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# WORKING TOGETHER TO FACE THE CHALLENGES OF COVID-19 IN THE AMERICAS

REPORT TO PERMANENT OBSERVERS 2020-2021

MARCH 2021



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**ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES**

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**Acknowledgments**

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## Table of Contents

1. Statement of the OAS Secretary General
2. Key Outcomes
  - 2.1 Dialogue of the GA Heads of Delegation of Member States with Permanent Observers
  - 2.2 Permanent Council with Permanent Observers
3. Engagements and Events with Observers
4. What Our Partners Say About Working with the OAS
5. OAS Programming 2021
6. Benefits of Partnering with the OAS
7. Acknowledgment to our Partners and Contributors
8. Special Acknowledgment to Permanent Observers 2020

# 1. Statement of the OAS Secretary General

Over five decades, 71 States and the European Union have acquired Permanent Observer status to the Organization of American States (OAS). These Permanent Observers have supported the Organization's role as a guarantor of democracy, champion of human rights, and staunch promoter of security and development. The involvement of Permanent Observers in active dialogue with our 34 Member States and in projects of the Organization has allowed us to bring about real and impactful change to the lives of millions of people across Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC).

In our complex and interdependent world, more Permanent Observers have found in the OAS a trusted partner for their work in LAC - which constitutes a palpable recognition of our work. We serve as a facilitator for effective cooperation between Permanent Observers and LAC countries, particularly for Observer States that do not have an extended presence in all countries of the Western Hemisphere.

Today, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, we face an unprecedented combination of global challenges that are impossible for any single State or region to overcome. In such a context, continued strategic dialogue and exchange with the Permanent Observers has become ever-more relevant and necessary.

The devastating consequences of the pandemic call on us to build a new era of solidarity at the global level. We must strengthen existing partnerships and forge new ones. We must ensure greater exchange of information and experiences, and steadily bolster all channels of communication between OAS Member States and Observers. We must further enhance collaboration between the public, private, academic and civil society sectors with partners outside Latin America and the Caribbean in the search for joint, creative solutions.

Only by working together during the pandemic will we emerge stronger, with newer and better versions of who we were. Let the current circumstances serve as a call for action, international solidarity and inter-sectoral collaboration for the benefit of all our societies.

We thank Observers for their continued support to the OAS, and welcome their role in helping us build post-COVID-19 resilience.



**Luis Almagro**  
**Secretary General**  
**Organization of American States**



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## 2. Key Outcomes

### 2.1. Dialogue of the Heads of Delegation of Member States, the Secretary General and Assistant Secretary General with Permanent Observers



In the context of the October 2020 OAS General Assembly, the Dialogue of the Heads of Delegation of Member States, the Secretary General and Assistant Secretary General with Permanent Observers took place as a special opportunity to focus on the COVID-19 pandemic and the particular needs of the Caribbean, Central and South American countries. Permanent Observers emphasized the importance of international cooperation and highlighted the work that the OAS carries out in strengthening democracy, protecting human rights, fostering integral development and ensuring multidimensional security in the Western Hemisphere.

Under the General Assembly's theme *"Facing the Challenges of COVID-19 in the Hemisphere: A Collaborative Approach to Address Vulnerabilities"*



*and Build Resilience in Times of Crisis, Based on the Four Pillars of the OAS,”* Permanent Observers further reiterated their commitment to continue contributing to the Organization’s ongoing efforts to combat inequalities in the region, and protecting the rights of vulnerable populations such as indigenous people, migrants, children and women. Moreover, they reaffirmed their will to work together with the OAS to combat corruption, criminal activities, terrorism and climate change.

Member States raised the most pressing challenges facing them: the disproportionate damage caused by natural disasters in the region, which severely impacts the overall growth of many nations. Member States highlighted how the COVID-19 pandemic has served to deepen vulnerabilities – especially on OAS Member States’ efforts to build resilience. It was noted that Caribbean and Central American States have been particularly touched by the devastating effects of the recurrent natural disasters they face due to their geographical location.

Permanent Observers addressed this issue by highlighting the importance of the creation of new climate finance pledges and ambitious adaptation plans for the most climate-vulnerable countries and communities. Furthermore, they called on the importance to build a sense of greater urgency for all countries to build on the Paris Agreement commitments and to work on building Sustainable Development.

It was also noted that the OAS has been able to continue its work on flagship programs and to continue achieving life-changing milestones for the peoples of the Americas thanks to the valuable contributions of Permanent Observers.

Therefore, during the dialogue, OAS Member States and Permanent Observers emphasized the need for increased solidarity and cooperation to face the emerging challenges in a pandemic and post-pandemic world.



*Facing the Challenges of COVID-19 in the Hemisphere: A Collaborative Approach to Address Vulnerabilities and Build Resilience in Times of Crisis, Based on the Four Pillars of the OAS.”*



## 2.2 Fourth Permanent Council Meeting Dedicated to the Permanent Observers

On June 8, 2020, the OAS Permanent Council held a special virtual meeting dedicated to Permanent Observers centered on the dialogue on cooperation, sharing of information and the promotion of partnerships.

OAS Secretary General Luis Almagro and the Chair of the Permanent Council and Representative of Haiti, Ambassador Leon Charles, opened the dialogue with Observers, which highlighted national responses to the COVID-19 crisis and cooperation. The meeting included presentations by Permanent Observers from Spain, Italy, France, the Holy See, the European Union, Switzerland, Japan, South Korea, the United Kingdom, Qatar and China. Permanent Observers highlighted the importance of working on a collaborative response to the crisis under the principles of solidarity and cooperation. They reaffirmed their commitment to the Americas and to the OAS as a guarantor of democracy and human rights in the region.

Moreover, the meeting was an opportunity for Permanent Observers to receive first-hand information from OAS Member States on how the pandemic had affected their peoples and their economies. It was also an opportunity for Member States to once again acknowledge Permanent Observers for their support to OAS activities and projects and to encourage them to continue forging partnerships to assist the most vulnerable populations in the Americas.



### 3. Engagements and Events with Observers

#### EU-OAS High-Level Dialogue



The OAS and the European Union (EU) held their Sixth High-Level Dialogue on December 7, 2020. The meeting was led by Secretary General Luis Almagro and EEAS Managing Director for the Americas, Brian Glynn. OAS Chief of Staff Gonzalo Koncke, President of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights Joel Hernandez, EU Deputy Managing Director Javier Niño and senior officers from both institutions also participated. The current status of the political landscape in the region, human rights, transnational challenges and Electoral Cooperation and Observation Missions were among the topics discussed. The EU highlighted the importance of the transatlantic partnership and their will to further strengthen cooperation with the OAS and its Member States while jointly addressing pressing issues such as climate change, transnational crime, migration, forced displacement and the defense of human rights. Senior OAS officers also presented the work they carry out on these important issues, and discussed ways to set the path for future partnerships and cooperation.



#### Spain Assumes the Leadership of the MIRPS Support Platform 2020-2021



In June 2020, Spain assumed the leadership of the MIRPS support platform which was established in December 2019 within the framework of the first World Refugee Forum to support the efforts of the MIRPS countries (Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Panama). MIRPS seeks to provide protection and seek solutions for those displaced by violence in Central America and Mexico. Spain has been an ally to MIRPS countries, the OAS and UNHCR in mobilizing support from other actors at the international and national levels, including the public and private sectors. Spain's work plan has sought to channel support from a wide range of States, international financial institutions, regional bodies and other actors to provide protection and solutions for displaced persons in Central America and Mexico.

France Organizes Webinar on *Caribbean Maritime Economies: Climate and Biodiversity Challenges*



The Permanent Mission of France to the OAS, the Executive Secretariat of Integral Development and the Office for Science and Technology of the Embassy of France in the United States celebrated the 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Paris Agreement with a Webinar focusing on "Caribbean Maritime Economies: Climate and Biodiversity Challenges". High-level experts from different countries and organizations discussed ocean ecosystem vulnerability, climate change, rising sea level, plastic pollution issues and their impacts on the Caribbean maritime economies.



Italy Intensifies the Focus on a Global and Multidimensional Strategy



In 2020, Italy launched the "COVID-19 Food Coalition" within the Rome-based Food and Agriculture Organization, encouraging OAS Member States to join this initiative tackling the adverse effects of the pandemic on food security. As stated by Italy's Deputy Foreign Minister, Marina Sereni, during the Dialogue that preceded the 50<sup>th</sup> General Assembly: "Italy is committed to a concerted, global and multidimensional strategy to fight the pandemic." Today, this is also the focus of Italy's G20 Presidency towards a sustainable recovery, while also building a positive environmental agenda thanks to Italy's co-chairmanship of the COP26 with the UK in 2021. As a founding member of the EU, in 2020 Italy continued to revitalize inter-regional dialogue, including through the planning of the 10<sup>th</sup> Italy - Latin America and Caribbean Conference to be held in October 2021. Despite the pandemic, in 2020 Italy strengthened its cooperation with the OAS in key areas such as: electoral observation; fighting corruption; police cooperation; contrasting transnational crime; drug rehabilitation; defending human rights; peace missions; women's leadership, and disaster risk reduction.

**Holy See in the Special Session to Share Lessons-Learned and Exchange Good Practices for the Advancement of the Regional Dialogue on Freedom of Thought, Conscience and Religion or Belief**



During the Special Session to Share Lessons-Learned and Exchange Good Practices for the Advancement of Regional Dialogue on Freedom of Thought, Conscience and Religion or Belief celebrated on February 20, 2020, Monsignor Mark Miles intervened to affirm and renew his Delegation's support to the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief. During the intervention, the Holy See reiterated its commitment to working with the Organization and its Member States for the promotion and respect of human dignity and religious freedom all throughout the Hemisphere.

**High-Level Meeting of the MAPP with Switzerland**



On July 30, 2020, a team from the OAS Mission to Support the Peace Process in Colombia (MAPP), led by the Chief of Mission, Mr. Roberto Menéndez, met with the Human Security Division of the Swiss Federal Department of Federal Affairs represented by its Director, Ambassador Simon Geissbühler. During the meeting, the MAPP team presented the Swiss delegation with a brief overview of the situation on the ground, advancements and perceived challenges. Switzerland pledged to continue to actively support the MAPP efforts through additional contributions for two years, and by putting two Swiss experts at MAPP's disposal.



### Clingendael Academy Training 2020



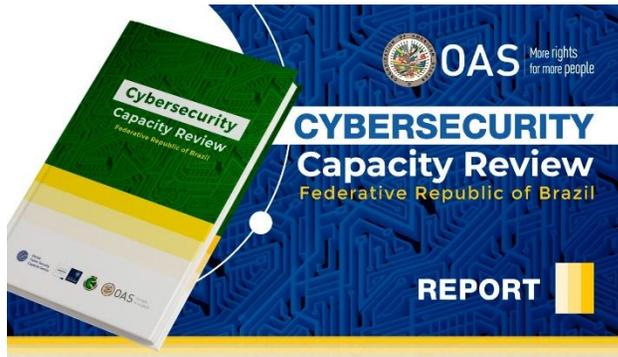
In March 2020, the Permanent Observer Mission of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, together with the Clingendael Academy, provided a week-long training to OAS Member States' Ambassadors and diplomats in The Hague. This training was an opportunity to provide diplomatic personnel with valuable skills ranging from multi-cultural negotiations to strategic planning. This training served as an additional example of the close relations between the Netherlands and the Americas, and its active partnership with the OAS.

### OAS and Korea hold a Meeting to Exchange Experiences on Elections during Pandemic



The OAS and the Government of the Republic of Korea held a virtual meeting in August to learn from South Korea's successful experience in holding elections during the COVID-19 pandemic. The meeting, organized with support from the Korean Permanent Observer Mission and Korea's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, included presentations by senior officials from the Korean National Electoral Commission (NEC). The Chief of Staff of the OAS Secretary General, Gonzalo Koncke, said that the valuable lessons learned would help the Organization and its Member States strengthen the institutional capacities of their electoral bodies during the pandemic to safeguard the continuity of democratic processes. The Director of the Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation of the OAS, Gerardo de Icaza, shared the experiences of the OAS Electoral Observation Missions during the first semester of 2020, as well as the publication of the Guide to Organizing Elections in times of Pandemic.

OAS and the Government of the United Kingdom presented Report on the Maturity of Cybersecurity in Brazil



The Organization of American States (OAS), together with representatives of the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil and the Government of the United Kingdom, presented the report "Review of Cybersecurity Capabilities of the Federative Republic of Brazil." The report, developed by the Cybersecurity Program of the OAS Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) and the Cybersecurity Center of the University of Oxford, evaluated five specific dimensions to determine the level of preparedness of Brazil, through consultations with government agencies and the national Cybersecurity Incident Response Teams. This is the first time that this methodology has been implemented in a specific country.

Germany provides Support to Constitutional Reform in Haiti



OEA Haiti retwitteó  
**CCI-Nouvelle Constitution** @CCI HaitiConst · 17 dic. 2020  
 CCI a kontinye kwaze lide jodi a sou sistèm elektoral la. Li rankontre ak Rektè Jean Robert CHARLES ki se alatèt CORPUHA, prezidan chanm komès depatman Sant, vis prezidan chanm komès ak endistri #Haiti. Li te debat tou ak Cristobal Dupouy espesyalis @OEA Haiti nan kesyon eleksyon



The Federal Republic of Germany supports a wide variety of OAS programs and projects every year. This year, one of its various contributions was destined to support an important project for Constitutional Reform in Haiti.

## Donor Roundtable to Present the DECO 2020-2021 Work Plan



OAS Electoral Observation Missions are an essential instrument for strengthening democracy in the Americas and are a flagship program of the Organization, having deployed more than 270 electoral missions in 28 Member States since 1962. During our donor roundtable meetings, the Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation Missions (DECO) presented the 2020 elections calendar in the region and elaborated on the work being carried out to deploy missions with the technical requirements necessary to reach their objectives (expert methodologies; national coverage; statistical sampling, etc.). DECO also announced that it anticipated the deployment of no less than 10 EOMs from the moment of the meeting until the end of 2021. The implementation and deployment of OAS/EOMs, as well as the analysis, publication and distribution of OAS/EOM findings and recommendations have immediate, intermediate and long-term results for the strengthening of democracy in the Americas.



## Virtual Donor Roundtable Meeting to Present OAS Project in Haiti



The OAS General Secretariat, together with the Permanent Mission of Haiti to the OAS, organized a virtual donor roundtable meeting with the participation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Haiti, H.E. Claude Joseph, to present the project **“Supporting Haiti’s Office of National Identification (ONI) in the re-registration, issuing and distribution of the new national identification card.”** During the meeting, Minister Joseph presented an overview of this important project, which seeks to support Haiti’s ONI in providing re-registration services for Haitian citizens, and the issuance and delivery of new *Cartes d’Identification Nationale*. Taking into account the OAS’ experience in identification processes in Haiti, ONI has requested technical cooperation from the OAS to reenroll, issue and distribute more than 6 million new ID cards. During the meeting OAS Member States and Permanent Observers expressed their support to the ONI and highlighted the importance of registration and identification for strengthening democracy in the country.

## 4. What Our Partners Say about Working with the OAS



**Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and for Ibero-America and the Caribbean of Spain-Cristina Gallach:** “Spain has been able to maintain its commitment and solidarity with this Organization and with its Member States in order to seek solutions that must be articulated at all levels, political, economic, health and civic in order to be effective.”



**Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy - Marina Sereni:** “We consider the OAS a unique forum where the democratic, human rights, security and development agenda of the region can and should be advanced. We want to be your best allies in this endeavor.”



**Ambassador of France, Permanent Observer – Anne de la Blache:** “Today's global challenges can only be overcome through cooperation between our regions. I emphasize on our support for the commitment of Observers to multilateralism and cooperation.”



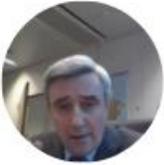
**Holy See Representative to the OAS – Monsignor Mark Miles:** “The Holy See recognizes the efforts of this Organization to promote solidarity among peoples in the common fight against this pandemic.”



**Prime Minister of Aruba, Evelyn Wever-Croes:** “The Netherlands continues to show strong commitment to the OAS efforts to strengthen democracy by supporting EOM’s and reaffirming our strong commitment to support the work of the OAS in the promotion of Human Rights and the IACHR.”



**Minister for European Neighbourhood and the Americas of the United Kingdom – Wendy Morton:** “The OAS is the oldest and most respected international organisation in the Americas making a valuable contribution to some of the biggest challenges in the region’s history with the full support of its permanent observers.”



**EEAS Acting Managing Director for the Americas – Javier Niño:** "We in the EU will remain committed to supporting any initiative that is developed from the multilateral sphere and will continue to support the OAS from its four pillars".



**Director of the Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of Germany - Marian Schuegraf:** "The COVID 19 pandemic has created an extremely worrying situation in the region. In this alarming crisis Germany doubles her efforts as a partner for the region and the OAS".



**Ambassador of Switzerland, Permanent Observer - Jacques Pitteloud:** "Switzerland is happy to collaborate with the OAS, an organization we consider crucial for the entire Western Hemisphere. We are happy to share common values, such as the rule of law and democracy, the protection of individual liberties and human rights."



**Ambassador of Sweden, Permanent Observer – Karin Olofsdotter:** "We thank the OAS for deploying Observation missions to oversee and strengthen electoral processes in the hemisphere and its presence is a testimony to the OAS unrelenting commitment to improve and defend democracy."



**Ambassador of Korea, Permanent Observer- Seoung-hyun Moon:** "The OAS has demonstrated its leadership by carrying out a number of activities on the ground that yielded tangible and concrete results, including Electoral Observation Missions, antidrug and anti-corruption campaigns, and education and training programs supporting governance and human rights."



## 5. Programming of the General Secretariat and the IACHR - 2021

- SECRETARIAT FOR STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY (SSD)
- INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS (IACHR)
- INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN (CIM)
- SECRETARIAT FOR ACCESS TO RIGHTS & EQUITY (SARE)
- EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT FOR INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT (SEDI)
- SECRETARIAT FOR MULTIDIMENSIONAL SECURITY (SMS)
- SECRETARIAT FOR HEMISPHERIC AFFAIRS (SHA)
- SECRETARIAT FOR LEGAL AFFAIRS (SLA)

Secretariat for Strengthening Democracy (SSD)

## 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Inter-American Democratic Charter

### RELEVANCE/IMPORTANCE

In the face of the current COVID-19 crisis, democratic principles, values, and mechanisms continue to be the best way to find legitimate and consensual responses to overcome the challenges the pandemic. Countries have a better chance of recovering from exceptional circumstances caused by conflicts, natural disasters or health emergencies when there is a solid democratic basis, strong state institutions and a clear separation of powers.

### BACKGROUND

The Inter-American Democratic Charter (IDC) contains all the principles that inspire the democratic actions of the peoples of the Americas and that now, more than ever, must be reaffirmed. The 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the IDC is the perfect opportunity to evaluate the achievements of this valuable instrument, as well as to open a public debate about its future, and the new challenges democracy faces. The Inter-American Democratic Charter, adopted on September 11, 2001, in Lima, Peru, is the affirmation that democracy is and should be the common form of government for all countries of the Americas, and it represents a collective commitment to maintaining and strengthening the democratic system in the region. The Charter defines democracy and its relationship to integral development and the war on poverty, and it specifies how it should be defended when under threat. Moreover, it promotes a democratic culture and it pays special attention to “Democracy and Electoral Observation Missions.” In these difficult times, Member States are called to lead and defend the democratic process.

### Scope of Action:

- ✓ Through different activities during 2021, recognize the significance of the IDC by analyzing its future challenges and possibilities in order to continue contributing to the democratic sustainability in the Hemisphere.
- ✓ Commemorative publication of the 20 years of the IDC that evaluates its achievements and performance during the last two decades, analyzes the current democratic context in the region, and presents scenarios for what is coming in the next 20 years.
- ✓ “Code of Good Practices in Electoral Matters” as per OAS/GA Resolution 5656/19. With the purpose of disseminating the content of the Code, different activities will be carried out with several stakeholders, including governments, electoral authorities and political and civil society organizations, among others.



- ❖ **Years of Execution:** 2021
- ❖ **Budget:** Approx. \$406,437.00
- ❖ **Beneficiary Countries:**  
OAS Member States

### Contributing Partners

- OAS Member States

Secretariat for Strengthening Democracy (SSD)

## OAS Electoral Observation Missions (OAS/EOMs)

### RELEVANCE/IMPORTANCE

OAS/EOMs are the only mechanisms in the hemisphere that both observe elections and collaborate with countries at all stages of the electoral cycle to implement these missions' recommendations.

- Pre-electoral phase and Election Day: experts and observers gather data and present their findings to electoral authorities. Their presence also helps to ensure that the opposition is heard, that irregularities are reported, and that elections are not unjustifiably questioned.
- Post-electoral phase: EOMs provide vital information that increases the awareness of electoral authorities regarding the strengths and weaknesses of their electoral processes.
- In between elections: The OAS Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation (DECO) works with electoral management bodies to improve their electoral systems by implementing EOM recommendations.

### BACKGROUND

Since 1962, the GS/OAS has observed more than 270 electoral processes at all political levels in 28 of its Member States. Over this time, the OAS has standardized its observation procedures and developed methodologies to observe all facets of the electoral cycle and issue specific recommendations to countries on how to strengthen their electoral systems and processes. From 1999-2015, close to half of all OAS/EOM recommendations were totally or partially implemented by electoral authorities.

### Scope of Action:

#### 2020

- ✓ Nine EOMs deployed to seven countries (four missions deployed during the pandemic)
- ✓ 267 experts and international observers (121 women and 146 men)
- ✓ 215 specific recommendations issued to Member State electoral authorities on how to improve their electoral systems

#### 2021

- ✓ 14 possible elections to observe in the Americas



- ❖ **Years of Execution:** 2021
- ❖ **Budget:** Approx. \$4 million
- ❖ **Beneficiary Countries:**
  - Ecuador
  - El Salvador
  - Haiti
  - Honduras
  - Mexico
  - Peru

### Contributing Partners

- SSD/DECO works with a multilateral donor base of over 20 countries, including both Member States and Permanent Observers.
- More than 95% of EOM funding is received from specific contributions.

Secretariat for Strengthening Democracy (SSD)

## Mission to Support the International Commission against Impunity in El Salvador (CICIES)

### RELEVANCE/IMPORTANCE

The International Commission against Impunity in El Salvador (CICIES) aims to actively collaborate with State institutions and non-state actors in El Salvador to work on prevention, investigation and collaboration to sanction acts of corruption and other related crimes. CICIES develops coordinated work strategies focused on capacity building at different levels of society to achieve the abovementioned goals. The “CICIES - GOES Project: COVID19 Emergency” constitutes an innovative audit mechanism in the region auditing the funds destined to the pandemic relief.

### BACKGROUND

In September 2019, the Government of El Salvador and the OAS General Secretariat signed a series of agreements in order to guarantee the operation of an Advanced Mission for the installation of the International Commission against Impunity in El Salvador. At the request of the Government of El Salvador, since April 16, 2020, CICIES provides technical assistance and monitoring of the execution of funds destined to attend the health emergency of COVID-19.

### Scope of Action:

- ✓ Significant projects of legal reform to El Salvador’s anticorruption system have been negotiated.
- ✓ Execution of agreements with relevant counterparts within the Salvadoran government including the Supreme Court of Justice, the General Prosecutor of the Republic, the Ministry of Justice and Public Security.
- ✓ The General Prosecutor’s Office requested CICIES technical assistance in the investigation of three high-impact cases.
- ✓ “CICIES-GOES Project COVID-19 Emergency”, has audited more than 11 government agencies and 2 autonomous institutions. It has audited more than 91% of the funds allocated to the pandemic relief. CICIES has flagged three cases of possible corruption within the management of the funds.



- ❖ **Years of Execution:**  
2019 - 2021
- ❖ **Budget:**  
\$15,803,056.00
- ❖ **Beneficiary Countries:**  
El Salvador

### Contributing Partners

- El Salvador
- Luxembourg
- United States
- Italy

Secretariat for Strengthening Democracy (SSD)

## Peacebuilding in the Americas in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

### RELEVANCE/IMPORTANCE

The OAS recently reviewed its peacebuilding structure and created the Department for the Promotion of Peace, in an effort to play a more proactive role in the prevention aspect of conflict management by identifying the root causes of conflict; detecting at-risk areas and populations; and expanding its training and capacity building opportunities in mediation and other peace-based mechanisms so that state and non-state actors can develop the skills necessary to resolve conflict non-violently. This project proposal aims to lay the groundwork for the establishment of a comprehensive conflict prevention strategy so that it may evolve into a regional peacebuilding agenda where cooperation, exchanges, and seeking common ground for the sake of peace are the central drivers.



### BACKGROUND

The hemispheric body which guides the Americas today has been evolving over the last 200 years, but despite its evolution, and its more recent focus on democracy and human rights, its core motivation and purpose have remained the same: the attainment and maintenance of peace and prosperity in the region. Although there are not any open wars in the Hemisphere, the Americas cannot boast that it is a peaceful region when it has some of the highest rates of violence in the world. The daily threats to democratic governance are wearing down the young republics of the region and fueling social and political tension in the Member States. They also have the potential of quickly escalating internally, as well as of acquiring an international dynamic should they spread across national borders, posing even a greater menace to regional stability.

- ❖ **Years of Execution:** 4 years
- ❖ **Budget:** Approx. \$145,400.00
- ❖ **Beneficiary Countries:**  
OAS Member States

### Scope of Action:

- ✓ The Mechanism for the Prevention of Conflicts (MEPRECON) or OAS Peace Lab: This early warning system will work to identify the root causes of tensions and situations which could lead to violent conflict, as well as vulnerable and at-risk areas.
- ✓ The Program of Education for Peace in the Hemisphere: The main purpose of this program is to foster a process for developing values, knowledge, beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors among the population conducive to a stronger democratic political culture and a culture of peace.

### Contributing Partners

- OAS Member States
- Subnational governments
- Carnegie Foundation
- University of Kent
- Forum of Federations



Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR)

## Strengthening the Petitions and Cases System, Friendly Settlements and Precautionary Measures (OE1 Strategic Plan 2017-2021)

### RELEVANCE/IMPORTANCE

The IACHR has a unique mechanism for the protection of human rights in the region, which is the system of petitions and cases and friendly settlements. The system has proven to be successful in term of reparation to the victims. Through the petition and case system, the IACHR receives complaints, and it must decide whether allegations constitute human rights violations on the part of the State concerned. To that end, the IACHR investigates the situation and makes determinations of fact and law, and issues recommendations to the State in case it is found to be responsible, so that the enjoyment of human rights can be reestablished to the possible extent to prevent repetition of the violations. By granting precautionary measures, the Commission gives protection in situations of seriousness and urgency that present a risk of irreparable harm to persons or to the object of a petition.

### BACKGROUND

One major challenge to be addressed in this project is to provide the IACHR with the capacity to attend the increasing demand of work in the protection and promotion of human rights in the Americas. Every year, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights receives more than 2,000 new petitions, a number that is upwardly trending annually. The IACHR presents and participates in all phases of contentious cases and also plays an active role in requests for advisory opinions and provisional measures before the Inter-American Court.

### Achievements / Results:

- ✓ Petition and Cases: Evaluation of Petitions to avoid the delay in the initial study stage; Continuing expanding and strengthening measures to reduce the backlog in admissibility and Merit; Unit of Management and Attention to Users of the system of petitions and cases operating.
- ✓ Friendly Settlements: Dissemination of the friendly settlement mechanism among users of the Inter-American Human Rights System; Facilitation of friendly settlement processes issue; Follow-up on friendly settlement agreements.
- ✓ Precautionary Measures: Making decision in a timely and expeditious manner to new requests for precautionary measures; Following up the compliance by the States of precautionary measures already granted; Developing manuals and protocols for users.



❖ **Years of Execution:** 2017-2021

❖ **Budget:** \$3,535,302

❖ **Beneficiary Countries:** 35 countries in the Americas

### Contributing Partners

- European Commission
- Ireland
- United States
- Netherlands

*Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR)*

## Contributing to the Prevention of the Factors that give rise to Human Rights Violations in the region through improving the monitoring capacity on the Human Rights Situation in the Hemisphere (OE2 Strategic Plan 2017-2021)

### RELEVANCE/IMPORTANCE

Monitoring work has been essential to protect human rights and prevent violations. Through the Inter-American System of Human Rights mechanisms, the IACHR identifies risk factors and structural or systematic situations that impact the enjoyment of human rights in the Hemisphere and issues recommendations for States to overcome the situation.

### BACKGROUND

The recommendations and pronouncements of the IACHR have a binding force for States that derives from mandates of international treaties that have been signed by the States. In a context of complex and changing situations in the field in terms of access to human rights, the systematization, integration and standardization of methodological strategies of the monitoring work will improve the capacities of the IACHR.

### Scope of Action:

- ✓ Integrated Monitoring mechanism on the situation of human rights (Working Visits, On-site Visits, Public Hearings, Thematic Reports, Country reports, Press releases, Communications art 41 and 18, Annual Report on the Situation of Human Rights).
- ✓ Increased information management skills to prevent factors that might lead to human rights violations, including design and implementation of the information management policy, methodologies and protocols on information management developed to conduct the monitoring enriched with gender approach.
- ✓ Increased capacity of the IACHR to respond promptly to ongoing human rights crises with gender approach through protocols for rapid response mechanism for ongoing and emerging crises enriched with gender approach, action plans prepared for SACROIs and courses of action to attend emergent crisis of human rights implemented.



- ❖ **Years of Execution:** 2017-2021
- ❖ **Budget:** \$8,673,500 Annual
- ❖ **Beneficiary Countries:**
- ❖ 35 countries in the Americas

### Contributing Partners

- United States
- Netherlands
- Spain
- Mexico
- France
- UNHCR
- Wellspring/Trust for the Americas

*Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR)*

## Combating Discrimination and Violence Against Women and Girls in Latin America and The Caribbean

### RELEVANCE/IMPORTANCE

Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) hold one of the highest rates of violence against women and girls in the world, added to the fact that there has been a regression in Human Rights (HR) in the region that has led to deterioration of the enjoyment of HR of women and girls. The Inter-American Commission of Human Rights (IACHR) responded by implementing the project “Combating Discrimination and Violence against Women and Girls in Latin America and the Caribbean” since 2017.

### BACKGROUND

The project addresses three components: 1) Protecting women and girls who are at imminent risk in order to avert irreparable harm to their rights to life and integrity; 2) Promoting justice for women and girls who have petitioned the IACHR to resolve rights violations; and, 3) Helping Member States meet their obligations to prevent, protect against, investigate, and act to address historical and structural discrimination, inequality and violence against women and girls. The ultimate outcome of this initiative is to contribute to increased enjoyment of human rights (HR) by women and girls in LAC.

### Scope of Action:

Some of the results to be highlighted include:

- ✓ At least 40 structural measures adopted by Member States to protect the rights of women and girls.
- ✓ Approximately 26,536 persons protected with the granting and/or extensions of precautionary measures, with particular focus on women and girls.
- ✓ The Report “Violence and Discrimination against Women and Girls: Best Practices and Challenges in Latin America and the Caribbean” was prepared and approved. The Report identifies and examines the most significant advancements, major challenges and best practices to comply with IACHR recommendations on violence and discrimination against women and girls, through an intersectional approach, focused on the causes and consequences of these violations of the rights of women and girls.
- ✓ Conducted a series of country visits, including visits to El Salvador, Colombia, Peru, Jamaica, The Bahamas, Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados and Uruguay.



- ❖ **Years of Execution:** 2017-2021
- ❖ **Budget:** \$3,443,609 CAD
- ❖ **Beneficiary Countries:**
- ❖ 35 countries in the Americas

### Contributing Partners

- Canada

*Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR)*

## Strengthening Governance and Human Rights with an Emphasis on Vulnerable Populations in Central American Countries Phase II

### RELEVANCE/IMPORTANCE

The Commission has warned that exceptional and disproportionately high levels of crime and violence have been reported in the region in the last decade as a result, not exclusively - but in many cases related to, the rise of groups acting outside the institutional and legal frameworks, operating clandestinely and controlling large areas of territory. Added to this factor, the situation of human rights defenders in the Northern Triangle countries is also of great concern. It has been identified that people who defend territories, natural resources and the environment are at particular risk. As a result, the IACHR has decided to implement the present project.

### BACKGROUND

The project addresses three components: 1) Recommendations to States to address the human rights situation of vulnerable groups; 2) Protection mechanisms and measures taken for the human rights defenders in the Northern Triangle; 3) Mechanisms to follow up on the recommendations of the Reports on the Human Rights Situation and Precautionary Measures in force in the Northern Triangle and Nicaragua. The ultimate goal of this project is to contribute to combat impunity, prevent human rights violations and strengthen shared governance around natural resources, prioritizing vulnerable groups.

### Achievements / Results:

Some of the results to be highlighted include:

- ✓ Recommendations issued through the elaboration of thematic reports for States to adhere to human rights international standards for the protection of women, youth, indigenous people, afro-descendants, among others.
- ✓ Guidelines for the Investigation of Violations of the Rights of Human Rights Defenders in the Americas prepared and recommendations issued for the protection of human rights defenders in participating countries.
- ✓ Technical assistance provided and Special Technical Advisory Board established in participating countries.
- ✓ In-loco visit to El Salvador carried out.



❖ **Years of Execution:** 2019-2022

❖ **Budget:** \$2,600,000.00

❖ **Beneficiary Countries:**

El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala and Nicaragua

### Contributing Partners

- Switzerland

Executive Secretariat of The Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM/OAS)

## Women's Economic Rights and Security: Strengthening the Legal Framework

### RELEVANCE/IMPORTANCE

This project seeks to strengthen the legal and regulatory framework on the economic rights of women through analysis and sectoral dialogue. Particular attention is paid to the current and future economic impacts of COVID-19, with a view to formulating and supporting the implementation of practical recommendations for the creation of a broad hemispheric legal instrument that ensures the full exercise of women's economic rights and their empowerment and autonomy.

### BACKGROUND

The COVID-19 crisis has had devastating impacts on the global economy, which are not gender neutral. As the pandemic has affected the economic sectors where women are concentrated - the service sector, the informal economy, domestic work, tourism - it has also turned the care-giving crisis into a global emergency. Together, these two realities have the potential to reverse many of the gains made by women in recent decades. This situation requires affirmative actions, clear and forceful public policies, and the leadership of women in the post-COVID mitigation and recovery process.

### Scope of Action:

- ✓ High-level policy dialogues organized with a variety of stakeholders and over 300 participants in order to examine women's economic rights and participation and the impacts of COVID-19.
- ✓ Expert group meetings will be organized by sector – care-giving, the private sector, the informal economy, domestic work, tourism, agriculture and technology – to analyze the impacts of COVID-19 and persistent legal, regulatory and other barriers to women's full and equal participation.
- ✓ Reports will be produced and a comprehensive legal instrument on women's economic rights drafted for discussion.
- ✓ Awareness-raising and capacity-building materials will be produced on the basis of the reports and legal instruments.



- ❖ **Years of Execution:** 2 years
- ❖ **Budget:** US\$ 157,068
- ❖ **Beneficiary Countries:**  
All OAS Member States

### Contributing Partners

- France

Executive Secretariat of The Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM/OAS)

## Inter-American Program to Strengthen Democracy and Women's Leadership

### RELEVANCE/IMPORTANCE

With this training program, the CIM seeks to contribute to strengthening the effective exercise of women's political rights and promote their access and permanence in government positions, while supporting the recognition of women's contributions to politics and differentiated styles of leadership. The program provides training and tools with a gender perspective to strengthen women's performance in electoral campaigns, and in the exercise of government positions, with the launch of an academic initiative on leadership and public policies.

### BACKGROUND

The majority of women are still unable to effectively exercise their right to be elected and to hold government positions in State institutions, as a result of the persistence of discrimination and political violence and despite the significant boost that parity laws have brought about. In this context, in 2018 the CIM launched its Course for Electoral Candidates and seeks to expand the training program to include women already in elected office and other government positions.

#### Scope of Action:

- ✓ From 2018-2020, organization of eleven editions of the Course for Electoral Candidates, with training provided to over 500 women to strengthen their ability to manage a successful electoral campaign, confront gender-based political violence and incorporate gender equality and women's rights issues.
- ✓ Training modules will be developed on political communication and social media management, gender stereotypes and the media, feminist ethics and leadership, political violence, decision-making, negotiation, crisis and conflict management, campaign financing, speech writing, and branding and marketing.
- ✓ Over 2,500 women electoral candidates and government officials will be trained to run for elected office and govern from the perspective of gender equality and women's rights. Women's leadership will be comprehensively analyzed and concrete tools developed to foster ethical, feminist leadership.



- ❖ **Years of Execution:** 5 years
- ❖ **Budget:** US\$ 1,352,966
- ❖ **Beneficiary Countries:**  
  
(To-date) Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico (3), Panama, Peru.  
  
Open to all OAS Member States

#### Contributing Partners

- Mexico
- Italy
- Spain
- National Electoral Institutes of the participating countries
- Women's machineries of the participating countries

Executive Secretariat of The Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM/OAS)

## Strengthening National Machineries and the OAS to integrate gender, diversity, and rights in public policy

### RELEVANCE/IMPORTANCE

Twenty-five years ago, the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995) prioritized the incorporation of the gender perspective as a fundamental element in achieving gender equality commitments. Twenty years ago, in the Americas, the OAS adopted the Inter-American Program for the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality (IAP, 2000) to guide its own efforts at both the national and institutional levels. With this project, the CIM aims to strengthen both the National Machineries for the Advancement of Women and the General Secretariat of the OAS to fill some of the persistent gaps in the effective implementation of the IAP. Analysis of progress, identification of good practices, formulation of concrete recommendations, capacity-building and political dialogue on the way forward will allow us to build on the progress made to-date.

### BACKGROUND

Since the adoption of the IAP, significant progress has been made in the capacity of the National Machineries for the Advancement of Women to advance gender equality and women's rights issues in the formulation and implementation of public policy. Similarly, the OAS has made important strides in many of its areas of work. In both cases however, progress has been slow on some thematic issues, and the National Machineries still do not have the capacity or authority to ensure that gender, diversity and rights are at the core of public policy-making in all fields.

### Scope of Action:

- ✓ Increased advocacy for mainstreaming to convince key stakeholders in public administration and the GS/OAS of the importance of mainstreaming.
- ✓ Support provided to planning and budgeting in order to carry out mainstreaming effectively and sustainably.
- ✓ Support for the "specialization" of mainstreaming, through capacity-building and the development of specific tools, to deepen work by themes/sectors with training that goes beyond the basic concepts of gender and women's human rights.



❖ **Years of Execution:** 3 years

❖ **Budget:** US\$ 551,236

❖ **Beneficiary Countries:**

Open to all OAS Member States  
General Secretariat of the OAS

### Contributing Partners

- Liechtenstein
- China

*Executive Secretariat of The Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM/OAS)*

## Breaking the Circle of Violence against Women: Prevention, Punishment and Eradication in the Northern Triangle

FOLLOW-UP MECHANISM TO THE BELEM DO PARA CONVENTION (MESECVI)

### RELEVANCE/IMPORTANCE

It is essential to build and strengthen political and social leadership capacities of women and girls from different groups in situations of vulnerability, for the recognition, exercise and defense of their human rights. Initiatives that strengthen women's economic, political and social empowerment contribute to reducing the risk factors for violence against women while also placing women at the center of policy- and decision-making processes on their rights and their lives. In the context of supporting and strengthening the implementation of the Inter-American Convention of the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (Belem do Para Convention), this project aims to strengthen State capacities to effectively prevent, address and punish violence against women in the Northern Triangle.

### BACKGROUND

Violence in the Northern Triangle of Central America has been a primary concern for the OAS; in particular, the violence lived by women, girls, members of indigenous and Afro-descendant communities, people with disabilities and survivors of all forms of sexual and gender-based violence, among others. The Committee of Experts of the MESECVI has worked to highlight the way in which this violence has a differentiated impact on the lives of women and girls. In this context, multiple factors directly affect women, but poverty, lack of opportunities, social violence, domestic or intra-family violence, and lack of access to justice have been core characteristics of this situation.

### Scope of Action:

- ✓ States capacities strengthened to collect, analyze and use data and other information related to the MESECVI Progress.
- ✓ Increased use of this data and information to formulate and implement public policies on violence against women from a comprehensive and intersectional perspective, with particular attention to the COVID-19 context.
- ✓ Strengthened capacity of justice administration officials to judge from a gender and inter-sectional perspective.
- ✓ Political and social leadership capacities of women and girls increased and awareness raised of their human rights.



- ❖ **Years of Execution:** 3 years
- ❖ **Budget:** US\$350,300
- ❖ **Beneficiary Countries:**  
El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras

Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity (SARE)

## Support to the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS)

### RELEVANCE/IMPORTANCE

The Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS in its Spanish acronym) is a pioneering initiative in the application of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) and a specific contribution of the region in the development of the Global Compact on Refugees. The MIRPS is composed by Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Panama, and is a State-led initiative, supported by the Organization of American States (OAS) together with the wider UN system, the UNHCR, the Central American Integration System (SICA) and other relevant partners.

### BACKGROUND

By the end of 2020, there was more than 1 million people forcibly displaced within and outside of Central American countries and Mexico, as internally displaced persons (IDPs), asylum seekers, refugees, and returnees and deportees with protection needs. Due to this situation, the MIRPS is also sustained by the MIRPS Support Platform, a mechanism for shared responsibility led by countries and multilateral bodies.

### Scope of Action:

- ✓ Created the MIRPS Fund which represents an important mechanism for resource mobilization that is crucial to implement projects to respond to the specific challenges and vulnerabilities of these populations in particular in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ✓ Developed 7 national plans and quantification exercises to respond to the needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs), asylum seekers, refugees, returnees and deportees with protection needs, and host communities.
- ✓ Established a Working Group on Internal Displacement between El Salvador, Honduras and Mexico. The MIRPS Working Group receives technical support from an expert panel composed by 4 international experts from Colombia and Italy.
- ✓ Published 3 MIRPS Annual Reports (2018, 2019 and 2020) compiling progresses in the implementation of the national commitments of the MIRPS countries as well as highlights of required additional support is needed.



- ❖ **Years of Execution:** 4 years
- ❖ **Budget:**  
OAS: \$310.400  
MIRPS Countries: \$ 52.840.638  
(multi-annual)
- ❖ **Beneficiary Countries:** Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Panama

### Contributing Partners

- UNHCR
- MIRPS Support Platform: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, France, Uruguay, Switzerland, USA, EU, ECLAC.

Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity (SARE)

## Digital Diploma in Leadership for Social Inclusion and Access to Rights

### RELEVANCE/IMPORTANCE

The challenges faced by States in the region to achieve sustainable development despite the economic and social recession due to the COVID-19 global pandemic require a comprehensive, inclusive, and intersectional approach. By empowering key actors, capacity can be built to effectively advocate for an inclusive and human rights agenda in all spaces, including government spaces, where they can more effectively influence the design and implementation of inclusive public policies for all people in the post-COVID-19 reconstruction process.

### BACKGROUND

Groups in Situation of Vulnerability (GSV) in the America's include women, people with disabilities, indigenous peoples, people of African descent, LGBTQI people, and the elderly, those living in poverty, among others, who often face intersectional forms of discrimination, which are now exacerbated as a result of the COVID-19 health pandemic. The digital diploma intends to provide training on the main international and Inter-American instruments on human rights of GSV and their scope and application, as well as the channels of participation and use of the mechanisms created for compliance.

### Scope of Action:

- ✓ Trained 150 individuals, representatives of governments, civil society, and other social actors, including people from GSVs.
- ✓ Established a network of leaders in social inclusion and access to rights.
- ✓ Raised awareness of the main concepts in the equity and social inclusion agenda, as well as in the human rights field, including the different definitions and perspectives that have been and are being applied to different GSV, to analyze their implications and impact on the social inclusion and political participation of these people.
- ✓ Identified positive and proactive political and social leadership skills, such as collaboration, negotiation, development of emotional intelligence, conflict management, advocacy strategies, digital communication, preparation of proposals, and projects, among others.



- ❖ **Years of Execution:** 2021
- ❖ **Budget:** USD \$ 120,000
- ❖ **Beneficiary Countries:** All OAS Member States

### Contributing Partners

- Canada
- OAS School of Governance

Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity (SARE)

## Supporting the Costa Rican Government's Capacity to Receive and Integrate Nicaraguan Migrants and Refugees' populations

### RELEVANCE/IMPORTANCE

The OAS is supporting the Costa Rican Government in the creation of solutions for the reception as well as the social and economic inclusion of Nicaraguan newcomers and other migrants and refugees' populations into their receiving communities. Costa Rica has been for decades the main recipient country of Nicaraguan labor migrants and of refugees fleeing their country's political conflict. Thus, the government needs to generate effective reception, humanitarian, legal protection and socioeconomic policies to respond to the associated challenges.

### BACKGROUND

According to data from the Costa Rican government, there is currently a net balance of 70,000 Nicaraguans residing in Costa Rica - taking into consideration total entries and exits from January to September of 2018, while a total of 34,598 Nicaraguans have applied for asylum in Costa Rica. In this context, the project seeks to support the Costa Rican Government to manage effectively the flows of Nicaraguan newcomers and other migrants and refugees' populations, and generate inclusion and livelihood for these populations in a dignified manner.

### Scope of Action:

- ✓ Establishment of a Group of Experts to support Costa Rican authorities in the assessment of their policies in relation to migrants and refugees, especially those from Nicaragua.
- ✓ Preparation of the report: "Costa Rica: Characterization and analysis of policies on international migration and refugees." This report will be launch on February 2021.
- ✓ Presented a set of recommendations for the Costa Rican authorities on measures to be adopted to improve their policies on international migration and refugees."
- ✓ The Unit on Refugees and Forced Displacement at the Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity (SARE) is coordinating training workshops with the support of authorities from Spain, Colombia, Brazil to strengthen the capacities of their Costa Rican counterparts for 2021.



❖ **Years of Execution:** 2

❖ **Budget:**  
USD \$367,028

❖ **Beneficiary Countries:**  
Costa Rica

### Contributing Partners

- Spanish Cooperation Fund
- Republic of Korea

Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity (SARE)

## Promoting governance focused on persons: a tool for promoting the full exercise of Economic, Social, Cultural and Environmental Rights in the Americas

### RELEVANCE/IMPORTANCE

The crisis generated by the COVID-19 pandemic, which started as a health crisis, turned into a social and economic pandemic seriously affecting the exercise of fundamental human rights such as health, education, food, work and social security, among others. The economic, social, cultural and environmental rights (ESCER) monitoring mechanism provides information that can be useful not only to the States Parties to the Protocol, but also for any country that seeks to strengthen its public policies in areas such as: health, education, adequate food, social security, and work, among others. Furthermore, due to the correspondence of the rights contained in the Protocol of San Salvador with several Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the OAS mechanism can provide key information to support the States of the region in achieving the sustainable development goals (SDG), and prepare their progress reports more efficiently.

### BACKGROUND

The existence of binding human rights instruments is essential for their effective protection; however, there is wide recognition that these instruments must be complemented with tools that allow for obtaining objective information on their effective implementation. This information is essential to guide the formulation of public policies, based on empirical evidence, that help guarantee the full exercise of rights. Currently, this monitoring mechanism, guided by the Protocol of San Salvador, constitutes **the most advanced instrument** that the region has to collect information on how ESCER **are exercised** and **what regulatory frameworks** have been effective in promoting and guaranteeing these rights.

### Scope of Action:

- ✓ Make the monitoring of ESCER in the region more effective and efficient, significantly reducing the reporting and evaluation time of the States Parties to the PSS;
- ✓ Improve public policies aimed at guaranteeing ESCER by providing key information for their design, review, implementation, and monitoring;
- ✓ Contribute to identify and highlight the gaps in the exercise of ESCER by groups in a situation of vulnerability;
- ✓ Provide empirical information that facilitates the analysis of the impact of COVID-19 in key areas such as health, education, food, work and social security.



- ❖ **Years of Execution:**  
18 months
- ❖ **Budget:**  
USD \$600,000
- ❖ **Beneficiary Countries:**  
All Member States

Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI)

## Data-Driven Decision-Making Tools for Economic Recovery Post-COVID19

### RELEVANCE/IMPORTANCE

Amid a global pandemic, COVID-19 response is at the forefront of the OAS agenda. OAS Member States and the Secretary General have provided specific guidance to focus the resources of the OAS/SEDI to address the challenges of COVID-19 within OAS capabilities. This proposal seeks funding support to provide technical assistance and data-driven tools for OAS Member States to develop evidence-based actionable strategies to reactivate economic activity following the impact of COVID-19. Deliverables of this proposal will provide OAS Member States with access to updated information, data driven resources and technical assistance to support decision makers responsible for designing, prioritizing and implementing policies and programs to reactivate economic activity and new competitiveness agendas in their countries in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### BACKGROUND

The proposed **Data-Driven Decision-Making Tools for Economic Recovery Post-COVID-19** will be tailored and focused on specific OAS Member States, sectors and/or clusters based on the needs of Member States. At the **country level**, the proposal will conduct analysis of the productive sector and those products/services of critical economic importance for OAS Member States. The project will provide a technical report with analysis of indicators by degree of **vulnerability and resilience** of companies by sector of economic activity of the country. The collaboration will include the development of an **Economic Recovery Monitor**, to support the implementation of the priorities of the Guides for Economic Recovery/Action Plans, including a quantitative analysis of a country's exchange parity with respect to its main trading partners and competitors.

### Scope of Action:

- ✓ Data-Driven Decision-Making Tools for Economic Recovery Post-COVID-19 per country, including technical report of vulnerability and resilience of strategic economic sectors of the country with inputs for actionable priorities;
- ✓ Economic Recovery Monitor for each country; Consultations and Technical Assistance by OAS led technical team and Data Base and digital technical report;
- ✓ Research and procurement of information through different sources (desk research, surveys, industry and specialized reports);



- ❖ **Years of Execution:**  
2
- ❖ **Budget:** USD\$1,200,000 (Est. \$156,000)
- ❖ Cost per OAS Member State USD\$120,000
- ❖ **Beneficiary Countries:**
- ❖ 10 OAS Member States in 2021-22

### Contributing Partners

- OAS Member States (Competitiveness Authorities)
- RIAC Partners
- Research Centers specialized on Data Analytics and Economics (CERES Uruguay, CIBNOR Mexico and other subregional centers)

Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI)

## Building the Resilience for Small Tourism Enterprises in the Caribbean to Disasters

### RELEVANCE/IMPORTANCE

The aim of this project is to assist small tourism enterprises in the Caribbean to overcome the macro (national) and micro (corporate) level challenges that affect business continuity during and after catastrophic events in Caribbean. This dual-level approach is necessary because in addition to challenges at the level of the business, business continuity can also be negatively impacted by multiple macro-level factors, such as weaknesses in planning and development control, inadequate infrastructure, improper waste management, and deficiencies in water resources management. The overarching objective is to provide sustainability to the outcome and outputs of the project by engaging the large hotel chains, tourism operators, cruises, airlines and all stakeholders in supporting small tourism enterprises, so that they can resume operations in a shorter amount of time and reduce business interruptions of the whole tourism ecosystem.

### BACKGROUND

The Caribbean is among the most tourism-dependent regions in the world and its tourism industry is extremely vulnerable to a wide range of natural hazards. In 2020, the region not only suffered the hurricane season but COVID-19 came to further exacerbate vulnerabilities and retract the tourism sector. In all cases, the tourism sector in several destinations was severely affected, leading to temporary and permanent closures of hotels and ancillary businesses, interruptions in the operations of air and sea ports, and disruptions in the supply chain and in the loss of livelihoods of hundreds of thousands of people who are directly and indirectly employed by the tourism industry.

### Scope of Action:

- ✓ Host a regional Basic CERT Training and Train the Trainer Trainings.
- ✓ Seek to integrate business continuity considerations into business practices and procedures of small hotels by raising awareness and strengthening capacity of owners and staff to make informed decisions that would help keep their business operating during catastrophic events.
- ✓ To conduct an integrated/holistic assessment of the challenges to post disaster business continuity of small tourism enterprises in the Caribbean.



- ❖ **Years of Execution:** 2018-2021
- ❖ **Budget:** USD \$500,000
- ❖ **Beneficiary Countries:** Barbados, Belize, Bahamas, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago

### Contributing Partners

- CDEMA
- FEMA
- CTO
- CHTA

Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI)

## Inter-American Teacher Education Network

### RELEVANCE/IMPORTANCE

The Inter-American Teacher Education Network (ITEN) works with ministries of education or other teacher education institutions of OAS Member States and classroom teachers to improve educational quality. ITEN's activities align with the Inter-American Education Agenda (particularly Pillar 2, Strengthening the Teaching Profession), related projects of the Inter-American Committee on Education Work Plan, as well as Sustainable Development Goal #4.

### BACKGROUND

In Phase 4 (2018-2021), ITEN promotes collaborative work to solve regional problems of policy and practice in relation to preK-12 teacher education in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics). Special attention to STEM supports teachers from high-needs fields, closes gender gaps for girls and women, and addresses technological needs of growing economies. ITEN carries out its work through three mechanisms: (1) Multilateral Project Teams composed of institutional representatives and teachers work on regional solutions for shared challenges; (2) The Teacher Fellowship helps exemplary teachers become change agents by leading their peers with the support of their nominating institutions; and (3) Grants increase institutional capacity to pilot activities developed by Project Teams and Teacher Fellows.

### Achievements / Results (Phase 4, 2018-2020):

- ✓ 123,000 teachers received professional development in STEM (80-90% found the resources useful for their educational context).
- ✓ 1,298 teachers across the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Mexico, Trinidad, and United States took part in face-to-face STEM teacher workshops led by teachers as part of the ITEN Teacher Fellowship to increase leadership skills. (Secondary level ITEN Teacher Fellows demonstrated a 22% improvement in their own content knowledge.)
- ✓ 36 institutions from 21 Member States participated in Project Teams, producing concrete outcomes of their collaboration through 6-month working cycles (including workshops, policy documents, kits, etc.), and receiving only \$230,000 in grants to carry out activities locally. (87% of participating institution representatives identified, tested, or implemented a new STEM policy or program as a result of ITEN).



- ❖ **Years of Execution:** 2012-2021
- ❖ **Budget:**  
Phase 3 (2016-2018): \$2.5M  
Phase 4 (2018-2021): \$2.5M  
2022- : *No funding allocated.*
- ❖ **Beneficiary Countries:**  
All OAS Member States, including collaborative projects with institutions in Member States.

### Contributing Partners

- U.S. Permanent Mission to the OAS
- Center for Theoretical Physics (Trieste, Italy) / UNESCO

Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI)

## Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas

### RELEVANCE/IMPORTANCE

At the Fifth Summit of the Americas, the presidents and heads of state underscored that energy is among the most important issues confronting the future. They reaffirmed their commitment to work together toward a clean energy future.

The region requires vast amounts of clean, reliable and affordable energy to ensure the economic prosperity of its people. ECPA promotes enabling policies and regulations for private sector investment in green energy and infrastructure. This approach fosters economic development that leads to job creation across a wide spectrum of society. Additionally, advancing energy sourced from renewables such as wind, solar, hydro, geothermal and biomass, or low carbon fossil fuels such as natural gas, liquefied natural gas and propane, brings governments closer to compliance with their Nationally-Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement.

### BACKGROUND

This project includes flexible mechanism where governments may lead multi-country or bilateral initiatives on clean energy, low carbon growth, and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

It is the only hemispheric platform for energy and climate cooperation covering all OAS Member States.

Thematic areas: Renewable Energy | Electric Mobility | Energy Integration | Air quality and NDCs Measurement and Compliance

### Scope of Action:

- Convenes meetings of Ministers of Energy of the Americas to discuss regional and national priorities and take stock of progress between meetings (Washington 2010, Merida 2015, Viña del Mar 2017, and Montego Bay 2020).
- Established a private sector forum to facilitate dialogue between governments and businesses.
- Supported the harmonization of energy efficiency standards in Central America.
- Delivered technical assistance to on clean energy, climate resilience, and air quality to 30 countries in the Americas.



- ❖ **Years of Execution:**  
15 (2009-2023)
- ❖ **Budget:**  
USD  
\$1,300,000 (Phase VI)
- ❖ **Beneficiary Countries:**  
All OAS member states

### Contributing Partners

- United States  
Department of State
- United States  
Department of  
Energy
- Inter-American  
Development Bank
- World Bank

Secretariat for Multidimensional Security (SMS)

## Strengthening Biological Safety and Biosecurity in Latin America in line with UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004).

### RELEVANCE/IMPORTANCE

Many states in the Latin American region, which are parties to the Biological Weapons Convention, lack domestic mechanisms to implement the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC). CICTE aims to improve biosafety and biosecurity in beneficiary countries in line with UNSCR 1540 (2004), in particular through the establishment and enforcement of effective measures to prevent the proliferation of biological weapons and their means of delivery.

### BACKGROUND

The large and disproportionate death toll in the Americas from the 2009 global outbreak of H1N1 highlighted the lack of engagement and investment in biosafety and biosecurity among many OAS Member States. This is reflected in the lack of needed infrastructure, capacity, and legal frameworks to effectively detect and respond to a biological incident. The current COVID pandemic further laid bare the urgent need for improved biosafety and biosecurity measures.

### Scope of Action:

- ✓ Improved biosafety and biosecurity standards in beneficiary countries by enhancing national legislative and regulatory framework in this field.
- ✓ Ensured the sustainability of the biosafety and biosecurity system in beneficiary countries.
- ✓ Promoted sustainable training on biosafety and biosecurity in each beneficiary country.
- ✓ Increased awareness of national and local stakeholders in the field of biosafety and biosecurity, including scientists and policy makers.
- ✓ Increased capacity of scientists in beneficiary countries to reduce risks of possible misuse of materials and equipment being used during their research as well as misuse of their knowledge and results.



❖ **Years of Execution:**  
2019 – 2022 (36 months)

❖ **Budget:**  
EUR 2 738 708,98  
(USD 3,054,890.11)

❖ **Beneficiary Countries:**  
Argentina, Chile, Colombia,  
Dominican Republic, Mexico,  
Panama, Paraguay, Uruguay.

### Contributing Partners

- European Union
- University of Maryland – START
- United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)
- Biological Weapons Convention – Implementation Support Unit
- Group of Experts of the 1540 Committee

Secretariat for Multidimensional Security (SMS)

## Countering the Illicit Proliferation and Trafficking of Small Arms, Light Weapons (SALW) and their ammunition, and their impact in Latin America and the Caribbean

### RELEVANCE/IMPORTANCE

This project seeks to strengthen physical security and stockpile management systems for national military (PPSM), strengthen national capacity for the destruction of SALW confiscated, unsafe or in excess, enhance national SALW marking and tracing capacity and foment regional cooperation, improve SALW transfer mechanisms and promote socially responsible behaviors in selected communities, targeting groups that are severely affected by armed violence.

### BACKGROUND

This project is implemented within the framework of the Program for Comprehensive Action in Small Arms and Light Weapons (PACAM), a comprehensive strategy of the DPS/OAS to support the efforts of the Member States of the OAS in controlling small arms and light weapons (SALW) and ammunition, as well as in managing their institutional stockpiles. Through PACAM, the DPS/OAS has supported Central American countries and Colombia in the destruction of 60,000 weapons and over 1,700 tons of munitions. In addition, 25 Member States have received training, technical assistance, and equipment to improve their marking and recordkeeping capacities.

#### Scope of Action:

- ✓ Trained 24 national officials from Bolivia and Peru in the marking and registration of small arms and light weapons.
- ✓ Trained 34 officials from Peru and Ecuador in specific areas of Stockpile Management and Physical Security SMPS.
- ✓ Supported Central American countries and Colombia in the destruction of 60,000 weapons and over 1,700 tons of munitions.
- ✓ Provided Legislative Assistance to OAS Member States such as Jamaica, Ecuador and Peru in the review of firearms laws.
- ✓ Developed the OASIS student manual and methodology for Violence Prevention



- ❖ **Years of Execution:** 2019-2021
- ❖ **Budget:** 3MM EUR
- ❖ **Beneficiary Countries:** All Member States that request assistance

#### Contributing Partners

- European Union
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- Central American Program on Small Arms and Light Weapons Control (CASAC)
- CARICOM -IMPACS and RIBIN
- Conflict Armament Research
- United States Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco Firearms and Explosives (ATF)
- Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP)
- Golden West Humanitarian

Secretariat for Multidimensional Security (SMS)

## On the Trail of Illicit Gold Proceeds: Strengthening the Fight Against Illegal Mining Finances

### RELEVANCE/IMPORTANCE

The purpose of the project is to strengthen the capacities of the agencies responsible for addressing all stages of the fight against illegal mining finances in the participating countries, including prevention, detection, intelligence processing and analysis, and prosecution, as well as the seizure, confiscation, administration and disposal of the assets produced or used in these crimes.

### BACKGROUND

The beneficiary countries of this project are among the top producers of gold in Latin America. Their combined production would make them the 2nd largest producer in the world. It is estimated that 50-60% of the mining industry in these countries is informal, which makes State supervision and control more difficult and creates ideal conditions for illegal gold exploitation. Gaps in legislation and procedural protocols, insufficient inter-agency coordination between authorities responsible for the detection, investigation, prosecution of illegal mining and its profits, as well as the lack of mechanisms to foster international cooperation are some of the challenges perceived by DTOC and which this project will focus on.

### Scope of Action:

- ✓ Increased ability to identify patterns and red flags associated with illegal mining.
- ✓ Increased knowledge of techniques to prepare better Suspicious Transaction Reports on transactions potentially related to this crime.
- ✓ Increased the number and value of seized and confiscated assets linked to criminal networks of illegal mining in the beneficiary countries.
- ✓ Increased the number of parallel financial investigations related to illegal mining carried out and strengthened of the inter-institutional cooperation and coordination mechanisms.



❖ **Years of Execution:**  
17-DEC-2019 - 16-DEC-2022

❖ **Budget:**  
USD\$ 2,740,000

❖ **Beneficiary Countries:**  
❖ Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana,  
French Guyana, Peru, and  
Suriname

### Contributing Partners

- Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL)

Secretariat for Multidimensional Security (SMS)

## Design and Implementation of Drug Helplines in Latin America and Caribbean OAS Member States

### RELEVANCE/IMPORTANCE

The coronavirus pandemic, which has caused large-scale social isolation, is having a serious impact on vulnerable populations as well as adversely affecting drug prevention, treatment, and recovery services, notably curtailing in-person services. Drug and mental health telephone helplines (sometimes known as ‘hotlines’) are important tools, especially in times of crisis. Helplines play an important role in providing timely guidance, support, and treatment referral for problems related to drug use and to those suffering mental health crises who might be at risk of harming others or self-harm.

### BACKGROUND

In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, all OAS Member States continue to face challenges, and given the need to support those suffering from drug dependency, the Executive Secretariat of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (ES-CICAD), developed several important initiatives to assist Member States in the area of demand reduction. ES-CICAD conducted a virtual meeting in November 2020 with the participation of twenty countries from Latin America and the Caribbean, promoting horizontal cooperation whereby Member States with existing helplines could assist other Member States. This meeting was very well received, with participating countries requesting follow up sessions in 2021.

### Scope of Action:

- ✓ Instilling good practices in the design and implementation of drug helplines in Latin America and the Caribbean, including setting objectives; technical/operational protocols; legal aspects; and identification of human, technological and financial resources necessary for implementation.
- ✓ Provided online training and webinars on drug helplines among OAS Member States in Latin America and the Caribbean, to further facilitate horizontal cooperation.



❖ **Years of Execution:** 2020-2021

❖ **Budget:** USD\$50,000

❖ **Beneficiary Countries:**

Latin America and Caribbean OAS Member States.

### Contributing Partners

- National drug commissions
- Ministries of health
- Civil society
- Private sector

Secretariat for Hemispheric Affairs (SHA)

## Inter-American Observatory on Public Management Innovation

### RELEVANCE/IMPORTANCE

One of the main challenges to democracy in the Americas today is, the lack of citizens' trust in their governments. Citizens demand a democracy that addresses their demands in a transparent and effective manner, taking into account citizen participation in public policy development, implementation and evaluation. In response to these trends, several governments in the Americas have been implementing major innovations in public policy and management delivery – such as open government, user-centered design, behavioral-informed policy interventions, public-private policy partnerships and others – in collaboration with the private sector, multilateral organizations, NGOs, academia and social movements. Since 2015, these experiences have been identified, documented and annually recognized by OAS Inter-American Award for Public Management - reaching a total amount of more than 500 narrative reports. These narrative reports must be translated in more user-friendly format - executive summaries, case-studies and video graphs - in order to be useful for policy makers and graduate student throughout the region as a tool of best-practices exchange, learning, adaptation and diffusion – fostering, at the same time, collaboration among OAS Member States.

### BACKGROUND

The Observatory will be built upon a set of +500 innovative experiences documented under OAS Inter-American Award for Public Management (OAS PIGEP), which has been in place since 2013. An **interactive website** will be created to host the portfolio of experiences and electronic forms/documentation for further PIGEP editions.

### Results/Products [expected by the end of Phase 1]:

- ✓ **20 case studies** on innovative experiences documented on paper and in PDF format [ESP].
- ✓ **20 videos graphs** on selected policy experiences [ESP, with subtitles in ENG]
- ✓ **Graduate schools in all OAS Member-States** will have available case-studies on innovation in public management suitable to be piloted in class and relevant to their context.
- ✓ **Governmental organizations in all OAS Member-States** will have access to a broad knowledge base of systematized case-studies in a web portal for exchange and self-learning purposes.
- ✓ **Focusing horizontal collaboration among OAS Member-States** on concrete, tested and potentially transferable public management initiatives.



- ❖ **Years of Execution:**  
Phase 1: 2021-2022
- ❖ **Budget:**  
USD \$150,000
- ❖ **Beneficiary Countries:**  
ALL OAS Member-States

### Contributing Partners

- Instituto Universitario de Investigaciones Ortega y Gasset – IUIOG [Madrid, Spain]

Secretariat for Hemispheric Affairs (SHA)

## An Open Government Approach to Improve Government Transparency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in Guatemala

### RELEVANCE/IMPORTANCE

At the core of the OAS rests the promotion of democracy, particularly the promotion of transparency, effectiveness and citizen participation in public institutions. These objectives have been reinforced in relation to open government, open data, digital government, and government procurement, to prevent and combat corruption by the commitments agreed at the approval and launching of the Inter-American Open Data Program to Prevent and Combat Corruption (PIDA). This project aims to promote transparency and accountability of government responses to COVID-19 in Guatemala through improved access to public information, empowering civil society and media to use public information to monitor accountability of government responses, and introducing innovative open data and procurement tools to strengthen government capacities.

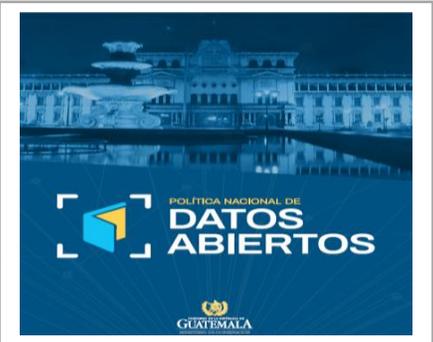
### BACKGROUND

In Latin America, governments responded to the COVID-19 pandemic crisis by declaring states of exception and emergency by decree. This has been perceived as a challenge to democratic governance by restricting access of information and expediting spending and procurement. Corruption risks have increased as governments rush to procure medical supplies and to contract services. The implementation of open government principles in government initiatives is fundamental in strengthening citizens' trust in their governments and public institutions. Guatemala requested technical support of the OAS at the beginning of 2020 to strengthen its open government and anticorruption efforts.

### Expected Achievements / Results:

Enhanced transparency and accountability in COVID-19 government responses in Guatemala.

- ✓ COVID-19 open data assessment with recommendations to be issued; COVID-19 national open data strategy developed; COVID-19 Government procurement assessment with recommendations issued; COVID-19 national open procurement strategy developed.
- ✓ 200 public officials trained on open government, open data, public procurement and ethics and integrity, technical institutional capacities to publish quality datasets improved; Civil society and social actors applying knowledge acquired in open data.



- ❖ **Years of Execution:**  
2
- ❖ **Budget:**  
USD \$840,229
- ❖ **Beneficiary Countries:**
- ❖ Guatemala

### Contributing Partners

- Government of Guatemala
- Summits of the Americas Secretariat
- Open Government Partnership

Secretariat for Hemispheric Affairs (SHA)

## School of Governance – Second Phase

### RELEVANCE/IMPORTANCE

Latin America and the Caribbean has witnessed the lack of trust in institutions, political and social polarization and the most recent global pandemic that is leaving devastating consequences. To address these challenges, the School of Governance (SoG) will ensure that OAS trainings are directed to strengthen transparency, efficiency, effectiveness and citizen participation in the development and implementation of public policies, particularly in the four thematic areas of the OAS: Democracy, Human Rights, Multidimensional Security, and Integral Development. In the last five years, the SoG has offered 175 editions of virtual trainings for 5, 759 citizens of our region (3,078 female and 2,681 male); and has developed new on-side programs in coordination with Universities and Advanced Training Institutions.

### BACKGROUND

The OAS School of Governance is an initiative that aims to train public officials, and political, social and community leaders to strengthen their capacities to work with governments and civil society to improve transparency and effectiveness of public institutions. The SoG provides tools, strategies and methodologies to strengthen citizen participation and encourage transparent, effective and open governments. In its second phase, the School of Governance is committed to continue working with different areas of the SG/OAS and assist OAS Member States to increase transparency and citizen participation in their public institutions.

### Scope of Action:

- ✓ OAS Diploma on Public Governance and Leadership in the Inter-American System developed and implemented every year with a regional perspective.
- ✓ Virtual and on-site courses developed in cooperation with other areas of the General Secretariat to address needs and challenges presented by member states, including a course developed on strengthening skills for female candidates already implemented in nine (9) countries in coordination with the Inter-American Commission on Women (CIM) and a new course to be developed on Anti-Corruption and Transparency in coordination with the Department of Legal Cooperation.
- ✓ One new training product developed and implemented each year to promote inclusive and good governance in coordination with Universities or potential partners.



- ❖ **Years of Execution:**  
3 years
- ❖ **Budget:** USD \$961,470
- ❖ **Beneficiary Countries:**  
All OAS member states

### Contributing Partners

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility of Ecuador
- National University of San Martín (UNSAM – Argentina)
- Universities of the Region and potential partners.

Secretariat for Legal Affairs (SLA)

## Course on State Cyber Operations and International Law

### RELEVANCE/IMPORTANCE

The Inter-American Juridical Committee revealed unequal legal capacities among OAS Member States with respect to the regulations and challenges posed by cyber-operations, including cyber-threats. In this context, it was suggested to provide greater legal capacity-buildings within interested Member States and requested its technical secretariat, the Department of International Law, to develop a training program to equip public servants with know-how and experience.

### BACKGROUND

As stated in the report of the Inter-American Juridical Committee, there is a need for governments to have a clear understanding of the international rules applying to cyber operations. The rapporteur considered that international law provides mechanisms to confront the risks and significant consequences that cyber threats may create, i.e. international law can be an effective regulatory tool in cyberspace. Assisting on understading nationals' views on the relationship of international law to cyberspace may have an impact on regulations, which may help to limit unwanted behavior and generate greater cooperation and transparency.

### Scope of Action:

- ✓ Improve knowledge and experience.
- ✓ Contribute to the better application of international law as a regulatory tool in cyberspace.
- ✓ Strengthening relations among Member States.



- ❖ **Years of Execution:**  
2021-2025
- ❖ **Budget:** USD \$1.000.000
- ❖ **Beneficiary Countries:**  
Interested Member States.

### Contributing Partners

- CJI;
- CICTE;
- OAS Member States;
- United Nations;
- International Committee of the Red Cross.

Secretariat for Legal Affairs (SLA)

## Strengthening the OAS Anticorruption Mechanism (MESICIC)

### RELEVANCE/IMPORTANCE

The MESICIC Committee of Experts formulates recommendations for its States Parties to improve the legal and institutional frameworks in place to prevent, detect, and investigate acts of corruption, and to punish those who commit them. Since 2002, the MESICIC has adopted 145 country reports and, with the adoption of on-site visits, 61 visits have taken place, and meetings have been carried out with officials from more than 400 government institutions and 300 civil society organizations. This Mechanism has contributed to strengthening the legal and institutional framework of OAS Member States in tackling corruption. Despite the actions already taken aimed at preventing and combating corruption, there is still more work to be done.

### BACKGROUND

The adoption of the Inter-American Convention Against Corruption (IACAC) and its Follow Up Mechanism (MESICIC) was a pioneering step that recognized the international scope of corruption. Up to date, the IACAC is the most ratified Inter-American treaty after the OAS Charter, and the MESICIC has grown from 20 to 33 Member States. The MESICIC is an instrument for horizontal cooperation among its Member States, and accordingly its goal is to provide mutual assistance for the implementation of the IACAC; to follow up on the commitments made by the States Parties to the Convention and to study how they are being implemented.

#### Scope of Action:

- ✓ Strengthen the MESICIC Member States' legal frameworks in the areas analyzed in the Convention.
- ✓ Strengthen the MESICIC Member States' institutions responsible for preventing, investigating, and punishing acts of corruption.
- ✓ Consolidate the MESICIC as the ideal forum for pursuing the goals of the MESICIC of facilitating technical cooperation activities, exchanges of information, experiences, and that of best practices among its Member States.
- ✓ Elaboration of new legal cooperation tools, such as, Model Laws, Legislative Guidelines, and Indicators to objectively ascertain the results of efforts to prevent and fight corruption.



- ❖ **Years of Execution:**  
3 years
- ❖ **Budget:**  
USD \$600,000 (over three years)
- ❖ **Beneficiary Countries:**  
The 33 Member States of the MESICIC.

#### Contributing Partners

- The 33 Member States of the MESICIC are financially and/or in-kind contributing partners.



Secretariat for Legal Affairs (SLA)

## Modernizing the Portal to the Hemispheric Network for Legal Cooperation on Criminal Matters

### RELEVANCE/IMPORTANCE

The Hemispheric Network for Legal Cooperation on Criminal Matters of the Meetings of Ministers of Justice or of other Ministers or Attorney Generals of the Americas is a network comprised of the 34 OAS Member States, which aims to facilitate access to legal information in relation to mutual assistance in criminal matters and extradition. It also maintains a Portal, which offers up-to-date legal information in relation to mutual assistance and extradition in all of the 34 OAS Member States. Through the Network Portal, one can also access Best Practices on the matter, which are publicly available, with the aim of facilitating legal cooperation and to allow a more effective, efficient and expeditious mutual legal assistance in criminal matter and extradition.

### BACKGROUND

The REMJA is the hemispheric political and technical forum on justice and international legal cooperation of the Americas. In addition to formulating recommendations to OAS member states to ensure that the public policies and cooperation measures they adopt are effective, efficient and expeditious, and following up on those recommendations, the REMJA also assigns specific mandates to working groups or technical meetings which reports to it. The Hemispheric Network was developed within the REMJA process framework given the need to facilitate the exchange of information between authorities on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters and extradition.

### Scope of Action:

- ✓ Development of an updated version of the Hemispheric Network for Legal Cooperation on Criminal Matters Portal.
- ✓ Updated information on the OAS Member States information to the sections contained therein, such as: i) Fundamental Texts; ii) Mutual Legal Assistance Legislation; iii) Extradition Legislation; and iv), Treaties on the matter.
- ✓ Strengthen cooperation between OAS member states and facilitate the search, and exchange of information for an effective, efficient and expeditious mutual legal assistance in criminal matters and extradition.



- ❖ **Years of Execution:**  
2 years
- ❖ **Budget:**  
USD \$225,000 (over two years)
- ❖ **Beneficiary Countries:**  
The 34 OAS Member States.

### Contributing Partners

- The 34 OAS Member States are in-kind contributing partners.

## 6. Benefits of Partnering with the OAS

1. The OAS offers a unique forum to **strengthen relations** with 34 countries of the Western Hemisphere in one place.
2. The OAS serves as an **effective cooperation facilitator**, in particular for Permanent Observers that do not have presence in all countries of the Latin America and Caribbean region.
3. Permanent Observers receive **great exposure** through high-level meetings with OAS Member States, and through recognition in institutional press releases and public events related to projects in the Americas.
4. As the main political forum for intergovernmental dialogue and cooperation with stakeholders at the Inter-American level, the OAS offers Permanent Observers an effective platform for more **visibility** and direct **engagement** with 34 Member States.



5. The OAS has a unique set of **Inter-American legal frameworks** agreed to by its Member States, allowing the Organization to use these frameworks and resolutions to advance cooperation in the Americas.
6. Permanent Observers gain **visibility at both national and regional levels** through Inter-Ministerial meetings convened by the OAS.
7. Observers capitalize on the Organization's in-depth knowledge of country needs, in particular of smaller countries and regions, where Permanent Observers may not have a direct diplomatic presence.
8. The OAS presence **through its National Offices in the Western Hemisphere** allows Permanent Observers to interact with a multiplicity of actors at the local level.

9. **Use of donor funds must comply with the principles of accountability, transparency, monitoring, evaluation, and audits established by the organization. This includes external auditors and internal audit boards as required by the standards of the Institute of Internal Auditors.** All funds from Member States and voluntary contributions by Permanent Observers are closely monitored, reported on, and subject to internal and external audits.



50th OAS General Assembly  
Official Photo

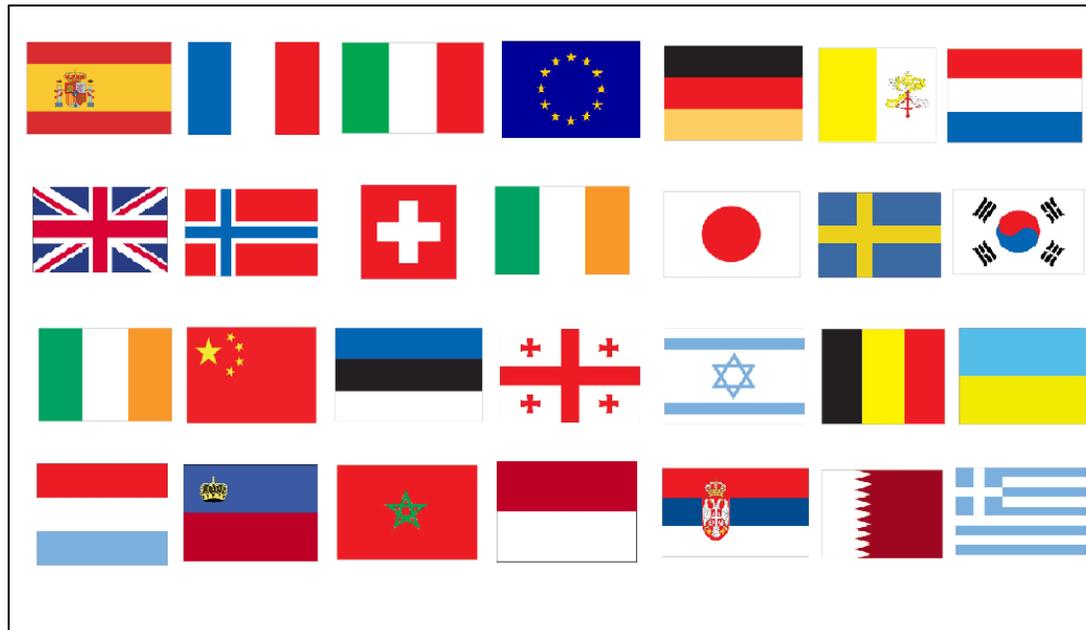
## 7. An Acknowledgment to our Partners and Contributors

The OAS General Assembly established the status of Permanent Observer in April 1971 through resolution AG/RES. 50 (I-O/71) with a view to provide a way for non-OAS Member States to follow OAS activities, attend the meetings of the Organization’s political organs and provide cooperation for its projects and programs. The OAS currently has 72 Permanent Observers which provide cooperation in the form of training opportunities, exchange of information and experiences, as well as through financial and in-kind contributions to various OAS programs.

**Special acknowledgment to Permanent Observers with designated missions to the OAS: Spain, France, Italy and the Holy See.**

**A special recognition to our main contributors in 2020: The European Union, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Germany, Italy, Sweden, The Netherlands, the Republic of Korea, Luxembourg and Norway.**

### Top Contributors



## 8. Special Acknowledgment to Permanent Observers 2020

[Click at the center of the box to see the video.](#)





Spain, France, Italy and Holy See have designated Missions to the OAS.

## Member States

Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), 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, The Bahamas (Commonwealth of), Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America, Uruguay, and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

## Permanent Observers

Albania, Algeria (People's Democratic Republic of), Angola, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, China (People's Republic of), Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, European Union, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Holy See, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Serbia, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Vanuatu, Yemen.



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