



ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

Inter-American Council for Integral Development
(CIDI)



**SECOND MEETING OF THE
INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON CULTURE**

August 25-26, 2005
Washington, D.C.

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MEETING OF THE NETWORK OF THE CULTURAL OBSERVATORIES OF THE AMERICAS

Washington, D.C., August 24, 2005



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Organização dos Estados Americanos
Organisation des États américains
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BACKGROUND

The inter-American ministerial meetings of culture held in the framework of CIDI (Cartagena 2002 and Mexico 2004) have been analyzing the creation of the Inter-American Cultural Policy Observatory (ICPO) in the framework of the Inter-American Committee on Culture (CIC).¹ The process of study and analysis for the creation of the ICPO was initiated by a mandate from the Plan of Action of Cartagena for the realization of a feasibility study, which was carried out by Dr. Yudahishthir Raj Isar and supported by contributions and comments of an Advisory Committee with sub-regional representation and presented at the First Meeting of the CIC in September 2003.

The Feasibility Study explains arguments on the usefulness of establishing the **ICPO, and defines its purposes, public objective and basic functions, which can be summarized as:** 1) the collection and dissemination of specialized information on the cultural sector, ii) the promotion of research and data collection on cultural policies and on the cultural diversity of the Member States, and iii) contribution to the design of indicators by which to measure the impact of policies in the cultural sector.

In addition, it mentions that the **ICPO should have a working method of association that will permit it to benefit from the information of specialized organisms and networks. Therefore, in addition to serving the autonomous information arm of the CIC; the ICPO should** i) connect and draw upon existing efforts, resources and institutional experience; ii) ensure the effective participation of non-governmental stakeholders; iii) develop a network of information providers in each country; and iv) develop on-line information capacities that are cheap and of high impact, yet first rate and interactive.

Following the above mentioned points, which were approved by the CIC in its first meeting, the OEST has invited national or local cultural policy observatories and entities with similar objectives, all identified in the Feasibility Study, to be a part of a network.

This first meeting of national and/or local cultural policy observatories of the region aims, in addition to initiating and promoting contact between entities of common objectives and interests, to study the viability and usefulness of creating a network and to discuss mechanisms of cooperation and coordination with the ICPO.

1. The Plan of Action of Cartagena addresses the completion of a study on the feasibility of the creation of a ICPO in the framework of the CIC and the rules of the CIC address in their functions “supervising and using the Observatory” and “providing qualitative, quantitative and relevant information produced by the Observatory to ensure that the process of decision-making is informed and pertinent” (articles 3(g) and 3(1) respectively).

OBJECTIVES OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE NETWORK OF OBSERVATORIES

In the first meeting of the Network of Observatories will be held the day before the Second Meeting of the CIC in Washington, August 25 and 26, 2005, so that the observatories have the opportunity to meet with some of the delegates of the 34 Member States of the OAS to the CIC and analyze the working mechanisms for the future of the ICPO. Additionally the observatories will have the opportunity to attend the CIC meeting as observers and be informed of the political discussions and established priorities on the inter-American agenda of culture, and in a certain way to synchronize their research with the themes of the political forum.

The central objective of the Meeting is to create an initial working space so that organizations with common objectives enter into contact and exchange information on themes they address, work methodologies and available resources.

The Meeting will also study the viability and different forms of collaboration as well as the establishment of a network, formal or informal, of observatories in the Americas. It would be appropriate to analyze the benefit for the region of a network and the usefulness or necessity of having an inter-American space for cultural policy observatories versus a network of existing observatories in the framework of UNESCO. Would the network be simply duplicating the network of UNESCO or do specific conditions and interests exist that justify the creation of an inter-American network? In the context of globalization and the characteristics of the region, which would be the areas of action where a network could have greater impact? How can it contribute to the analysis, monitoring and evolution of the cultural policies in the region and in what direction should we go? These are only some of the issues to be considered during the discussions.

With the former as a base, the participants will also study how the network or the participating observatories can contribute with the ICPO. How could the observatories or the network, according to the case, contribute to the construction of a regional infrastructure of cultural information? What would be the processes and rules of interaction and dissemination of studies?

On the thematic aspect, and drawing from the specialties of the participating observatories, it would be valuable to listen to comments on priority themes of study and research that are considered vital for the region. Just as research and local and/or national information contributes to a Regional Observatory and supports the creation of comparative studies, so does the analysis of similar experiences and the motivation of research on certain themes at the inter-American or regional level.

Lastly, the theme of Cultural Information Systems will be addressed with a first step in the construction of regional infrastructure of cultural information, and the availability of sharing experiences that contribute to the creation and strengthening of observatories in other countries.



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MEETING OF THE NETWORK OF CULTURAL OBSERVATORIES OF THE AMERICAS
Site of the Organization of American States
1889 F Street, N.W. – Room 704
Washington, D.C., August 24, 2005

AGENDA

AUGUST 24, 2005

- 9:00am Welcome, Alice Abreu, Director, Office of Education, Science and Technology
- 9:30am Presentation of the participating entities (15 minutes each)
- 10:30am The Network of Cultural Observatories of the Americas: a viable initiative?
Analysis of the viability of creating a network of cultural observatories of the Americas, possible areas of cooperation, methodology of interaction and its link with the future Inter-American Cultural Policy Observatory (ICPO).
- Presentation of theme
 - Discussion and comments
 - Summary of positions and conclusions. Objectives of the network, how to reach them and its link with the ICPO.
- 1:00pm Lunch
- 2:00pm Culture as an engine for economic growth. Themes of research and proposals for collaboration between participating Observatories.
- 3:00pm Field of interaction and collaboration between the Network of Cultural Policy Observatories and the Inter-American Committee on Culture.
- Introduction by the Office of Education, Science and Technology
 - Presentation by one of the Delegates of the participating Member States
 - Discussion and comments
- 5:30pm Meeting adjourned

LISTA DE PARTICIPANTES A LA REUNIÓN DE LA RED DE OBSERVATORIOS CULTURALES

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS TO THE MEETING OF THE NETWORK OF CULTURAL OBSERVATORIES

Agosto 24, 2005 / August 24, 2005

Observatorios - Observatories

- Canadian Cultural Observatory*
- Observatorio del Caribe Colombiano*
- Observatorio de Políticas Urbanas de Bogota *
- Observatorio Cultural Montevideo *
- Observatorio Cultural de la Universidad de Buenos Aires *
- Observatorio de Industrias Culturales de la Ciudad de Buenos Aires *
- Observatorio de Políticas Culturales de Venezuela
- São Paulo Cultural Policy Observatory
- Center for Arts and Culture *

Invitados Especiales – Special Guests

- Convenio Andres Bello (CAB) – Andres Bello Agreement (CAB)
- Fundación Interamericana para la Cultural y el Desarrollo – Inter-American Foundation for Culture and Development
- Federación Internacional de los Consejos de las Artes y Agencias Culturales (FICAAC) - International Federation of Arts Councils and Culture Agencies (IFACCA)

Estados Miembros - Member States

Invitadas las Autoridades de la CIC (México*, Canadá*, Chile, Argentina) y los países que ofrecieron servir de nodos sub-regionales durante la Segunda Reunión Interamericana de Ministros y Altas Autoridades de Cultura (Barbados, Brasil, Colombia*, Nicaragua, República Dominicana)

Invited the CIC Authorities (Mexico*, Canada*, Chile, Argentina) and countries that offered to be subregional nodes at the Second Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities (Barbados, Brazil, Colombia*, Dominican Republic, Nicaragua)

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2. Confirmado / Confirmed