

CONSEJO PERMANENTE



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ACTA
DE LA SESIÓN ORDINARIA
CELEBRADA
EL 2 DE MAYO DE 2001

Aprobada en la sesión del 13 de febrero de 2002

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DOCUMENTOS CONSIDERADOS EN LA SESIÓN

(SE PUBLICAN POR SEPARADO)

CP/CG-1456/01 rev. 1, Aprobación del proyecto de resolución “Cumplimiento del mandato recibido por la Comisión Interamericana de Telecomunicaciones (CITEL) de la Cumbre de las Américas y preparación de su tercera asamblea”

CP/doc.3440/01, Segundo Informe bienal de la Comisión Interamericana de Mujeres (CIM) sobre el cumplimiento de la resolución AG/RES. 1456 (XXVII-O/97) “Promoción de la Convención Interamericana para Prevenir, Sancionar y Erradicar la Violencia contra la Mujer ‘Convención de Belém do Pará’”

CP/CAJP-1789/01 rev. 1 corr. 1, Informe de la Comisión de Asuntos Jurídicos y Políticos sobre el proyecto de enmiendas al Estatuto del Consejo Permanente

CP/doc.3445/01, Informe de la Secretaría General sobre el estado de cuotas al Fondo Regular al 31 de marzo de 2001

CP/doc.3446/01, Informe sobre ejecución presupuestaria y transferencia de apropiaciones entre capítulos del Fondo Regular 1 de enero – 31 de marzo de 2001

CONSEJO PERMANENTE DE LA ORGANIZACIÓN DE LOS ESTADOS AMERICANOS

ACTA DE LA SESIÓN ORDINARIA CELEBRADA EL 2 DE MAYO DE 2001

En la ciudad de Washington, a las diez de la mañana del miércoles 2 de mayo de 2001, celebró sesión ordinaria el Consejo Permanente de la Organización de los Estados Americanos. Presidió la sesión el Embajador Humberto de la Calle Lombana, Representante Permanente de Colombia y Presidente del Consejo Permanente. Asistieron los siguientes miembros:

Embajador Hernán R. Castro H., Representante Permanente de Costa Rica y Vicepresidente del Consejo Permanente
Embajador Denis G. Antoine, Representante Permanente de Grenada
Embajadora Sonia Merlyn Johnny, Representante Permanente de Santa Lucía
Embajadora Laura Elena Núñez de Ponce, Representante Permanente de Honduras
Embajador Diego Abente Brun, Representante Permanente del Paraguay
Embajador Luis J. Lauredo, Representante Permanente de los Estados Unidos
Embajadora Margarita Escobar, Representante Permanente de El Salvador
Embajador Ronalith Iván Ochaeta Argueta, Representante Permanente de Guatemala
Embajador Esteban Tomic Errázuriz, Representante Permanente de Chile
Embajadora Lisa Shoman, Representante Permanente de Belice
Embajador Michael I. King, Representante Permanente de Barbados
Embajador Lombardo Martínez Cabezas, Representante Permanente de Nicaragua
Embajador Miguel Ruíz Cabañas, Representante Permanente de México
Embajador Jorge Valero Briceño, Representante Permanente de Venezuela
Ministro Consejero Jean Ricot Dorméus, Representante Interino de Haití
Consejero Guido Quevedo, Representante Interino de Bolivia
Primera Secretaria Edda D. Dumont-Adolph, Representante Alterna del Commonwealth de las Bahamas
Consejera María de Fátima Trigosa, Representante Alterna del Perú
Ministro Rafael Veintimilla, Representante Alterno del Ecuador
Ministro Consejero Ricardo Varela, Representante Alterno del Uruguay
Primera Secretaria Jennifer Marchand, Representante Alterna de Trinidad y Tobago
Ministro Consejero César Augusto de Souza Lima Amaral, Representante Alterno del Brasil
Primera Secretaria Deborah Yaw, Representante Alterna de Guyana
Consejero David L. Keithlin, Representante Alterno del Canadá
Ministro Jaime Casabianca, Representante Alterno de Colombia
Ministra Consejera Yessenia Soto, Representante Alterna de la República Dominicana
Ministro Consejero Dwight Fitzgerald Bramble, Representante Alterno de San Vicente y las Granadinas
Primera Secretaria Ann-Marie Layne, Representante Alterna de Antigua y Barbuda
Ministra Silvia Meregá, Representante Alterna de la Argentina
Ministra Delrose Montague, Representante Alterna de Jamaica
Embajador Ricardo González de Mena, Representante Alterno de Panamá

También estuvo presente el Secretario General Adjunto, Embajador Luigi R. Einaudi, Secretario del Consejo Permanente.

El PRESIDENTE: Muy buenos días. Comprobado el quórum reglamentario, declaro abierta la presente sesión ordinaria del Consejo Permanente, convocada para considerar los asuntos que aparecen en el proyecto de orden del día, distribuido en la sala como documento CP/OD-1275/01.

[El proyecto de orden del día contiene los siguientes puntos:

1. Aprobación del proyecto de resolución “Cumplimiento del mandato recibido por la Comisión Interamericana de Telecomunicaciones (CITEL) de la Cumbre de las Américas y preparación de su tercera asamblea” (CP/CG-1456/01 rev. 1)
2. Presentación del señor Bert Edwards, Presidente de la Junta de Auditores Externos, sobre la auditoría de cuentas y estados financieros (31 de diciembre de 2000)
3. Presentación del Director Ejecutivo de la Fundación Panamericana de Desarrollo
4. Designación de un miembro de la Comisión del Fondo Panamericano Leo S. Rowe
5. Segundo Informe Bienal de la Comisión Interamericana de Mujeres (CIM) sobre el cumplimiento de la resolución AG/RES. 1456 (XXVII-O/97) “Promoción de la Convención Interamericana para Prevenir, Sancionar y Erradicar la Violencia contra la Mujer ‘Convención de Belém do Pará’” (CP/doc.3440/01)
6. Informe de la Comisión de Asuntos Jurídicos y Políticos sobre el proyecto de enmiendas al Estatuto del Consejo Permanente (CP/CAJP-1789/01 rev. 1 corr. 1)
7. Informe de la Secretaría General sobre el estado de cuotas al Fondo Regular al 31 de marzo de 2001 (CP/doc.3445/01)
8. Informe sobre ejecución presupuestaria y transferencia de apropiaciones entre capítulos del Fondo Regular 1 de enero – 31 de marzo de 2001 (CP/doc.3446/01)
9. Instalación de la Comisión de Estilo del trigésimo primer período ordinario de sesiones de la Asamblea General
10. Otros asuntos.]

La Presidencia sugiere, además, que se agregue a este orden del día, como punto inicial, la aprobación del proyecto de resolución sobre la Conferencia Interamericana de Telecomunicaciones (CITEL) que hace unos minutos fue aprobada en Comisión General. Por lo tanto, pongo en consideración el orden del día. Ha sido aprobado.

APROBACIÓN DEL PROYECTO DE RESOLUCIÓN “CUMPLIMIENTO DEL MANDATO RECIBIDO POR LA COMISIÓN INTERAMERICANA DE TELECOMUNICACIONES (CITEL) DE LA CUMBRE DE LAS AMÉRICAS Y PREPARACIÓN DE SU TERCERA ASAMBLEA”

El PRESIDENTE: En consideración a lo que acabo de decir, sugiero a los señores Representantes, si no tienen objeción, que este Consejo apruebe la resolución que fue considerada hace pocos minutos en la Comisión General, relacionada con CITEL. Si no hay objeciones, así se acuerda. Acordado.

PRESENTACIÓN DEL PRESIDENTE DE LA JUNTA DE AUDITORES EXTERNOS
SOBRE LA AUDITORÍA DE CUENTAS Y ESTADOS FINANCIEROS
AL 31 DE DICIEMBRE DE 2000

El PRESIDENTE: Como siguiente punto del orden del día tenemos la presentación del señor Bert Edwards, Presidente de la Junta de Auditores Externos, sobre la auditoría de cuentas y estados financieros. Ofrezco la palabra al señor Edwards.

El PRESIDENTE DE LA JUNTA DE AUDITORES EXTERNOS: Good morning, Mr. Chairman. It is a privilege to present to the members of the Permanent Council the summary report of the Board of External Auditors. I believe that each member has either an English or a Spanish version of not only my summary comments, but also the full report that will be available to all of the attendees at the upcoming regular session of the General Assembly. I would suggest that I go through the summary comments and then allow an opportunity for members to ask questions.

First, I will present the members of the Board of External Auditors. I have been serving in my second year as Chair of the Board and representative of the United States. Emma Hippolyte of Saint Lucia is a newly elected member in her first year, and Graciela Fernández-Baca is serving the remaining term of former member Victor Enrique Caso Lay of Peru. Those are the three members who met here in Washington in late March for a week, and the results of our deliberations are in the bound book that is at each of your places. Each of the members has an assistant who meets with us for the week, but also works in the prior week. With me this morning, from the U.S. Department of State, is Peter Vieira. Paula Bleasdille assisted Ms. Hippolyte, and José Miguel Ascay assisted Ms. Fernández-Baca. The other members and their assistants returned to their respective countries on the completion of our work on March 30.

One of the most important things to note in summarizing the financial results is that the Regular Fund of the OAS operated with a surplus for the year ended December 31. You can see that in the right-hand column, and it reversed the deficit that had existed for the two preceding years. Most of the favorable results for fiscal year 2000 are the result of some major delinquent quota payments by member states.

I thought it would be important to take a look at how the Special Multilateral Fund of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (FEMCIDI) turned out. You can see in the lower left-hand column that while FEMCIDI has expended more resources than it has taken in, it started with a healthy fund balance and still has a healthy fund balance.

In the lower right-hand column, you can see the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD), which has just finished its first year. The Agency's opening fund balance was about \$18,600,000. There are four separate areas of operations and an ending fund balance of \$19,960,000. Those are your summary results.

In the thick book that you have in front of you, you have the individual financial statements of each of the OAS's entities. I would suggest that the delegations review those statements, because you may have questions that I won't cover in the rest of my remarks. I would certainly, however, want to be responsive to your questions.

Going on to the financial condition, according to the budgetary and financial rules of the OAS, with which the Board of External Auditors concurs, uncollected quotas are not reported as an asset. At the end of 2000, they totaled \$45,500,000. The major countries with uncollected quotas are the United States with \$29.5 million, Brazil with \$6.4 million, Argentina with \$3.7 million, and smaller amounts from other member states.

In terms of the changes to those figures, the United States' unpaid quota increased by \$5 million during 2000, but that was paid in January 2001. Our understanding is that the payment was delayed because Congress did not approve the State Department's budget until just before the Christmas holiday.

During 2000, there were major decreases in uncollected quotas, and this goes back to my earlier comment. Brazil made an \$18.2 million payment and Venezuela paid \$1.4 million. In terms of reducing the aggregate amount of the uncollected quotas, this was an excellent result.

The fragmented operations of the OAS and the freezing of quotas at the 1995 level of \$73.7 million have impacted the ability of the OAS to continue normal operations. The Permanent Council and its various committees, such as the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs (CAAP), need to take a look at this matter. I haven't checked the inflation of purchasing power, but in the six years since 1995, you can purchase a lot less for \$73.7 million than you could in the year that the quotas were frozen at that amount.

Many of you are aware that the investment markets worldwide suffered declines during 2000, and that has continued into 2001. I am pleased to report, however, that the Retirement and Pension Fund, which is substantially invested in the securities market, remains sound. Its assets have exceeded actuarial liabilities, even with those declines. A couple of members contacted me as to whether the Retirement and Pension Fund was adversely impacted. Indeed, it was impacted, but not to the extent that there is fiscal stress on the Fund's assets for current and retired OAS employees.

Moving on to the Balkanization or fragmentation of the OAS, last year you will remember that the Board of External Auditors expressed concern that having multiple entities with different management and so forth could lead to a destabilizing situation and loss of control. This occurred when the IACD was officially launched in January 2000. The Ernst and Young independent auditors noticed severe financial and operating management issues affecting the Agency and the Leo S. Rowe Pan American Fund.

For example, with the Agency, the draft financial statements were not presented to the auditors for audit until the first day that the Board of External Auditors met. So, the three members of

the Board and their assistants were working on a real time basis with the auditors to discover the outcome of the Agency's audit. Fortunately, it ended up with an unqualified clean opinion and a material weakness, which is defined in the report that was issued.

A material weakness is an internationally recognized situation that is a wake-up call to focus on the operations of the Agency to be sure that those shortcomings do not reoccur. As a result, we summarized the material weakness in Chapter 5 of our report. The IACD's new management, the Director General and the Director of the Department of Operations and Finance, asked that their remediation plan be in our report, and it is included in Chapter 5. I urge member states to look at it, because it clearly has to be addressed in the current year, particularly in light of the Agency's plan to aggressively seek development funds from member states, other countries, foundations, corporations, and others.

Similarly, the Rowe Fund received two reportable conditions in its internal controls, and the Board has recommended that the Inspector General and management take a look at remediating those conditions. Last year, we had a reportable condition on the status of the Oracle installation at the OAS. I am pleased to report that the external auditors have concluded that while improvements continue to be made in Oracle, the issues there do not rise to a reportable condition or a material weakness.

So, it was a mixed year in terms of progress. One issue last year is resolved, and we now have other issues to focus on this year.

The Board spent some time with the management officers of the Rowe Fund looking at the loans that the Fund made and the fellowships it administered. We recommended that the whole operation undergo an efficiency study to determine the appropriateness of the loans to outstanding investments. The investment amount is somewhat over twice the amount of loans. The issue there was whether the capital in the Fund could be preserved while the loans are increased, based on prior loan collection experience. The Board was concerned about whether the loan and fellowship recipients were actually returning to their countries to utilize their educational experience or were staying in the country where they received their education and participating in that country's economy. The study would also take a look at the cost of administering the Fund as opposed to contracting out certain aspects. The Fund's management will also have to resolve and document the two reportable conditions so that they don't recur.

Those are our summary recommendations on the Rowe Fund.

I am sure that many of you have been reading in the media, particularly here in town, that the public sector collectively is not preserving its investment in human resources. Governmental organizations are very, very dependent upon their staff. In the public sector and certainly within the OAS, the educated staff, which is a major asset, is not being retained by upgrading and keeping skills current through training and by ensuring that people who need new skills get those skills to continue in their jobs.

The Board discussed this issue with the Director of the Department of Human Resource Services (DHRS). Many of you travel, and it used to be that you used airline tickets, but now you do it electronically. If you want a hard copy of your ticket, you actually pay extra money. For those of you who live in Virginia and come in on the Dulles Toll Road, there are automatic toll collection

cards for use within the car, so you don't have to stop to pay tolls. The way business is being conducted today is changing very rapidly, and the OAS needs to make sure that its staff members who deal with these issues keep up to date with technology.

This comes down to having sufficient money for training and an assessment plan of the training shortfalls of the staff so that they can be assigned training on a phased basis. The next step is to determine the technology requirements to be sure that the staff has the necessary technical skills. Perhaps the requirements for those technical skills can be included in their job descriptions so that resources are utilized appropriately.

The U.S. Government is facing the retirement of over one third of its higher-level employees over the next five years. This void will be extremely difficult to fill, in light of the challenges in the economy of young people coming out of college and taking jobs in the private sector. I suspect that the same applies to the OAS.

The Board's conclusion regarding the National Offices is that the directors require training in new technology. As you will see in our report, the plan is to begin to bring the National Offices directly into Oracle during the latter part of 2001.

As we talked with a number of OAS executives, there appeared to be some ambiguity as to the responsibility of a national office director when other areas of the OAS are working in his or her member state on projects or other ad hoc activities, such as election observations. So, we have a number of observations on the National Offices.

Some changes to the audit arrangements occurred during 2000, and the Board would like to bring them to the attention of the members of the Permanent Council. A number of different arrangements were made with audit firms, and as a result, instead of one overall audit arrangement—which would produce the lowest possible cost—four or five different arrangements were made. In one case, an arrangement was made with a different accounting firm that did all of the rest of the audits, and in two cases, small units of the OAS were not covered by audits.

The Board is concerned about this situation, because the history of complex organizations is that when something is not audited, there is a surefire chance that something will go wrong and unnoticed. We have recommended that one single firm be considered for the procurement of audits to cover all entities that require separate audits. In that way, the audit costs will be favorable and the timing will be correct. It is simply not cost-effective for the Board of External Auditors to not receive at least a final draft audit report when it begins its deliberations.

As I indicated with respect to the Agency, this year's audit started the first day that the Board convened its activities. As a result, a substantial amount of fax and e-mail traffic occurred after the Board completed its activities. This was the only way to be sure that we had properly reviewed the financial affairs of all of the component units of the OAS.

We are recommending that there be one independent accounting firm for the 2001 order procurement and a March 10 completion date. This could help ensure that the assistants finish their work and therefore maximize the Board's time. Obviously, with people coming in from South America and the Caribbean, it is very difficult to change schedule at the last minute to accommodate incomplete audits. We do need to work on a coordinated basis.

In the report in front of you, each of the recommendations of the Board of External Auditors is in bold type and italics. In these observation comments, I have attempted to highlight the more important recommendations, but as you read through, it will be very easy for you to determine where the Board has made recommendations, as they will be in bold type and italics.

The Board's most significant recommendation to the member states is that the investment that the OAS made in the Oracle system—an investment that now exceeds \$8 million—be maximized by having everyone use Oracle for their financial management. This will allow people to move among units in the OAS as career opportunities exist. It facilitates communication, as it allows everybody to speak the same financial language.

The auditors had some concerns last year about the modules that were installed in the beginning of 1999, but those modules have now been stabilized. Two new modules, human resources and payroll, were installed in the beginning of 2000. The Director of DHRS is very pleased with how those modules are operating.

For those of you who are not familiar with enterprise systems, Oracle has probably one of the largest installed bases of users throughout the world of any of the major vendors. This is not a unique system for the OAS, as literally tens of thousands of organizations are using it. The Board has concluded that it has not been presented with any significant explanations as to why various parts of the OAS should not be using the Oracle system.

Finally, we are recommending that the role of the Inspector General continue to be supported. I am pleased to report to you that as of this time, for the first time in a number of years, all authorized positions in the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) are filled. All of the staff except the Inspector General are new employees in 2000, so they certainly need to go through training to be productive in their internal audit and inspector general functions.

All of the entities of the OAS that had independent audits received unqualified or "clean" opinions, despite the fact that the Agency had a material weakness and the Rowe Fund had two reportable conditions. This also extends to the Planning for Adaptation to Global Climate Change Project, which is being executed at the University of the West Indies in Barbados. That project was audited this year by PricewaterhouseCoopers, and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, which is located in Costa Rica, was audited by a Costa Rican accounting firm.

Various parts of the OAS for which your Board of External Auditors is responsible all received the best possible results of the audit, again taking into account the severe problems that the Agency encountered and the two reportable conditions in the Rowe Fund.

I did point out earlier in my comments that two entities—the Trust for the Americas and the Rowe Memorial Benefit Fund—ended up without audits for 2000. The Board recommends that the 2001 audit go back over that year so that you don't have portions of the OAS with unaudited operations. The Rowe Memorial Benefit Fund was relatively inactive, so going back to audit that fund for 2000 should not be a major problem.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I look forward to questions from the members, and we will respond to them the best we can.

Thank you.

El PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, señor Edwards, por la presentación que nos ha hecho sobre la auditoría de cuentas y estados financieros al 31 de diciembre de 2000. Ofrezco la palabra a los señores Representantes que quieran referirse a este tema. Tiene la palabra la Representante Permanente de Santa Lucía.

La REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE SANTA LUCÍA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me first thank the Chair of the Board of External Auditors for his report.

Having looked into the findings of the auditors and the operation of the Leo S. Rowe Pan American Fund, I am not surprised. I think that the Committee's members will not be surprised either, because we had identified some of the problem areas. In fact, I am a little disappointed this morning that I only received the report of the Chair about five minutes ago. Had I received it earlier, I think I would have been able to give a more substantive presentation on the findings of the Board of External Auditors.

Having said that, Mr. Chairman, you may recall that I presented a report to the Permanent Council last December as Chair of the Committee of the Leo S. Rowe Pan American Fund. I indicated in that report that there were several problems and that the Committee had worked closely with the Inspector General in identifying these problems and cleaning house. Having cleaned house, we are now ready to put into place a proper and efficient structure so that the administrative functions of the Fund can be carried out. We were given that authority under Article 2 of the Statutes of the Fund: "The Fund shall be administered by a committee approved and supervised by the Permanent Council."

Article 9 of the Statutes states:

The Treasurer of the OAS shall be the Treasurer of the Fund and, in accordance with the regulations of the Fund and the instructions of the Committee, shall be in charge of the receipt, accounting, and disbursement of the funds.

So, Mr. Chairman, up to the end of 1999 and close to the beginning of 2000, we knew that two units, the Committee and the Treasurer's Office, controlled the Fund. Their duties were clear.

However, the confusion stated in the report of the Board of External Auditors started in late 1999 when Executive Order No. 99-4 was issued. The order states that the Rowe Fund will be housed in the Division for the Development of Human Resources (Fellowships), which falls under the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI). The Office of the Director General of the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD) is responsible for fulfilling the functions of direction, administration, supervision, and general control of SEDI, which includes the Division for the Development of Human Resources. It also states that the Division is to serve as technical secretariat for the Rowe Fund and to participate in its committee.

There is the confusion. Who does what? That was our problem. Is the Committee to administer the Fund, or is the IACD to administer the Fund?

We have noted the recommendations made by the auditors. We, of course, will work with the IACD and the Treasurer to find out exactly who is supposed to be doing what. Hopefully, at some point somebody will instruct us about the validity of the three points that I just read from Executive Order No. 99-4, because the executive order seems to give the IACD the administrative functions that I mentioned. But the Statutes of the Fund which, as far as I know, have not been amended to say otherwise, give the Committee selected by the Permanent Council administrative authority.

Mr. Chairman, the auditors were clear about the lack of reconciliation between the Rowe Fund's information systems records and the general ledger contained in the Oracle Financials System in the Department of Financial Services (DFS). They stated that because the Rowe system was still under development in early 2001, testing and examination of the interface has not been sufficiently performed, and so there was a problem with reconciliation. Again, Mr. Chairman, we will comply with the recommendations of the auditors, and we will work closely with the DFS so that the records can be reconciled.

Noting what was stated here by the Chairman of the Board of External Auditors about the relationships between loans and outstanding investments, the Committee has always been guided by Buck Consultants, a well-respected group of consultants. Are we now to change and say that they are not the experts we think they are? They have guided us on this issue and others all along, and we go along with them since they know the financial climate better than we do. They are our experts.

There was a question as to whether loan recipients are returning to their countries to commence careers. To a large degree, they are. Nevertheless, we have a penalty clause in the statutes that allows us to penalize students who do not return home by asking them to pay the full amount of the loan immediately. If this is not done within a certain period of time, interest is then imposed on the balance of the payment. So a mechanism is in place to address this particular condition.

Regarding the cost of administering the Fund, the technical secretariat of the Rowe Fund has two staff members. The General Secretariat is paying one person, and the Rowe Fund is paying the other. Whether this is excessive will have to be studied. In fact, we don't have enough staff. We need more people to stay on top of tracking down payments made by students, simply because the DFS has indicated that it is not willing to give the Leo Rowe Fund the top priority that it deserves in tracking down students who haven't paid. We have found out that the posting of students' payments has sometimes been as late as three months. So herein lies our problem.

We have seen some of the problems here, and we will work closely with the DFS and the IACD to rectify some of the problems identified in the report.

I thank you.

El PRESIDENTE: Gracias, señora Embajadora, por sus apreciaciones. Es conveniente, de todos modos, indicar que es intención de la Presidencia transmitir este informe a la Comisión de Asuntos Administrativos y Presupuestarios. Tiene la palabra la Representante Permanente de Honduras, Embajadora Laura Núñez de Ponce.

La REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE HONDURAS: Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

En mi calidad de Presidenta de la Comisión de Asuntos Administrativos y Presupuestarios, permítame por su intermedio felicitar al señor Bert Edwards por el informe que nos presenta, el cual refleja su gran dedicación y empeño en la recolección de todos los elementos que, en consecuencia, le permiten dictaminar el estado financiero actual de la Organización y emitir sus recomendaciones.

Este informe es de gran valor para el análisis del desempeño de la Organización, indicándonos en dónde están nuestras debilidades y en dónde se requiere prestar mayor atención y corregir situaciones anómalas que son preocupantes.

Siento mucho no poder en este momento hacer comentarios más sustantivos, al haber conocido el Informe hasta este momento. Pero lo estudiaremos con cuidado y procuraremos que sus observaciones y recomendaciones sean debidamente tomadas en cuenta para el beneficio y fortalecimiento de la Organización. Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

El PRESIDENTE: Gracias, señora Embajadora Núñez de Ponce. Tiene la palabra la Delegación del Brasil.

El REPRESENTANTE ALTERNO DEL BRASIL: Muito obrigado, Senhor Presidente. Foi com satisfação que a Delegação brasileira escutou a apresentação da Junta de Auditores Externos.

Eu gostaria de ressaltar que, como já mencionado por Delegados anteriores, este relatório circulou apenas hoje e nós não tivemos oportunidade de examiná-lo no seu conteúdo.

Considero, entretanto, que foram aportadas informações importantes no dia de hoje e que mereceriam um debate no Conselho Permanente. Muito embora o assunto será conduzido à consideração da CAAP, eu considero que o mais apropriado seria que a circulação do relatório fosse feita com antecedência para que tivesse, pelo menos, um certo debate a nível de Conselho Permanente.

Muito obrigado, Senhor Presidente.

El PRESIDENTE: Gracias a la Delegación del Brasil. Tiene la palabra el Representante Permanente de los Estados Unidos, Embajador Luis Lauredo.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

As my other colleagues have done, I would like to start by thanking Mr. Edwards and the representatives from Saint Lucia and Peru who are members of the Board of External Auditors for their good work.

My delegation is pleased to know that the Board has determined that this is in fact a clean audit. We note that there are areas of concerns, as often occurs in organizations as complex as ours. We are pleased to see that a remediated plan has been presented in record time and is included in this report.

Someone once said that there is nothing more difficult in human affairs than to try something new. In this organization, which has for so long been static, we have new entities that will undergo

break-in periods during which adjustments are needed. I make that point to reaffirm our commitment and support for the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD). We need to start conditioning ourselves, beginning June 3 through 5, to more changes.

Our bosses who met in Quebec City a couple of days ago have directed us and, more important, our foreign ministers, through the Summit and its mandates, to produce substantial, profound, and lasting readjustment and restructuring of this organization. The goal is for this organization to adapt itself better to the 21st century, to the new goals and objectives of the Americas, and to the mandates that our bosses have set out as the agenda for this hemisphere.

So let us not get too panicky about some of these bumps in the road. New things are difficult, but if we have the general direction and commitment, I think we are on the right track. I wanted to get that on the record.

I want to say to the external auditors, in the context of my previous comments, that your challenge in the coming years is even bigger. I command you to continue to keep the very clinical and watch-dog positions that you have, because we will be making further structural changes in this organization to bring it up to modern standards. I can almost predict that we will have further bumps in the road. That is why we rely on your expertise and your sometimes harsh judgements. It is your job to make harsh judgements so that we may take the corrective steps.

Let me conclude by commending your work and reminding all of us that this is a clean audit. The problems that have been highlighted need not be taken out of context, particularly in light of the remedial steps that will be taken immediately.

Mr. Chairman, thank you, and I thank the Board for its very fine job.

El PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, Embajador Lauredo. Tiene la palabra la Delegación del Uruguay.

El REPRESENTANTE ALTERNO DEL URUGUAY: Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

La Delegación del Uruguay quiere agradecer también el Informe del señor Bert Edwards, Presidente de la Junta de Auditores Externos. Entendemos que es un informe muy completo.

Señor Presidente, el Uruguay integra, junto con otros pocos países, la Comisión del Fondo Panamericano Leo S. Rowe. Nuestra actuación como país dentro de esta Comisión a lo largo de casi cuatro años, ya que terminamos nuestro mandato a finales de este año, ha estado orientada a defender cosas básicas. En primer lugar, la integridad del Fondo. Hemos peleado para que el Fondo mantuviera la cifra actual y que fuera bien colocada. En segundo lugar, hemos hecho un esfuerzo grande en la selección de los candidatos, en lo cual se ocupa directamente la Comisión, y hemos tratado de que los mejores ciudadanos, los más necesitados, los mejores estudiantes de nuestra América, se beneficien de ese Fondo.

Al mismo tiempo, y apoyando lo dicho por nuestra Presidenta, la Representante Permanente de Santa Lucía, hemos tenido siempre un cierto, yo no diría enfrentamiento, pero si unas conversaciones sólidas y precisas con quienes ejercen la administración de los dineros. Desde hace meses habíamos expresado a esa dependencia que tenía que mejorar su administración. Se nos dieron

continuamente explicaciones técnicas, con un grado importante de soberbia que nos limitaba en nuestro accionar, y frente a nuestras observaciones se recurría a la formulación de precisiones sobre las competencias de cada parte.

Ahora, frente al Informe claro de la Junta de Auditores Externos, vamos a tener que tomar cartas en el asunto y a empeñar nuestros esfuerzos para que estos errores sean corregidos.

Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

El PRESIDENTE: Agradezco al Representante Alterno del Uruguay. Tiene la palabra el Embajador Lombardo Martínez Cabezas, de Nicaragua.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE NICARAGUA: Gracias señor Presidente.

Voy a recoger las inquietudes expresadas por el Representante Permanente de los Estados Unidos, quien señaló la necesidad de readecuar y reestructurar la OEA a la luz de los nuevos desafíos que se derivan de los acuerdos políticos celebrados en el marco del proceso de las Cumbres. Creo que este documento es de gran importancia para que el Consejo Permanente pueda realizar su trabajo en forma integral, no solamente como foro político, sino como la instancia donde se toman las decisiones administrativas. Este es un documento de evaluación que pone en evidencia grandes fallas en la Organización, que están allí, que se han acumulado estructuralmente y que demandan una readecuación a la luz de los nuevos desafíos.

Pero también quiero dejar sentada la posición de la Delegación de Nicaragua, que comparte el punto de vista expresado por la Delegación del Brasil. Este documento lo hemos recibido hace algunos minutos. No podemos expresar un dictamen. Es un documento demasiado importante, un documento técnico, que demanda que nuestros especialistas en las misiones puedan realizar un análisis y puedan ofrecer recomendaciones. Por lo tanto, creo que este tema lo debemos tomar con la máxima seriedad posible. Porque si desde aquí, desde el seno de la OEA, proclamamos la necesidad de la eficiencia y la eficacia en el manejo de los recursos en nuestros Estados, el ejemplo tiene que partir de aquí. Esto es clave para generar confianza en la periferia.

Por lo tanto, yo sugiero y apoyo la propuesta del Brasil de que esto sea objeto de un debate especial del Consejo Permanente, previo un estudio de este documento, para que cada misión traiga sus conclusiones después de los dictámenes realizados por las instancias técnicas de nuestras misiones.

Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

El PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, Embajador Martínez. Tiene la palabra la Embajadora Margarita Escobar, de El Salvador.

La REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE EL SALVADOR: Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

De igual manera, quisiéramos agradecer a la Junta de Auditores Externos este reporte, que sin duda merecerá la mayor atención en la Comisión de Asuntos Administrativos y Presupuestarios, donde usted ya ha anunciado su intención de remitirlo. Apreciamos este trabajo. Creemos que esta es

una parte importante de los trabajos de nuestra Organización. En ese sentido nuestra Delegación lo acoge y lo aprecia.

El Salvador también es miembro de la Comisión del Fondo Panamericano Leo S. Rowe. La presentación que han hecho la Representante Permanente de Santa Lucía, Presidenta de dicha Comisión, y la Delegación del Uruguay, también miembro del Fondo, me eximen de entrar en mayores detalles sobre el esfuerzo que se está haciendo para tratar de superar los obstáculos que se señalan en este documento.

Así es que quisiera expresar nuestro acompañamiento a lo expresado por la Presidenta del Comité y por el Representante del Uruguay. Estamos abiertos para precisar algunas cuestiones que se han resaltado esta mañana y también quisiera aprovechar para hacer una pregunta sobre este documento. En la página 13 se lee “el resultado de la auditoría 2000 para el Fondo Panamericano Rowe”; pero en la página 14 se indica que el Fondo Leo S. Rowe en el año 2000 no tuvo auditoría. Quizás buscaría una aclaración en este sentido. Agradecemos de nuevo el trabajo que está realizando la Junta de Auditores Externos. Gracias, señor Presidente.

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias, señora Embajadora. Para concluir, quisiera ofrecer la palabra de nuevo al señor Edwards para que responda a algunas de las inquietudes, no sin antes insistir en que la intención de la Presidencia es que haya un debate a fondo en la Comisión de Asuntos Administrativos y Presupuestarios. Tiene la palabra el señor Edwards.

EL PRESIDENTE DE LA JUNTA DE AUDITORES EXTERNOS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll clarify first the question about the audit of the Leo S. Rowe Pan American Fund. Mr. Rowe established two separate Rowe funds in his will: a large fund for scholarships and a very much smaller memorial fund for awards. Most of the ambassadors referred to the Leo S. Rowe Pan American Fund, which gives the scholarships. The Rowe Memorial Benefit Fund is a much smaller fund that is used to reward employees for outstanding contributions and dedication to their job, and that second fund was not audited.

The fact that this report got to you somewhat late was an underlying theme in a number of your comments. That lateness is attributable in part to the fact that after the Board of External Auditors completed its work on March 30, I continued to work with my colleagues well into April before we had everything arranged.

You will notice that in the report there are five or six audit opinions from Ernst and Young, one from PricewaterhouseCoopers in Barbados, and one from the Costa Rican firm that audited the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. There is also a remediation plan from the Agency, so quite a number of different parties contributed materials to this report. To get it all together in time for this meeting, the staff of the General Secretariat was literally racing against the clock. Members who have either the English or the Spanish version also have an explanation that this is a pre-printing of what the General Assembly's attendees will receive.

Due to the difficulty in getting the audits completed, you ended up receiving this report as you entered today's meeting. I do agree that if we can substantially complete the audits by mid-March, we can certainly get the report out a week or so in advance of the meeting of the Permanent Council that will be held next year to discuss the report.

I do appreciate the substantial comments made by the Representative of Saint Lucia, and they are very well taken. We were told that the last Buck Consultants report on the relationship between investments and loans, for example, was 1997. Investment markets, of course, went through major changes through 2000 and are still going through change. If the last report on the relationship between funds that were invested in loans to students and funds that were retained as investments to preserve the Fund was put out in 1997, it probably is time for an update.

When we discussed the Rowe Fund and fellowships with the members who were meeting with us, I was not aware that students who do not return to their home countries after studying were obliged to repay the funds. I totally concur with that as a safeguard. In essence, you're getting value for your money if, after you've helped someone get educated, he or she returns home or to a similarly situated country to put that education to good use. I am happy to hear that. I still think that it is altogether appropriate to take another look at this matter, document it, and pull it together.

I do appreciate the information that has come from the representatives of the member states that serve on the Committee of the Leo S. Rowe Pan American Fund. Taking a look at this issue is exactly what we intended to have happen by making this recommendation. I am delighted to see that the Committee will move to resolve who is responsible for specific aspects of this process because, like so many things, you have multiple people involved.

For example, when students make payments to the National Offices, that information and those funds don't get transferred to Washington. It does take time. It is going to take multiple parties to get some of this straightened out. I think that the recommendation seems to already be taking place in the reaction here of the members, and I am very pleased that that is occurring.

I hope, Mr. Chairman, that that responds to some of the questions, but if there are others, I'll be happy to respond further.

Thank you.

El PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, señor Edwards. Tiene la palabra el señor Secretario General Adjunto.

El SECRETARIO GENERAL ADJUNTO: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. The Secretary General is in Buenos Aires supporting the efforts to advance the implementation and development of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption and is therefore unable to be with us. I am sure that he will be pleased to discover that the audit report, so ably presented here by Mr. Edwards, shows that at least we are not corrupt. [Risas.]

In his name, I would like to thank the Board of External Auditors for its dedicated effort. I know that it raises a number of interesting policy issues, as do a number of the comments made by the representatives, who have commented even without the benefit of a lengthy time to consider the report. It was necessary, I think, to meet the deadlines for the General Assembly.

I will only say that the Assistant Secretary for Management and I will cooperate closely to ensure that the Secretary General is fully informed of all of the views presented here. Those views will certainly include the comments of the Ambassador of Saint Lucia who, as Mr. Edwards pointed

out, has made some extremely important points that confirm the need for us to take these matters very seriously.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

El PRESIDENTE: Gracias, señor Secretario General Adjunto. De no haber más observaciones, la Presidencia sugiere que este Consejo acuerde la propuesta hecha por la Presidencia y por varias delegaciones, en el sentido de transmitir este Informe a la Comisión de Asuntos Administrativos y Presupuestarios. Así ha sido acordado.

ENTREGA DE UN MALLETE AL REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE CHILE, PRESIDENTE SALIENTE DEL CONSEJO PERMANENTE

El PRESIDENTE: Interrumpo momentáneamente el trámite del orden del día para llevar a cabo un acto tradicional en esta Organización, importante, de carácter simbólico. En esta oportunidad, tengo el honor de invitar al Embajador Esteban Tomic Errázuriz, Representante Permanente de Chile, a que se aproxime a la mesa directiva para hacerle entrega del mallette que, por tradición, se confiere al Presidente del Consejo al término de su período, en reconocimiento a su excelente actuación como Presidente de este órgano en el período comprendido entre el 1 de enero y el 31 de marzo de 2001.

[El Presidente del Consejo hace entrega del mallette al Representante Permanente de Chile.]
[Aplausos.]

PRESENTACIÓN DEL DIRECTOR EJECUTIVO DE LA FUNDACIÓN PANAMERICANA DE DESARROLLO

El PRESIDENTE: Pasamos a continuación al siguiente punto del orden del día. Nos corresponde escuchar la presentación del señor John Sanbrailo, Director Ejecutivo de la Fundación Panamericana de Desarrollo, quien se referirá al plan de trabajo de esa institución. Señor Sanbrailo, tiene usted la palabra.

El DIRECTOR EJECUTIVO DE LA FUNDACIÓN PANAMERICANA DE DESARROLLO: Mr. Chairman of the Permanent Council; Ambassador Luigi Einaudi, Assistant General Secretary; distinguished ambassadors; other distinguished representatives:

It is a great pleasure for me to represent the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF) as Executive Director. As I reported to you last year, for the past year and half we have been continuing the process initiated by my predecessor to rebuild and redefine the role of the PADF. Our goal also is to make the PADF, as an international nongovernmental organization (NGO) affiliated with the Organization of American States, more relevant to the inter-American development and disaster assistance agenda. I am very pleased to present to you today our plan of action for the coming year and, again, I request your support for that plan of action with the OAS's budget contributions to our foundation.

The Foundation continues to play a role as a specialized instrument of the OAS in enhancing the capacity of low-income people in Latin America and the Caribbean to improve their well-being by building productive partnerships with those with resources, knowledge, or experience to offer. For almost 40 years, the Foundation has played its role under the umbrella of the OAS. I particularly want to thank so many of you who have provided advice and guidance to us over the past year and half that I have been Executive Director on how we can make the Foundation more effective and efficient in meeting the objectives of the member states.

PADF continues to empower people to help themselves by raising family incomes, improving technical training and health services, strengthening democracy and civil society, and, most important over the past several years, providing disaster assistance and supporting preparedness and mitigation.

Our foundation continues to channel resources primarily through local nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and municipalities to enhance their capacity to better serve low-income families. It provides a vehicle through which the private sector, private donors, and other sources can make cash and equipment donations that address the most critical needs of the Hemisphere.

PADF was established in 1962 as a unique cooperative agreement between the OAS and private enterprise. Indeed, the OAS has been a pioneer in the development of an international NGO that specializes in mobilizing private and other funding to meet development and disaster assistance requirements in the Hemisphere. The Foundation has pioneered innovative concepts, such as micro-enterprise development, NGO and municipal strengthening, privately funded disaster assistance, and the facilitation of corporate social investing.

The OAS's contribution to the Pan American Development Foundation of \$173,000 per year allows us to mobilize at least 20 times more from the private sector and our private donors, in addition to contributions from international agencies, such as the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). We are currently managing approximately \$20 million of USAID- funded projects.

This makes the OAS's support to the PADF one of your best investments, especially considering that the Foundation has the lowest overhead among leading international NGOs. Indeed, our overhead is half that of other major international NGOs working in the region. We ask you to continue this support and help us leverage even greater resources for disaster assistance and development in the Americas.

There are major objectives that we will continue to support in 2001 and 2002. We will support the Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction (IACNDR) by mobilizing private funding and other contributions for immediate disaster relief, recovery, reconstruction, preparedness, and vulnerability reduction.

This effort was most prominent in recent months as we helped the Government and people of El Salvador confront the unprecedented and tragic earthquakes that hit that country. I was very pleased that in late January I could accompany the Secretary General to El Salvador and support his visit by delivering emergency relief aid to this country and relieving some of the suffering of so many victims of the earthquake.

We will continue to increase the resources available to the inter-American system for improving the incomes and social conditions of the least advantaged citizens. We will encourage private and other donors to work with the PADF and the inter-American system on programs that benefit low-income communities through expanded use of corporate social investing, NGOs, and municipalities. We will reinforce OAS initiatives to strengthen civil society and local government by supporting institution building for NGOs throughout the region, municipalities, and other community-based groups.

A new initiative is our work with the growing Hispanic and Caribbean groups in the United States to help them play more significant roles in supporting economic and social development in their countries of origin. This initiative really needs to be highlighted. The largest donors to Latin America and the Caribbean today are the growing Hispanic and Caribbean communities in the United States. Their contributions to their countries of origin now exceeds \$12 billion. That \$12 billion in assistance returns home as family remittances and now increasingly as community remittances for community development projects. The Salvadoran community has most recently manifested this in its efforts to support, in part with PADF assistance, the disaster relief and reconstruction effort in El Salvador.

This Saturday, I will be very pleased to meet with the Colombian-American communities. We are speaking at the Colombian-American Convention, the first national convention of Colombian-American organizations in the United States, and we are working with them to help channel resources to the tragic displacement of families in Colombia.

In any case, we will continue to work with the Hispanic and Caribbean groups in the United States to help them play more significant roles in supporting socioeconomic development in their countries. Likewise, we will continue working with the General Secretariat on technical programs of specific interest to member states and coordinate with the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD) on areas of mutual interest, such as municipal development.

In this regard, we are particularly fortunate that the Director General of the Agency was also the one who gave birth to the Pan American Development Foundation many decades ago. We are very fortunate and very pleased to be coordinating with Ronald Scheman on how our foundation and the new Agency can work together.

As you strongly recommended last year, we continue to recruit new PADF Board members from a larger number of member states. PADF added to its board last year new members from Bolivia, Canada, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, and Argentina, in addition to the members we already had from Mexico and El Salvador. Private sector leaders from other countries are also being identified for inclusion in the Board of Directors as we continue the process of redefining the role of the Foundation.

A number of ongoing projects that we have listed here represent our portfolio. As I mentioned, we have provided disaster relief for earthquake victims in El Salvador.

Our largest program continues to be in Haiti, where we are helping that country confront some of its most difficult development and disaster assistance problems.

We have launched a new program to help the Colombian Government, people, and civil society better deal with the employment generation and job training requirements of so many families that have been displaced from their homes.

In Honduras and Nicaragua, we are continuing our efforts to implement assistance provided for reconstruction from the terrible hurricane Mitch. In those two Central American countries, we are implementing community-based early flood alert warning systems.

In Cuba, we are supporting the programs and publications of independent environmental groups.

Most countries in the region have received donations of our health and vocational training equipment, most recently Grenada and other Caribbean countries; Central America; and South American countries, such as Ecuador and Argentina.

Our foundation is continuing to work on programs to mobilize private donors. We are reaching out to more companies and private sector donors and we continue to work with them. I have listed here a number of projects that we are working on, in a number of countries and regionwide, that will involve private contributions from corporate donors, foundations, and specialized agencies.

Let me conclude by thanking all of you and the excellent staff that we have in the Pan American Development Foundation. I am very pleased to be accompanied this morning by our deputy director, Anita Winsor, who has been an outstanding force in helping us rebuild the Foundation, redefine it, and make it more relevant. Our Programs Director, Norberto Ambros, is well known to many of you here in the Permanent Council. Marc Wachtenhein is one of our young consultants who has also been able to join us and listen to your discussions on domestic violence.

We are also working on a project to assist NGOs that are addressing the problem of domestic violence, and we are coordinating with the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) on that project. This is another example of how the Foundation, through its corporate donors—in this case, the support of the Philip Morris Company—can raise additional funds for very important initiatives of the inter-American system.

In addition to the IACD, we have been working with other units, such as the Unit for Sustainable Development and Environment (USDE), on a number of initiatives, such as the early flood alert warning system and a possible retrofitting of schools throughout the Hemisphere.

Again, thank you all for your support. Thank you for your advice. We continue to need feedback and advice. In many cases, I hope that we can be responsive. In other cases, we are limited by resources, in the sense that the Foundation doesn't have its own independent endowment. We need to go out and solicit funding from different corporations and private sources, as we are doing in a number of cases. But I hope that we can be even more responsive with the contributions that we provide from the OAS.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to present our foundation and our plan for the coming year.

El PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, señor Sanbrailo, por la información brindada. En seguida tiene la palabra la Embajadora Margarita Escobar, de El Salvador.

La REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE EL SALVADOR: Gracias, señor Presidente.

Hace aproximadamente 115 días, como todos ustedes saben, mi país fue severamente afectado por un terremoto que trajo enorme destrucción, seguido después de otro más y, posteriormente, de más o menos 7.000 réplicas. Francamente, creo que uno de los momentos más difíciles para un representante diplomático es cuando uno ve a su país arrodillado por el dolor y la tragedia. Lo único que alienta el trabajo diario en estos cargos, que tanto honor nos dan a quienes los ejercemos, es la solidaridad personal, la solidaridad de país y la solidaridad institucional.

Por eso, con este preámbulo quiero decir que para mí tiene un significado especial el tener la oportunidad de agradecer al señor John Sanbrailo, Director Ejecutivo de la Fundación Panamericana para el Desarrollo, por haber recogido la expresión de esas tres dimensiones, que un embajador o un representante necesita en el momento en que su país se encuentra como se encontró el mío.

Así es que quisiera extenderle ese agradecimiento a usted, por su compromiso con mi país y por las diferentes actividades que emprendió para que la Fundación proveyera a las víctimas del terremoto de la asistencia requerida.

Sin duda, hoy más que nunca cobra vigencia el proceso iniciado para redefinir el papel de la Fundación y hacerla una institución relevante para nuestros países. La experiencia reciente con El Salvador es una clara demostración de cómo la Fundación sí puede hacerlo y lo está haciendo con liderazgo. Trabajamos en innumerables ocasiones con el Secretario General, con el Secretario General Adjunto, con el Comité de reducción de desastres, fuimos a El Salvador, y todas ellas fueron experiencias enriquecedoras. No quiero extenderme mucho; solamente quiero decirle a este Consejo Permanente que hoy, más que nunca, tenemos que apoyar a la Fundación Panamericana de Desarrollo porque, francamente, los desastres naturales son un aspecto que no podemos poner en un segundo o tercer plano.

Hay tres aspectos que vale la pena resaltar: la creatividad de la Fundación para formar alianzas con el sector privado; su creatividad para crear alianzas con las instituciones, lo cual conlleva a la coordinación y a la efectividad en la entrega de las ayudas; y su capacidad para llegar directamente a las comunidades. Con estos tres aspectos la Fundación se encuentra bien preparada para, en cumplimiento del mandato de nuestros Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno plasmado en el Plan de Acción de Quebec, desempeñar un papel importante en el capítulo especial que se refiere a los desastres naturales.

Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

El PRESIDENTE: Gracias, Embajadora Escobar. Tiene la palabra el Representante Permanente del Paraguay.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DEL PARAGUAY: Gracias, señor Presidente. Antes que nada, mi Delegación desea manifestar su satisfacción con la presentación del señor John Sanbrailo, Director Ejecutivo de la Fundación Panamericana de Desarrollo.

Luego de haber escuchado a la Representante Permanente de El Salvador, podemos ver uno de los aspectos en que justamente la Fundación Panamericana de Desarrollo ha apoyado proyectos de nuestros países. Por tal razón, el Paraguay apoya las tareas de esta Fundación.

En el mismo sentido, hacemos votos para que la Fundación amplíe a la mayor cantidad de Estados Miembros posible la cooperación que ha venido llevando a cabo hasta la fecha.

Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

El PRESIDENTE: Gracias señor Representante Permanente del Paraguay. Tiene la palabra el Embajador Denis Antoine, de Grenada.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE GRENADA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wish to thank the Executive Director of the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF) for his presentation and for giving new life to PADF.

PADF continues to be very relevant and useful. The Foundation has been able to directly touch the people and focus on the truly micro needs of small countries like Grenada. It has become a strong voice for reaching poor people.

Sometimes, when we speak about building and strengthening institutions, we forget that there are some who are not yet enabled to come along with us. PADF has reached the grassroots through some very effective programs in Grenada; for example, bringing computers to the countryside and tools for the nontraditional training of women and unemployed people in auto mechanics. It's almost like PADF is user-friendly.

I applaud the efforts of the Executive Director in rebuilding and energizing the PADF to reach the grassroots and to deal sometimes with what we forget: the poor people who need a hand up to be included in the process.

I thank you very much.

El PRESIDENTE: Gracias, señor Embajador Antoine. Tiene la palabra la Delegación de Haití.

El REPRESENTANTE INTERINO DE HAITÍ: Monsieur le President, je voudrais remercier et féliciter le Directeur exécutif de la Fondation panaméricaine de développement (PADF) pour ce rapport.

Comme l'ont mentionné les délégations qui m'ont précédé, la PADF joue un rôle de la plus grande importance à l'échelle de notre continent. En Haïti, le travail de la PADF est très connu. Je voudrais ici mentionner deux aspects du rôle que joue cette fondation.

Premièrement, sa capacité est de coopérer avec le secteur privé pour lever des fonds. Deuxièmement, sa capacité à atteindre les nécessiteux et les groupes qui ont vraiment besoin de l'aide de la Fondation, soit à travers d'autres ONGs, soit directement. La PADF appuie des projets importants en Haïti, tels que le développement agricole et la gestion des bassins versants, ainsi que l'aide à accorder à Haïti un autre aspect en ce qui concerne la reforestation.

Tout cela pour dire que nous apprécions énormément le travail que la PADF apporte en Haïti et nous appuyons son projet de renforcement pour l'année qui vient. Merci, Monsieur le Président.

El PRESIDENTE: Gracias a la Delegación de Haití. Tiene la palabra el señor Secretario General Adjunto.

El SECRETARIO GENERAL ADJUNTO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the Secretary General were here, he would have endorsed wholeheartedly the words of praise for the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF) that have been spoken here. In fact, he did so to me after returning from El Salvador and seeing the work that was being undertaken there.

As a former member of the Board of PADF, I would like to say that I, too, am very heartened by the reforms that the Board, under the presidency of Alexander Watson and with the help of John Sanbrailo and Anita Winsor, has been able to carry out.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

El PRESIDENTE: Gracias, señor Secretario General Adjunto. De no haber más observaciones, la Presidencia sugiere que este Consejo tome nota de la información presentada por el Director Ejecutivo de la Fundación Panamericana de Desarrollo. Así ha sido acordado.

DESIGNACIÓN DE UN MIEMBRO DE LA COMISIÓN DEL FONDO PANAMERICANO LEO S. ROWE

El PRESIDENTE: Siguiendo el orden del día, nos corresponde proceder a la designación de un miembro de la Comisión del Fondo Panamericano Leo S. Rowe. De acuerdo con el artículo 3 del Estatuto del Fondo Panamericano Leo S. Rowe, la Comisión está integrada por cuatro miembros del Consejo Permanente y el Secretario General de la Organización. Los miembros actuales de la Comisión son: Estados Unidos, El Salvador y Uruguay.

De acuerdo con el artículo 4 de dicho Estatuto, le corresponde a este Consejo designar al cuarto miembro de la Comisión, quien servirá por un término de cuatro años. En ese sentido, ofrezco la palabra a los señores Representantes para que propongan al Estado Miembro que nos represente en la Comisión del Fondo Panamericano Leo S. Rowe. Tiene la palabra la Delegación de Barbados.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE BARBADOS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This morning we heard a very interesting presentation by the Chairman of the Board of External Auditors. Indeed, after that presentation, the intervention by the Ambassador of Saint Lucia suggested that as a body, we really need to have her continued experience and skills to work on this committee.

It is in this regard that I wish to nominate Her Excellency Sonia Johnny to serve as a member of the Committee of the Leo S. Rowe Pan American Fund for the next year.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

El PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias al Embajador de Barbados. Ofrezco la palabra a la Embajadora Margarita Escobar, de El Salvador.

La REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE EL SALVADOR: Muchas gracias, señor Presidente. Es para secundar la propuesta que nos acaba de hacer el Embajador de Barbados para nominar a la Embajadora Sonia Johnny, Representante Permanente de Santa Lucía, para que sea miembro de la Comisión del Fondo Panamericano Leo S. Rowe.

Creo que la Embajadora Johnny no necesita mayores presentaciones ni credenciales, y es con mucho gusto que apoyamos la moción del Embajador King. Pediríamos que su elección, de no haber inconvenientes, fuera hecha por aclamación. [Aplausos.]

El PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, Embajadora Margarita Escobar. Tiene la palabra el Embajador Luis Lauredo, de Estados Unidos.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS: It's a little late, but I was preparing to vote against her. [Risas.] I didn't even understand what she said earlier today, but I love her passion, so I changed my vote. I was going to vote for her because she gave such an impassioned ...something, so I thought I'd move for unanimity. But that's okay, you've got my vote.

El PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, Embajador Lauredo. Tiene la palabra el Embajador Esteban Tomic, de Chile.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE CHILE: Muchas gracias, señor Presidente. Era para sumar, expresamente, el voto de Chile a la elección de nuestra estimada colega, la Representante Permanente de Santa Lucía, la Embajadora Sonia Johnny. Gracias.

El PRESIDENTE: Gracias, señor Embajador. Prefiero darle la palabra primero a la Delegación de Colombia y luego a Santa Lucía, por razones obvias.

El REPRESENTANTE ALTERNO DE COLOMBIA: Gracias, señor Presidente. Igualmente, apoyamos esta importante postulación, en la cual nos sentimos muy representados y queremos dejar especial mención de ese respaldo a Santa Lucía y a su Embajadora. Gracias.

El PRESIDENTE: Gracias. Tiene la palabra la Embajadora de Santa Lucía.

La REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE SANTA LUCÍA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wish to thank the distinguished Ambassador of Barbados for his kind words, and also the Ambassador of El Salvador and the other ambassadors who have so kindly shown confidence in my abilities on the Committee of the Leo S. Rowe Pan American Fund.

As you heard earlier, Mr. Chairman, the Committee has a lot of work to do. I am quite honored that my colleagues have found it necessary to reelect me to the Committee so I can continue the work that I began with an excellent team that has been extremely supportive.

When we took over the Leo S. Rowe Pan American Fund, we knew that we had a lot of work to do and that there would be lots of bumps. In fact, when I first became a member of the Rowe Fund in 1998, I knew there were lots of problems. As I mentioned earlier, we had to clean house. I am grateful for the opportunity to continue the work of making sure that there is a proper and efficient structure for the administration of funds to needy students in the Americas.

Thank you.

El PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias. La Delegación de Santa Lucía ha sido designada como miembro de este Consejo Permanente ante la Comisión del Fondo Panamericano Leo S. Rowe. En nombre de este Consejo y el mío propio, le deseamos muchos éxitos, Embajadora Johnny, en esta actividad.

SEGUNDO INFORME BIENAL DE LA COMISIÓN INTERAMERICANA DE MUJERES (CIM) SOBRE EL CUMPLIMIENTO DE LA RESOLUCIÓN AG/RES. 1456 (XXVII-O/97) “PROMOCIÓN DE LA CONVENCIÓN INTERAMERICANA PARA PREVENIR, SANCIONAR Y ERRADICAR LA VIOLENCIA CONTRA LA MUJER ‘CONVENCIÓN DE BELÉM DO PARÁ’”

El PRESIDENTE: El siguiente punto del orden del día se refiere al Segundo Informe Bienal de la Comisión Interamericana de Mujeres sobre el cumplimiento de la resolución AG/RES. 1456 (XXVII-O/97) “Promoción de la Convención Interamericana para Prevenir, Sancionar y Erradicar la Violencia contra la Mujer ‘Convención de Belém do Pará’”. Para su presentación, me es grato ofrecer la palabra a la señora Carmen Lomellin, Secretaria Ejecutiva de la CIM. Señora Lomellin, tiene la palabra.

La SECRETARIA EJECUTIVA DE LA COMISIÓN INTERAMERICANA DE MUJERES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good morning, distinguished ambassadors.

It is a pleasure to once again be here to update you on the activities of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) and to present a report on a subject that is near and dear to the hearts of the Commission, our sister organizations throughout the inter-American system, and women of the Americas.

The following is the second biennial report of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) on compliance with resolution AG/RES. 1456 (XXVII-O/97), “Promotion of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, Convention of Belém do Pará.” As you all know, the Convention entered into force on March 5, 1995, and to date, 30 countries have ratified it. On February 15 of this year, the Government of Grenada deposited its instruments of ratification. To date, many, many member states have enacted laws on domestic violence or defined violence as an offense.

Since the last biennial report, which was presented by the CIM in 1999, the Government of Paraguay has enacted Law 1600/00 on intrafamily violence. Complete information and details on legislation on domestic violence are published on the web page of the Commission.

The following strategic measures are in place to attain the objectives of the Convention. The Strategic Plan of Action of the CIM, which was recently extended to the year 2005 by the Thirtieth Assembly of Delegates, places great emphasis on violence against women and notes that violence against women is one of its priority areas. The Biennial Work Plan of the CIM also establishes violence against women as a priority area of action.

In April 2000, the OAS convened the First Meeting of Ministers or of the Highest-Ranking Authorities Responsible for the Advancement of Women in the Member States. The results of the meeting were very positive. A resolution was approved that urges the governments of the member states that have not yet done so to ratify the Convention of Belém do Pará. It also encourages the member states to continue to promote measures that will eradicate violence in all of its forms, in both the private and public arenas.

At that meeting, the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality was approved. That program contains a very specific section that deals with violence, and among the objectives relating to violence is a woman's right to a life free from any form of abuse or violence, in both the private and public spheres. It recommends to the member states that they promote the study and/or the revision of national laws to ensure that they meet the obligations set out in all international conventions and treaties on human rights.

Since the adoption of the Convention, the General Assembly has approved successive resolutions to promote this convention. It continues to urge the governments of those member states that have not yet done so to ratify the Convention and to continue promoting measures to eradicate violence against women in all of its forms in the private and public arenas.

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) has also placed great emphasis on this issue. It published a report by Dr. Claudio Grossman, then the Special Rapporteur on Women, that focuses specifically on violence against women. In 2000, Dr. Marta Altolaguirre was appointed Rapporteur for this topic. Among the mandates assigned to her is the preparation of a follow-up report on measures to fulfill the recommendations contained in the original report. The CIM has already held numerous discussions with her, and we will be collaborating with her on follow-ups to the report.

The recent Summit of the Americas has also placed great emphasis on violence in general. We will be working on the mandates that have emanated from the Summit that are contained in the Plan of Action to address this issue.

The CIM Secretariat has also been very busy in this area. Two years ago we decided to do follow-up research and a review on violence in the Americas. It is an important project, because it studies the current national programs to prevent, punish, and eradicate violence against women in the Americas. Other aims of this research are the attainment of a better understanding of progress made to date in implementing the Convention, identification of obstacles encountered in the member states, and identification of areas where we need further work. The project is now complete, and the executive summary on this research is attached to this report.

The CIM decided to take the findings of the report to members of civil society who are experts in the field of violence against women. We convened the first of four subregional meetings in Uruguay for the MERCOSUR region. The CIM invited its principal delegates and two experts on violence against women who are representatives of nongovernmental organizations. This meeting was held in cooperation and partnership with the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM).

At the meeting, government representatives presented summaries on activities in their respective countries and the progress made to date in the area of violence against women. Similarly,

the representatives of civil society made presentations on successful programs in their countries at the civil society/NGO level. The meetings were really interesting because sometimes, as you know, there is some tension between NGOs and government representatives. But I think that after extensive discussion, we found that we were all saying the same thing.

There has been a lot of progress in talking about violence, understanding that it is a serious problem, and understanding that it is an issue that should not be kept behind closed doors. Many successful programs have been created and developed to assist women, from awareness campaigns to the establishment of hotlines and shelters for women.

However, much work still needs to be done in this area. Many women still are unaware of their human rights when it comes to violence. One of the obstacles identified was the lack of understanding, at the judicial level, of the Convention, of the laws that are already in place, and of the use of these laws as tools to assist women. The other areas that were identified as obstacles are the stereotyping of women and the excessive violence in the media and on television. The obstacles and the recommendations to address this issue are attached in Appendix III. We expect to hold our next meeting of experts in the Andean region, and the proposed dates are June 21 and 22 in Ecuador.

Going back to the MERCOSUR meeting, since this report was drafted, the Government of Uruguay has offered to act as secretary pro tempore of the group that met in the MERCOSUR region that will follow the issue of violence against women in the region for the next three years. We hope, budget permitting, to hold similar meetings in the region every three to four years to follow the progress of the Convention.

We will also be meeting in Central America, with Mexico and the Dominican Republic. The meeting of experts for the Caribbean has not yet been scheduled. We haven't received an offer to host a meeting as yet.

As always, we will continue to promote the Convention, to stay in contact with our delegates, and to make sure that we provide whatever support is necessary so that we can begin to eradicate this problem.

Thank you very much.

El PRESIDENTE: Gracias, señora Lomellin. Ofrezco la palabra a los señores Representantes que quieran referirse a este asunto. Tiene la palabra la Representante Permanente de Belice.

La REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE BELICE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to start by congratulating Ms. Lomellin and everyone at the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) for the obvious hard work that has gone into this report. It is a point of pride, especially for Belize, because we know that we have done a lot of the legwork already to be in compliance with this convention, and that we did so at an early time.

I know that the Minister in charge of Women's Affairs in Belize, who is herself a woman, takes this issue very seriously. It goes back to her days and mine when, as young lawyers, we were really interested in the very important topic of domestic violence. It was a point of pride for us that we were among the first in the Caribbean to actually pass legislation on domestic violence. It meant

that women did not need to obtain the services of an attorney or a legal counselor in order to file complaints and that they could work with a good follow-up system.

The success of this kind of legislation and of women themselves has very often meant that there is a pendulum swing towards saying that we have enough rights. In such an era, it is certainly very heartening to my delegation and, I suspect, to many others here, that the CIM seems to have not taken this view into account at all. In fact, the CIM has redoubled its efforts in order to make sure that we are able to keep those things at which we have been able to succeed and to work very hard to achieve those needs that women still have.

Those of us who were at the Summit in Quebec City and who heard the very impassioned speech of Ralph Gonsalves know that there is so much more that needs to be done for the women of this region. Those of us who heard several presidents and prime ministers refer to María Soledad and her problems know that it is important that bodies like the CIM continue working with that half of our precious resources in the region that still needs encouragement and support in order to be able to make its full and just contribution to *la gran familia*.

There is an old Chinese saying that women hold up half the world. I venture to say that women hold up much more than half in an area of the world where many, many men have dropped out and copped out for various reasons, including the drug and AIDS scourge that we face. In that spirit, it is very important to my delegation, as it is to many others, that we secure sufficient funding for the work of the Commission to continue and for implementation of the mandates of the Summit.

I would like to let Ms. Lomellin know that I will be actively seeking the go-ahead from our capital for us to be able to host the Caribbean experts meeting. I will be getting back to you quickly on that.

Thank you.

El PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, Embajadora Lisa Shoman. Tiene la palabra la Embajadora Margarita Escobar, de El Salvador.

La REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE EL SALVADOR: Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

Cada vez que este Consejo analiza el tema de la mujer, mi Delegación ha procurado mantener un diálogo constante con la doctora Carmen Lomellin y todo su equipo de trabajo. Y es por eso que en esta oportunidad nos sentimos sumamente complacidos por varias razones. En primer lugar, porque notamos que este Consejo Permanente se está ocupando con mayor periodicidad y regularidad del tema de la mujer, aspecto que no pasa inadvertido para mi Delegación; quisiéramos reconocer el apoyo que la Secretaría General y el Secretario General Adjunto le están brindando a la Comisión, a su Secretaria Ejecutiva y a todo su equipo de trabajo.

En segundo lugar, me parece que este informe es importante –y agradecemos a la Secretaría que haya incluido una sección especial sobre el seguimiento al Programa Interamericano sobre la Promoción de los Derechos Humanos de la Mujer y la Igualdad y Equidad de Género– sobre todo en el actual momento histórico, en que venimos de Quebec; la Embajadora de Belice acabó de hacer una

referencia puntual sobre la consideración que se hizo de este tema, no solo en la Cumbre misma sino en todo el proceso de preparación que condujo a la adopción del Plan de Acción.

Creemos que el tema está cobrando cada vez más una visión comprensiva. No podemos perder esta oportunidad, sobre todo, y estoy segura de que lo tendrán en cuenta, considerando el Plan de Acción de la Tercera Cumbre de las Américas. Dicho esto, también queremos expresar nuestro reconocimiento a la CIM, a Carmen Lomellin, a Mercedes Kremenetsky y a todo su equipo, así como a la Secretaría General, que de manera muy evidente está haciendo notar su preocupación y su apoyo a este tema. Gracias, señor Presidente.

El PRESIDENTE: Gracias, Embajadora Escobar. Tiene la palabra la Embajadora Laura Núñez, de Honduras.

La REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE HONDURAS: Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

Nuestra Delegación agradece también el Segundo Informe Bienal de la Comisión Interamericana de Mujeres sobre el cumplimiento de la resolución AG/RES. 1456, presentado por su Secretaria Ejecutiva, señora Carmen Lomellin.

Con suma satisfacción, vemos los avances positivos que se están dando en este tema. Honduras, como país miembro del Comité Directivo, estará siempre en la mejor disposición para apoyar estas iniciativas que favorecen la valoración de la mujer y aseguran su bienestar en nuestro hemisferio.

Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

El PRESIDENTE: Gracias, señora Embajadora. De no haber más observaciones, la Presidencia sugiere que este Consejo tome nota del Informe, apruebe el proyecto de resolución y lo eleve a la consideración del trigésimo primer período ordinario de sesiones de la Asamblea General. Acordado.

INFORME DE LA COMISIÓN DE ASUNTOS JURÍDICOS Y POLÍTICOS SOBRE EL PROYECTO DE ENMIENDAS AL ESTATUTO DEL CONSEJO PERMANENTE

El PRESIDENTE: En el quinto punto del orden del día corresponde considerar el Informe de la Comisión de Asuntos Jurídicos y Políticos sobre el Proyecto de Enmiendas al Estatuto del Consejo Permanente, documento CP/CAJP-1789/01 rev. 1 corr. 1. Para su presentación me complace ofrecer la palabra a la señora Embajadora Margarita Escobar, Representante Permanente de El Salvador y Presidenta de la Comisión de Asuntos Jurídicos y Políticos. Señora Embajadora, tiene usted la palabra.

La PRESIDENTA DE LA COMISIÓN DE ASUNTOS JURÍDICOS Y POLÍTICOS: Muchas gracias, señor Presidente. Es para mí un gusto presentar al Consejo Permanente el Informe de la Comisión de Asuntos Jurídicos y Políticos sobre el Proyecto de Enmiendas al Estatuto del Consejo Permanente.

Este Consejo le solicitó el 11 de julio de 2000 a la Secretaría General que preparara un proyecto de Estatuto y un proyecto de Reglamento del Consejo Permanente. En esa ocasión, se le solicitó a la Secretaría que incorporara los acuerdos adoptados ad referendum por el Grupo de Trabajo Conjunto del Consejo Permanente y el Consejo Interamericano para el Desarrollo Integral, en relación con la puesta en práctica de los procedimientos para mejorar la organización y métodos de trabajo de este Consejo, tema que tiene actualmente la mayor relevancia; así mismo, se le solicitó que tomara en cuenta las enmiendas aprobadas al Reglamento de la Asamblea General en su trigésimo período ordinario de sesiones, contenidas en el documento CP/CAJP-1737/00.

Fue así como en octubre de 2000 el Consejo transmitió a la Comisión de Asuntos Jurídicos y Políticos el proyecto de Estatuto y de Reglamento. El 30 de noviembre de 2000 la Comisión, luego de numerosos encuentros formales e informales en que se discutieron los proyectos de reforma, acordó aprobar las modificaciones a los artículos 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 23, 37, 39, 50, 58, 60, 62 y 63, y la eliminación de la Disposición Transitoria única contenida en el artículo 57 del proyecto de Estatuto del Consejo Permanente.

En consecuencia, y en cumplimiento de lo encomendado por el Consejo Permanente, la Comisión transmite el proyecto de resolución anexo, el cual transcribe las modificaciones propuestas al proyecto de Estatuto para que estas, si así lo tiene a bien este Consejo, sean presentadas ante la próxima Asamblea General, conforme lo establece el artículo 65 del Estatuto vigente. Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

El PRESIDENTE: Gracias, señora Embajadora Escobar. Ofrezco la palabra a los señores Representantes que quieran referirse tanto al Informe como al correspondiente proyecto de resolución. De no haber observaciones, la Presidencia sugiere que este Consejo tome nota del Informe, apruebe el proyecto de resolución y lo transmita a la consideración del trigésimo primer período ordinario de sesiones de la Asamblea General. Acordado.

INFORME DE LA SECRETARÍA GENERAL SOBRE EL ESTADO DE CUOTAS AL FONDO REGULAR AL 31 DE MARZO DE 2001

El PRESIDENTE: El punto 6 se refiere al Informe de la Secretaría General sobre el estado de cuotas al Fondo Regular al 31 de marzo de 2001, documento CP/doc.3445/01. Pregunto a la Secretaría si tiene alguna información adicional sobre el citado Informe. Ofrezco la palabra al señor Subsecretario de Administración.

El SUBSECRETARIO DE ADMINISTRACIÓN: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I would simply like to augment the information provided in the report regarding contributions made during April to the Regular Fund. During April 2001, I am pleased to report that Bolivia contributed \$107,040; Colombia, \$100,000; Panama, \$97,000; the United States, \$11,099,000; Canada, \$6,781,919; Argentina, \$1,058,000; and Guyana, \$14,602. I read those in the order which they were received.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

El PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias al señor Subsecretario de Administración. Ofrezco la palabra a los señores Representantes que quieran referirse a este asunto. De no haber observaciones,

la Presidencia sugiere que este Informe sea transmitido como documento de referencia a la Comisión de Asuntos Administrativos y Presupuestarios.

**INFORME SOBRE EJECUCIÓN PRESUPUESTARIA
Y TRANSFERENCIA DE APROPIACIONES ENTRE CAPÍTULOS DEL FONDO REGULAR
1 DE ENERO – 31 DE MARZO DE 2001**

El PRESIDENTE: Corresponde ahora considerar el Informe sobre ejecución presupuestaria y transferencia de apropiaciones entre capítulos del Fondo Regular, documento CP/doc.3446/01. Para su presentación, ofrezco la palabra nuevamente al señor Subsecretario de Administración.

El SUBSECRETARIO DE ADMINISTRACIÓN: Thank you once again, Mr. Chairman. I have very little to add to the written report that was provided, other than to highlight two major items.

First, the transfer of appropriations between chapters has been less than one percent. It basically corresponds to the movement of one post to support the Model OAS (MOAS) General Assembly.

Second, we continue to use austerity measures within the General Secretariat. We are adjusting funding levels, the authority to spend the budget that you all appropriated, in accordance with the payment plans that we've received. As of the end of March, that level was at \$70 million. As you know, the budget was \$76 million, so it's about \$5.5 million below that. We will adjust that accordingly as we receive payments from member states with plans for payment.

Thank you.

El PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, señor Subsecretario de Administración. Ofrezco la palabra a los señores Representantes que quieran referirse a este asunto. De no haber observaciones, la Presidencia sugiere que este Informe sea transmitido a la consideración de la Comisión de Asuntos Administrativos y Presupuestarios. Acordado.

**INSTALACIÓN DE LA COMISIÓN DE ESTILO DEL TRIGÉSIMO PRIMER
PERÍODO ORDINARIO DE SESIONES DE LA ASAMBLEA GENERAL**

El PRESIDENTE: El punto 8 del orden del día se refiere a la instalación de la Comisión de Estilo del trigésimo primer período ordinario de sesiones de la Asamblea General. Conforme al Reglamento de la Asamblea General, modificado en la Asamblea de Windsor, Canadá, este Consejo debe integrar la Comisión de Estilo antes de darse inicio a la Asamblea.

La Presidencia se permite sugerir que esta Comisión esté integrada por las Delegaciones de Brasil, para el idioma portugués; Canadá, para el francés; Estados Unidos, para el inglés; y Colombia, para el idioma español. Esta Comisión estará abierta a todas las delegaciones y su mandato está claramente establecido en el artículo 28 del Reglamento de la Asamblea General. Acordado.

ADECUACIÓN DEL SALÓN BOLÍVAR

El PRESIDENTE: Quiero recordar a los señores Representantes que se ha distribuido un documento informativo suscrito por el Secretario General Adjunto en el que se le hace saber a los señores Representantes que, con el objeto de modernizar las instalaciones de este salón será necesario cerrar el mismo durante el período comprendido entre el 22 de julio y el 10 de septiembre de 2001. Esto no ocasionará ninguna interrupción en los trabajos de este Consejo; durante este período de construcción se ha reservado el Salón de las Américas para las sesiones del Consejo Permanente y se contará con los otros salones disponibles.

SITUACIÓN EN HAITÍ Y SITUACIÓN ENTRE HONDURAS Y NICARAGUA

El PRESIDENTE: Ha pedido la palabra el señor Secretario General Adjunto.

El SECRETARIO GENERAL ADJUNTO: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I did not ask for the floor to refer to the last point, which is, however, a welcome hope that we will have more of what we badly need—more modern facilities for our meetings. Rather, I wanted to quickly say a word about two situations in which the Organization is actively involved. One of the situations is Haiti, and the other is the question of support for Honduras and Nicaragua, who have turned to the Organization for support in dealing with their differences.

On Haiti, I will merely underscore the Secretary General's statement at last week's Permanent Council meeting. He said that his report on that occasion, in which he recounted the activities of himself, with my support, in Quebec at the Summit, in effect constituted the report earlier called for by the Council for this date of May 2. In other words, there is no May 2 report. Extremely active consultations are, however, currently underway with the Government of Haiti, the various political parties, and the civil society forces involved in order to arrange for a visit to Haiti by the Secretary General as soon as is reasonably possible. As those developments bear fruit, you will, of course, be kept informed.

My second point has to do with thanking the governments of Nicaragua and Honduras—that is the order in which I visited them—for having received me very generously last week. It was clear that they have the political will to maintain the peace. In fact, in turning to the OAS for support, they were underscoring that they wanted to reach agreement by peaceful means.

I would like to add just one thing in advance of the informal meeting to be held in the *Salón Colón* at 3:30 p.m. tomorrow. The countries that are interested in supporting the verification process have been invited to attend this meeting. I think it is easy for outsiders to forget that we are dealing with a genuine conflict over maritime boundaries. It is not a conflict of ancient and traditional lineage, although history always plays a role. It is a modern conflict that needs to be resolved peacefully; nonetheless, it is a very real conflict. Without the proper procedures that have been agreed to by the two states, along with adequate confidence building and verification, it is the kind of situation that could easily bring trouble for all of us.

Thank you very much.

El PRESIDENTE: Gracias, señor Secretario General Adjunto. No hay otros asuntos que tratar. Por lo tanto, se levanta la sesión.

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