particular, horizontal cooperation on issues of common interest to groups of countries.

4. To urge the member states to use the mechanisms available in CIDI to promote greater participation by sectoral, political, and technical authorities, as well as their specialized institutions, in the above-mentioned activities.

5. To instruct CIDI, through the Permanent Executive Committee of CIDI (CEPCIDI) and with the support of the General Secretariat through the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development, to implement the activities to which this resolution refers.

AG/RES. 1578 (XXVIII-O/98)

INTER-AMERICAN PROGRAM OF CULTURE

(Resolution adopted at the third plenary session,  
held on June 2, 1998)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN resolution CIDI/RES. 35 (III-O/98) of the third regular meeting of the Inter-American Council for Integral (CIDI), which approved the Inter-American Program of Culture;

REAFFIRMING that the OAS has agreed to intensify its efforts to promote dialogue and cooperative action on priority issues of common interest in favor of integral and sustainable development; and that culture is a fundamental and integral component of the development of the Americas; and

CONSIDERING:

That the Strategic Plan for Partnership for Development 1997-2001, adopted by the General Assembly through resolution AG/RES. 1511 (XXVII-O/97), establishes cultural development as one of the eight priorities of CIDI;

That the Inter-American Program of Culture provides that the OAS is a forum for analyzing and preparing a regional convention to combat illicit trafficking in cultural goods, on the basis of existing legal instruments and experience; and

That illicit trafficking in cultural goods in the region endangers the preservation of the cultural heritage of the Americas,

RESOLVES:

1. To adopt the Inter-American Program of Culture, adopted by the Inter-American Council for Integral Development at its third regular meeting through resolution CIDI/RES. 35 (III-O/98), as an integral part of the Strategic Plan for Partnership for Development 1997-2001.

2. To instruct the Permanent Council to establish a working group to prepare an inter-American convention to combat illicit trafficking in cultural goods, on the basis of existing legal instruments and experience, and to report on the progress of its work to the General Assembly at its next regular session.

AG/RES. 1579 (XXVIII-O/98)

SEMINAR ON CLEANUP OF THE SHORELINE  
OF THE CITY OF GONAÏVES, HAITI

(Resolution adopted at the third plenary session,  
held on June 2, 1998)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the Strategic Plan for Partnership for Development 1997-2001; the Plan of Action for Sustainable Development of the Americas; the conclusions of the High-Level Meeting on the Special Security Concerns of Small Island States, held in February 1998 in El Salvador; and the Declaration of San Salvador on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures;

CONSIDERING:

That the Government of Haiti is deeply concerned over the nature of wastes being deposited since 1988 along the shoreline of the city of Gonaïves, located 150 km. from Port-au-Prince along the northern highway and overlooking a sound, the "Canal au Vent," which is home to important species of fish and is the transit route for tour boats and commercial craft en route to Jamaica, the Dominican Republic, Cuba, and other islands of the region; and

That it is incumbent on the Government of Haiti to reassure the inhabitants of the Gonaïves region and to adopt sanitation measures to protect them against all types of disease or deformities that could occur over the long term as a result of the deposit of such wastes a few kilometers from the Canal au Vent;

NOTING that the Government of Haiti is attempting to establish, through investments in large-scale infrastructure projects, a number of tourist sites in the country, and that the city of Gonaïves could become one of these sites, given its history, its location, its beaches, and the extensive rice paddies that define its parameters; and

CONSIDERING ALSO:

That the Strategic Plan for Partnership for Development 1997-2001 of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) attaches high priority, in the context of fighting poverty and promoting sustainable economic development, to cleaning up coastal areas and promoting tourism, as well as any activity likely to improve the life of the inhabitants of the Americas and protect them against sudden disasters caused either by natural phenomena like El Niño or by environmental pollution;

That the General Assembly, through resolution AG/RES. 1584 (XXVIII-O/98), requests the Permanent Executive Committee of CIDI (CEPCIDI), through that Council, to help the countries seriously affected by El Niño in 1997 and 1998 to take every possible measure to improve

environmental conditions in these regions and to protect the populations from any epidemics that might result;

That, for the time being, the Government of Haiti is merely requesting assistance from the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) in obtaining an in-depth understanding of the precise nature of those wastes, by way of a high-level technical seminar;

That SEDI is in a position to provide such assistance and to carry out, in coordination with the Unit for Sustainable Development and Environment, all sorts of activities enabling the Government of Haiti to move ahead with this task; and

That the measures the Government of Haiti would like to take in this connection could benefit other Caribbean states in the short term, and that Haiti can, under a partnership program with those states, undertake regional projects centered on tourism and industrial activities,

RESOLVES:

1. To request the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI), through the Permanent Executive Committee of CIDI (CEPCIDI), to assist the Government of Haiti in holding in Port-au-Prince, before the end of 1998, a high-level seminar-workshop, attended by international and national experts, to assess environmental conditions in the environs of the city of Gonaïves, where a mass of toxic waste has been deposited since 1988; and that workshop costs will be covered by each of the participants and the Government of Haiti will cover the local costs, with no need for additional financial resources.

2. To request CIDI, through CEPCIDI, to assist the Government of Haiti in determining, on the basis of the conclusions of this high-level seminar, what measures should be taken for the purpose of informing the inhabitants of the Gonaïves region and of cleaning up the city's shoreline, which activities could enable the Haitian authorities to promote major tourism activities in this area in the medium term, with the possible participation of several Caribbean states.

AG/RES. 1580 (XXVIII-O/98)

INTER-AMERICAN PROGRAM FOR SUSTAINABLE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

(Resolution adopted at the third plenary session,  
held on June 2, 1998)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN resolution AG/RES. 1 (XX-E/94), "General Policy Framework and Priorities: Partnership for Development"; resolution AG/RES. 1426 (XXVI-O/96), "Support for OAS Tourism Activities"; resolution CIDI/RES. 17 (II-O/97), "Sustainable Development of Tourism"; and resolution AG/RES. 1517 (XXVII-O/97), "Sustainable Tourism Development"; and

CONSIDERING:

The important role tourism plays in the economic development strategy of the member states and the need to ensure the sustainable development of tourism in the Hemisphere;

That the General Assembly emphasizes the importance of sustainable tourism development in the member states and has instructed the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CEPCIDI) to: establish a working group to prepare an Inter-American Program for Sustainable Tourism Development, bearing in mind, *inter alia*, the need to strengthen horizontal cooperation and to promote more effective cooperation between the public and private sectors; and to promote cooperation activities in accordance with the Strategic Plan for Partnership for Development 1997-2001; and

That the Strategic Plan for Partnership for Development 1997-2001, adopted by the General Assembly through resolution AG/RES. 1511 (XXVII-O-97), establishes sustainable tourism development as one of the eight priorities of CIDI,

RESOLVES:

1. To adopt the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Tourism Development approved by the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) at its third regular meeting, through resolution CIDI/RES. 47 (III-O/98), as an integral part of the Strategic Plan for Partnership for Development 1997-2001.

2. To instruct CIDI to promote the execution of the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Tourism Development, with the assistance of the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development and in coordination with the Inter-Sectoral Unit for Tourism

3. To direct the Inter-Sectoral Unit for Tourism to continue to explore new mechanisms to attract external funds and develop strategic partnerships to complement the programs and activities in accordance with the Strategic Plan for Partnership for Development 1997-2001 and the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Tourism Development.

AG/RES. 1581 (XXVIII-O/98)

TRADE AND INTEGRATION IN THE AMERICAS

(Resolution adopted at the third plenary session,  
held on June 2, 1998)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the report of the Permanent Council and the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CEPCIDI) on the implementation of AG/RES. 1516 (XXVII-O/97);

RECALLING:

Resolution AG/RES. 1516 (XXVII-O/97), "Trade and Integration in the Americas";

Resolution CIDI/RES. 46 (III-O/98), "Trade and Integration in the Americas";

Resolution AG/RES. 1430 (XXVI-O/96), "Trade and Integration in the Americas";

Resolution AG/RES. 1438 (XXVI-O/96), "Relationship between the Special Committee on Trade and the Inter-American Council for Integral Development";

Resolution AG/RES. 1349 (XXV-O/95), "Inter-American Summits Management"; and

Resolution AG/RES. 1220 (XXIII-O/93), "Establishment of the Special Committee on Trade (CEC)," in which member states noted that the Organization of American States (OAS) is an appropriate hemispheric forum for dialogue on trade matters;

BEARING IN MIND the Declaration of Santiago of the Second Summit of the Americas, in which the Heads of State and Government of the Hemisphere directed their ministers responsible for trade to begin negotiations for the FTAA, reaffirmed their determination to conclude the negotiation of the FTAA no later than 2005, and expressed their appreciation for the significant contribution of the Tripartite Committee;

NOTING with satisfaction the Ministerial Declaration of San José, adopted by the Ministers of Trade at their Fourth Ministerial Meeting in San José, Costa Rica, in which they recommended to their heads of state and government that they initiate negotiation of the FTAA in accordance with the objectives, principles, structure, venue, and other decisions set forth in their Declaration; acknowledged and again expressed their appreciation to the Tripartite Committee for the technical and logistical support given during the preparatory phase of the FTAA negotiations; and requested that the respective institutions of the Tripartite Committee continue to provide the appropriate existing resources for a positive response to requests for technical support from FTAA bodies, including the reallocation of funds for this purpose if necessary;

CONSIDERING that economic diversification and integration, trade liberalization, and market access constitute one of the priorities established in the Strategic Plan for Partnership for Development 1997-2001, and that the process of creating the FTAA is a fundamental element in this context; and

REAFFIRMING the commitment of the Organization of American States to support the process of free trade and economic integration in the Hemisphere and reiterating the importance of the contribution made by the General Secretariat and, in particular, the Trade Unit to this process,

RESOLVES:

1. To take note of the report of the Permanent Council and the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CEPCIDI) on the implementation of resolution AG/RES. 1516 (XXVII-O/97), "Trade and Integration in the Americas."

2. To instruct the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) to consider the results of the consultations with the Chair of the Special Committee on Trade (CEC) and the member states of the CEC in accordance with the instructions given to CEPCIDI by CIDI in CIDI/RES. 46 (III-O/98), paragraphs 1, 2, and 3, and to recommend appropriate action to the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth regular session.

3. To instruct the General Secretariat to continue providing analytical support and technical assistance through the Trade Unit, and conducting related studies in the context of the Tripartite Committee or as requested by the respective bodies established in the ministerial declaration of San José, Costa Rica, under the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) process.

4. To instruct the General Secretariat to provide appropriate technical assistance related to FTAA issues to member countries, particularly smaller economies, at their requests, as agreed by the Trade Ministers in the Ministerial Declaration of San José.

5. To instruct CIDI to support projects, programs, and activities related to the priority areas of economic diversification and integration, trade liberalization, and market access, in keeping with the Strategic Plan for Partnership for Development 1997-2001.

6. To reiterate its support for the collaborative activities on trade and integration of the Tripartite Committee, and to recognize the contribution to those activities of other specialized regional, subregional, and multilateral organizations and of regional and subregional institutions.

7. To instruct the Permanent Council to continue to provide the appropriate resources necessary for a positive response to requests for technical support from FTAA bodies, including the reallocation of funds for this purpose if necessary.

8. To instruct the General Secretariat to submit, by November 16, 1998, the 1999 annual work plan of activities of the Trade Unit to the CEC for its consideration and approval, or, in the event that the CEC does not meet, to CEPCIDI for approval *ad referendum* to the next regular meeting of CIDI.



9. To instruct the General Secretariat to continue providing semiannual written progress reports on the activities of the Trade Unit, including information on its level of budget execution, to the Permanent Council and CEPCIDI for their review.

10. To recognize the important achievements of the Foreign Trade Information System (SICE) and, in particular, the measures taken to broaden its trade and trade-related information and its client base and to support its continued operations, specifically the establishment of an official Internet home page for the FTAA process.

11. To instruct the General Secretariat to ensure coordination between the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development and the appropriate offices of the General Secretariat, particularly the Trade Unit, in their activities supporting the implementation of this resolution.

12. To direct that the mandates set forth in the preceding paragraphs be executed within the allocated resources approved in the program-budget and other resources.

13. To request the Permanent Council and CEPCIDI to report to the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth regular session on the implementation of this resolution.

AG/RES. 1582 (XXVIII-O/98)

FELLOWSHIP AND TRAINING PROGRAMS

(Resolution adopted at the third plenary session,  
held on June 2, 1998)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the report of the Permanent Council on fellowship and training programs (AG/doc.3718/98);

BEARING IN MIND resolutions AG/RES. 1277 (XXIV-O/94), AG/RES. 1317 (XXV-O/95), AG/RES. 1381 (XXVI-O/96), and AG/RES. 1460 (XXVII-O/97);

REAFFIRMING that the member states attach high priority to the human resource training activities carried out through the OAS Fellowship and Training Programs;

CONSIDERING:

That the objective of the Fellowship and Training Programs is to support the development of human resources in the member states;

That, as a result, they should be guided by the development objectives and priorities of the Organization, as well as by the development needs of each member state; and

That the Permanent Council, through its Working Group, seeks to continue the work entrusted to it by the General Assembly; and

BEARING IN MIND the recommendations of the Meeting of the Working Group to Study the Fellowship and Training Programs with Authorities Responsible for Training and Fellowships, held on April 28 and 29, 1997 (GT/BECAP-28/97 rev. 2),

RESOLVES:

1. To take note of the Report of the Permanent Council on the Fellowship and Training Programs.

2. To reiterate the importance of completing a manual of clear and transparent procedures to govern the OAS Fellowship and Training Programs and, in this regard, to extend the mandate given to the Permanent Council in operative paragraph 3 of resolution AG/RES. 1460 (XXVII-O/97) until October 30, 1998.

3. To request the Permanent Council, through the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs, to complete its study of the establishment and financing of a Capital Fund as one of the instruments to finance the Fellowship and Training Programs of the Organization.

4. To request:

- a. That the Secretary General invite member states and permanent observers to make voluntary contributions to the Capital Fund;
- b. That the Secretary General, within allocated resources approved in the program-budget and other resources, seek and promote private-sector donations to the Capital Fund; and
- c. That the Secretary General present a detailed report annually to the Permanent Council on the results of his efforts.

5. To request the Permanent Council to present a report to the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth regular session on the implementation of this resolution.

AG/RES. 1583 (XXVIII-O/98)

EXTENSION OF THE SPECIAL FELLOWSHIPS FOR  
THE CARIBBEAN PROGRAM TO OTHER STATES

(Resolution adopted at the third plenary session,  
held on June 2, 1998)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN that, through resolution AG/RES. 1387 (XXVI-O/96), the General Assembly resolved to extend the undergraduate Special Fellowships for the Caribbean Program (SPECAP) to other Caribbean Basin states, including Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama, as well as to Bolivia, Ecuador, and Paraguay; and

RECALLING that, in resolution AG/RES. 1461 (XXVII-O/97), the General Secretariat was requested to submit to the Permanent Council a detailed plan of action for executing the mandate set forth in operative paragraph 2 of resolution AG/RES. 1387 (XXVI-O/96),

RESOLVES:

1. To extend to January 29, 1999, the deadline for the General Secretariat to submit to the Permanent Council a detailed plan of action to implement the mandate set forth in operative paragraph 2 of resolution AG/RES. 1387 (XXVI-O/96).

2. To reiterate that the funds for implementing resolutions AG/RES. 1387 (XXVI-O/96) and AG/RES. 1461 (XXVII-O/97), concerning the extension of the Special Fellowships Program, must come from external sources and other funding mechanisms, which the General Secretariat is responsible for identifying.

3. To request the General Secretariat to present quarterly reports on compliance with the mandate set forth in operative paragraph 1, which will include details on any external resources obtained.

AG/RES. 1584 (XXVIII-O/98)

SPECIAL PROGRAM OF SUPPORT TO COUNTRIES AFFECTED BY “EL NIÑO”

(Resolution adopted at the third plenary session,  
held on June 2, 1998)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

The Charter of the Organization of American States, in particular Articles 93, 94, and 95, and the Statutes of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) [AG/RES. 1443 (XXVI-O/96)]; and

The Declaration of Santiago adopted at the Second Summit of the Americas; the Strategic Plan for Partnership for Development 1997-2001; CIDI/RES. 11 (II-O/97), “Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development and Follow-up to the Summit of the Americas on Sustainable Development”; the Declaration and Strategic Plan of Action of Miami on Disaster Reduction and Sustainable Development; and resolutions CP/RES. 546 (834/90) and CP/RES. 593 (922/92);

CONSIDERING:

That the cyclical southern oscillation phenomenon known as El Niño has had profound and disastrous effects on the Americas, causing significant human, material, economic, and environmental loss, whose impact could continue for several years, seriously affecting the economic and social development of the member states; and

That national efforts in the affected countries require increased international cooperation and partnership to forecast the phenomenon and thereby mitigate its negative social, economic, and environmental effects; and

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the efforts of the United Nations to deal with this problem in the context of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, in particular through resolution A/RES/52/200, "International Cooperation to Reduce the Impact of the El Niño Phenomenon,"

RESOLVES:

1. To urge the member states and the organs and agencies of the inter-American system, in particular the Inter-American Development Bank, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, and the Pan American Health Organization, as well as nongovernmental organizations pursuing similar aims, to intensify, within the framework of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, their cooperation with efforts aimed at preventing, reducing, and repairing the effects of El Niño.

2. To instruct the Secretary General to conduct a study assessing the capacity of the Organization to prevent, reduce, and repair the effects of El Niño, taking into account the comparative advantages of the Organization and United Nations General Assembly resolution A/RES/52/200.

3. To instruct the Permanent Executive Committee of CIDI (CEPCIDI) to develop an appropriate response to El Niño when the study, and examination of it, have been completed, and, in furtherance of the Second Summit of the Americas mandate to exchange information about the El Niño phenomenon, to consider the advisability of convening, during the first half of 1999, an intergovernmental meeting of experts to contribute to defining this response.

4. To instruct the General Secretariat to present the conclusions and recommendations of the study to the intergovernmental meeting of experts that will be held in the United Nations framework.

5. To instruct the Secretary General to identify means of securing external resources, in addition to the ordinary resources of the Organization, that could further the development and implementation of this response.

6. To instruct CEPCIDI to report to CIDI at its Fourth Regular Meeting on the implementation of this resolution.

AG/RES. 1585 (XXVIII-O/98)

DECLARATION OF QUITO OF THE INTER-AMERICAN  
TELECOMMUNICATION COMMISSION

(Resolution adopted at the third plenary session,  
held on June 2, 1998)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

The observations and recommendations by the Permanent Council on the annual reports submitted in accordance with Article 91.f. of the Charter (AG/doc.3698/98) and, in particular, on the Annual Report of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL) (CP/doc.3024/98); and

The Declaration of Quito, attached, which was unanimously adopted by the delegates of the member states to the Second Regular Meeting of the CITEL Assembly, held in Quito, Ecuador, from March 2 to 6, 1998; and

BEARING IN MIND the views expressed by the countries at the said Assembly, which recognize CITEL's leadership role in the region as a forum for inter-American dialogue to foster the exchange of information and experience among member states and promote cooperative activities with other regional and international organizations,

RESOLVES:

1. To support the Declaration of Quito and reaffirm the importance of the principles contained therein.

2. To urge member states to participate actively in the programs of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission, with a view to establishing a strategy for increasing the delivery of telecommunications services in the region.





ATTACHMENT

**THE INTER-AMERICAN TELECOMMUNICATION COMMISSION  
(CITEL)**

**DECLARATION OF QUITO**

At the conclusion of the Second Regular Assembly of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL) in Quito, March 2-6, 1998, representatives of the telecommunications administrations of CITEL's member states

**Declare:**

That the strategic importance of telecommunications compels governments to cooperate in strengthening this sector in order to achieve their social and economic goals.

That our countries must prepare themselves to face the challenges of the twenty-first century. In this regard, and given the sheer pace of the changes ahead, the development of telecommunications infrastructure is a top priority. It must combine the introduction of state-of-the-art technologies that ensure the efficient handling of information, and the adoption of policies, strategies and programs that foster development of the telecommunications sector in ways that raise the standard of living and reinforce the skills and know-how of all our citizens.

That we must combine our efforts in order to ensure the development of the telecommunications infrastructure and services essential to developing the economic, social, cultural and political well-being of our countries.

That the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission of the Organization of American States (CITEL) is the senior technical telecommunications body in the Americas for recommending actions to further the development of the region's telecommunications sector.

That, acting as a catalyst with respect to the consideration of the views of Member States on issues of mutual interest, CITEL has made possible the presentation in the International Telecommunication Union and other international telecommunications fora of common inter-American proposals benefiting all countries of the Americas and Associate Members.

**And thereby resolve:**

- To consolidate CITEL's capabilities, so that it can fully implement the instructions issued by heads of state in the Summit of the Americas process, in view of the fact that telecommunications is a fundamental element in the sustainable development of the region.
- To encourage the development of basic telecommunications infrastructure as well as new telecommunications services and technologies within a legal framework that is predictable, consistent, nondiscriminatory and transparent.

- To strengthen coordination with telecommunications bodies of the Americas in developing programs regarding infrastructure, training and research.
- To promote the development of projects designed to make available the basic telephone services and the benefits of new technologies required to meet the communications needs of more remote areas and of lower-income groups, particularly with regard to telemedicine, distance learning and access to the Internet.
- If appropriate, to establish mechanisms to reinforce and facilitate the participation of CITEI, as a specialized technical telecommunications organization, in the region's various processes of integration.

In witness thereof, the Delegates of the Member States taking part in the Second Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission adopt this declaration in the City of San Francisco de Quito, March 6, 1998.

Mario Burbano de Lara  
CHAIR OF THE ASSEMBLY

Hugo Jorge Zothner  
**Argentina**

Mario Martínez  
**Honduras**

José Alfredo Arce Jofré  
**Bolivia**

Winston Hay  
**Jamaica**

Renato Guerreiro  
**Brazil**

Salma Jalife  
**Mexico**

Bruce Gracie  
**Canada**

René Gutiérrez Cortés  
**Nicaragua**

Alejandra Moya  
**Chile**

José Cabrera  
**Panama**

Félix Castro  
**Colombia**

Juan Manuel Cano Fleitas  
**Paraguay**

Luz Argentina Calderón de Aguilar  
**Costa Rica**

Julio García  
**Peru**

Angel López  
**Ecuador**

Miguel Rodríguez  
**Dominican Republic**

Eric Casamiquela  
**El Salvador**

John P. Deasy, Jr.  
**United States**

José Raúl Solares  
**Guatemala**

Rupert Griffith  
**Trinidad and Tobago**

Raúl Iturria  
**Uruguay**

Alfredo Chaparro Osio  
**Venezuela**

AG/RES. 1586 (XXVIII-O/98)

OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE ANNUAL REPORTS  
OF THE ORGANS, AGENCIES, AND ENTITIES OF THE ORGANIZATION

(Resolution adopted at the third plenary session,  
held on June 2, 1998)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the observations and recommendations made by the Permanent Council (AG/doc.3698/98) on the annual reports submitted by the Inter-American Children's Institute (CP/doc.3015/98), the Pan American Health Organization (CP/doc.3030/98), the Inter-American Commission of Women (CP/doc.3012/98), the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CP/doc.3024/98), the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CP/doc.3008/98), the Administrative Tribunal (CP/doc.3010/98), the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (CP/doc.3016/98), the Inter-American Indian Institute (CP/doc.3018/98), the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (CP/doc.3023/98), the Secretary General (CP/doc.3040/98), and the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CP/doc.3042/98);

BEARING IN MIND:

That these reports are presented pursuant to the Charter of the Organization;

That the articles of the said Charter have been renumbered since the last regular session of this General Assembly with the effect that the article which applies to the presentation and study of these reports is now Article 91.f; and

That the provisions of its resolution "Preparation of the Annual Reports of the Organs, Agencies, and Entities of the Organization" [AG/RES. 1452 (XXVII-O/97)] have been deemed in that resolution to apply only to those reports submitted under Article 90.f of the Charter and transmitted by the Permanent Council to the Committee on Meetings and Organizations for study;

CONSIDERING:

That the above-mentioned reports comply with the provisions of the said resolution AG/RES. 1452 (XXVII-O/97), and that an effort was made, in most cases, to adhere to the revised criteria for the preparation of the reports contained therein;

That the reports were, in most cases, duly delivered in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 1 of Article 35 of the Rules of Procedure of the Permanent Council and, in cases where reports were presented after the statutory deadline, these were considered under the provisions of paragraph 3 of the said Article 35;

That, in accordance with paragraph 4 of Article 35 of the said Rules of Procedure, the reports were presented, with two exceptions, by the respective executive secretaries, presiding officers, and directors, or their representatives; and

That the reports were duly considered by the Committee on Meetings and Organizations in accordance with Article 21 of the said Rules of Procedure;

RECOGNIZING:

That the work undertaken by the various organs, agencies, and entities is of a highly technical nature;

That member states have expressed their desire for increased and enhanced collaboration among these bodies and the Organization itself, and in particular with the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI);

That most of these organs, agencies, and entities are managed by their respective directing or executive bodies and have the authority to make binding decisions that apply to their daily operations; and

The success of several of these organs, agencies, and entities in collaborating with member states, permanent observers, and other states and institutions, which has resulted in significant external financial contributions to their respective programs and activities; and

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the Permanent Council's recommendations and observations on the substance of these reports and on the current review process applied to these reports,

RESOLVES:

1. That the provisions of this resolution and the resolution "Preparation of the Annual Reports of the Organs, Agencies, and Entities of the Organization" [AG/RES. 1452 (XXVII-O/97)] shall apply to the reports of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI), the General Secretariat, specialized agencies and conferences, and of other bodies and agencies submitted for the Permanent Council's consideration pursuant to Article 91.f of the Charter of the Organization of American States.

2. To request that the Permanent Council consider examining the above-mentioned reports with the assistance of the technical areas within the General Secretariat in order to ensure more beneficial and satisfactory review of the technical work carried out by the various organs, agencies, and entities, as well as to foster dialogue and stimulate cooperation between these bodies and the General Secretariat.

3. To request that the said organs, agencies, and entities continue to submit their reports in a timely manner and in strict compliance with the criteria set out in resolution AG/RES. 1452 (XXVII-O/97) and with the provisions of this resolution.

4. To note that—reduced budgets notwithstanding—the said organs, agencies, and entities continue to excel in executing substantial, beneficial, and productive agendas; promoting their respective institutions and enhancing the profile thereof within the Hemisphere and beyond; improving and enhancing collaboration with countries outside the region, with the Organization of American States, and other international bodies; and obtaining external financial resources.

5. To urge the member states to become members of or to join once again, as appropriate, the various organs, agencies, and entities of the inter-American system in order to further the objectives of these bodies, increase their outreach capacity, and thereby improve the quality of life for the people of this Hemisphere.

6. To instruct the General Secretariat to make every possible effort to improve, within allocated resources approved in the program-budget and other resources, the financial status of the organs, agencies, and entities, and in particular the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), so that they will be better equipped to carry out their essential activities.

7. To once again commend the said organs, agencies, and entities on their diverse and noteworthy endeavors and accomplishments in compliance with their respective mandates and in furtherance of the inter-American system, and to urge them to increase their cooperation with each other in matters of mutual interest, including issues related to women and children.

8. To note and transmit to the said organs, agencies, and entities the Permanent Council's observations and recommendations on the said reports.

AG/RES. 1587 (XXVIII-O/98)

THE INTER-AMERICAN CHILDREN'S INSTITUTE AND CONCERTED ACTION  
ON BEHALF OF CHILDREN IN THE AMERICAS

(Resolution adopted at the third plenary session,  
held on June 2, 1998)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the observations and recommendations of the Permanent Council on the annual reports presented in conformity with Article 91.f of the OAS Charter (AG/doc.3698/98) and, in particular, on the annual report of the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN) (CP/doc.3015/98);

RECALLING its resolution AG/RES. 1522 (XXVII-O/97), in which the IIN was instructed to compile an inventory of all activities of the organs and agencies of the inter-American system relating to the situation of children and, on the basis of this inventory, to submit to the General Assembly, for consideration at its twenty-eighth regular session, a plan of concerted action for the children of the Americas;

REAFFIRMING that it is necessary to develop and implement this plan of concerted action for the children of the Americas;

RECOGNIZING that the IIN fulfilled that mandate from the General Assembly and that the necessary consultations for completing compilation of the relevant information for the inventory are still being conducted;

BEARING IN MIND that the Eighteenth Pan American Child Congress, the supreme inter-American forum on children and the family, will be held in October 1998, that the current situation of children in the Americas will be examined at that Congress, and that lines of action on this subject will be established for the next four years; and

CONSIDERING that it is highly advisable that the IIN incorporate the resolutions of the Pan American Child Congress in the plan of concerted action requested by the General Assembly,

RESOLVES:

1. To reiterate its request to the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN) that it continue to compile an inventory of all activities of the organs and agencies of the inter-American system relating to the situation of children.

2. To urge the organs and agencies of the inter-American system to work with the IIN in preparing that inventory, promptly providing the information it requests.

3. To instruct the IIN once again to submit to the General Assembly for consideration at its next regular session, on the basis of the inventory mentioned in the previous paragraph, a plan of concerted action for children in the Americas to improve living conditions for all children in the region, on the social as well as on the economic, educational, scientific, and technological levels, and to promote strict observance of all their rights.



AG/RES. 1588 (XXVIII-O/98)

SIXTH BIENNIAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL  
ON COMPLIANCE WITH RESOLUTION AG/RES. 829 (XVI-O/86),  
“FULL AND EQUAL PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN BY THE YEAR 2000”

(Resolution adopted at the third plenary session,  
held on June 2, 1998)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the Permanent Council’s observations and recommendations on the annual report of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) and, in particular, those in reference to the Sixth Biennial Report of the Secretary General on compliance with the resolution titled “Full and Equal Participation of Women by the Year 2000” [AG/RES. 829 (XVI-O/86)], which indicates the measures taken to increase the effective incorporation of women into the development process;

RECALLING:

Resolution AG/RES. 829 (XVI-O/86), which called for the incorporation of the strategies and goals contained in the Plan of Action of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), “Full and Equal Participation of Women by the Year 2000,” in the future programming of the organs, agencies, and entities of the inter-American system and for the establishment of appropriate mechanisms and procedures for their ongoing review and evaluation, in coordination with the CIM;

Resolution AG/RES. 933 (XVIII-O/88), which instructed the General Secretariat to include in its instruments for evaluating programs and projects appropriate indicators to measure the impact of those activities on women and on their incorporation into the development process;

Resolution AG/RES. 1061 (XX-O/90), which reiterated the need for coordinated programming that establishes the appropriate mechanisms and procedures with which to evaluate the results achieved;

Resolution AG/RES. 1192 (XXII-O/92), which recommended to the Secretary General that he call upon the CIM to provide the organs, agencies, and entities of the inter-American system with a conceptual framework to facilitate the evaluation, within their respective areas of competence, of their implementation of the strategies and the goals aimed at the full and equal participation of women by the year 2000, and urged the Secretary General to adopt measures to increase the number of women in senior-level positions in the General Secretariat;

Resolution AG/RES. 1303 (XXIV-O/94), which asked the Secretary General to include in his next report information on the implementation of the recommendations of the Task Force on Gender Issues concerning women, to continue to increase the number of women in senior-level positions in the General Secretariat, and to report thereon to the Permanent Council by including gender statistics in the “New Salary and Benefits System of the OAS” (AG/doc.3094/94); and

Resolution AG/RES. 1431 (XXVI-O/96), "Fifth Biennial Report of the Secretary General on Compliance with Resolution AG/RES. 829 (XVI-O/86), Full and Equal Participation of Women by the Year 2000," wherein the General Assembly recognized the efforts of the Secretary General and the progress made by the Organization in this area in the 1994-1996 biennium;

REITERATING:

The essential importance of effectively coordinating the policies and programs for achieving the goal of full incorporation of women into national development;

That the mechanisms and procedures necessary for full incorporation, as part of the programming, strategies, and objectives for achieving full and equal participation of women by the year 2000, have not yet been established in all areas; and

The importance of incorporating women at all levels of the decision-making process, both nationally and internationally; and

CONSIDERING:

That in 1995, women occupied 29 percent of the D-2 positions, 27 percent of the D-1 positions, and 18 percent of the P-5 positions in the General Secretariat of the Organization; and

That in 1997, in that Secretariat only one woman held a D-2 position (9.1 percent), women held only 5 (18 percent) of the 27 D-1 positions, and women held only 14 (17 percent) of the 81 P-5 positions,

RESOLVES:

1. To take note, with satisfaction, of the Sixth Biennial Report of the Secretary General on Compliance with Resolution AG/RES. 829 (XVI-O/86), "Full and Equal Participation of Women by the Year 2000."

2. To ask the Secretary General to establish suitable mechanisms to evaluate the inclusion of the gender issue in the programs and projects carried out by the General Secretariat.

3. To urge the Secretary General that, when appointing staff to senior positions within the Organization, equal opportunity be guaranteed for all persons considered for those positions.

4. To request that the Secretary General include information on implementation of this resolution in his seventh biennial report on this subject.

AG/RES. 1589 (XXVIII-O/98)

AMENDMENTS TO THE STATUTE OF THE INTER-AMERICAN  
TELECOMMUNICATION COMMISSION

(Resolution adopted at the third plenary session,  
held on June 2, 1998)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN resolution CITEL/RES. 29 (II-98), adopted at the second regular meeting of the Assembly of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL), which contains amendments to Articles 23 and 24 of the Statute of CITEL; and

CONSIDERING:

That, pursuant to Article 34 of the Statute of CITEL, it is incumbent on the General Assembly of the Organization to amend the Statute of CITEL, at its own initiative or upon CITEL's request; and

That resolution CITEL/RES. 29 (II-98) of the second regular meeting of the Assembly of CITEL requests the General Assembly to amend Articles 23 and 24 of the Statute of CITEL in the manner and for the reasons expressed therein,

RESOLVES:

1. In Article 23, to amend the last sentence of the first paragraph of the section "Officers" to read as follows:

Each Permanent Consultative Committee may establish two positions of Vice President.

2. In Article 24, to amend the first paragraph of the section "Associate Members" to read as follows:

Any recognized operating agency or scientific or industrial organization or any financial or development institution that is related to the telecommunications industry and is a legal entity may become an associate member of a Permanent Consultative Committee. The Member State shall notify the Chairman of COM/CITEL in writing of the names of agencies and organizations it has approved. An agency or organization shall cease to be an associate member in the event that approval is withdrawn by the Member State.

AG/RES. 1590 (XXVIII-O/98)

COMMEMORATION OF THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CREATION  
OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN

(Resolution adopted at the third plenary session,  
held on June 2, 1998)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING THAT:

February 18, 1998, marked the 70th anniversary of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), the first inter-American consultative body specializing in the study of the political and civil equality of women in the Hemisphere, and one that has spurred women's progress and their full and equal participation in society; and

Resolution AG/RES. 1454 (XXVII-O/97), "Celebration of the 70th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Inter-American Commission of Women," requested the Permanent Council and the member state governments to prepare special programs to commemorate this important anniversary,

RESOLVES:

1. To congratulate the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) for the important role its activities have played in promoting the full legal equality of women and protecting their rights and in pursuing the goal of greater participation by women in the various sectors of civil and political society.
2. To note with satisfaction the activities carried out by the Permanent Council in coordination with the CIM to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the CIM.
3. To request once again that the member state governments continue their activities to commemorate this important anniversary until the end of the year.

AG/RES. 1591 (XXVIII-O/98)

AMERICAN DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF MAN

(Resolution adopted at the third plenary session,  
held on June 2, 1998)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

BEARING IN MIND that, in 1948, the Ninth International Conference of American States adopted the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, which is based on human dignity, essential human rights and duties, and the need to create increasingly favorable conditions for the full observance of those values;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that the aforementioned Conference also determined that the promotion and protection of the human rights enshrined in the American Declaration should be strengthened on an ongoing basis;

RECALLING that Article II of the Declaration provides that "...all persons are equal before the law and have the rights and duties established in this Declaration, without distinction as to race, sex, language, creed or any other factor";

BEARING IN MIND that the Permanent Council of the Organization set up a "coordination" for the topic "Status of Women in the Americas" to follow up on the various activities conducted at the inter-American level, and offers its full support to the Inter-American Commission of Women, according to the report presented by the Chair of the Permanent Council on this subject;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that one of the proposals contained in the report is to change the title of the Declaration from "American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man" to "American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Persons," and to replace the word "man" with "person" in the text, as appropriate, given the need to introduce legal equality and equal opportunity for women and men, as well as gender equity at all levels, including the language of international instruments; and

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the opinion of the Inter-American Juridical Committee on the draft protocol of amendment to the OAS Charter and on the draft resolution on amendment of the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man (CJI/doc.30/98 rev. 2), dated March 18, 1998,

RESOLVES:

1. To study within the Permanent Council and to propose, if appropriate, changing the title "American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man" to "American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Persons," or any other agreed term, and replacing the word "man" in the text with "person," or any other agreed term, where appropriate.

2. To request the Permanent Council to report on the fulfillment of this mandate to the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth regular session.

AG/RES. 1592 (XXVIII-O/98)

STATUS OF WOMEN IN THE AMERICAS AND STRENGTHENING  
OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN

(Resolution adopted at the third plenary session,  
held on June 2, 1998)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

Resolution AG/RES. 1432 (XXVI-O/96), "Status of Women in the Americas," in operative paragraph 2 of which the General Assembly recommended to the member states that they strengthen and, where necessary, create mechanisms for the advancement of women and that they bear in mind the need to use gender analysis in devising and executing public policy;

Resolution CP/RES. 717 (1147/98), "70th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM)," in operative paragraph 2 of which the member states reiterated the firm commitment to promote the development of public-sector strategies and policies of benefit to women and to incorporate fully the perspective of gender into the activities and programs of the Organization and of the institutions and agencies of the inter-American system; and

The report of the Permanent Council on the topic "Status of Women in the Americas" (AG/doc.3718/98);

CONSIDERING:

That strengthening the CIM requires ongoing political support from the OAS member states to help promote the adoption of measures and the execution of activities enabling women to be integrated as active participants in and beneficiaries of national development and to be fully incorporated into all levels of the decision-making process at the national and international levels;

That through various legal instruments the member states have expressed their firm commitment to improving the status of women; and

That the Permanent Council, at its meeting of November 20, 1997, created an informal mechanism for coordination and study of the "Status of Women in the Americas," in order to support, through that political body, the design of policies, rules of law, and activities to strengthen the role of women at the national and international levels, and to respond to the need for the organs, agencies, and entities of the inter-American system to coordinate their programs and activities effectively so as to complement one another's work appropriately and prevent unnecessary duplication, thus maximizing the use of human, technological, and economic resources; and

BEARING IN MIND:

That, at the First Summit of the Americas, held in Miami in 1994, the Heads of State and Government confirmed their commitment to item 18 of the Plan of Action, “Strengthening the Role of Women in Society,” in relation to which they noted that it is essential to strengthen policies and programs to improve and broaden the participation of women in all spheres of political, social, and economic life; and

That, in the Declaration of Santiago of the Second Summit of the Americas, the Heads of State and Government affirmed that “...equal rights and opportunities between men and women and the objective of ensuring active participation of women in all areas of national endeavor are priority tasks,”

RESOLVES:

1. To recommend to the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) that it carry out the following activities, within the framework of its objectives, statutes, and mandates, bearing in mind the report and proposals on the “Status of Women in the Americas” presented by the Permanent Council:

- a. Prepare a draft Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Rights and Gender Equity, in coordination with other organs and agencies of the inter-American system and with the appropriate sections of the OAS General Secretariat, in the light of existing political and legal instruments on the subject at the international level, including the mandates adopted at the Summits of the Americas in Miami (1994) and Santiago (1998), and on the basis of the reports and studies on women prepared in the Organization;
- b. Establish appropriate mechanisms to ensure the effective coordination and exchange of information on work conducted on the topic of women—an information network—with the organs, agencies, and entities of the inter-American system and also with the various sections of the OAS General Secretariat that are involved with this subject;
- c. Promote, in coordination with other inter-American organs, agencies, and entities, the holding of fora, seminars, and meetings among the national authorities in the member states responsible for women’s issues; meetings among agencies of the inter-American system; and support for the resumption of activities by the Task Force on Gender Issues of the OAS General Secretariat.

2. To acknowledge the work being done by the Permanent Council through the aforementioned informal mechanism for coordination for the topic “Status of Women in the Americas,” and to recommend that it continue its efforts to help strengthen the CIM so that it may fully attain its objectives and execute its activities, and to encourage the ongoing attention and political support of the member states in the areas of promoting rights and opportunities for women,



and incorporating a gender equity focus at every level, within the OAS and other entities of the inter-American system.

3. To instruct the Permanent Council to examine the advisability of establishing an appropriate mechanism for strengthening and improving the CIM and for political support from the member states in promoting rights and opportunities for women and a gender equity focus, and to seek the views of the CIM in the pursuit of those goals.

4. To request the Permanent Council to report on the fulfillment of this mandate to the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth regular session.

AG/RES. 1593 (XXVIII-O/98)

QUOTA PAYMENTS

(Resolution adopted at the third plenary session,  
held on June 2, 1998)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the report of the Permanent Council on quota payments (AG/doc.3718/98);

NOTING:

That the current program-budget of the Organization is financed almost exclusively through the payment of quotas corresponding to each member state;

That resolution CP/RES. 541 (816/90) indicates that each member state must make its quota payment to the Regular Fund by April 30 of each year so as not to be considered in arrears for that calendar year; and

That the effective delivery of the Organization's programs is enhanced and facilitated by the full and timely payment of quotas;

RECOGNIZING the need to avoid excessive arrears which render difficult or impair the fulfillment of mandates entrusted to the Organization;

RECALLING:

That under the Statutes of the Special Multilateral Fund of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (FEMCIDI), member states may receive benefits only if they have made their contributions to that Fund; and

That by resolution CP/RES. 541 (816/90), the Permanent Council adopted certain measures, together with transitory provisions which expired in December 1990, to improve and regularize the Organization's cash flow, by encouraging member states in arrears to become current in their payments;

CONSIDERING:

That by resolution AG/RES. 1529 (XXVII-O/97), the General Assembly instructed the Permanent Council to study, through the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs (CAAP), "the merits of including additional provisions for the establishment of a comprehensive system of measures designed to encourage member states to pay their Regular Fund quotas to the Organization in full and on time and to prepare a report, including specific recommendations, for presentation to the General Assembly at its twenty-eighth regular session"; and

That based on its examination of matters entrusted to it under that resolution, the Permanent Council has recommended that the General Assembly adopt certain measures,

RESOLVES:

1. To instruct the Permanent Council to reestablish the transitory measures outlined in resolution CP/RES. 541 (816/90) in order to encourage further the timely and predictable payment of Regular Fund quotas and arrears as follows:

- a. Member states in arrears on payments of Regular Fund quotas for financial years prior to 1998 shall be considered as current in their payments provided that they have agreed by November 30, 1998, with the Secretary General on a schedule of payments for settling the amount due and are in compliance with such schedule.
- b. When working out that schedule of payments with each member state, the Secretary General shall do so on the basis of effective annual payments within a maximum period of five years; however, for those countries that are less than five years in arrears, the period shall be no greater than the number of years they are in arrears.
- c. The Secretary General shall also report on the conclusion of such agreements to the Permanent Council as soon as possible, but no later than December 15, 1998.

2. To request the Secretary General to continue and intensify his efforts to work out innovative solutions with individual member states that have difficulties in meeting their quota obligations.

3. To instruct the General Secretariat, in executing the program-budget, to take into consideration cash flow, based on notification of arrears and on current year payment schedules.

4. To instruct the Permanent Council, through its Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs, to continue studying the merits of including provisions for the establishment of a comprehensive system of measures designed to encourage member states to pay their Regular Fund quotas to the Organization in full and on time, and to prepare a report, including specific recommendations, for presentation to the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth regular session.

AG/RES. 1594 (XXVIII-O/98)

PROGRAM-BUDGET OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR 1999

(Resolution adopted at the third plenary session,  
held on June 2, 1998)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the report of the Preparatory Committee on the proposed program-budget of the Organization for 1999 (AG/doc.3718/98); and

CONSIDERING:

That, under Articles 54 and 55 of the Charter, the General Assembly is responsible, *inter alia*, for approving the Organization's program-budget and for "fixing the quota that each Government is to contribute to the maintenance of the Organization";

That in resolution AG/RES. 1531 (XXVII-O/97), operative section III.B, the General Assembly instructed the Secretary General to submit a proposed program-budget for the Regular Fund for 1999 at a level no higher than US\$84,333,500;

That in resolution AG/CP/RES. 78 (286/98), the Preparatory Committee recommended to the General Assembly that specific details of the Organization's budget should be considered and approved by a special session of the General Assembly at OAS headquarters; and that accordingly, the proposed 1999 program-budget presented by the Secretary General to the Preparatory Committee in March 1998 requires reformulation, taking into account the resolutions with budgetary implications approved at this twenty-eighth regular session of the General Assembly, the ability of the member states to contribute to the Organization during the 1999 fiscal year, and other relevant concerns of the member states;

That at the Second Summit of the Americas, held in Santiago, Chile, various activities were tasked to the OAS that also need to be taken into account in reformulating the program-budget;

That it is necessary to establish guidelines which will assure transparency and disclosure in the budget-formulation process; and

That changes in the economic situation of the member states and in the needs of the Organization since 1990, when the percentages in the scale of Regular Fund quota assessments were last modified, require a reassessment of the Organization's basis of financing to assure that the burden of financing the Organization's activities and infrastructure is shared,

RESOLVES:

I. EXPENDITURE

1. To set the expenditure ceiling for the 1999 Regular Fund budget at an amount no higher than \$84,333,500, and the planning level for the year 2000 Regular Fund budget at the same level, noting that these levels can only be expended providing that they can realistically be financed with income from areas outlined in operative paragraph II.2.

II. FINANCING OF THE BUDGET

2. To finance the 1999 program-budget of the Regular Fund with the quotas of the member states, estimated interest income from the Regular Fund, rental income from space in the General Secretariat Building, administrative and technical support contributions from the voluntary and specific funds, and other miscellaneous income.

3. To authorize funding for the Voluntary Fund portion of the program-budget of the Organization for 1999 at the level of total collections received by September 30, 1998, and any other funds available to them.

III. GUIDELINES

4. To instruct the Secretary General to reformulate the proposed 1999 program-budget, and to present it to the Permanent Council no later than August 15, 1998, taking into account the following:

- a. That the quota payments of member states shall remain at the 1998 level;
- b. The budgetary implications of the decisions taken at the twenty-eighth regular session of the General Assembly, in Caracas, Venezuela;
- c. The need to maximize resources, streamline and centralize administrative activities where appropriate, adopt cost-saving measures, and eliminate waste; and
- d. The comments and recommendations of the Board of External Auditors for the year ending December 31, 1997.

IV. STUDY ON SCALE OF QUOTA ASSESSMENTS

5. To request the Permanent Council to review and make recommendations on the current scale of quota assessments to the General Assembly at its special session on budgetary matters later this year.

6. To instruct the General Secretariat to prepare by August 31, 1998, a study on the scale of quota assessments, which shall take into account the following factors: the ability of the respective countries to pay and their determination to contribute in an equitable manner to the

maintenance of the Organization, as stated in Article 55 of the Charter; all relevant resolutions to date; the need to maintain the maximum quota at a level of no more than 59.47%; the need to establish a minimum quota; and the experiences of other international organizations, including the United Nations.

V. SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

7. To instruct the Permanent Council, in accordance with resolution AG/CP/RES. 78 (286/98), to convene a special session of the General Assembly to consider and approve the specific details of the 1999 program-budget resolution, the 1999 quotas, and other matters related to the program-budget and basis of financing of the Organization.

AG/RES. 1595 (XXVIII-O/98)

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF EXTERNAL AUDITORS

(Resolution adopted at the third plenary session,  
held on June 2, 1998)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

The report of the Permanent Council on the report of the Board of External Auditors for the biennium ended December 31, 1997 (CP/doc.3043/98);

The comments and recommendations of the Board of External Auditors for the biennium ended December 31, 1997, with the General Secretariat's comments (CP/CAAP-2372/98);

The Inspector General's comments on the draft report of the Board of External Auditors for 1997 (CP/CAAP-2371/98); and

The report of the Board of External Auditors on the audit of accounts and financial statements for the biennium ended December 31, 1997 (CP/doc.3043/98),

RESOLVES:

1. To thank the Board of External Auditors for its report to the Permanent Council and to take note of that report.
2. To take note of the report of the Permanent Council on the report of the Board of External Auditors.
3. To endorse the recommendations presented by the Board.
4. To instruct the General Secretariat to take appropriate steps to implement the Board's recommendations.

AG/RES. 1596 (XXVIII-O/98)

PERSONNEL POLICY

(Resolution adopted at the third plenary session,  
held on June 2, 1998)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the report of the Permanent Council on personnel policy (AG/doc.3718/98);

RECALLING:

Its resolution AG/RES. 1381 (XXVI-O/96), which requested the Permanent Council “to establish a working group that shall define, in conjunction with the General Secretariat, a single coherent global personnel policy, in accordance with the actual needs of the Organization”; and

Its resolution AG/RES. 1525 (XXVII-O/97), which extended the mandate given to the Permanent Council through resolution AG/RES. 1381 (XXVI-O/96) until the twenty-eighth regular session of the General Assembly;

NOTING:

That the Permanent Council has completed the mandate entrusted to it regarding the study of the document “Creation of New Categories of Temporary Employment: Temporary Professional Staff Consultants and Temporary Support Personnel” (CP/doc.2884/97) and has concluded that there was no need to create a new employment mechanism; and

That if the existing mechanisms of employment were applied correctly and if improved, they might satisfy the needs of the Organization;

NOTING FURTHER that a staff performance evaluation system has been designed and that a pilot program has been initiated in selected areas of the General Secretariat, in order to test the effectiveness of this new appraisal system;

RECOGNIZING the importance of having transparent and streamlined hiring mechanisms at the Organization; and

BEARING IN MIND that the current career service system may require reform and modification to correct anomalies which have occurred since its inception in 1983, to reflect more fully the current human resource needs of the Organization in responding to the changing mandates of the member states, and to provide fair and reasonable employment to the entire staff of the Secretariat,



RESOLVES:

1. To take note of the report of the Permanent Council on personnel policy (AG/doc.3718/98).
2. To instruct the General Secretariat to improve the Organization's existing employment mechanisms where necessary, focusing in particular on increasing transparency and simplifying the various hiring mechanisms of the Organization, and to inform the Permanent Council of the changes effected, so that it may report to the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth regular session.
3. To instruct the General Secretariat to keep the Permanent Council updated on the implementation of the new performance evaluation system; and to request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth regular session on the results.
4. To request the Permanent Council to prepare, with the assistance of the General Secretariat, a study with recommendations on the career service policy of the General Secretariat, for review by the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth regular session.
5. To instruct the General Secretariat that, without prejudice to a final decision on the future of the career service, it freeze all vacant slots in the service pending review of the study and its recommendations.

AG/RES. 1597 (XXVIII-O/98)

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

(Resolution adopted at the fifth plenary session,  
held on June 3, 1998)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the offer to host the thirty-first regular session of the General Assembly (AG/doc.3723/98); and

CONSIDERING:

Articles 47 and 48 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly, relating to the holding of regular sessions of the General Assembly and the establishment of sites for those sessions; and

That the Government of Costa Rica has offered to host the thirty-first regular session of the General Assembly in the city of San José,

RESOLVES:

1. To thank the Government of Costa Rica for its generous offer to host the thirty-first regular session of the General Assembly in the city of San José, and to accept that offer.
2. To determine that the thirty-first regular session of the General Assembly shall be held in June 2001 on a date established by the Permanent Council.

AG/RES. 1598 (XXVIII-O/98)

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

(Resolution adopted at the fifth plenary session,  
held on June 3, 1998)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the offer to host the thirty-second regular session of the General Assembly (AG/doc.3728/98); and

CONSIDERING:

Articles 47 and 48 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly, relating to the holding of regular sessions of the Assembly and the establishment of sites for those sessions; and

That the Government of Barbados has offered to host the thirty-second regular session of the General Assembly in the city of Bridgetown,

RESOLVES:

1. To thank the Government of Barbados for its generous offer to host the thirty-second regular session of the General Assembly in the city of Bridgetown, and to accept that offer.

2. To determine that the thirty-second regular session of the General Assembly shall be held in June 2002 on a date established by the Permanent Council.

AG/RES. 1599 (XXVIII-O/98)

PARLIAMENTARY NETWORK OF THE AMERICAS

(Resolution adopted at the fifth plenary session,  
held on June 3, 1998)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the Declaration of the Second Summit of democratically elected Heads of State and Government of the countries of the Americas, meeting in Santiago, Chile, which reaffirms their willingness to deepen dialogue and inter-American cooperation within the spirit of friendship and solidarity with which the nations of the Americas are imbued, while recognizing the importance of the hemispheric institutions as well as the positive role which they play in this process, particularly the Organization of American States; and

CONSIDERING:

That the Heads of State and Government have instructed their ministers to examine the means at their disposal to reinforce and modernize inter-American cooperation and dialogue;

That the Plan of Action of the Second Summit of the Americas encourages governments to promote increased participation by civil society in public affairs;

That the same Plan of Action entrusts the OAS with promoting appropriate programs to that effect;

That, in representative democracies, parliaments constitute a key link between the states and the populations they represent;

That parliamentarians and their institutions can provide valuable support to existing inter-American initiatives for the promotion of the political, economic, social, and cultural interests of the populations they represent;

That a network of parliamentary representatives of member states of the inter-American system could facilitate the sharing of their parliamentary experiences related to the process of regional integration at all levels; and

That, in the process of regional integration at all levels, the OAS could encourage the exchange of experience and information and the broadening of dialogue within the parliamentary sector,

RESOLVES:

1. To instruct the General Secretariat that, by building on existing mechanisms within the OAS, it facilitate parliamentary dialogue, solely through the use of a specific voluntary fund to support its activities, having no impact on the OAS Regular Fund.

2. To express its conviction that the pursuit of a dialogue by a hemispheric network of legislative leaders would be facilitated by adequate resources.

3. To encourage parliamentarians of the Americas to support the process of regional integration at all levels for the improvement of political, economic, social, and cultural conditions of the populations they represent.

4. To instruct the General Secretariat to report to the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth regular session on progress made in facilitating parliamentary dialogue, as well as on progress made in securing resources for the specific voluntary fund.

AG/RES. 1600 (XXVIII-O/98)

INDIAN/PAKISTANI NUCLEAR TESTING

(Resolution adopted at the fifth plenary session,  
held on June 3, 1998)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

GRAVELY CONCERNED by the nuclear test explosions recently conducted by the Governments of India and Pakistan;

STRESSING the pronouncements on this action which have been issued by the governments of the various member states of the Organization, including the Rio Group's statements of May 13 and 29, 1998, and those resolutions adopted by the Council of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL) on May 14 and 29, 1998;

RECALLING General Assembly resolution AG/RES. 1499 (XXVII-O/97) and Permanent Council declarations CP/DEC. 22 (1042/95) and CP/DEC. 24 (1160/98);

RECALLING member states' support for the consolidation throughout the region of the nuclear nonproliferation regime established in the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco), in the framework of cooperation for security in the Hemisphere and regional contributions to global security;

CONVINCED that the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, which was opened for signature on September 24, 1996, at the United Nations, should contribute greatly to strengthening the global regime of nonproliferation and nuclear disarmament;

NOTING that 149 countries have signed the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and thereby have established an inviolable principle against nuclear test explosions; and

RECALLING the Principles and Objectives for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,

RESOLVES:

1. To condemn the nuclear test explosions conducted by the Governments of India and Pakistan, to firmly urge them to refrain from further nuclear testing, missile deployment and weaponization, or other steps which will further escalate tensions in the region, and to appeal to the Governments of India and Pakistan to: peacefully resolve their differences, accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, sign the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty without delay and without conditions, and participate, in a positive spirit, in the proposed negotiations with other states for a fissile material cut-off treaty for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

2. To emphasize that the nuclear tests conducted by the Governments of India and Pakistan jeopardize the nuclear weapon nonproliferation regime, the maintenance of which is indispensable for international peace and security, and, therefore, urges all states, in particular those of South Asia, to exercise maximum restraint and refrain from further nuclear testing.

3. To place at the disposal of India and Pakistan experience derived from agreements to guarantee the nonproliferation and banning of nuclear weapons and the mechanisms for implementing them, particularly the 1967 Treaty of Tlatelolco and the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials.

4. To reaffirm the commitment of all member states to work towards universal accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as well as to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and its early entry into force, considering these essential elements to avert the proliferation of nuclear weapons and as a means of promoting nuclear disarmament.

AG/RES. 1601 (XXVIII-O/98)

SUPPORT FOR THE WORK OF DEFENDERS OF THE PEOPLE, DEFENDERS OF THE  
POPULATION, HUMAN RIGHTS ATTORNEYS, AND HUMAN RIGHTS  
COMMISSIONERS (OMBUDSMEN) IN THE CONTEXT OF  
STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY IN THE HEMISPHERE

(Resolution adopted at the fifth plenary session,  
held on June 3, 1998)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the important work of defenders of the people, defenders of the population, human rights attorneys, and human rights commissioners in various countries of the Hemisphere, which has created impetus for establishing and implementing the institution of the ombudsman in all countries of the region;

BEARING IN MIND resolution AG/RES. 1505 (XXVII-O/97), in which the General Assembly recommended to the international community that it provide, as far as practicable, its valuable support in holding the Third Annual Congress of the Ibero-American Federation of Ombudsmen;

RECALLING that, in the aforementioned resolution, the organs of the inter-American system were urged to promote exchanges of experience among defenders of the people, defenders of the population, human rights attorneys, and human rights commissioners in the Hemisphere, within allocated resources approved in the program-budget and other resources;

CONSIDERING the content of the Plan of Action adopted at the Second Summit of the Americas and, in particular, the commitment to strengthen democracy, justice, and human rights, which are an essential priority for the Hemisphere; and

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the recent meeting of ombudsmen held in Antigua and Barbuda,

RESOLVES:

1. To reiterate its support for the work of ombudsmen, defenders of the people, defenders of the population, human rights attorneys, and human rights commissioners in the countries of the Hemisphere, which is essential to strengthening representative democracy, justice, human rights, and good governance.

2. To recommend to the member states that measures be taken, according to each country's legal system, to promote the political, administrative, and financial independence of defenders of the people, defenders of the population, human rights attorneys, and human rights commissioners in the member countries of the Hemisphere.



3. To recommend that those states that do not yet have such institutions consider the possibility of establishing them and setting them in motion, in the context of their existing legal and constitutional systems, and of according them autonomy and independence.

4. To encourage the governments and organs of the inter-American system to promote opportunities for dialogue among those institutions and the appropriate organs of the inter-American system.

5. To reaffirm the support of the inter-American community for the Ibero-American Federation of Ombudsmen, particularly for the holding of its Third Annual Congress, which will be held in Peru from September 6 to 9, 1998, and to give due attention to the recommendations issued at that Congress.

AG/RES. 1602 (XXVIII-O/98)

THE SITUATION OF REFUGEES, RETURNEES, AND  
INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS IN THE AMERICAS

(Resolution adopted at the fifth plenary session,  
held on June 3, 1998)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

CONSIDERING:

That, through its resolutions AG/RES. 774 (XV-O/85), AG/RES. 838 (XVI-O/86), AG/RES. 951 (XVIII-O/88), AG/RES. 1021 (XIX-O/89), AG/RES. 1039 (XX-O/90), AG/RES. 1040 (XX-O/90), AG/RES. 1103 (XXI-O/91), AG/RES. 1170 (XXII-O/92), AG/RES. 1214 (XXIII-O/93), AG/RES. 1273 (XXIV-O/94), AG/RES. 1336 (XXV-O/95), AG/RES. 1416 (XXVI-O/96) and AG/RES. 1504 (XXVII-O/97), it expressed its concerns for those persons in the Americas who, as refugees, returnees, or internally displaced persons, require protection of their fundamental rights, as well as the provision of humanitarian assistance;

That, despite the achievement of solutions for the majority of Central American refugees, situations still persist in some countries of the Hemisphere which generate forced displacement, either internal or external, of populations which require adequate attention in regard to both protection and the pursuit of lasting solutions;

That in recent years, the Hemisphere has witnessed progress in the process of strengthening democratic institutions and the upholding of human rights, as well as improvements in the levels of social and economic development of its peoples;

That in recognition of these positive developments, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, in cooperation with the Organization of American States, is collaborating with governments in the strengthening of regional and national protection mechanisms, emphasizing its advisory support to states as the entities primarily responsible for the effective application of humanitarian principles and rules of refugee law; and

That the Third Regional Conference on Migration was held in Ottawa, Canada, on February 26 and 27, 1998, with the participation of the Governments of Belize, Canada, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, and the United States, as well as with the presence as observers of government representatives of Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Jamaica, and Peru, which represents an important step forward in a process that is obtaining broad recognition as a forum for discussion on the phenomenon of international migration,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge governments to continue ensuring the observance of the fundamental principles and rules of international refugee protection, and specifically respect for the principle of non-refoulement, the right of every refugee to seek and receive protection and refuge within the existing legal framework in each member state, and the right to return voluntarily to the country of origin or the country of permanent residence.

2. To renew the appeal to the member states which have not yet done so to ratify or accede to the international instruments relating to the status of refugees, as well as to enact internal legislation to ensure the effective application of these instruments.

3. To reiterate its concern about the persistence of situations causing the forced internal displacement of populations; to support governments of affected countries which so request in their efforts aimed at the promotion and protection of the human rights of internally displaced persons; and to recommend that member states take into consideration the contributions and discussions carried out within the framework of the United Nations on the topic of internally displaced persons.

4. To express its satisfaction with the cooperation between the Organization of American States and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; and to request that the General Secretariat intensify this cooperation in support of efforts made by member states to find solutions for these populations, with particular emphasis on the specific needs of refugee, displaced, and returnee women, elderly persons, and children.

5. To underscore the achievements of the Third Regional Conference on Migration, held last February in Ottawa, and, in particular, the adoption of a plan of action that includes the objective of ensuring the international protection of refugees in its chapter on human rights.

AG/RES. 1603 (XXVIII-O/98)

MODERNIZATION OF THE OAS AND RENEWAL OF THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM

(Resolution adopted at the fifth plenary session,  
held on June 3, 1998)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING the purposes and principles established in the Charter of the Organization of American States;

CONSIDERING the mandate issued to the ministers by the Heads of State and Government of the member states in the Declaration of Santiago, adopted at the Second Summit of the Americas, to examine ways to strengthen and modernize hemispheric institutions, in particular the Organization of American States, and resolution AG/RES. 1449 (XXVII-O/97), "OAS Contribution to the Summits of the Americas Process"; and

BEARING IN MIND:

The Declaration of Santafé de Bogotá, adopted by the ministers of foreign affairs and heads of delegation on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the OAS; and

The dialogue of foreign ministers and heads of delegation on the renewal of the inter-American system, held during the twenty-eighth regular session of the General Assembly, in Caracas, Venezuela,

RESOLVES:

1. To establish a Special Joint Working Group of the Permanent Council and the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI), the chair of which will be determined by the Permanent Council, for the purpose of identifying the aspects with regard to which it is necessary to foster and intensify the process of strengthening and modernizing the OAS by defining strategies, procedures, and concrete actions with a view to promoting a comprehensive renewal of the inter-American system, on the basis of the dialogue of foreign ministers and heads of delegation of the General Assembly.

2. To instruct the above-mentioned Special Joint Working Group to study, as a first step, the organization and working methods of the councils and their subsidiary organs, as well as the General Secretariat, with a view to streamlining their work so they may carry out more efficiently and effectively the mandates entrusted to them; and to instruct the Special Joint Working Group to present its proposals to the Permanent Council and CIDI before the special session at which the General Assembly will consider the program-budget.

3. To request the Secretary General to give his full support to the implementation of this resolution and to present to the Special Joint Working Group, before the month of September 1998, a proposal on the administrative, budgetary, personnel, and management needs of the Organization.

4. To authorize the Permanent Council and CIDI, through its Permanent Executive Committee (CEPCIDI), to adopt such organizational and structural measures as they consider suitable in pursuit of the aims set forth in paragraph 2 of this resolution, including the adoption *ad referendum* of decisions requiring authorization from the General Assembly; and to report to that organ on the work carried out.

5. To request the General Secretariat to put into effect immediately the decisions adopted in compliance with this resolution.

6. To instruct the Permanent Council to report on the implementation of this resolution to the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth regular session.

AG/RES. 1604 (XXVIII-O/98)

PROGRAM OF EDUCATION FOR PEACE IN THE HEMISPHERE

(Resolution adopted at the fifth plenary session,  
held on June 3, 1998)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the report of the Permanent Council on the Program of Education for Peace in the Hemisphere (AG/doc.3695/98);

RECALLING:

That, in resolution AG/RES. 1409 (XXVI-O/96), the General Assembly requested that the Permanent Council, through its Committee on Hemispheric Security and with support from the General Secretariat, draw up general guidelines for setting up an education for peace program within the OAS;

The laudable initiative taken by Bolivia to draft an education for peace program as a means of promoting confidence and security in the region; and

That, in resolution AG/RES. 1494 (XXVII-O/97), the General Assembly agreed to request the Permanent Council to intensify, with support from the General Secretariat, its efforts and consultation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and other institutions, with a view to considering the advisability of holding a meeting of experts on the issue in order to draw up a Program of Education for Peace in the Hemisphere; and

CONSIDERING that the Organization's member states, meeting at the San Salvador Regional Conference on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures in follow-up to the Santiago Conference, adopted the Declaration of San Salvador on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures, where they recommended that the Permanent Council's Committee on Hemispheric Security complete its drafting of the Program of Education for Peace agreed upon by the OAS General Assembly, and that it begin implementing it,

RESOLVES:

1. To take note of the Permanent Council's report on the progress made in drafting the Program of Education for Peace in the Hemisphere and to acknowledge the assistance provided by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to the Organization of American States.

2. To convene a meeting of experts from member states to design a draft Program of Education for Peace in the Hemisphere, taking into account contributions from experts at UNESCO

and other pertinent institutions, such as the Inter-American Defense College, which draft will be considered by the Permanent Council through its Committee on Hemispheric Security.

3. To instruct the Permanent Council to carry out the preparatory tasks, such as drawing up the agenda and determining the venue and date of the aforementioned meeting of experts, during the year commemorating the 50th anniversary of the OAS.

4. To request that the Permanent Council make arrangements, within allocated resources approved in the program-budget and other resources, for holding the meeting of experts convened by this resolution and for the activities designed to carry out the aforementioned Program of Education for Peace in the Hemisphere.

AG/RES. 1605 (XXVIII-O/98)

OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

(Resolution adopted at the fifth plenary session,  
held on June 3, 1998)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the observations and recommendations of the Permanent Council on the annual report of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (AG/doc.3675/98) and the presentation of that report by the President of the Court, Judge Hernán Salgado Pesantes; and

CONSIDERING:

That Article 54.f of the Charter of the Organization of American States establishes that it is a function of the General Assembly to consider the observations and recommendations presented by the Permanent Council on the reports of the organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization in accordance with Article 91.f of the Charter;

That Article 65 of the American Convention on Human Rights establishes that the Court shall submit a report on its work during the preceding year to the OAS General Assembly for consideration, and that the report shall underscore, with appropriate recommendations, cases in which states have not complied with the Court's judgments; and

That the Inter-American Court of Human Rights presented its annual report to the Permanent Council, which forwarded observations and recommendations thereon to the General Assembly,

RESOLVES:

1. To receive and transmit to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights the observations and recommendations of the OAS Permanent Council on the annual report.

2. To urge those member states of the OAS that have not yet done so to give special and expedited consideration to signing, ratifying, or acceding to, as appropriate and in accordance with their constitutional and legal processes, the American Convention on Human Rights, or Pact of San José, and to accept, as appropriate, the contentious jurisdiction of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

3. To provide the Inter-American Court of Human Rights with an appropriate level of funding and the necessary support for it to continue performing the important functions entrusted to it by the American Convention on Human Rights.



4. To renew its thanks to the European Union for its contribution enabling the Court to complete the third phase of the project entitled “Support for the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.”

5. To thank the Danish Centre for Human Rights for assisting the Court through cooperation programs and by financing the services of an attorney at the Secretariat to the Court.

6. To thank the Inter-American Court of Human Rights for its work during the period covered by this report and to urge it to proceed with its important tasks.

AG/RES. 1606 (XXVIII-O/98)

OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE ANNUAL REPORT OF  
THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

(Resolution adopted at the fifth plenary session,  
held on June 3, 1998)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the annual report of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) (CP/doc.3036/98), the presentation thereof by the Chair of the Commission, and the observations and recommendations of the Permanent Council on the annual report of the IACHR (AG/doc.3692/98 corr. 1); and

CONSIDERING:

That the member states of the Organization of American States have proclaimed in the Charter of the Organization, as one of its principles, respect for the fundamental rights of the individual, without distinction as to race, nationality, creed, or sex;

That the IACHR, established at the Fifth Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, held in Santiago, Chile, in 1959, has as its principal function, pursuant to the Charter of the OAS and the American Convention on Human Rights, that of promoting the observance and protection of human rights;

That the Heads of State and Government affirmed in the Declaration of Santiago of the Second Summit of the Americas, held in Santiago, Chile, in April 1998, that “respect for and promotion of human rights and the fundamental freedoms of all individuals is a primary concern of our governments”;

That the member states have reaffirmed the inextricable link between human rights, democracy, and development;

That the concepts of universality, indivisibility, and interdependence are principles enshrined in international instruments for the promotion and protection of human rights;

That the principles of good faith, legal certainty, and the impartiality of proceedings are vital for the promotion and protection of human rights within the inter-American system, the ultimate goal of which is the protection of human rights; and

That the acceptance of voluntary contributions by the IACHR to cover present and new mandates, initiatives, and proposals should not affect the priority that the Commission should give to all topics which are the subject of rapporteur’s reports, within allocated resources approved in the program-budget and other resources and in accordance with the General Standards,

RESOLVES:

1. To take note of the annual report of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) and express appreciation for its presentation.

2. To urge the IACHR to continue to promote the observance and protection of human rights, as recognized in the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man and the American Convention on Human Rights; to recognize the Commission's efforts to that end in the Hemisphere; and to urge the member states to continue to assist and support the Commission and to provide it with the resources it needs in order to fulfill its functions, within resources allocated in the program-budget and other resources.

3. To welcome the observations and recommendations of the Permanent Council and forward them to the IACHR, along with those contained in this resolution.

4. To encourage the IACHR to continue its efforts to improve procedures relating to the admissibility and processing of individual cases.

5. To encourage the IACHR to add to the reports referred to in Articles 50 and 51 of the American Convention on Human Rights, when the parties concerned so request, the oral and written presentations made during this stage of the processing of individual cases.

6. To call on the member states to carry out, in keeping with the principles contained in the Declaration and Plan of Action adopted at the 1993 Vienna World Conference on Human Rights, the actions designed to fulfill the human rights mandates contained in the Plan of Action of the Second Summit of the Americas; and to urge the IACHR to examine and study them and to include its conclusions in this regard in its next annual report.

7. To urge the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to continue to give special attention to and place equal priority on, the topics of the special reports and any other topics proposed by the member states.

8. To express appreciation for and take note of the report of the Special Rapporteur on Women's Rights and to encourage the IACHR to continue its consideration of this matter.

9. To note with satisfaction the growing and very positive use of the friendly settlement mechanism, urging the member states and the IACHR to continue, in a spirit of cooperation, the use of this mechanism in those cases in which it may lead to a solution.

10. To urge those member states that have not yet done so to give special and expedited consideration to signing, ratifying, or acceding to, as appropriate and in accordance with their constitutional and legal provisions, the American Convention on Human Rights (Pact of San José); the Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the Area of Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (Protocol of San Salvador); the Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights to Abolish the Death Penalty (Protocol of Asunción); and the following inter-American instruments for the promotion and protection of human rights: the Inter-American Convention to Prevent and Punish Torture; the Inter-American Convention on the Forced

Disappearance of Persons; and the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, “Convention of Belém do Pará”; and, in that connection, to urge states which are already parties to any of the above-mentioned juridical instruments, or which intend to become parties, to call upon any member state that is considering denouncing any of the above-mentioned instruments to reconsider its decision, in accordance with its own constitutional and legal processes, in order to uphold the inter-American system for the promotion and protection of human rights.

11. To request the IACHR to continue to report on measures taken in response to the observations and recommendations presented by the Permanent Council to the General Assembly.

12. To request the Permanent Council to report in due course to the General Assembly on the fulfillment of this resolution.

## THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

The Organization of American States (OAS) is the world's oldest regional organization, dating back to the First International Conference of American States, held in Washington, D.C., from October 1889 to April 1890. At that meeting the establishment of the International Union of American Republics was approved. The Charter of the OAS was signed in Bogotá in 1948 and entered into force in December 1951. The Charter was subsequently amended by the Protocol of Buenos Aires, signed in 1967, which entered into force in February 1970; by the Protocol of Cartagena de Indias, signed in 1985, which entered into force in November 1988; by the Protocol of Managua, signed in 1993, which entered into force on January 29, 1996; and by the Protocol of Washington, signed in 1992, which entered into force on September 25, 1997. The OAS currently has 35 member states. In addition, the Organization has granted permanent observer status to over 44 states, as well as to the European Union.

The essential purposes of the OAS are: to strengthen peace and security in the Hemisphere; to promote and consolidate representative democracy, with due respect for the principle of nonintervention; to prevent possible causes of difficulties and to ensure peaceful settlement of disputes that may arise among the member states; to provide for common action on the part of those states in the event of aggression; to seek the solution of political, juridical, and economic problems that may arise among them; to promote, by cooperative action, their economic, social, and cultural development; and to achieve an effective limitation of conventional weapons that will make it possible to devote the largest amount of resources to the economic and social development of the member states.

The Organization of American States accomplishes its purposes by means of: the General Assembly; the Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs; the Councils (the Permanent Council and the Inter-American Council for Integral Development); the Inter-American Juridical Committee; the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights; the General Secretariat; the specialized conferences; the specialized organizations and other entities established by the General Assembly.

The General Assembly holds regular sessions once a year. Under special circumstances it meets in special session. The Meeting of Consultation is convened to consider urgent matters of common interest and to serve as Organ of Consultation under the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance (Rio Treaty), the main instrument for joint action in the event of aggression. The Permanent Council takes cognizance of such matters as are entrusted by the General Assembly or the Meeting of Consultation and implements the decisions of both organs when their implementation has not been assigned to any other body, it monitors the maintenance of friendly relations among the member states and the observance of the standards governing General Secretariat operations and also acts provisionally as Organ of Consultation under the Rio Treaty. The General Secretariat is the central and permanent organ of the OAS. The headquarters of both the Permanent Council and the General Secretariat is in Washington, D.C.

**MEMBER STATES: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, The Bahamas (*Commonwealth of*), Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica (*Commonwealth of*), Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United States, Uruguay and Venezuela.**

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES