

AG/RES. 2230 (XXXVI-O/06)

PROGRAM OF ACTION FOR THE DECADE OF THE AMERICAS  
FOR THE RIGHTS AND DIGNITY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (2006-2016)

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING its resolutions AG/RES. 1249 (XXIII-O/93) and AG/RES. 1356 (XXV-O/95), “Situation of Persons with Disabilities in the American Hemisphere”; and AG/RES. 1369 (XXVI-O/96), “Panama Commitment to Persons with Disabilities in the American Hemisphere”;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that, in the Plan of Action of the Fourth Summit of the Americas (Mar del Plata, Argentina, November 5, 2005), the Heads of State and Government instructed the Organization of American States (OAS) to “consider at the next OAS period of regular sessions of the General Assembly to be held in the Dominican Republic, a Declaration on the Decade of the Americas for Persons with Disabilities (2006-2016), together with a program of action”;

REITERATING the continuing need to promote the right of persons with disabilities to participate fully in the social life and the development of their societies and to enjoy living conditions on an equal basis with others, as well as the improvement of living conditions as a result of social and economic development, with respect for their special needs;

RECOGNIZING that our region has produced regional instruments and policies, such as the Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities and the Declaration of the Ibero-American Year of Persons with Disabilities, which need to be promoted and implemented through a region-wide program of action, which will also help to fight inequality in the region;

RECALLING other important international instruments, such as the Declaration on the Rights of Mentally Retarded Persons (United Nations General Assembly resolution 2856 (XXVI), December 20, 1971); the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Disabled Persons (United Nations General Assembly resolution 3447 (XXX), December 9, 1975); the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons (United Nations General Assembly resolution 37/52, December 3, 1982); the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (Disabled Persons) Convention of the International Labour Organization - ILO (Convention No. 159); Recommendation N° 168 of the ILO (1983); the Principles for the Protection of Persons with Mental Illness and for the Improvement of Mental Health Care (United Nations General Assembly resolution 46/119, December 17, 1991); and the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities (United Nations General Assembly resolution 48/96, December 20, 1993); and recalling the ongoing work of the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities (2001), all of which provide a working basis for long-term efforts, in a framework of inclusive development and with a focus on rights;

BEARING IN MIND the “Declaration on the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities (2006-2016)” [AG/DEC. 50 (XXXVI-O/06)], adopted by the General Assembly at the present regular session, which will provide a genuine, meaningful impetus to activities related to equal opportunity for persons with disabilities, as well as to the prevention of disabilities and the rehabilitation of persons with disabilities at all levels; and

TAKING NOTE of the document entitled “Draft Program of Action for the Decade of the Americas for Persons with Disabilities (2006-2016),” presented by Peru (CP/CAJP-2362/06 corr. 1),

RESOLVES:

1. To request the Permanent Council to establish, in the framework of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs, a working group to prepare a Program of Action for the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities (2006-2016), taking into account the document entitled “Draft Program of Action for the Decade of the Americas for Persons with Disabilities (2006-2016),” presented by Peru (CP/CAJP-2362/06 corr. 1), as well as the inputs received at the special meeting referred to in operative paragraph 3 of this resolution. The final document will be submitted to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session for adoption.

2. To thank Peru for its presentation of the document entitled “Draft Program of Action for the Decade of the Americas for Persons with Disabilities (2006-2016).”

3. To request the Working Group to hold a special meeting during the second half of 2006 to receive inputs on the Draft Program of Action from the member states of the Organization of American States (OAS), from the pertinent OAS organs, agencies, and entities, from other regional and international bodies, and from civil society organizations, including organizations of persons with disabilities and their families.

4. To request the General Secretariat to provide, through the International Law Office of the Department of International Legal Affairs, the broadest possible support for the Working Group’s activities.

5. To instruct the Permanent Council to follow up on this resolution, which will be implemented within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources, and to present a report on its implementation to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session.