

**24<sup>th</sup> Model of the Permanent Council  
for OAS Interns – 24<sup>th</sup> MOAS/PC  
March 17 - 18, 2016**

**FINAL RESOLUTIONS**

(With style revisions by the MOAS Program)



**MOAS PROGRAM COORDINATION  
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL**

**PROMOTION OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING FOR  
ADVANCING AN INCLUSIVE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA**

**THE 24<sup>th</sup> MOAS/PC GENERAL ASSEMBLY,**

**CONSIDERING** that Chapter VII of the Charter of the Organization of American States establishes that equality of opportunity, the elimination of extreme poverty, equitable distribution of wealth and income, and the full participation of their peoples in decisions relating to their own development are, among others, basic objectives of integral development, emphasizing the importance of scientific and technological contributions to sustainable development;

**RECOGNIZING** the international legal framework given by article 46.e of the Charter of the Organization of American States, the 2002 Declaration of Johannesburg regarding Sustainable Development, and Article 4 of the Inter-American Convention on Human Rights;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** Article 6 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, which states that promoting and fostering diverse forms of participation strengthens democracy, and that all citizens have the right to participate in decisions relating to their own development;

**REAFFIRMING** that Principle 10 of the 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development states that environmental issues are best handled with the participation of all concerned citizens at the relevant level, and that to advance such participation, emphasis should be placed on access to information, access to process and access to justice;

**RECOGNIZING** the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which establishes goals that seek to strengthen universal opportunities through actions such as the empowerment of women and girls to reduce inequalities by supporting marginalized groups, and promoting peace, justice and equality of people in different societies all around the world;

**TAKING NOTE OF** AG/RES 2514 (XXXIX-O/09), which requested the preparation of a Model Inter-American Law on Access to Information, to provide states with the legal foundation necessary to guarantee access to information, as well as an implementation guide for the Model Law to provide the road map necessary to ensure that the law will function in practice;

**NOTING** that the Declaration and Plan of Action of Santa Cruz de la Sierra states that the development, adoption, adaptation, and application of effective technology play an important role in ensuring sustainable development;

**TAKING NOTE OF** the Inter-American Strategy for the Promotion of Public Participation in Decision-Making for Sustainable Development (ISP), which is a prompt response to a mandate entrusted to the OAS by the 1996 Bolivia Summit Conference on Sustainable Development;

**RECOGNIZING** the importance of *Institutional Strengthening for Sustainable Development*, which will be the theme of the 46<sup>th</sup> OAS General Assembly to take place in Santo Domingo, in June of this year;

**CONSIDERING,**

That the Americas are currently in a process of neoextractivism, which is bringing natural resources to their limit, and endangering human development and its existence; and

That education is a pillar that will allow the establishment of a basic language to develop public awareness and knowledge for the inclusion of citizens in the public process to make responsible decisions; and

**RECOGNIZING** as a best practice the expansion of the broad-band access as a medium to promote public participation across the population, and that the promotion and development of technologies, in addition to the Internet, are in order to reach isolated communities and to guarantee the inclusion of persons with disabilities and in situations of vulnerability,

**RESOLVES:**

1. TO REQUEST the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States to inform the 46th General Assembly about the advances and challenges of public participation in decision-making processes related to the achievement of sustainable development in the Hemisphere.

2. TO ENCOURAGE all Member States to adopt the best practices of the Inter-American Strategy for the Promotion of Public Participation in Decision-Making for Sustainable Development (ISP) as part of their public policies, in order to empower society as a key decision maker in all matters related to sustainable development and good governance with social inclusion.

3. TO URGE all Member States to identify all groups in situations of vulnerability within their states, in order to use their capacities and knowledge as a strategy to promote sustainable development within each group and, as a result, to impact society as a whole.

4. TO REQUEST the Inter-American Commission of Women, to support Member States in building their capacities to reach the measurable targets stipulated in the 5th Goal of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

5. TO ACTIVATE the Working Group to Prepare the Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and to instruct the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) to strengthen or create participation mechanisms for indigenous groups within the framework of the Inter-American Strategy for the Promotion of Public Participation in Decision Making for Sustainable Development (ISP), making sure that these groups have access to all three soft law principles (access to information, access to process and access to justice), as stated in the Rio Declaration.

6. TO INSTRUCT the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) to create a strategic education initiative called “Participative Education” within existing programs, in order to create a culture of civic and social awareness and to achieve inclusive and accessible public participation in the decision making process. This initiative should be implemented by each Member State according to their necessities and capacities through the corresponding state institutions (*See Annex 1 for a proposed Plan of Action for the Implementation of “Participative Education”*).

7. TO FURTHER DIRECT the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) to pursue collaboration and international cooperation partnerships on sustainable development education issues with Member States, reaffirming the Sustainable Development Goals.

8. TO ENCOURAGE Member States to create or improve existing transparency institutes that make use of online platforms and resources to facilitate access to information for public consultation through new information technologies, including applications, social media, and other platforms that guarantee easy and universal access to information.

9. TO INSTRUCT the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) to create a hemispheric online forum to convene experts on specific topics related to sustainable development for sharing best practices and experiences. These topics should be agreed upon during each Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High Level Authorities on Sustainable Development.

10. TO PROMOTE public consultation in decision making processes related to the determination and regulation of public policies that affect immediate local community interests through technologies, including the internet, social platforms, social networks, telephones, radio, and television, among others.

## **Annex 1. Proposed Plan of Action for the Implementation of “Participative Education”**

The strategic education initiative called “Participative Education” will:

- a) Promote public participation mechanisms throughout the population, influencing especially groups in situation of vulnerability and taking into consideration strategic actors such as: governments, society, private sector, academia, and NGOs.
- b) Coordinate with the institutions within the Member States to include an ecological based program that promotes education on sustainable development, taking into consideration best practices and effective procedures towards a green planet.
- c) Within the strategic education initiative create the project “Training Trainers”, whose objective is to encourage inclusive education that relates best environmental practices with fundamental information regarding the consequences of climate change:
  - i. The project is based in the selection of 12 volunteers per Member State who will have the responsibility of teaching 12 other future volunteers what they have learned.
  - ii. To measure the impact of the training program a position called “captain” will be established. The “captain” will be in charge of giving a report about the new lessons to be taught by the beneficiaries of the program. In this manner, the program will directly contact the beneficiaries, keeping close account of the process.
- d) Include a follow up statistical evaluation performed by the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) every three years, in order to verify the impact of the program.
- e) Encourage the Member States to promote ecological practices massively adopting ICTs to reach every citizen within the Americas to ensure a well-practiced sustainable development.
- f) Be developed in accordance to the projects and priorities of the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI).

**CONFLICT PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL  
DIPLOMACY TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT<sup>1</sup>**

**THE 24<sup>th</sup> MOAS/PC GENERAL ASSEMBLY,**

**ACKNOWLEDGING** climate change, its consequences and the threats imposed on developing countries in the Americas;

**CONSIDERING** the existing mandates addressing conflict prevention through public diplomacy included in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other international agreements, such as the Declaration of Santa Cruz de la Sierra and the Inter-American Strategy for Public Participation in Decision Making for Sustainable Development of 2004; and

**RECOGNIZING** the need for innovative solutions that enable Member States to achieve sustainable development;

**BEARING IN MIND** the benefits obtained through inter-American cooperation for the development of conflict prevention and management mechanisms;

**AFFIRMING ITS CONVICTION** that a peaceful and constructive approach to social conflicts associated with investment projects, from a rights-based perspective, through dialogue and other peaceful means for the prevention and alternative resolution of conflicts, contributes to democratic governance and integral development;

**MINDFUL** that consultation and dialogue are important tools for the prevention, management, and resolution of conflicts that arise out of investment in development initiatives, as well as to achieve the goals for sustainable development, with emphasis on the participation of groups in situations of vulnerability;

**UNDERSTANDING** the efforts of Member States to promote and strengthen their capacities to solve environmental conflicts in a peaceful manner;

**TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION** the budgetary limitations of the Organization of American States, and recognizing the capability of civil society organizations and other social actors to look for solutions in spite of the previous limitations in identifying potential environmental conflicts;

**RECOGNIZING** that access to all natural resources, especially to potable water, as a fundamental human right,

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<sup>1</sup> The delegation of the United States of America does not agree with resolves 1, 2 and 3 of this resolution.

## RESOLVES:

1. To encourage Member States to take action in mitigating the greenhouse effect by means of:

- a) Reinforcement of reforestation policies and/or laws through co-operation with the relevant international organizations; and
- b) Development of domestic public policies that promote and provide incentive for the reduction of carbon emissions in both the public and private industry.

2. To promote, with the support of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI), the use of alternative sources of energy including, but not limited to solar, wind, geothermal, biomass energy, hydropower and waste produced energy.

3. To facilitate inter-American cooperation in order to prevent potential environmental conflict by:

- a) Creating a platform, developed and managed by the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI), in which information is shared by the relevant institution of each Member State; and
- b) Organizing an inter-American forum in which Member States have the opportunity to collaborate by presenting their challenges in achieving sustainable development and consulting with other Member States for possible solutions.

4. To promote the prevention guidelines mentioned below, which will lead to the achievement of best practices for sustainable development, in the environmental institutions of the Member States, through:

- a) The implementation of participation and representation channels amongst the involved communities and also between the Member States;
- b) The development of conflict indicators to define potential conflict areas, aiming at establishing limits, enforcements and incentives upon the implicated parties; and
- c) The creation of formal plans that involve both short and long term strategies.

5. To promote the creation or support of an autonomous, specialized, impartial and transparent national institution that is empowered to work on the resolution of environmental sustainability issues, by the execution of efficient investigations and that is able to guarantee the active and inclusive participation of all the parties, as well as the defense of all the groups in situations of vulnerability, through the implementation of several communication channels in addition to comprehensive and alternative means of ending existing conflicts.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The delegation of Barbados does not agree with the way this resolve was written using the word comprehensive.

6. To implement inclusive programs on environmental education, aiming to spread awareness on sustainability issues among all generations. These initiatives should be:

- a) Applied, due to its high level of impact, to the formal educational system, understanding that sufficient resources should be assigned to this task, according to the capacities of each Member State;
- b) Implemented through non-formal educational programs, aimed to people that do not have access to the formal system, knowing that the lack of awareness represents a great danger of potential conflicts; and
- c) Applied through the strengthening of capacities of the personnel of state institutions at all levels.

7. To instruct the Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity to collaborate with the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI), in order to execute a cooperation agreement with civil society organizations to identify potential areas of:

- a) Conflict over natural resources in the region; and
- b) International cooperation for the sustainable use of natural resources.

8. To establish a mechanism, coordinated by the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) that recognizes natural protected areas at the regional level, by:

- a) Prioritizing areas inhabited by indigenous communities;
- b) Cooperating with the private sector and civil society organizations in order to obtain information to identify these areas; and
- c) Requesting financial support from governments and other multilateral development organizations.

9. To urge Member States to create legislation that specifically addresses regional natural protected areas and prohibits unauthorized exploitation of its resources.