

I. GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND COUNCILS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly, whose duties and responsibilities are set forth in Chapter IX of the Charter, is the supreme organ of the Organization of American States. It meets each year, at the time stipulated in its Rules of Procedure. Under special circumstances and with the approval of two thirds of the member states, the Permanent Council may convoke a special session of the General Assembly. All member states have the right to be represented in the General Assembly and each is entitled to one vote.

Thirty-second regular session

The thirty-second regular session was held in Bridgetown, Barbados, June 2 through 4, 2002. Presiding was Her Excellency Mrs. Billie A. Miller, M.P., Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Barbados. The certified text of the declarations and resolutions appears in Volume I of Proceedings and Documents for this session (OEA/Ser.P.XXXII-O.2).

Declarations

Declaration of Bridgetown: The multidimensional approach to hemispheric security [AG/DEC. 27 (XXXII-O/02)]: In this declaration, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation declared that the security of the Hemisphere encompassed political, economic, social, health and environmental factors. They agreed that the member States should seek to enhance and, where necessary, develop appropriate mechanisms to tackle the new threats and challenges to hemispheric security. They also decided that the multidimensional approach to hemispheric security should be included as a topic on the agenda for the Special Conference on Security.

Declaration on democracy in Venezuela [AG/DEC. 28 (XXXII-O/02)]: In this declaration, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation reiterated the willingness of the Organization of American States (OAS) to provide the support and assistance that the Government of Venezuela required to consolidate its democratic process. They also reiterated their determination to continue to apply, without distinction and in strict accordance with the letter and the spirit of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, the Charter's mechanisms for the preservation and defense of democracy. They reiterated their rejection of the use of violence to replace any democratic government in the Hemisphere. They encouraged the Government of Venezuela to explore the opportunities that the OAS affords to promote the national dialogue in the interests of furthering national reconciliation. They also acknowledged and were grateful for the unanimous decision of Venezuela's National Assembly to form a Truth Commission to investigate the acts of violence perpetrated on April 11 and 14, 2002.

Declaration on the question of the Malvinas Islands [AG/DEC. 29 (XXXII-O/02)]: The Foreign Ministers and Heads of Delegation expressed satisfaction at the Argentine Government's reaffirmation of its willingness to continue to explore every possible avenue for the peaceful resolution of the controversy and its constructive attitude toward the inhabitants of the Malvinas Islands. They reaffirmed the need for negotiations on the sovereignty dispute to begin as soon as possible, so as to find a peaceful solution to the controversy. Accordingly, the Ministers and Heads of Delegation decided to continue examining this question at subsequent sessions of the General Assembly.

Centennial of the Pan American Health Organization [AG/DEC. 30 (XXXII-O/02)]: Here the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation paid tribute to PAHO on the occasion of its centennial. It encouraged PAHO to continue working with the countries of the Hemisphere, supporting their efforts to

implement the mandates from the Summits of the Americas in order to reduce poverty and achieve equity and health for all.

Resolutions

Democracy

The General Assembly applauded the Permanent Council and the General Secretariat for their measures to strengthen democracy in Haiti. It praised the Government of Haiti for the cooperation it provided to the OAS' Special Mission and the Group of Friends of Haiti for the continued support of the Secretary General's efforts. It urged the Government of Haiti, all political parties and civil society to give their full support to the dialogue process and, with a view to resolving the crisis, recommended various measures to the parties involved, the Secretary General, international financial institutions, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the United Nations Human Rights Commission, the member States and the Group of Friends of Haiti [AG/RES. 1841 (XXXII-O/02)].

The General Assembly resolved to promote a culture of democracy in the Americas based on the principles and values of the Inter-American Democratic Charter and on the goals included in the Declaration and Plan of Action of the Third Summit of the Americas. Accordingly, it encouraged the member States to adopt specific strategies and instructed the Permanent Council to convene a meeting of experts to identify concrete measures to promote a culture of democracy and democratic practices and values in the member States, with civil society participating [AG/RES. 1869 (XXXII-O/02)].

The General Assembly reaffirmed its commitment to the principles of democracy contained in the Inter-American Democratic Charter and its determination to assign the highest priority, in the work of the OAS, to programs and activities that promote democratic practices and principles. To that end, it entrusted specific measures to the Permanent Council and to the General Secretariat, urging the member States of the Organization to cooperate in implementing them [AG/RES. 1907 (XXXII-O/02)].

The Assembly took note of the holding in La Paz, Bolivia, from July 29 to 31, 2001, of the Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities Responsible for Policies on Decentralization, Local Government, and Citizen Participation (RIAD) at the Municipal Level in the Hemisphere, as well as the results of this first hemispheric meeting on these issues. It expressed its support for the objectives set by the ministers and high-level authorities in the Declaration of La Paz on Decentralization and on Strengthening Regional and Municipal Administrations and Participation of Civil Society, as well as for the establishment of the High-Level Inter-American Network on Decentralization, Local Government, and Citizen Participation (RIAD) as an institutionalized entity for inter-American cooperation on these issues. It acknowledged the initiatives taken by the Government of Bolivia in support of follow-up of the issues of decentralization, regional and municipal administrations, and civil society participation defined by the Summits of the Americas. The Assembly also urged the General Secretariat, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the World Bank, the Andean Development Corporation, and other entities to provide special support in developing and implementing the decisions of the ministers and high-level authorities. It also expressed its appreciation to the Government of Mexico for its offer to host the Second Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities in the second half of 2003 and instructed the Permanent Council to convene that meeting [AG/RES. 1901 (XXXII-O/02)].

Human Rights

The General Assembly reiterated its support for and recognition of the work carried out by human rights defenders and condemned actions that prevent or hamper their work in the Hemisphere. It urged member States to step up their efforts to adopt the necessary measures, in keeping with their domestic law and

with internationally accepted principles and standards, to safeguard the lives, personal safety, and freedom of expression of human rights defenders. The General Assembly also invited the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to continue to pay due attention to the situation of human rights defenders in the Americas and to consider, *inter alia*, preparing a comprehensive study on the matter, continuing its cooperation with the United Nations [AG/RES. 1842 (XXXII-O/02)].

The Assembly reaffirmed the Organization's intent to continue taking concrete measures aimed at implementing the mandates of the heads of state and government on the strengthening and improvement of the inter-American human rights system, as set forth in the Plan of Action of the Third Summit of the Americas. It called upon the member States to make the efforts necessary to implement those mandates [AG/RES. 1890 (XXXII-O/02)].

The Assembly instructed the Permanent Council to continue consideration of the issue of the access of victims to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and to invite the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, and civil society to participate in the consideration of this topic [AG/RES. 1895 (XXXII-O/02)].

It urged the member States to comply with their obligations under the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and/or its 1967 Protocol, by taking or continuing to take measures to strengthen asylum and render refugee protection more effective. It again appealed to the member States that had not yet done so to consider, in due course, signing, ratifying or acceding to the international instruments on refugees and statelessness, to consider the adoption of procedures for their effective implementation, and to also consider the withdrawal of any reservations made at the time of ratification or accession. It called upon the member States to participate in the resettlement programs sponsored by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and again appealed for inter-American cooperation in situations of mass internal displacement or flight of refugees [AG/RES. 1892 (XXXII-O/02)].

At the Bridgetown regular session, the General Assembly decided to remain seized of the issue of human rights and environment, paying particular attention to the work being carried out in the relevant multilateral forums in this area. It encouraged institutional cooperation on the subject within the Organization [AG/RES. 1896 (XXXII-O/02)].

On the subject of human rights and terrorism, the General Assembly reaffirmed that the fight against terrorism must be waged with full respect for the law, human rights, and democratic institutions, so as to preserve the rule of law, freedoms, and democratic values in the Hemisphere. It asked that the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights present its report on terrorism and human rights to the Permanent Council for its consideration [AG/RES. 1906 (XXXII-O/02)].

The General Assembly instructed the Permanent Council to continue to study the question of the rights and the care of persons under any form of detention or imprisonment, in cooperation with the competent organs and agencies of the inter-American system, and to consider the advisability of preparing in due course an Inter-American Declaration on the rights and the care of persons under any form of detention or imprisonment [AG/RES. 1897 (XXXII-O/02)].

The General Assembly resolved to reaffirm that the principles and standards set forth in the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man and in the American Convention on Human Rights take on special importance with respect to protection of the rights of migrant workers and their families. It also reaffirmed the duty of the States parties to the 1963 Vienna Convention on Consular Relations to comply with that Convention and urged the member States to adopt various measures designed to guarantee the human rights of all migrants. The Assembly entrusted the Permanent Council, the Inter-American Council

for Integral Development, the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development and the Inter-American Commission with follow-up and support measures [AG/RES. 1898 (XXXII-O/02)].

Juridical development

At the thirty-second regular session, the General Assembly resolved to express its appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for hosting the Fourth Meeting of Ministers of Justice or Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas and instructed the Permanent Council and the General Secretariat to follow up on the recommendations adopted by REMJA-IV, including the holding of preparatory meetings on specific topics for REMJA-V. It also accepted the Government of Canada's offer to host REMJA-V [AG/RES. 1849 (XXXII-O/02)].

The Assembly urged those member States that had not yet done so to give prompt consideration to signing, ratifying or acceding to the Inter-American Convention against Corruption and to participate in the Follow-up Mechanism for its implementation. It urged the member States and instructed the Permanent Council and General Secretariat to take concrete measures for better implementation of the Convention and to follow up on the Inter-American Program of Cooperation in the Fight against Corruption. The Assembly expressed thanks for the voluntary contributions made to enable the Follow-up Mechanism to function and urged all the States to continue making those contributions [AG/RES. 1870 (XXXII-O/02)].

The General Assembly congratulated the Sixth Inter-American Specialized Conference on Private International Law for the positive results it achieved and welcomed the resolutions adopted at CIDIP-VI. It also asked the General Secretariat and the Inter-American Juridical Committee to organize consultations of governmental and nongovernmental experts to examine the future of the Inter-American Specialized Conferences on Private International Law and other topics that would be appropriate for CIDIP-VII to discuss. It instructed the Permanent Council to convoke the Seventh Inter-American Specialized Conference on Private International Law and asked the General Secretariat to include in the Organization's budget the appropriations needed to conduct the necessary work in preparation for CIDIP-VII [AG/RES. 1846 (XXXII-O/02)].

The Assembly instructed the Permanent Council to continue to address, as a matter of priority, the subject of preventing, combating, and eradicating racism and all forms of discrimination and intolerance. It recommended to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights that it continue to give special attention to this topic in the context of the inter-American legal instruments currently in force [AG/RES. 1905 (XXXII-O/02)].

The Assembly noted the increase in the number of states that had ratified or acceded to a number of instruments of international humanitarian law. It urged them to continue to do so. It also urged States to pay special attention, in times of peace as well as times of armed conflict, to the widest possible dissemination to international humanitarian law among the entire population, enactment of criminal laws to punish those guilty of war crimes and other egregious violations of international law, enactment of legislation regulating the use of emblems protected under international humanitarian law and to punish the improper use thereof and the obligation of the armed forces and security forces to refrain from using any weapon that violated or was contrary to international humanitarian law. It invited the member States to facilitate the work of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), in particular by using its advisory services. It urged the parties to an armed conflict to take immediate measures to determine the identity and status of persons reported as missing. It also called upon the member states and all parties to an armed conflict to observe their obligations under the 1949 Geneva Conventions, in particular those that are applicable to the protection of the civilian population. The Assembly asked the Permanent Council and the General Secretariat, in coordination with the ICRC, to continue organizing governmental

conferences to disseminate and strengthen implementation of international humanitarian law and other related inter-American conventions. It encouraged the member States to adopt the legislative, judicial and administrative measures necessary for domestic implementation of international humanitarian law [AG/RES. 1904 (XXXII-O/02)].

The Assembly reaffirmed the importance of the Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law for the dissemination, awareness, application and strengthening of the international law created within the inter-American system and supported the activities conducted by the Permanent Council and the General Secretariat in furtherance of the program. The Assembly also instructed them to continue to carry out that Program [AG/RES. 1845 (XXXII-O/02)].

The General Assembly asked the Permanent Council to continue to foster the exchange of experience and information in order to coordinate and strengthen cooperation activities in the area of corporate social responsibility. It also instructed the Permanent Council to participate, with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the World Bank, and other appropriate international organizations, in the organization of the Americas Conference on Corporate Social Responsibility and to consider the possibility and advisability of convening a special meeting on corporate social responsibility to be held in the second half of 2003 [AG/RES. 1871 (XXXII-O/02)].

At this session, the Assembly urged those member States that had not yet done so to ratify or accede to, as applicable, the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and make the necessary changes in their domestic legislation for the effective implementation of the Rome Statute. It requested the Inter-American Juridical Committee to ensure that the agenda for the next joint meeting with legal advisers of the foreign ministries of OAS member states includes a discussion of mechanisms to address and prevent the recurrence of serious violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law, and of the role of the International Criminal Court in that process [AG/RES. 1900 (XXXII-O/02)].

Hemispheric security

The General Assembly convened the Special Conference on Security for the first half of May 2003, and thanked the Government of Mexico for its offer to host the conference. It instructed the Permanent Council to prepare the recommendations of that Special Conference on all pertinent matters, as well as the draft agenda, the draft rules of procedure, and the draft final documents of the Conference. It asked the member States to provide the Permanent Council with all the information they deemed to be relevant contributions to the preparations for the Special Conference on Security [AG/RES. 1908 (XXXII-O/02)].

The General Assembly convened the Summit-mandated Meeting of Experts on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures in the Region, and thanked the United States Government for its offer to host the meeting. It also instructed the Permanent Council to prepare the Meeting of Experts and asked that it forward the meeting's conclusions and recommendations to the preparatory body for the Special Conference on Security, as a contribution toward preparations for that Conference [AG/RES. 1880 (XXXII-O/02)].

The Assembly urged the member States to implement, in the manner they deemed most appropriate, the recommendations from the Declaration of San Salvador and the Declaration of Santiago on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures and resolution AG/RES. 1179 (XXII-O/92). It entrusted the Permanent Council, the Inter-American Defense Board and the General Secretariat with the work associated with preparing documents on the subject, particularly documents on defense policies and doctrines. It called upon the member States to provide the General Secretariat, before July 15 of each year, with information on the application of confidence- and security-building measures. It also asked the Secretary General to keep a complete inventory of those measures [AG/RES. 1879 (XXXII-O/02)].

The Second High-Level Meeting on the Special Security Concerns of Small Island States was convened. The Assembly instructed the Permanent Council to formalize the site, agenda, and date of the meeting and to forward its conclusions and recommendations to the preparatory body of the Special Conference on Security. It also asked the Secretary General to continue supporting the efforts of small island States to address their security concerns, including heightening public awareness of these concerns [AG/RES. 1886 (XXXII-O/02)].

The General Assembly reaffirmed the member States' commitment to the peaceful settlement of disputes that may arise among them. It also took note of the Conference on Maritime Delimitation in the Caribbean and the establishment of an assistance fund and a delimitation negotiations registry [AG/RES. 1902 (XXXII-O/02)].

All member States that had not yet done so were urged to sign or ratify, as appropriate, the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials. The Assembly asked the Permanent Council to hold, with the support of the Consultative Committee, an annual meeting on the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials and to send its recommendations to the preparatory body of the Special Conference on Security [AG/RES. 1874 (XXXII-O/02)].

The States of the region that had not yet done so, in particular the states included in Annex 2 of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), were asked to consider signing and/or ratifying the CTBT, as appropriate, so that it might enter into force as soon as possible. The Assembly instructed the Permanent Council, through the Committee on Hemispheric Security, to hold a special meeting on the complete prohibition of nuclear tests worldwide, with the participation of various international organizations competent in this area [AG/RES. 1876 (XXXII-O/02)].

The States of the region were urged to ratify the Treaty of Tlatelolco as well as the amendments to the Treaty approved by the General Conference of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL). The Assembly underscored the importance of strengthening OPANAL as an appropriate legal-political forum and renewed its appeal to those states that had not yet done so to negotiate, as soon as possible, multilateral or bilateral agreements with the International Atomic Energy Agency. The Assembly also reconfirmed its commitment to promoting a genuine, nondiscriminatory and universal system of nonproliferation in all respects. It instructed the Permanent Council to hold a special meeting on consolidation of the regime established in the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean, with the support of OPANAL and the participation of the United Nations and other international organizations competent in the area. It asked OPANAL to forward whatever recommendations it deemed pertinent to the preparatory body of the Special Conference on Security [AG/RES. 1903 (XXXII-O/02)].

The General Assembly reconfirmed its commitment to the principles of the Inter-American Convention on Transparency in Conventional Weapons Acquisitions and urged the States that had not yet done so to consider signing, ratifying or acceding to it [AG/RES. 1881 (XXXII-O/02)].

The Permanent Council was instructed to consider the limitation of military expenditures and the promotion of greater transparency in the acquisition of arms. Member States were asked to supply the Permanent Council with their comments on the topic "Dividends for Peace" [AG/RES. 1887 (XXXII-O/02)].

Member states were also encouraged to implement the United Nations Program of Action on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (UN Program of Action), to report to the

United Nations on its implementation of national, regional, and global elements of the UN Program of Action, and to adopt such measures concerning arms brokering and transit as may be necessary to combat the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons. The Assembly also encouraged the member States to destroy small arms and light weapons which they had seized as a result of interdicting illicit trafficking and to destroy small arms and light weapons which they held under their control in excess of their legitimate needs, and to take all necessary measures to secure the stockpiles and weapons under their control and necessary to their defense. They were asked to consider signing or ratifying the United Nations Protocol Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition. The Permanent Council was asked to hold a meeting each year on small arms and light weaponry and a seminar on the identification, collection, arsenal administration and destruction of small arms and light weaponry and to examine the question of arms brokering in the Hemisphere. The Assembly asked the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) to continue conducting its training programs for implementation of the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (CIFTA) and the United Nations Program of Action and to continue to provide the member States with assistance in its area of activity [AG/RES. 1888 (XXXII-O/02)].

Inter-American summit management

The General Assembly renewed the Permanent Council's mandate to coordinate the activities assigned to the Organization of American States by the Summits of the Americas. It also ordered it to continue facilitating the participation of civil society in the Summits of the Americas process and to earmark resources in the Organization's program-budget to allow for full and timely execution of this resolution. The Assembly also instructed the organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization to continue to give top priority to carrying out the initiatives assigned to them by the General Assembly, pursuant to the mandates of the Summits of the Americas. It requested the General Secretariat to serve as technical secretariat of the Summit process, to provide needed support to the ministerial and sectoral meetings related to implementation of Summit mandates on the relevant issues for the OAS, and to seek additional resources to carry out the activities mentioned in this resolution. The General Assembly recommended that the Joint Summit Working Group continue to serve as the coordinating mechanism for the institutions supporting the implementation of Summit mandates and to hold at least one high level meeting a year [AG/RES.1847 (XXXII-O/02)].

Terrorism

The Inter-American Convention against Terrorism was adopted and member States were urged to ratify the Convention as soon as possible, in accordance with their constitutional procedures [AG/RES. 1840 (XXXII-O/02)].

The General Assembly reaffirmed its commitment to strengthen hemispheric cooperation and to continue implementing specific measures to prevent, combat and eliminate international terrorism. It expressed its satisfaction with the progress made by the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) in identifying urgent measures to strengthen hemispheric cooperation and the adoption of specific recommendations on border and financial controls. It welcomed the establishment of a CICTE Secretariat and expressed its appreciation to those member states and permanent observers that contributed resources for the CICTE Secretariat's establishment and to support the implementation of CICTE's program of activities. The Assembly urged the member States to continue efforts to implement the recommendations on financial and border controls and asked CICTE to present recommendations to the preparatory body of the Special Conference on Security [AG/RES. 1877 (XXXII-O/02)].

Civil society

The General Assembly instructed the Permanent Council: to devise strategies for increasing and strengthening civil society's participation in OAS activities; to evaluate the implementation of the guidelines governing relations between civil society organizations and the OAS; to facilitate contributions by civil society organizations; to hold a special meeting of the Committee to strengthen dialogue between OAS organs, agencies, and entities and accredited civil society organizations and to analyze the feasibility of establishing a specific voluntary fund to support the participation of accredited civil society organizations in the special meeting of the Committee. It instructed the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) to continue to facilitate contributions by civil society organizations in the areas of competence of those organizations to its work [AG/RES. 1852 (XXXII-O/02)].

The Assembly congratulated the Permanent Council on the success of its special meeting on practices in corporate social responsibility in the Hemisphere and the role of government in promoting them. It instructed the Permanent Council to participate in the organization of the Americas Conference on Corporate Social Responsibility, convened by the IDB, to be held in Miami, United States, September 22 to 24, 2002. It also asked the Permanent Council to consider the advisability of convoking a special meeting on corporate social responsibility, for the second half of 2003 [AG/RES. 1871 (XXXII-O/02)].

Antipersonnel mine removal

The Assembly resolved to acknowledge the significant efforts of the governments of Peru and Ecuador aimed at the total destruction of their mine stockpiles, as well as the progress they have made in clearing antipersonnel mines. It asked the international community to continue collaborating with these governments in conducting the demining programs and integral action programs against antipersonnel mines in their respective territories. It instructed the General Secretariat to continue working on identifying and finding sources of funding for continuing the landmine removal programs. It also instructed the Permanent Council to continue to move toward the objective of making the Western Hemisphere an antipersonnel-land-mine-free area [AG/RES. 1875 (XXXII-O/02)].

The General Assembly reiterated its appeal to the international community in general to continue to lend its indispensable support and cooperation to the Mine-Clearing Program in Central America (PADCA). The General Secretariat was instructed to continue providing the needed support to the Central American countries and to continue conducting cooperation and coordination activities with other international organizations [AG/RES. 1878 (XXXII-O/02)].

The General Assembly reaffirmed the goals of the global elimination of antipersonnel-land-mines and the conversion of the Western Hemisphere into an antipersonnel-land-mine-free zone. It urged member states which had not yet done so to ratify or consider acceding to the Convention on the Prohibition of Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (Ottawa Convention), the 1980 United Nations Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects and its four protocols. The Assembly encouraged member states either to request or provide assistance, as appropriate, to the Organization of American States (OAS) Mine Action Team. It requested the Secretary General to continue considering the possibility of developing new mine action programs in the Americas to assist affected member states, upon request. The Assembly asked the Permanent Council to forward any information or recommendations that result pursuant to this resolution to the preparatory body of the Special Conference on Security as a contribution to the preparations for that Conference [AG/RES. 1889 (XXXII-O/02)].

Natural disasters

The Assembly endorsed the recommendations contained in document CP/CSH-433/02 rev. 1. It urged the Inter-American Natural Disaster Reduction Committee to work with the member States for their effective implementation and to devote a meeting to examining regional topics for cooperation between civilian authorities and military authorities on disaster preparedness and response, so as to strengthen civilian leadership in this area. It also requested that it study and propose to the preparatory body of the Special Conference on Security the measures that it may consider appropriate for strengthening cooperation among member states on this issue. It instructed the Permanent Council to revise the FONDEM Statutes and assign to the IACNDR the functions of coordinating aid in the face of natural disasters [AG/RES. 1885 (XXXII-O/02)].

Trade

The General Assembly noted the report of the Permanent Council and the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development "Trade and Integration in the Americas." It instructed the General Secretariat to continue providing analytical support and assistance on all matters related to the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) [AG/RES. 1861 (XXXII-O/02)].

Relations with other organizations, organs, agencies and entities

The Assembly reiterated that the fight against poverty is a priority and constant concern of the member states and that the OAS should support their efforts to reduce the level of poverty in the Hemisphere. It resolved to convoke, in the framework of CIDI, a high level meeting during the last quarter of 2002 to address the challenges that poverty, equity, and social inclusion present for the inter-American system [AG/RES. 1854 (XXXII-O/02)].

The Strategic Plan for Partnership for Development 2002-2005 was approved and the Permanent Executive Committee of CIDI was instructed to review the statutes and procedures to determine whether they needed to be amended [AG/RES. 1855 (XXXII-O/02)].

The General Assembly decided to consider it a matter of priority to hold the First Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities on Science and Technology within the Framework of CIDI prior to the next Summit of the Americas and, to that end, to hold a meeting of COMCYT with the objective of preparing the aforementioned Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology [AG/RES. 1856 (XXXII-O/02)].

The General Secretariat was instructed to continue supporting the meetings of the Inter-American Committee on Sustainable Development [AG/RES. 1857 (XXXII-O/02)].

The General Assembly accepted the Brazilian Government's offer to host the XIII Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor in October 2003 [AG/RES. 1858 (XXXII-O/02)].

The Assembly took note of the final report of CIDI's Second Meeting of Ministers of Education and congratulated the Government of Uruguay for organizing and hosting the meeting. It asked that the General Secretariat continue supporting the activities of the Education Ministries in following up on the educational commitments of the Summits of the Americas and approved the creation of the Inter-American Committee on Education [AG/RES. 1859 (XXXII-O/02)].

The General Assembly convoked the XVIII Inter-American Travel Congress to consider "The Role of Hemispheric Cooperation to Address the New Challenges of the Tourism Sector." It asked the Congress

to consider and pronounce itself on its future operations and structure so CIDI, and ultimately the General Assembly, might adopt the corresponding resolutions [AG/RES. 1860 (XXXII-O/02)].

The Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) was instructed to prosecute its efforts to mobilize external resources for fellowship, scholarship, and training programs, including the Special Caribbean Fellowships Program. The Assembly took note of the various initiatives developed by the IACD for the leveraging or mobilization of external resources to expand the OAS fellowship and training programs, and asked the General Secretariat to expand and consolidate the mechanisms and strategies aimed at enlisting the cooperation of the private sectors and academic institutions at the international level [AG/RES. 1862 (XXXII-O/02)].

The member States were urged to ratify the Protocols of Washington and Managua. The Assembly extended the period during which its resolution AG/RES. 2 (XXII-E/96), "Participation of Member States That Have Not Ratified the Protocol of Managua in the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) When Said Protocol Enters into Force," will remain in force until the next regular session of the General Assembly, which will review the situation if, at that time, there are still member states that have not ratified the Protocol of Managua [AG/RES. 1863/02 (XXXII-O/02)].

The General Assembly encouraged member states to develop strategies for the mitigation of and adaptation to climate change through their development policy and planning initiatives. It also instructed the General Secretariat to support the CARICOM countries and the programs of the Caribbean Climate Change Centre aimed at promoting adaptation to climate change and in building a greater awareness in the Americas about climate change issues [AG/RES. 1864 (XXXII-O/02)].

The General Assembly instructed CIDI to identify opportunities for strengthening cooperation in the OAS in light of the results of the Conference of Monterrey on Financing for Development. It also resolved that the results of that analysis were to be submitted to the Permanent Executive Committee of CIDI and the Permanent Council of the Organization for consideration. The Assembly also asked the Secretary General to carry out consultations with inter-American institutions and other multilateral entities participating in the Conference with a view to convoking a meeting with them that would take place at OAS headquarters. Its objective would be to agree on specific actions that would enable member states of the Organization to benefit from the results of the Monterrey Conference [AG/RES. 1865 (XXXII-O/02)].

The General Assembly took note of the annual report of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development and expressed satisfaction with it, and recognized the work carried out by CIDI and its Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD) [AG/RES. 1866 (XXXII-O/02)].

The Assembly stressed the importance of holding the First Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Culture to discuss cultural diversity. It thanked the Government of Colombia for its generous offer of the site for holding this Meeting at Cartagena de Indias, on July 12-13, 2002 [AG/RES. 1868 (XXXII-O/02)].

The Assembly expressed its satisfaction with the work of the Inter-American Juridical Committee in dealing with the priority concerns of the Organization in the area of law and, especially, to recognize the support the Committee provided to the General Assembly and the Permanent Council in preparing the studies requested of it and its support and participation in the process that concluded with the adoption of the Inter-American Democratic Charter. It thanked the Inter-American Juridical Committee for the work it prepared for the Sixth Inter-American Specialized Conference on Private International Law and asked that it continue to assist with preparations for the next CIDIP. The Assembly encouraged the Inter-American Juridical Committee to continue to promote the holding of regular joint meetings with the legal advisors at the ministries of foreign affairs of OAS member states. It underscored once again the

importance of the Course on International Law and resolved to support every effort to enable more professors and students from all subregions to attend the course. It noted with satisfaction the new agenda adopted by the Inter-American Juridical Committee for its 61st regular meeting and recommended, once again, that it concentrate its efforts on the issues indicated to it as being of priority interest to the Organization [AG/RES.1844 (XXXII-O/02)].

The Assembly endorsed and transmitted to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights the observations and recommendations that the Permanent Council made of its annual report. It reiterated that the judgments of the Court were final and not subject to appeal. It instructed the Permanent Council to submit a proposed budget for 2004 that included an effective and adequate increase in the economic resources allocated to the Court. The Assembly also urged the OAS member states to consider, as early as possible, the signature and ratification of or accession to, as the case may be, the American Convention on Human Rights and other instruments of the system, including acceptance of the binding jurisdiction of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights [AG/RES. 1850 (XXXII-O/02)].

The Assembly received with satisfaction the Permanent Council's report on the member states' observations and recommendations on the report of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) and recommended to the Commission that it continue to take into account the concerns and observations of the member states on its annual reports. It invited the Commission to consider the possibility of including in its annual report information on what the States were doing to follow-up on Commission recommendations. It also invited the Commission to review the criteria and indicators on that subject in the report for this year. It urged member states to consider, as early as possible, the signature and ratification of or accession to, as appropriate, all instruments of the inter-American human rights system. It instructed the Permanent Council to present a proposed budget for 2004 that includes an effective and adequate increase in the economic resources allocated to the Commission. It also instructed the Permanent Council to devote a regular meeting in 2002 to considering the topic "freedom of thought and expression." The Assembly urged the IACHR to continue to promote the observance and protection of human rights, in keeping with the provisions governing its competence and operations, in particular, the OAS Charter, the American Convention on Human Rights, and the Commission's Statute and Rules of Procedure. The Assembly recognized the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and encouraged it in the important work it had been carrying out to protect and promote human rights in the Hemisphere and, in that connection, urged the member states to continue lending their cooperation and support [AG/RES. 1894 (XXXII-O/02)].

The General Assembly recognized the important work being done by the Inter-American Commission of Women, the Inter-American Children's Institute –with special congratulations on its 75th anniversary-, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, the Pan American Institute of Geography and History, and the Pan American Health Organization, underscoring its one hundredth anniversary. It urged the organs, agencies and entities of the Organization to include in their reports a section on the quantifiable results obtained, as well as a detailed report on the measures adopted to put into practice the Inter-American Program to Promote the Human Rights of Women and Equity, Equality and Gender, and to incorporate the gender perspective. The Assembly reiterated that annual reports must be submitted within the regulatory time period, i.e., 90 days before the start of the General Assembly. It urged the organs, agencies and entities to approve their reports by the procedures appropriate in each case, no less than 120 days prior to the start of a session of the General Assembly [AG/RES. 1883 (XXXII-O/02)].

The Assembly took note of the programs and projects conducted by the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) in furtherance of the mandates contained in the plans of action of the Second and Third Summits of the Americas regarding drug abuse control. It urged the member States, permanent observers and international institutions to continue helping to fund the Commission's programs and projects. It urged the member States, permanent observers and international trade

institutions to endeavor to maintain and strengthen trade preference systems that support alternative development programs. The Assembly also took note of the “Progress Report in Drug Control 2001, Implementation of Recommendations from the First Evaluation Round,” and urged the member states to comply with those recommendations. The General Assembly instructed CICAD to assist the member states with development of uniform data collection systems; to assist member states in improving their control mechanisms to prevent the diversion of chemical substances used in the manufacture of controlled illicit drugs and pharmaceuticals; to assist member states that so request in establishing and implementing Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs); to continue to provide technical and financial assistance for the implementation of alternative development projects in the member states affected by the presence of illicit crops, and to enhance their mechanisms for preventing the diversion of firearms. It asked CICAD to send the recommendations it deemed pertinent to the preparatory body of the Special Conference on Security [AG/RES. 1882 (XXXII-O/02)].

The Assembly recognized the Inter-American Telecommunications Commission’s constant efforts to facilitate and promote the development of telecommunications in the Hemisphere [AG/RES. 1843 (XXXII-O/02)].

It also expressed its recognition of the activities of the United Nations, the Central American Integration System and the Caribbean Community, under the cooperation agreements between the OAS General Secretariat, the Secretariats of the UN, the Central American Integration System (SICA) and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). The Assembly asked the Secretary General to continue to reinforce technical cooperation activities, including those with the General Secretariat of the Association of Caribbean States [AG/RES. 1893 (XXXII-O/02)].

The General Assembly welcomed the establishment, in Santiago, Chile, of the Office of the Regional Advisor to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and encouraged the organs of the inter-American system for the promotion and protection of human rights to establish ties with that Office. The Assembly also invited the organs of the inter-American system and of the United Nations system to continue and step up efforts for mutual collaboration to strengthen human rights in the Hemisphere and to promote their full effectiveness, in the framework of the existing cooperation agreements between the two organizations [AG/RES. 1899 (XXXII-O/02)].

Modernization of the OAS

The General Assembly took note of the progress made and measures adopted by the Permanent Council and the Secretary General in the Organization’s modernization and restructuring process. It instructed the Preparatory Committee of the General Assembly to make the necessary arrangements with the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG) to ensure that the SIRG meets at least once each year at the ministerial level, at the same time and place as the General Assembly. It also instructed the Permanent Council to examine the relationship between the OAS and the IADB and make recommendations to the General Assembly and the IADB for modifying the IADB’s structure and basic instruments to the extent necessary to clarify and obtain consensus on its status with respect to the OAS, including the principle of civilian oversight and the democratic formation of its authorities. It also instructed the General Secretariat to prepare a proposal for providing more appropriate facilities for conferences and meetings at headquarters [AG/RES. 1848 (XXXII-O/02)].

Women

The Assembly reaffirmed the governments’ commitment to integrate the gender perspective into their national programs and policies. It urged the Secretary General to continue his efforts to implement the objectives of the Inter-American Program and promote the integration of a gender perspective into the

Organization's activities, policies, programs, projects, and agendas. The Assembly also instructed the Secretary General and the Permanent Council to continue allocating to the Inter-American Commission of Women, in the program-budget for 2003, the human and financial resources it needs to act as an organ for follow-up, coordination, and evaluation of the Inter-American Program and of actions taken to implement that Program, bearing in mind the other priorities of the Organization [AG/RES. 1853 (XXXII-O/02)].

The General Assembly urged the Secretary General to reaffirm the urgent goal that women should occupy, by the year 2005, 50% of posts at each level within the OAS organs, agencies and entities, particularly at the P-5 level and above. It also called upon the Secretary General to continue to make gender equity and equality one of the priorities in his continuing efforts to establish a new management culture in the Organization [AG/RES. 1872 (XXXII-O/02)].

Children

The General Assembly urged the member states to consider signing, ratifying or acceding to the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction of October 25, 1980; the Inter-American Convention on the International Return of Children, of July 15, 1989; the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in respect of Intercountry Adoption, of May 29, 1993; and the Hague Convention on Jurisdiction, Applicable Law, Recognition, Enforcement and Co-operation in respect of Parental Responsibility and Measures for the Protection of Children, of October 19, 1996. It convened a meeting of government experts on the subject of the international abduction of children by one of their parents, to be held at the headquarters of the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN), on August 12 and 13, 2002. The Assembly also recommended that the meeting of government experts consider preparing an inter-American program on cooperation to prevent and remedy cases of international abduction of children by one of their parents, with specific objectives, including the establishment of a network for the exchange of information and for cooperation among the competent national bodies in member states. It gave instructions for the recommendations of the meeting of government experts to be submitted to the IIN Directing Council [AG/RES. 1891 (XXXII-O/02)].

Indigenous peoples

The General Assembly reaffirmed as a priority of the Organization of American States the adoption of the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, emphasizing the importance of participation by indigenous peoples in the process of elaborating the Draft Declaration. It commended the progress made at the special meeting of the Working Group to Prepare the Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, held at OAS headquarters from March 11 to 15, 2002, in that it strengthened the process of open and transparent dialogue among the OAS member states and representatives of indigenous peoples. The Assembly instructed the Permanent Council to adopt measures to strengthen the process of ongoing dialogue with representatives of indigenous peoples to achieve prompt and successful conclusion of negotiations on the Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. It instructed the Secretary General to enhance coordination, awareness, and promotion relating to activities on indigenous issues among the various bodies and dependencies of the Organization [AG/RES. 1851 (XXXII-O/02)].

Administration of the General Secretariat

The Assembly closed the Career Service and decided to phase it out by attrition [AG/RES. 1873 (XXXII-O/02)].

It also approved and authorized the program-budget of the Organization for the fiscal period between January 1 and December 31, 2003 [AG/RES. 1909 (XXXII-O/02)].

PERMANENT COUNCIL

The Permanent Council, one of the organs by means of which the Organization accomplishes its purposes (Article 53 of the Charter), is directly answerable to the General Assembly. The Council is composed of one representative of each member state, especially appointed by the respective government with the rank of ambassador. Chapter XII of the Charter stipulates the functions and responsibilities of the Permanent Council, which takes up any matter entrusted to it by the General Assembly or the Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs. It serves provisionally as the Organ of Consultation, in accordance with the provisions of the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance (TIAR). The Permanent Council sees to the maintenance of friendly relations among the member states and assists them in the peaceful settlement of their differences. It acts as Preparatory Committee of the General Assembly, unless the latter decides otherwise.

Chair and Vice Chair

During the period covered in this report, the following ambassadors, permanent representatives chaired the Permanent Council: Margarita Escobar (El Salvador), Roger F. Noriega (United States), Denis G. Antoine (Grenada), Arturo Duarte Ortiz and Víctor Hugo Godoy Morales (Guatemala), and M. A. Odeen Ishmael (Guyana). Serving as Vice Chair of the Permanent Council were Roger F. Noriega (United States), Margarita Escobar (El Salvador) and Walter Niehaus Bonilla (Costa Rica).

Addresses by the Secretary General

The Secretary General addressed the Permanent Council on several occasions in connection with the facilitation efforts in Venezuela and Haiti. He also spoke on a number of issues on the Permanent Council's agenda, including an address on the occasion of the first anniversary of the Inter-American Democratic Charter.

Presentations by the Assistant Secretary General

The Assistant Secretary General presented reports and on a number of occasions made observations about topics on the Permanent Council's agenda, among them the following: the facilitation efforts in Haiti; the diversion of Nicaraguan weapons to the Self-Defense Brigades in Colombia; the W. Averell Harriman Democracy Award, and the anniversary of the Discovery of the Americas: Encounter of Two Worlds.

Visits to the Permanent Council

The Council welcomed the following presidents and officials: the President of Peru, the Honorable Alejandro Toledo; the President of Nicaragua, the Honorable Enrique José Bolaños Geyer; the Prime Minister of St. Kitts and Nevis, His Excellency Dr. Denzil Llewellyn Douglas; the Vice President of Colombia, Francisco Santos; the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay, His Excellency Didier Opertti; the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Suriname, Her Excellency Maria E. Levens; the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia, Her Excellency Carolina Barco Isakson; the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bolivia, His Excellency Carlos Saavedra Bruno; and the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica, Elayne Whyte. It also received the following dignitaries: Ambassador Jorge Alberto Lozoya, Secretary of the Institute of Ibero-American Cooperation; Antonio Vives from the Inter-American Development Bank; Fernando Carrillo, Senior Specialist with the State and Civil Society Division of the Inter-American Development Bank; Inés Bustillo, Director of the Office of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in Washington; Ambassador Peter F. Allgeier, Associate U.S Trade Representative for

the Western Hemisphere; Alejandro Bonasso, Director of the Inter-American Children's Institute; Dr. Antonio Augusto Cançado Trindade, President of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights; Ambassador Morris D. Busby, Special Representative of the Secretary General on the diversion of Nicaraguan weapons to the United Self-Defense Units of Colombia; and Ambassador David Lee, Chief of the OAS Special Mission for Strengthening Democracy in Haiti.

Resolutions

The resolutions approved during the period covered by this report concerned the following: vote of thanks to the people and Government of Barbados; venue and date of the thirty-third and thirty-fourth regular sessions of the General Assembly; support for the process of dialogue in Venezuela; support for strengthening democracy in Haiti; renovation of the Simon Bolivar Room and the space formerly occupied by the Columbus Memorial Library Stacks in the Main OAS Building; support for Nicaragua in the fight against corruption; permanent observer status for the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the State of Qatar; sixtieth anniversary of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture; venue, agenda and date of the Second High-level Meeting of Special Security Concerns of Small Island States; adoption of the guidelines on developing national defense policy and doctrine papers; establishment of the date, agenda, calendar, and rules of procedure of the Meeting of Experts on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures in the Region; use of excess resources of the Reserve Subfund for capital investments and to meet OAS mandates; support for the democratic institutional structure in Venezuela and the facilitation efforts of the OAS Secretary General; increasing the 2004 program-budget appropriation for the Inter-American Human Rights System; support for the peaceful resolution of the territorial differendum between Belize and Guatemala; condemnation of terrorist acts in Colombia, and support for the constitutional Government of the Republic of Bolivia.

INTER-AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT

The Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) is an organ of the Organization of American States and is directly answerable to the General Assembly. It has decision-making authority in matters related to partnership for development and was established when the Protocol of Managua entered into force on January 29, 1996 (Chapter XIII). CIDI comprises all the member states of the Organization, which designate one principal representative each, of ministerial or equivalent rank, whom the respective government appoints. It may create such subsidiary bodies and organs as it deems necessary to perform its functions properly. Its purpose is to promote cooperation among the American States to achieve their integral development and, in particular, to help eliminate extreme poverty, pursuant to the provisions of the Charter, especially those set forth in Chapter VII with respect to the economic, social, educational, cultural, scientific, and technological fields. CIDI holds at least one meeting each year at the ministerial or equivalent level, and may convene such others as it deems pertinent in its area of competence. Execution and coordination of the respective activities are the responsibility of the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development.

Seventh regular meeting of CIDI

CIDI held its seventh regular meeting at Organization headquarters on May 10, 2002. All the member States were represented at the meeting, which was chaired by Ambassador Ramón Quiñones, Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic. The Vice Chair was Mr. Federico Villegas, Alternate Representative of Argentina to the Organization.

CIDI elected five members of the Management Board of the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development. The delegations of Canada, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala and the United States were elected by acclamation. These delegations will serve two-year terms.

As provided in Article 31.c of CIDI's Statutes, the Council received offers of voluntary contributions to the Special Multilateral Fund of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (FEMCIDI) from the delegations of Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Chile, Honduras, Guyana, Ecuador, Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, Peru and the United States.

Through resolution CIDI/RES. 113 (VII-O/02), the Council reiterated that poverty is a priority and abiding concern for the member States and that the Organization must support their efforts to bring down poverty levels in the hemisphere. CIDI recommended to the General Assembly that a high-level meeting be convoked to discuss the challenges that poverty, inequity and social disenfranchisement pose for the inter-American system. The General Assembly did convoke a high-level meeting, which will be held in 2003 and will consider the role that the OAS will have in hemispheric social development. It will also identify vehicles for promoting cooperation for development and sharing of programs that are effective and efficient in combating poverty.

In resolution CIDI/RES. 114 (VII-O/02) CIDI decided to follow-up on the "Monterrey Consensus," agreed to at the International Conference on Financing for Development, held in March 2002, and adopted the measures necessary to pinpoint opportunities that would strengthen the Organization's cooperation to help member States gain access to the development financing instruments and mechanisms cited by that Conference.

In resolution CIDI/RES. 118 (VII-O/02), the Council confirmed its support for the General Secretariat's trade- and integration-related technical assistance activities with the FTAA process and with specialized regional, subregional and multilateral institutions. It also reiterated its backing of the activities being conducted to mainstream trade into development plans and poverty-reduction strategies, in keeping with the new strategy of the World Trade Organization. Through resolution CIDI/RES. 120 (VII-O/02), CIDI established the eight Nonpermanent Specialized Committees (CENPES) for the 2002 evaluation exercise and decided each one's membership.

Among other measures, CIDI convoked the following ministerials: the XVIII Inter-American Travel Congress; the First Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Culture, held in Colombia in July 2002; the XIII Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor, which will be held in Brazil in October 2003; the Third Meeting of Ministers of Education, to be held in Mexico in 2003; the First Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Science and Technology; the meeting of the Social Development Committee; and the Third Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Ports, to be held in Mexico in 2003.

Sectoral ministerials

First Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Culture

The First Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Culture was held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, July 12 and 13, 2002. The theme was cultural diversity, with a view to furthering hemispheric cooperation on this issue and creating an enabling environment to promote a recognition and appreciation of cultural and linguistic diversity in the countries of the Americas. Chairing the meeting was Mrs. Araceli Morales López, Minister of Culture of Colombia. Mr. Don Boudria, Minister of State and Leader of the Government in Canada's House of Commons, and Mrs. Otilia Lux de Coti, Minister of Culture of Guatemala, were elected First and Second Vice Chairs, respectively.

The Meeting considered the relevance of cultural diversity in the context of public policy in general and not just cultural policies. Emphasis was placed on the need to take cultural diversity into account when formulating educational, environmental, labor, communication and other policies. It also recognized the importance of promoting civil society's participation in the design and formulation of cultural and development policies, so that those policies are representative of the various peoples and cultures that live in the hemisphere. It also stated that while individuals and communities alike had to enjoy the benefits that accrued from an appreciation of and respect for cultural diversity, they also had to share the responsibility of shaping and effecting cultural policy and becoming active and permanent creators of culture.

Two concrete lines of action were brought up, having to do with the creation of the permanent Forum for culture in the American States and the Inter-American Cultural Policy Observatory. Both processes will, in the near term, make it possible to conduct activities that will ultimately make it possible to achieve the stated long-term objectives.

Finally, the meeting considered and approved the Declaration and Plan of Action of Cartagena de Indias which recommends the creation of the Inter-American Committee on Culture within CIDI, enabling and facilitating exchange on policy issues and cultural diversity. Particular attention was given to that Committee's mandate to conduct a feasibility study for creation of an Inter-American Cultural Policy Observatory. The Delegation of Mexico offered to host the first preparatory meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Culture, an offer that was accepted by acclamation.

Inter-American Committees in the CIDI framework

Nonpermanent Specialized Committees

The Nonpermanent Specialized Committees (CENPES) provide CIDI with technical support in dealing with specialized matters or to develop certain aspects of inter-American cooperation in the Strategic Plan's priority areas.

The Sixth Meeting of the CENPES, convoked by CEPCIDI, was held at Organization headquarters on October 9 and 10, 2002. Thirty-two experts, selected by CIDI, formed eight committees, one committee for each priority area in the Strategic Plan: Education; Economic Diversification; Market Access and Free Trade; Social Development and Productive Employment; Scientific Development and Transfer and Sharing of Technology; Democratic Institution-Building; Sustainable Development and Environment; and Sustainable Tourism Development.

The sector-specific CENPES technically evaluated and qualified the projects in partnership for development that formed the programming proposal that the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development submitted to receive funding with resources from the Special Multilateral Fund of CIDI (FEMCIDI) 2002. The CENPES analyzed and evaluated 110 projects submitted by thirty-one (31) member States.

The programming of the 2002 FEMCIDI technical cooperation activities, for execution in 2003, was approved by the Management Board of the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development in November 2002 and includes ninety-three (93) projects for a total of US \$6,549,094.

The breakdown of the FEMCIDI 2002 resources by sectoral account is as follows: 23 projects in education, totaling US \$1,631,565; 5 projects in culture, totaling US \$153,518; 8 projects in trade, for US \$695,000; 18 projects in social development, for US \$848,712; 21 projects in science and technology, for a total of US \$1,598,245; 5 projects in democracy, for a total of US \$412,373; 9 projects in environment, for US \$771,365; and 4 projects in tourism for a total of US \$438,316.

By geographic area, the FEMCIDI 2002 resources broke down as follows: 30.95% for the English-speaking Caribbean, Belize, Guyana and Suriname; 27.94% for the Central American countries, Panama and the Dominican Republic; 15.07% for the Andean Group countries; 14.09% for the MERCOSUR countries; and 11.95% for Mexico and the United States.

Permanent Executive Committee of CIDI

During the period covered in this report, the Permanent Executive Committee of CIDI (CEPCIDI) held 9 meetings. The seventh regular meeting of CIDI elected Ambassador Ramón Quiñones, Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic, as Chairman of CEPCIDI, and Mrs. Margarita Riva-Geoghegan, Alternate Representative of the United States, as CEPCIDI Vice-Chair for the 2002-2003 period.

To discharge its responsibilities, CEPCIDI was supported by the Subcommittee on Partnership for Development, the Subcommittee on Program, Budget and Evaluation, the Working Group charged with organizing the XVIII Inter-American Travel Congress and the Working Group to review the Procedural Handbook of the OAS Fellowship and Training Program.

Among the work accomplished during the period covered in this report, CEPCIDI, through its Working Group, advanced preparations for the XVIII Inter-American Travel Congress. The Government of Guatemala has offered to host the meeting in August 2003. CEPCIDI also received the report of the Third

Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Sustainable Development (CIDS) and established a Working Group to follow up on the CIDS mandates.

CEPCIDI was also in charge of the preparations for the seventh regular meeting of CIDI. It considered the meeting's draft agenda and draft calendar, decided the delegations' order of precedence, and prepared the draft resolutions that CIDI would eventually adopt.

In compliance with resolution AG/RES. 1859 (XXXII-O/02), CEPCIDI established the Inter-American Committee on Education (CIE) in November 2002 and adopted, *ad referendum* of the next regular meeting of CIDI, the Rules of Procedure for that Committee. The CIE's purpose is to coordinate implementation of the inter-American ministerial dialogue on education in order to follow up on the mandates from the Summits of the Americas and the agreements taken at the Meetings of Ministers of Education, to identify multilateral initiatives and help execute the OAS' policies in partnership for educational development.