

ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES  
**GENERAL ASSEMBLY**



**FORTY-SEVENTH REGULAR SESSION**  
**Cancun, Quintana Roo, Mexico**  
**June 19-21, 2017**

# **PROCEEDINGS**

# **VOLUME I**

**AG/DEC. 95 (XLVII-O/17)**  
**AG/RES. 2898 (XLVII-O/17) - AG/RES. 2914 (XLVII-O/17)**

**CERTIFIED TEXTS OF THE DECLARATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS**

GENERAL SECRETARIAT  
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

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ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY



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Volume I

**FORTY-SEVENTH REGULAR SESSION**  
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## **VOLUME I**

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006



I HEREBY CERTIFY that this volume contains the official texts of the declaration and resolutions adopted by the General Assembly of the Organization of American States at its forty-seventh regular session, held in Cancún, Quintana Roo, Mexico, from June 19 to 21, 2017.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'L' and 'A' followed by a horizontal line.

Luis Almagro  
Secretary General  
Organization of American States

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

		<u>Page</u>
AG/DEC. 95 (XLVII-O/17)	Declaration on “The Question of the Malvinas Islands” .....	1
AG/RES. 2898 (XLVII-O/17)	2019, International Year of Indigenous Languages.....	3
AG/RES. 2899 (XLVII-O/17)	The Key Role of the Organization of American States in the Advancement of Telecommunications/Information and Communication Technologies through the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission .....	5
AG/RES. 2900 (XLVII-O/17)	Strengthening OAS Organs, Agencies, Entities, Initiatives, and Mechanisms .....	7
AG/RES. 2901 (XLVII-O/17)	Increasing and Strengthening the Participation of Civil Society and Social Actors in the Activities of the Organization of American States and in the Summits of the Americas Process .....	11
AG/RES. 2902 (XLVII-O/17)	Support for and Follow-up to the Summits of the Americas Process.....	15
AG/RES. 2903 (XLVII-O/17)	Institutional Framework of the Organization of American States: Review and Strengthening .....	19
AG/RES. 2904 (XLVII-O/17)	Advancing Hemispheric Initiatives on Integral Development.....	21
AG/RES. 2905 (XLVII-O/17)	Strengthening Democracy .....	41
AG/RES. 2906 (XLVII-O/17)	Model Law on the Simplified Corporation.....	51
AG/RES. 2907 (XLVII-O/17)	Advancing Hemispheric Security: A Multidimensional Approach .....	65
AG/RES. 2908 (XLVII-O/17)	Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.....	89
AG/RES. 2909 (XLVII-O/17)	International Law.....	109
AG/RES. 2910 (XLVII-O/17)	Migration in the Americas.....	115

AG/RES. 2911 (XLVII-O/17)	Progress toward Accountability, Efficiency and Effectiveness, and Results in the OAS General Secretariat .....	123
AG/RES. 2912 (XLVII-O/17)	Financing of the 2018 Program-Budget of the Organization .....	133
AG/RES. 2913 (XLVII-O/17)	Plan of Action on the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2017-2021) .....	139
AG/RES. 2914 (XLVII-O/17)	Vote of Appreciation to the People and Government of Mexico.....	149
Decision of the General Assembly:	To determine the Place and Date of the Forty-eighth Regular Session of the General Assembly (Article 30 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly).....	151

AG/DEC. 95 (XLVII-O/17)

DECLARATION ON “THE QUESTION OF THE MALVINAS ISLANDS”

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 21, 2017)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

CONSIDERING its repeated statements that the question of the Malvinas Islands is a matter of enduring hemispheric concern;

RECALLING its resolution AG/RES. 928 (XVIII-O/88), adopted by consensus on November 19, 1988, in which it requested the Governments of the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to resume negotiations in order to find, as soon as possible, a peaceful solution to the sovereignty dispute;

BEARING IN MIND that in its resolution AG/RES. 1049 (XX-O/90) it expressed satisfaction over the resumption of diplomatic relations between the two countries;

RECOGNIZING that the accreditation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, under resolution CP/RES. 655 (1041/95), as a permanent observer of the OAS reflects principles and values shared by that country and OAS member states, which facilitate greater mutual understanding;

NOTING with satisfaction that the Governments of the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland maintain important political, cultural, and trade ties, share common values, and are also engaged in close cooperation both bilaterally and in international forums;

BEARING IN MIND that, despite those ties and shared values, it has not yet been possible to resume the negotiations between the two countries with a view to solving the sovereignty dispute over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia, and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas in the framework of resolutions 2065 (XX), 3160 (XXVIII), 31/49, 37/9, 38/12, 39/6, 40/21, 41/40, 42/19 and 43/25 of the United Nations General Assembly, the decisions adopted by the same body on the same question in the Special Committee on Decolonization, and the reiterated resolutions and declarations adopted at the OAS General Assembly; and

HAVING HEARD the presentation by the head of the delegation of the Argentine Republic,

WELCOMES the reaffirmation of the will of the Argentine Government to continue exploring all possible avenues towards a peaceful settlement of the dispute and its constructive approach towards the inhabitants of the Malvinas Islands.

REAFFIRMS the need for the Governments of the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to resume, as soon as possible, negotiations on the sovereignty dispute, in order to find a peaceful solution to this protracted controversy.

DECIDES to continue to examine the question of the Malvinas Islands at its subsequent sessions until a definitive settlement has been reached thereon.



AG/RES. 2898 (XLVII-O/17)

2019, INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES<sup>1/</sup>

(Adopted at the first plenary session, held on June 20, 2017)

THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND HEADS OF DELEGATION OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS), gathered in Cancún, Mexico, in the framework of the forty-seventh regular session of the General Assembly,

BEARING IN MIND the provisions contained in the Charter of the Organization of American States, the Social Charter of the Americas, the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, the American Convention on Human Rights, the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples on the tenth anniversary of its adoption, and United Nations General Assembly resolution 71/178, “Rights of indigenous peoples”; and

RECALLING that the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples provides that indigenous peoples have the right to recognition and respect for their languages, and to “preserve, use, develop, revitalize, and transmit to future generations their own histories, languages, oral traditions, philosophies, systems of knowledge, writing, and literature, and to designate and retain their own names for their communities, individuals, and places,”

RESOLVE:

1. To welcome with satisfaction the decision of the United Nations General Assembly to proclaim 2019 the International Year of Indigenous Languages to draw attention to the critical loss of indigenous languages and the urgent need to preserve, promote, and revitalize them.
2. To work jointly with indigenous peoples to adopt measures to preserve, transmit, and develop their languages in their homes; in community life; in administrative, political, and judicial processes, by facilitating interpreters or other effective measures, whenever necessary; and in society at large.

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1. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela does not agree to any commitment or mandate issued in this resolution as it did not participate in the negotiation of said resolution. It is still ...

FOOTNOTE

1. ... within the denunciation period established in Article 143 of the OAS Charter.

AG/RES. 2899 (XLVII-O/17)

THE KEY ROLE OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES IN THE  
ADVANCEMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS/INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION  
TECHNOLOGIES THROUGH THE INTER-AMERICAN TELECOMMUNICATION  
COMMISSION<sup>1/</sup>

(Adopted at the first plenary session, held on June 20, 2017)

THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND HEADS OF DELEGATION OF THE  
MEMBER STATES OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS), gathered in  
Cancún, Mexico, in the framework of the forty-seventh regular session of the General Assembly,

CONSIDERING:

That telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) are an  
enabling factor in accelerating social and economic development and, therefore, attaining the  
Sustainable Development Goals and their targets; and

That the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL), as an entity specializing  
in telecommunications and ICTs in the Americas, has made effective contributions to the  
implementation of the four OAS pillars and the mandates and initiatives of the Summits of the  
Americas, including the launch of the public-private 2030 ICT Alliance for the Americas and its calls  
for greater investment in broadband infrastructure and promotion of broadband access in the interests  
of social inclusion, while fostering increased international cooperation to ensure the security and  
robustness of international telecommunications networks; and that, to those ends, the financial  
sustainability of CITEL needs to be assured, and its 2018–2022 Strategic Plan aligned with the OAS  
Four-Year Strategic Plan,

RESOLVE:

1. To encourage member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) to  
intensify horizontal cooperation and exchanges of information, experience, and good practices with  
one another in the area of telecommunications and information technologies, with support from the  
Secretariat of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL).

2. To instruct the General Secretariat, when preparing the draft 2018 program-budget  
for consideration by the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs and adoption by the  
General Assembly, to take into account the financial needs of CITEL in order to ensure that it can  
function optimally.

3. To request the CITEL Secretariat to report to the General Assembly at its forty-  
eighth regular session on the implementation of this resolution. Execution of the activities envisaged  
in this resolution will be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the  
Organization and other resources.

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1. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela does not agree to any commitment or mandate issued in this  
resolution as it did not participate in the negotiation of said resolution. It is still ...

FOOTNOTE

1. ... within the denunciation period established in Article 143 of the OAS Charter.

AG/RES. 2900 (XLVII-O/17)

STRENGTHENING OAS ORGANS, AGENCIES,  
ENTITIES, INITIATIVES, AND MECHANISMS<sup>1/</sup>

(Adopted at the first plenary session, held on June 20, 2017)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the “Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly, June 2016-June 2017” (AG/doc.5565/17 add. 1), in particular the section on the activities of the General Committee;

BEARING IN MIND that pursuant to Article 16 of the Rules of Procedure of the Permanent Council, the functions of the General Committee include to consider the reports presented by the organs, agencies, and entities referred to in Article 91.f of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), with the exception of those reports assigned to other permanent committees, and to prepare draft resolutions on the topics assigned to it by the Permanent Council or on those not within the purview of other permanent committees; and

BEARING IN MIND ALSO the annual reports submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh regular session by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) (CP/doc.5267/17), the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) (CP/doc.5285/17), the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL) (CP/doc.5275/17), the Inter-American Children’s Institute (IIN) (CP/doc.5279/17), and the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) (CP/doc.5266/17);

I. INTER-AMERICAN CHILDREN’S INSTITUTE

CONSIDERING:

That the Inter-American Children’s Institute is the only forum for coordination among States at the hemispheric level on matters relating to children and adolescents and that it makes available technical assistance and training for most OAS member states in a highly sensitive and strategic area for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Hemisphere; namely, children and adolescents; and

That the institutional mission of the IIN is to provide technical assistance to States to build their capacities to promote and protect the rights of the child; and

RECOGNIZING the work of the IIN on behalf of children and adolescents and recalling that the Permanent Council has declared June 9 to be “Americas Children and Youth Day,”

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1. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela does not agree to any commitment or mandate issued in this resolution as it did not participate in the negotiation of said resolution. It is still ...

RESOLVES:

To congratulate the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN) on the ninetieth anniversary of its founding and encourage it to continue its work on development of public policies to ensure the promotion, protection, and exercise of the rights of children and adolescents.

II. PAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY

CONSIDERING that the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) is a technical and scientific agency of the OAS dedicated to the generation and transference of specialized knowledge in the fields of cartography, geography, history, and geophysics,

RESOLVES:

To support and disseminate the work of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), which seeks to integrate the concepts contained in the Institute's Pan American Agenda with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and so contribute to the fulfillment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

FOOTNOTE

1. ... within the denunciation period established in Article 143 of the OAS Charter.





AG/RES. 2901 (XLVII-O/17)

INCREASING AND STRENGTHENING THE PARTICIPATION OF CIVIL SOCIETY  
AND SOCIAL ACTORS IN THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ORGANIZATION OF  
AMERICAN STATES AND IN THE SUMMITS OF THE AMERICAS PROCESS<sup>1/</sup>

(Adopted at the first plenary session, held on June 20, 2017)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECOGNIZING the importance of participation by civil society organizations and other social actors in consolidating democracy, social development, human rights, and security in all member states and that their participation in the activities of the Organization of American States (OAS) and in the Summits of the Americas process should take place in a context of close collaboration among the political and institutional bodies of the Organization and in compliance with the provisions of the Charter of the Organization of American States and resolution CP/RES. 759 (1217/99), “Guidelines for the Participation of Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities”;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT resolution AG/RES. 2893 (XLVI-O/16), “Increasing and Strengthening the Participation of Civil Society and Social Actors in the Activities of the Organization of American States and in the Summits of the Americas Process”; the “Strategy for Strengthening Participation by Civil Society Organizations and Social Actors in Activities of the Organization of American States (OAS)” adopted by the General Assembly in resolution AG/RES. 2861 (XLIV-O/14), “Increasing and Strengthening the Participation of Civil Society and Social Actors in the Activities of the Organization of American States and in the Summits of the Americas Process”; and resolution AG/RES. 2884 (XLVI-O/16), “Support for and Follow-up to the Summits of the Americas Process”;

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION the “Strategies for Increasing and Strengthening Participation by Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities” adopted by the General Assembly in resolution AG/RES. 1915 (XXXIII-O/03), “Increasing and Strengthening Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities,” which requested “the Committee on Inter-American Summits Management and Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities (CISC) to follow up on these strategies; to evaluate their implementation; and, if appropriate, to propose amendments to them or new mechanisms for increasing and strengthening participation by civil society organizations in OAS activities”; and

NOTING the establishment by resolution CP/RES. 864 (1413/04) of the Specific Fund to Support the Participation of Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities and in the Summits of the Americas Process, whose purpose is to support participation by civil society organizations and other social actors in OAS activities, including the dialogue among heads of delegation of member states, the Secretary General, and civil society organization representatives and other social actors, which has been included on the draft schedule for regular sessions of the General Assembly as a regular activity before the inaugural session, as established in resolution AG/RES. 1915 (XXXIII-O/03),

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1. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela does not agree to any commitment or mandate issued in this resolution as it did not participate in the negotiation of said resolution. It is still ...

RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm the commitment and will of the member states of the Organization of American States (OAS): (a) to continue strengthening and implementing effective forums and mechanisms and concrete actions to actively support and promote the registration of civil society organizations and other social actors, in accordance with resolution CP/RES. 759 (1217/99), as well as national and multilateral efforts to enable civil society organizations and other social actors to participate in OAS activities; (b) to support the host country of the Eighth Summit of the Americas in its efforts to engage civil society, other social actors, and other stakeholders in the Summits process, through the Summits Secretariat and the Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity; and (c) to continue participating in the dialogue of heads of delegation with civil society organization representatives in the framework of the regular sessions of the General Assembly and the Summits of the Americas process.

2. To instruct the Permanent Council, the Inter-American Council for Integral Development, and the General Secretariat to continue, in coordination with all organs, agencies, and entities of the OAS, facilitating the implementation of strategies, forums, and mechanisms for promoting, increasing, and strengthening participation by civil society organizations and other social actors in the Summits of the Americas and OAS activities, including the strategies adopted by the General Assembly in resolutions AG/RES. 1915 (XXXIII-O/03) and AG/RES. 2861 (XLIV-O/14).

3. To instruct the General Secretariat to invite the indigenous peoples and Afro-descendent communities of member states or their representatives to participate in the Dialogue of the Heads of Delegation with Representatives of Civil Society Organizations and Other Social Actors in the framework of regular sessions of the OAS General Assembly, in order to enable those representatives to present recommendations and proposed initiatives related to the theme of the General Assembly session.

4. To instruct the General Secretariat to continue to support member states that so request in their efforts to increase and strengthen the institutional capacity of their governments to receive, integrate, and incorporate civil society and other social actors' input and advocacy; and to submit, before the forty-eighth regular session of the General Assembly, a report on the implementation of this resolution, which will be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

5. To strengthen the participation of social actors of member states in the Summits of the Americas process and in OAS activities as a result of said process, taking into account their ways, uses, and customs in organizing themselves.

6. To encourage all member states, permanent observers, and other donors, as defined in Article 74 of the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat of the OAS and in other rules and regulations of the Organization, to consider contributing to the Specific Fund to Support the Participation of Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities and in the Summits of the Americas Process, in order to sustain and promote the effective participation of civil society organizations and other social actors in OAS activities, in accordance with the goals set by the General Assembly and by the Heads of State and Government in the Summits of the Americas

process, including the Dialogue of Heads of Delegation, the Secretary General, and Representatives of Civil Society Organizations.

FOOTNOTE

1. ... within the denunciation period established in Article 143 of the OAS Charter.

AG/RES. 2902 (XLVII-O/17)

SUPPORT FOR AND FOLLOW-UP TO THE SUMMITS OF THE AMERICAS PROCESS<sup>1/</sup>

(Adopted at the first plenary session, held on June 20, 2017)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the mandates and decisions adopted at—and the initiatives emanating from—the First Summit of the Americas (Miami, 1994), the Summit of the Americas on Sustainable Development (Santa Cruz de la Sierra, 1996), the Second Summit of the Americas (Santiago, 1998), the Third Summit of the Americas (Quebec City, 2001), the Special Summit of the Americas (Monterrey, 2004), the Fourth Summit of the Americas (Mar del Plata, 2005), the Fifth Summit of the Americas (Port of Spain, 2009), the Sixth Summit of the Americas (Cartagena de Indias, 2012),<sup>2/</sup> and the Seventh Summit of the Americas (Panama City, 2015);<sup>3/</sup>

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT ALSO the acknowledgment by the Third Summit of the Americas of the function that the Committee on Inter-American Summits Management and Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities fulfills in coordinating the efforts of the Organization of American States (OAS) in support of the Summits of the Americas process and in serving as a forum for civil society to contribute to that process, as well as the establishment of the Summits Secretariat; the importance of coordinated, timely, and effective follow-up of the mandates and initiatives of the Summits of the Americas; and the important role that the OAS plays in following up on the implementation of the decisions adopted at the Summits of the Americas and as the Technical Secretariat of the Summits process; and

HIGHLIGHTING the importance of the work of the Joint Summit Working Group and of the Summits' Virtual Community as an instrument for modernizing mechanisms for dialogue among all the players involved in the Summits process,

RESOLVES:

1. To implement the commitments set out in resolution AG/RES. 2846 (XLIV-O/14) to support the Summits of the Americas process and to request that the General Secretariat, through the Summits Secretariat, continue serving as the institutional memory and technical secretariat of this process; advising the host country of the Eighth Summit of the Americas and member states, when so requested, on all aspects related to the process; and supporting the preparations and technical coordination for the next Summit, to be held in Peru in 2018.

- 
1. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela does not agree to any commitment or mandate issued in this resolution as it did not participate in the negotiation ...
  2. The Republic of Ecuador places on record its express reservation to references to the VI Summit of the Americas, held from April 14 to 15 in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, ...
  3. The Government of the Republic of Nicaragua does not agree with the first preambular paragraph of the resolution entitled "Support for and Follow-up to the Summits of the Americas Process,"...

2. To request that the General Secretariat, through the Summits Secretariat, continue supporting follow-up and dissemination of Summits mandates and initiatives, as applicable—, including through the involvement of ministerial processes; that it continue to provide member states with support in their implementation; and that it make efforts to promote and publicize the existing mandates and initiatives among the stakeholders involved, in order to facilitate their contribution to, and participation in, the follow-up and implementation of the mandates and initiatives of future Summits, utilizing the Summits of the Americas Follow-up System (SISCA) and the Summits' Virtual Community and other information and communication platforms.

3. To instruct the General Secretariat, through the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG), chaired by the Summits Secretariat on behalf of the Organization of American States (OAS), to continue coordinating and promoting the implementation and follow-up in JSWG institutions of the mandates of the Summits of the Americas; to hold at least one meeting of agency heads each year to review progress made and plan joint activities; and to report thereon to the Committee on Inter-American Summits Management and Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities and to the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG).

4. That execution of the activities envisaged in this resolution will be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources; to instruct the General Secretariat to negotiate and raise voluntary funds and technical resources from international cooperation and nongovernmental agencies to carry out the activities mentioned in this resolution; and to urge member states to contribute to the funding of those activities.

5. To urge member states, through the SIRG, to report regularly on the implementation and follow-up of the mandates and initiatives established by the Summits of the Americas process.

#### FOOTNOTES

1. ... of said resolution. It is still within the denunciation period established in Article 143 of the OAS Charter.

2. ... without prejudice to the content approved by Ecuador in other negotiation contexts, as applicable.

3. ... which refers to mandates, decisions, and initiatives emanating from the Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh Summits of the Americas, because at those Summits the Heads of State and Government did not adopt the political declarations containing the mandates and the operative paragraphs on the core themes that were part of the political declaration.





AG/RES. 2903 (XLVII-O/17)

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES:  
REVIEW AND STRENGTHENING<sup>1/</sup>

(Adopted at the first plenary session, held on June 20, 2017)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING the purposes and principles of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), the Inter-American Democratic Charter, the Social Charter of the Americas, and other inter-American instruments, as well as the rules and regulations of the Organization of American States (OAS);

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT resolutions AG/RES. 2814 (XLIV-O/14), “Strategic Vision of the Organization of American States,” AG/RES. 1 (XLVII-E/14) rev. 1, “Guidelines and Objectives of the Strategic Vision of the Organization of American States,” AG/RES. 2892 (XLVI-O/16), “Management Modernization,” and AG/RES. 1 (LI-E/16 rev. 1), “Comprehensive Strategic Plan of the Organization,” as well as the relevant decisions of the General Assembly; and

MINDFUL that institutional strengthening of the OAS contributes to greater effectiveness and transparency in its operations; the enhancement of the Organization’s management, coordination, and linkage mechanisms; and the promotion of a comprehensive and inclusive hemispheric agenda that responds to the current needs and challenges of the region,

RESOLVES:

1. To establish a working group of the Permanent Council to prepare an institutional strengthening proposal for the Organization of American States.
2. That working group will draw up a work plan that identifies priorities and submit it to the Permanent Council for approval in the third quarter of 2017.
3. The Permanent Council will present a report on the results of the discussions of the working group to the General Assembly of the Organization at its forty-eighth regular session.

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1. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela does not agree to any commitment or mandate issued in this resolution as it did not participate in the negotiation of said resolution. It is still ...

FOOTNOTE

1. ... within the denunciation period established in Article 143 of the OAS Charter.

AG/RES. 2904 (XLVII-O/17)

ADVANCING HEMISPHERIC INITIATIVES ON INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT<sup>1/</sup>

(Adopted at the first plenary session, held on June 20, 2017)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

REAFFIRMING:

That the Charter of the Organization of American States proclaims the essential purposes of the Organization, which include “to promote, by cooperative action, their economic, social, and cultural development” and “to eradicate extreme poverty, which constitutes an obstacle to the full democratic development of the peoples of the hemisphere”;

That the Inter-American Democratic Charter and the Social Charter of the Americas recognize that development with equity strengthens and consolidates democracy, since the two are interdependent and mutually reinforcing;

That the Inter-American Democratic Charter states that “[d]emocracy is essential for the social, political, and economic development of the peoples of the Americas,” and that “[p]overty, illiteracy, and low levels of human development are factors that adversely affect the consolidation of democracy”;

That the Social Charter of the Americas underscores “the determination and commitment of member states to urgently combat the serious problems of poverty, social exclusion, and inequity that affect, in varying degrees, the countries of the Hemisphere; to confront their causes and consequences; and to create more favorable conditions for economic and social development with equity to promote more just societies”; and

That the Social Charter of the Americas highlights that “[t]he individual is at the center, as principal participant and beneficiary, of an inclusive, just, and equitable economic development process”;

RECALLING the Summit of the Americas process and the mandates on integral development agreed upon by the Heads of State and Government;<sup>2/</sup>

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that the work of the Organization of American States (OAS) on the development pillar is governed by the Comprehensive Strategic Plan of the Organization, which was adopted by the General Assembly in resolution AG/RES. 1 (LI-E/16 rev. 1), is aligned with, and contributes to the implementation of, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as its general framework of action;

- 
1. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela does not agree to any commitment or mandate issued in this resolution as it did not participate in the negotiation of said resolution. ...
  2. The Government of the Republic of Nicaragua does not agree with the references to mandates, decisions, and initiatives arising from the Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh Summits of the Americas ...

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT ALSO the declarations and plans of action of the meetings of ministers and high-level authorities within the framework of Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) in the areas of sustainable development, social development, culture, education, science and technology, labor, and tourism, as well as the meetings of high-level authorities responsible for cooperation; and

RECALLING resolution AG/RES. 2881 (XLVI-O/16) “Advancing Hemispheric Initiatives on Integral Development,”

## I. STRENGTHENING THE INTER-AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT: POLICY DIALOGUE AND PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

### Cycle of ministerial meetings in the context of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development

IN COMPLIANCE WITH the mandates for strengthening the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) and its subsidiary organs, particularly those intended to simplify and streamline sectoral processes in order to strengthen substantive policy dialogue and align it with the Strategic Vision of the Organization, specifically with the provisions contained in resolution AG/RES. 2881 (XLVI-O/16) on predictable and organized sectoral dialogue processes and on mandate implementation and follow-up,

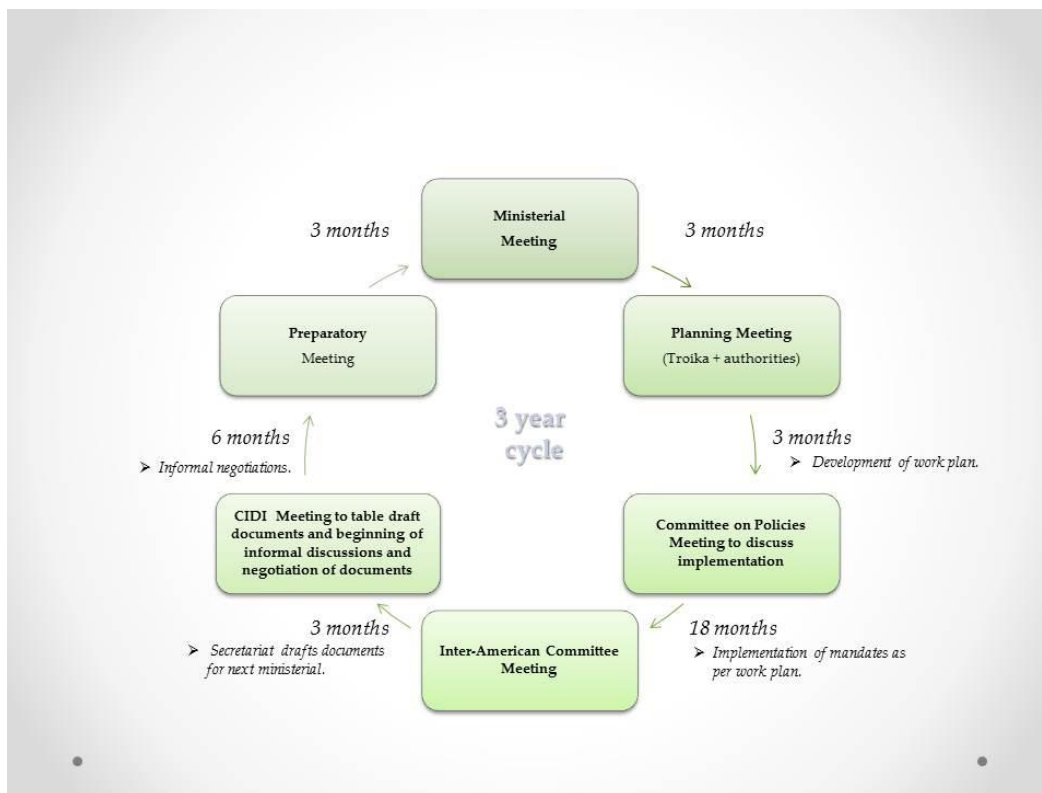
RESOLVES:

### Triennial Ministerial Cycle

1. To adopt a triennial cycle for all ministerial and high-level processes in the framework of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) (triennial ministerial cycle),<sup>3/</sup> as illustrated in the following flowchart and described in the guidelines set out in document CIDI/doc.228/17:

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3. The ministerial meetings to which the triennial ministerial cycle refers include the Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Education within the Framework of CIDI, ...



2. To instruct the General Secretariat and all the technical secretariats of sectoral ministerial processes to begin immediate implementation of the triennial ministerial cycle in their respective areas, progressively making the necessary adjustments to their working procedures in consultation with the relevant sectoral authorities. Ministerial meetings already scheduled upon the adoption of this resolution shall be exempt from these provisions but it is hoped that, as far as possible, efforts will be made to align the preparatory work for them with the triennial ministerial cycle.

3. To request that the General Secretariat present for the consideration of CIDI no later than October 31, 2017, a proposed revision of the CIDI Statutes and Rules of Procedure that brings them into line with the guidelines set out in document CIDI/doc.228/17. The Secretariat will seek to homogenize the rules of procedure of CIDI's inter-American committees, as well as those of the sectoral and specialized meetings at the ministerial level and/or for high-level authorities of CIDI, including the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor.

4. To request CIDI to approve the necessary amendments to the Rules of Procedure described in the preceding paragraph, and to authorize CIDI to approve any necessary amendments to its Statutes, ad referendum of the General Assembly.

#### Ministerial schedule

5. To adopt the following schedule of meetings of ministers and high-level authorities in the framework of CIDI, which takes into consideration: offers made by member states to date to

host them, the meetings of inter-American committees that will henceforth be an integral part of the triennial ministerial cycle, and the maximum number of meetings that can be organized within the resources allocated from the Regular Fund of the Organization. The aim is also to coordinate the Meetings of Ministers and High-Level Authorities within the framework of CIDI with ministerial meetings of other regional and international organizations in which member states participate, with a view to improving coordination, efficiency, and effectiveness of actions, programs, and projects.

Sectoral Process	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>1. Education</b>	<b>Education Ministerial</b> (Bahamas, February 9-10)	<b>CIE meeting</b>	<b>Education Ministerial</b> (Antigua and Barbuda)		<b>CIE meeting</b>	<b>Education Ministerial</b> (host TBD)
<b>2. Labor</b>	<b>Labor Ministerial</b> (Barbados, December 7-8)		<b>Labor WG meeting</b>	<b>Labor Ministerial</b> (host TBD)		<b>Labor WG meeting</b>
<b>3. Tourism</b>		<b>Tourism Ministerial</b> (Guyana, March 21-22)		<b>CITUR meeting</b>	<b>Tourism Ministerial</b> (host TBD)	
<b>4. Science and Technology</b>	<b>Science &amp; Tech. Ministerial</b> (Colombia, November 1-2)		<b>COMCyT meeting</b>	<b>Science &amp; Tech. Ministerial</b> (host TBD)		<b>COMCyT meeting</b>
<b>5. Culture</b>		<b>Culture Ministerial</b> (Barbados)		<b>CIC meeting</b>	<b>Culture Ministerial</b> (Guatemala)	
<b>6. Sustainable Development</b>			<b>Sustainable Development Ministerial</b> (host TBD)		<b>CIDS meeting</b>	<b>Sustainable Development Ministerial</b> (host TBD)
<b>7. Social Development</b>		<b>Social Development Ministerial</b> (Guatemala)		<b>CIDES meeting</b>	<b>Social Development Ministerial</b> (Guatemala)	
<b>8. Cooperation</b>		<b>Cooperation Ministerial</b> (OAS HQ)			<b>Cooperation Ministerial</b> (host TBD)	
<b>9. Ports</b>		<b>CIP meeting</b> (Mexico)		<b>CIP meeting</b> (host TBD)		<b>CIP meeting</b> (host TBD)
<b>Other meetings*</b> (for reference only)	<b>ECPA Ministerial</b> (Chile, September 7-8) <b>Americas Competitiveness Forum and RIAC</b> (Mexico, September 13-15) <b>MSME High-level dialogue</b> (Mexico, May 16-17)		<b>Americas Competitiveness Forum and RIAC</b> (Argentina) <b>MSME High-level dialogue</b> (El Salvador)			

\* Other sectoral process meetings that support CIDI's priorities but which, as at the adoption of this resolution, were not considered official ministerial processes subject to the triennial ministerial cycle and did not receive funding from the OAS Regular Fund.

Acronyms:

**CIC:** Inter-American Committee on Culture  
**CIDES:** Inter-American Committee on Social Development  
**CIDS:** Inter-American Committee on Sustainable Development  
**CIE:** Inter-American Committee on Education  
**CIP:** Inter-American Committee on Ports  
**CITUR:** Inter-American Committee on Tourism  
**COMCyT:** Inter-American Committee on Science and Technology  
**ECPA:** Energy and Climate Partnership for the Americas  
**RIAC:** Inter-American Competitiveness Network  
**MSME:** Micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises

6. To request that the General Secretariat present for the approval of CIDI, at its first meeting each year, an updated draft schedule for the next six years, in keeping with the timeline and guidelines established by the triennial ministerial cycle.

Implementation costs

7. To recognize that the implementation of the triennial ministerial cycle must be carried out within the resources assigned to the General Secretariat. Should the human and financial resources assigned to the General Secretariat by the General Assembly that approved the budget prove insufficient for holding and providing support for all scheduled meetings, to request that the General Secretariat report on that situation to CIDI at the earliest possible opportunity.

Implementation follow-up and reporting

8. To request that the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) report to CIDI by March 30, 2018, on progress in the implementation of the triennial ministerial cycle and to include it in the annual report of CIDI to the General Assembly.

Fulfillment of the mandate of the Working Group to Strengthen CIDI and its Organs

9. To take note of the fulfillment by the Working Group to Strengthen CIDI and its Organs of its task of analyzing and proposing alternatives for strengthening the integral development pillar of the OAS.

## II. CIDI MINISTERIAL MEETINGS

RESOLVES:

1. To thank the governments of the following member states that hosted different sectoral meetings since the forty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly for their hospitality and their leadership and commitment to the various processes:

- Paraguay, for the Third Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Social Development within the Framework of CIDI, held in Asunción on July 13 and 14, 2016

- Paraguay, for the Seventh Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities within the Framework of CIDI, held in Asunción on November 17 and 18, 2016
- The Bahamas, for the Ninth Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Education within the Framework of CIDI, held in Nassau on February 9 and 10, 2017
- Uruguay, for the Tenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Ports (CIP), held in Montevideo from July 27 to 29, 2016
- Mexico, for the V Inter-American Dialogue of High-Level of MSME Authorities, held in Puerto Vallarta on May 16 and 17, 2017
- Canada, for the VI Americas Competitiveness Exchange on Innovation and Entrepreneurship (ACE) of the Inter-American Competitiveness Network (RIAC) in September 2016
- United States, for the VII Americas Competitiveness Exchange on Innovation and Entrepreneurship (ACE) of the Inter-American Competitiveness Network (RIAC) in April 2017
- Argentina, for the Third Regular Meeting of the Plenary of the Consumer Safety and Health Network (CSHN), held in Buenos Aires on October 26, 2016

2. To accept with satisfaction the kind offers of the following countries to host sectoral meetings over the coming year, and to encourage the authorities of member states to participate in those events:

- Guatemala, for its offer to host the Fourth Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Social Development within the Framework of CIDI
- Barbados, for its offer to host the Eighth Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities within the Framework of CIDI
- Guatemala, for its offer to host the Ninth Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities within the Framework of CIDI
- Antigua and Barbuda, for its offer to host the Tenth Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Education within the Framework of CIDI in 2019
- Guyana, for its offer to host the Twenty-fourth Inter-American Congress of Ministers and High-Level Authorities of Tourism in Georgetown, on March 21 to 22, 2018



- Colombia, for its offer to host the Fifth Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities on Science and Technology within the Framework of CIDI in Medellin on November 2 and 3, 2017
- Barbados, for its offer to host the XX Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor in Bridgetown on December 7 and 8, 2017
- Mexico, for its offer to host the Eleventh Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Ports in 2018
- Argentina, for its offer to serve as Pro Tempore Chair of the RIAC and to the XI Americas Competitiveness Forum in 2019
- Chile, for its offer to host the Third Ministerial Meeting of the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA) on September 7 and 8, 2017
- Mexico, for its offer to serve as Pro Tempore Chair of the Consumer Safety and Health Network (CSHN) for the 2017-2018 term
- Argentina, for its offer to host the Seventh Regular Meeting of the CITEL Assembly in Buenos Aires in February 2018

Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Social Development within the Framework of CIDI

HAVING SEEN the Commitments for Social Development “Equity and Social Inclusion: Overcoming Inequalities for More Inclusive Societies” (CIDI/REMDES/doc.6/16 rev. 1) and the final report of the Third Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Social Development in the Framework of CIDI (CIDI/REMDES/doc.8/16),

RESOLVES:

1. To endorse the Commitments for Social Development “Equity and Social Inclusion: Overcoming Inequalities for More Inclusive Societies” (CIDI/REMDES/doc.6/16 rev. 1), which contribute to member state efforts to promote and strengthen national strategies to eradicate poverty—particularly extreme poverty—and reduce inequality; advance toward comprehensive social protection systems; strengthen programs on income generation and job creation; enhance statistics compilation capabilities; and promote the sustainability and effectiveness of their social protection programs, as well as regional efforts to attain the goals and targets contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

2. To instruct the General Secretariat, through the Inter-American Social Protection Network, to continue promoting exchanges of knowledge and experience, as well as cooperation in the areas of social protection and poverty- and inequality-reduction policies.

Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities within the Framework of CIDI

HAVING SEEN the Declaration of Asunción on Development in the Americas: Strengthening the Circulation of Cultural Goods and Services (CIDI/REMIC-VII/DEC.1/16), and the final report of the Seventh Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities within the Framework of CIDI (CIDI/REMIC-VII/doc.6/16),

RESOLVES:

1. To endorse the Declaration of Asunción on Development in the Americas: Strengthening the Circulation of Cultural Goods and Services (CIDI/REMIC-VII/DEC.1/16), which recognizes that the production and circulation of cultural goods and services promote economic activity and the recognition of cultural plurality, and underscores the importance of member states building compliance with the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development into their national policies and cooperation efforts.

2. To congratulate the authorities on culture of Paraguay, Barbados, Argentina, Guatemala, and Jamaica on their election as the new officers of the Inter-American Committee on Culture at the Seventh Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities within the Framework of CIDI.

Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Education within the Framework of CIDI

CONSIDERING that the Ninth Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Education within the Framework of CIDI was held in The Bahamas on February 9 and 10, 2017, and adopted the Declaration of The Bahamas (CIDI/RME/DEC.1/17), in which the ministries of education of the OAS member states adopted the Inter-American Education Agenda (IEA) (CIDI/RME/doc.6/17);

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION the significant achievement of developing and approving the IEA, which provides a hemispheric road map for strengthening cooperation and building partnerships to ensure quality, inclusive, and equitable education in the Americas over the next five years, and supports member states' efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals; and

RECOGNIZING that the Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Education within the Framework of CIDI and the Inter-American Committee on Education serve as valuable forums for dialogue, facilitating partnership, and coordination of efforts to ensure that quality, inclusive, and equitable education is accessible to all; strengthen the teaching profession; and enhance the provision of comprehensive early childhood care; and emphasizing that member states should continue supporting the implementation of the IEA,

RESOLVES:

1. To thank the Government of The Bahamas for its leadership as Chair of the Inter-American Committee on Education (CIE) since April 2016, for promoting the adoption of the Inter-American Education Agenda (IEA), for initiating the work of intersectoral coordination among

ministers of education and ministers of labor; for its endeavors in coordinating the efforts of the working groups to draft work plans to implement the IEA; and for its steadfast efforts to forge hemispheric consensus on the construction of integrated education and labor policies.

2. To endorse the Declaration of The Bahamas (CIDI/RME/DEC.1/17) and the IEA (CIDI/RME/doc.6/17), both adopted at the Ninth Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Education within the Framework of CIDI, and to thank the member states for their support for the three working groups of the CIE established to implement the IEA and operationalize the draft work plans.

3. To take note of the other outcomes of the Ninth Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Education within the Framework of CIDI, including the dialogue with the inter-American ministers of labor, with the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission, and with international organizations and financial institutions, such as the World Bank, the Caribbean Development Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Development Bank of Latin America, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund and the Organization of Ibero-American States (OEI); the signing of a memorandum of understanding by the Organization of American States (OAS) and the OEI and the ProFuturo Foundation, respectively; the contributions of the Inter-American Teacher Education Network (ITEN); and the announcement of the dedication by the OAS Development Cooperation Fund of at least US\$1 million to support implementation of the IEA.

4. To request the General Secretariat to include in its annual report on progress in the implementation of the IEA (CIDI/RME/doc.6/17, Section 5) a detailed section on coordination and joining of efforts with other international organizations and regional and subregional entities.

5. Pursuant to the mandates emanating from the Ninth Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Education within the Framework of CIDI and in accordance with the Comprehensive Strategic Plan of the Organization, to instruct the General Secretariat to assign the authorized personnel for the Technical Secretariat of the CIE so that it may continue to fulfill its mandates, including, but not limited to, facilitating implementation of the IEA and ensuring the necessary preparations for upcoming meetings of the CIE.

#### Inter-American Congress of Ministers and High-Level Authorities of Tourism

HAVING SEEN the Declaration of Lima on Community-Based Rural Tourism in the Americas (CIDI/TUR-XXIII/DEC.1/15 rev. 1), the "Medium-term Strategy to Enhance Tourism Cooperation and Competitiveness in the Americas" (CIDI/TUR-XXIII/doc.7/15), and the Final Report of the Twenty-third Inter-American Congress of Ministers and High-level Authorities of Tourism" (CIDI/TUR-XXIII/doc.9/15),

#### RESOLVES:

1. To urge ministers and high-level authorities of tourism to attend the Twenty-fourth Inter-American Congress of Ministers and High-Level Authorities of Tourism in Georgetown, Guyana, convened by resolution CIDI/RES. 319 (LXVIII-O/17) on March 21 to 22, 2018, and encourage civil society organizations and other social actors also to take part.

Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities on Science and Technology within the Framework of CIDI

HAVING SEEN resolution AG/RES. 2881 (XLVI-O/16), which accepts with gratitude the offer of the Government of Colombia to host the Fifth Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities on Science and Technology within the Framework of CIDI in 2017 and instructs CIDI to convene said meeting and allocate the resources needed to hold it; and the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development to provide the necessary support for this process as a whole; and

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT Annex I (Matrix with Strategic Lines and Objectives for the Pillars) to resolution AG/RES. 1 (LI-E/16 rev. 1), “Comprehensive Strategic Plan of the Organization,” in which Objective 1.3 of Strategic Line 1 (Promoting inclusive and competitive economies) of the Integral Development Pillar is to “[i]ncrease cooperation for strengthening member states’ institutional capacities to incorporate innovation and transformative technology in order to generate added value and diversification in their economies in a sustainable and inclusive way,”

RESOLVES:

1. To urge the ministers and high authorities on science and technology to attend the Fifth Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities on Science and Technology within the Framework of CIDI, convened by resolution CIDI/RES. 318 (LXVIII-O/17) to be held in Medellín, Colombia, on November 2 and 3, 2017, with the theme “Science, Technology, and Innovation as Pillars of Transformation in the Americas,” and to promote the participation of key actors from the private sector, academia, and civil society.

2. To encourage member states to contribute best practices in terms of experience with incorporation of transformative technologies and innovation as key elements for generating added value and diversification in their economies in a sustainable and inclusive way, so as to serve as input for discussions and facilitate collaboration through the Inter-American Committee on Science and Technology working groups, as well as to generate proposals for the ministers and high authorities on science and technology to present to the Eighth Summit of the Americas that is to be held in Peru in April 2018.

Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor (IACML)

HAVING SEEN the Declaration of Cancún 2015 “Achieving Decent Work with Social Inclusion and Sustainable Development in the Americas” (CIDI/TRABAJO/DEC.1/15 rev. 1) and the Plan of Action of Cancún (CIDI/TRABAJO/doc.22/15 rev. 2) and the final report on the XIX Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor (IACML) (CIDI/TRABAJO/doc.27/15),

RESOLVES:

1. To urge ministers and high-level authorities of labor to attend the XX Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor in Bridgetown, Barbados, on December 7 and 8, 2017, with the theme “Building on Our Achievements and Advancing toward Social Justice, Decent Work and Sustainable Development in the Americas,” and to promote the participation of the Trade Union

Technical Advisory Council (COSATE), the Business Technical Advisory Committee on Labor Matters (CEATAL), civil society, and other social actors.

Inter-American Committee on Ports (CIP)

HAVING SEEN the Plan of Action of Montevideo 2016-2018 “Private Sector Partnerships for Port Development” (CIDI/CIP/doc.6/16 rev. 4) and resolutions CIDI/CIP/RES. 1 (X-O/16 rev. 1), “Hemispheric Cooperation on Ports: Agreements of Montevideo 2016-2018,” and CIDI/CIP/RES. 2 (X-O/16), “Proposed Amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Inter-American Committee on Ports,” adopted by the Inter-American Committee on Ports at its tenth regular meeting,

RESOLVES:

1. To endorse the Plan of Action of Montevideo 2016-2018 “Private-Sector Partnerships for Port Development” (CIDI/CIP/doc.6/16 rev. 4) and resolution CIDI/CIP/RES. 1 (X-O/16 rev. 1), “Hemispheric Cooperation on Ports: Agreements of Montevideo 2016-2018,” which seek to promote public policies and the establishment of strategic partnerships, in particular those with the private sector, in order to put in place port, sea, and land infrastructure that is economically and environmentally sustainable; and to urge member states to take into account in their port development plans the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly those addressing issues related to the work of the various Technical Advisory Groups (TAGs) of the CIP.

2. To congratulate the delegations of Mexico, Barbados, and Uruguay on their election as Chair, First Vice Chair, and Second Vice Chair, respectively, of the Executive Board of the Inter-American Committee on Ports (CECIP), as well as the new officers of the CIP TAGs.

3. To urge the highest-level port authorities from the member states to participate in the eleventh regular meeting of the CIP in 2018 and to promote the active participation of associate members of the CIP as well as permanent observers, international organizations, private sector companies, experts, and special guests.

III. CAPACITY BUILDING

Human development and education

REAFFIRMING that Article 48 of the Charter of the Organization of American States establishes that “Member States will cooperate with one another to meet their educational needs, to promote scientific research, and to encourage technological progress for their integral development” and that the establishment of the Scholarships and Training Program by the OAS promotes cooperation among the states of the Americas through exchanges of knowledge and experience to further develop the Hemisphere’s human and physical resources, and strengthens ties among the peoples of the Americas by awarding scholarships offering other opportunities to students; and

RECALLING the mandate of the CIDI Working Group to Analyze and Assess the Functioning of all OAS Scholarship and Training Programs “to present to CIDI and the Permanent

Council, before July 31, 2017, its recommendations and solutions to ensure the sustainability of those programs,” pursuant to resolution CIDI/RES. 316 (LXV-O/16),

RESOLVES:

1. To urge member states, in reaffirming education and human development as fundamental to contribute to eliminating extreme poverty, reducing inequalities, strengthening democratic governance, and promoting inclusive, just and equitable economic and social development, to provide appropriate support for efforts to attain those goals.

2. To call for the reimbursement of all funds withdrawn from the Capital Fund for the OAS Scholarship and Training Programs in accordance with resolutions CIDI/RES. 309 (E-IV/16) and CIDI/RES. 316 (LXV-O/16).

3. To urge member states, permanent observers, individuals, public and private institutions, and other donors to make voluntary contributions to the Capital Fund for the OAS Scholarship and Training Programs so as to assist with the sustainability of OAS scholarship and training programs, and to request the Secretary General to provide a specific account of the contributions received in his annual report on fundraising.

4. To take note of the ongoing efforts of the CIDI Working Group to Analyze and Assess the Functioning of All OAS Scholarship and Training Programs and urge it to continue its work and produce a detailed report by July 31, 2017, containing its analysis and recommendations for enhancing the sustainability of OAS scholarship and training programs that take into account the proposals for enhancing impact, increasing cost effectiveness, fostering greater co-governance between member states and the General Secretariat in the offer and selection process, and enhancing the quality and diversity of opportunities, in its recommendations for enhancing the sustainability of OAS scholarship and training programs.

Rights of the child

RESOLVES:

1. To instruct the Organization to provide technical assistance to states, when so requested, for implementing policies that guarantee to all children the necessary conditions, from birth, for them to fully develop their personality, their cognitive, and emotional, and relational potential, and their aptitudes for coexistence and the full exercise of their rights. To that end, efforts will be made to promote, *inter alia*, horizontal and cross-sector cooperation models, as well as strategies for strengthening care and childrearing by families and/or guardians and caregivers that encourage gender equality.

Migration and development

HIGHLIGHTING the close nexus among migration, development, and human rights, and recognizing that respect for human rights is a fundamental pillar to enhance the contributions of migrants to development; and

RECALLING the activities proposed and implemented under the Future Framework of Action for the CAM (CIDI/CAM/doc.11/14 rev. 4) and the Work Plan of the Committee on Migration Issues for the 2016-2017 term (CIDI/CAM/doc.32/16 rev. 1) in such areas as migration and health; climate change, food security and migration in the Americas; dialogue on the regional consultative processes on migration in the Americas; and migration and gender,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge member states to strengthen inter-agency coordination and technical cooperation among countries of origin, transit, destination and/or return and to collaborate with the other actors in the Inter-American Program for the Promotion and Protection of the Human Rights of Migrants, including Migrant Workers and Their Families and with specialized agencies, in order to promote and protect the human rights of migrants and consider the adoption of policies that incorporate, *inter alia*, aspects relating to the promotion of food security, disaster risk reduction, mitigation of the adverse effects of climate change, and health promotion.

2. To urge states to pay particular attention to the multiple forms of vulnerability that migrant women, girls and adolescent women face at every stage of the migration process, including to different forms of discrimination and violence, and to reaffirm the need to promote and protect the effective exercise of the rights of women, girls, and adolescent women, regardless of their migration status.

3. To highlight the organization of the first policy dialogue of the regional consultative processes on migration, held at OAS headquarters on March 31, 2017, and to recognize the importance of the Committee on Migration Issues (CAM) in the implementation and follow-up of hemispheric political and technical dialogues on the subject, while respecting the independence and structure of the regional consultative processes on migration and other regional and subregional policy forums that address migration issues.

4. To request the CIDI to convene a meeting with the actors of the Inter-American Program for the Promotion and Protection of the Human Rights of Migrants, including Migrant Workers and their Families in order to exchange best practices and information about its implementation.

Consumer protection: Consumer Safety and Health Network

CONSIDERING the results achieved by the Consumer Safety and Health Network (CSHN) since its creation and, in particular, its success in establishing the Inter-American Rapid Product-Safety Warning System (IAPSWs), which enables member states to share, without delay, information for preventing risks to consumers, as well as the need to ensure the budgetary sustainability of the CSHN,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge those member states that do not yet belong to the Consumer Safety and Health Network (CSHN) to join it and participate actively in it; and to invite member states, permanent observers, and other donors to contribute, to the extent possible, to the Consumer Safety

and Health Fund and/or make in-kind contributions to the Network's activities and to consider options for strengthening the capacities of the CSHN with Regular Fund resources from the Organization's program-budget for 2018.

2. To request the General Secretariat, through the Department of Social Inclusion of the Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity, in its capacity as Technical Secretariat of the Consumer Safety and Health Network (CSHN), to continue to assist member states' national agencies with the substantive and technological aspects of the Inter-American Rapid Product-safety Warning System (IAPSWs), in order to strengthen rapid and secure communication as part of consumer protection, especially in the area of consumer product safety and monitoring, as well as in promoting and implementing gender-sensitive national systems and public policies to guarantee consumer rights, and to continue with the establishment of agreements with subregional and international organizations to promote and disseminate the work of the CSHN-IAPSWs.

3. To take note of the importance of resolution CJI/RES. 227 (LXXXIX-O/16), "International Protection of Consumers," which underscores the frequent need for special consumer protection in cross-border transactions and the importance of establishing mechanisms of international cooperation and coordination in the area of consumer protection.

Strengthening of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises, as well as cooperatives and other production units

RECALLING that resolution AG/RES. 2881 (XLVI-O/16) instructs "SEDI to continue providing assistance for this process, including cooperation and exchange of experiences and best practices being undertaken through the three working groups" in the framework of the Inter-American Dialogue of High-Level MSME Authorities; and

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT Annex I (Matrix with Strategic Lines and Objectives of the Pillars) to resolution AG/RES. 1 (LI-E/16) rev. 1, "Comprehensive Strategic Plan of the Organization," in which Objective 1.1 of Strategic Line 1 (Promoting inclusive and competitive economies) of the Integral Development Pillar is to "[e]nhance the capacity of member states' institutions that support the design and implementation of policies and programs that encourage productivity, entrepreneurship, innovation and internationalization of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), as well as cooperatives and other production units,"

RESOLVES:

1. To underscore the adoption of the 2017-2019 Work Plan at V Inter-American Dialogue of High-Level MSME Authorities.

2. To request SEDI that, in follow-up to the V Inter-American Dialogue of High-Level MSME Authorities, it continue strengthening the institutions that provide support to MSMEs, cooperatives and other production units and encouraging the individual efforts of member states to achieve those objectives. In that regard, to instruct the General Secretariat to continue to promote, as resources permit, the initiative on Small Business Development Centers throughout the Hemisphere that support and strengthen competitiveness, innovation and internationalization of MSMEs and enhance their capacity to respond to the needs of the local economy; likewise, that the General



Secretariat, as resources permit, encourage collaboration and explore synergies among regional MSME initiatives to support exchanges of best practices and institutional strengthening to boost regional competitiveness.

Seventh Regular Meeting of the Assembly of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission

HAVING SEEN resolution COM/CITEL RES. 288 (XXXII-16), adopted in the framework of the XXXII Meeting of the Permanent Executive Committee of CITEL (COM/CITEL), held in the Dominican Republic from November 29 to December 1, 2016; and

RECOGNIZING that the CITEL Assembly has provided high-level participants with a venue to discuss global, regional, and sectoral matters related to the advancement of telecommunications/information and communications technologies in the Americas,

RESOLVES:

1. To invite the member states to participate in the Seventh Regular Meeting of the CITEL Assembly, which will be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in February 2018.

Inter-American Competitiveness Network (RIAC)

HAVING SEEN resolution AG/RES. 2881 (XLVI-O/16), which accepts with gratitude the offer of the Government of Mexico, as Pro Tempore Chair of the RIAC, to host the X Americas Competitiveness Forum in 2017, and taking note of the Work Plan for the RIAC 2016-2018, “Structural Reforms and Entrepreneurship to Drive Competitiveness in the Americas”;

RECALLING that resolution AG/RES. 2881 (XLVI-O/16) instructs “the General Secretariat to continue to support the RIAC as a regional engagement for the sharing of knowledge and promotion of inter-sectoral collaboration among academia, government, and the private sector. Likewise, that it promote the expansion and strengthening of economic and academic exchanges among member states through hemispheric initiatives such as the Americas Competitiveness Exchange and the Americas Competitiveness Forum, which foster growth in innovation and entrepreneurship”; and

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT Annex I (Matrix with Strategic Lines and Objectives of the Pillars) to resolution AG/RES. 1 (LI-E/16) rev. 1, “Comprehensive Strategic Plan of the Organization,” in which Objective 1.1 of Strategic Line 1 (Promoting inclusive and competitive economies) of the Integral Development Pillar is to “[e]nhance the capacity of member states’ institutions that support the design and implementation of policies and programs that encourage productivity,” and Objective 1.2 is to “[i]ncrease regional cooperation, exchanges of knowledge, transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms and conditions, and intersectoral collaboration among and within member states in the areas of competitiveness, productivity, and innovation,”

RESOLVES:

1. To urge the highest-level competitiveness authorities in member states to take part in the X Americas Competitiveness Forum, scheduled to be held in Mexico City from September 13 to 15,

2017, with the theme “Structural Reforms and Entrepreneurship to Drive Competitiveness in the Americas.”

2. To request the SEDI to continue to support the Inter-American Competitiveness Network (RIAC) through such hemispheric initiatives as the Americas Competitiveness Exchange, the Group of Experts on Sub-National Competitiveness, and the Americas Competitiveness Forum.

3. To invite member states to consider making voluntary contributions to the work of the RIAC Technical Secretariat and to consider within the 2018 program-budget of the Organization of American States options for strengthening SEDI’s capabilities in competitiveness.

Coordination of Volunteers in the Hemisphere in Response to Natural Disasters and the Fight against Hunger and Poverty – White Helmets Initiative

BEARING IN MIND the reports of the General Secretariat on the White Helmets Initiative, resolutions AG/RES. 1351 (XXV-O/95), AG/RES. 1403 (XXVI-O/96), AG/RES. 1463 (XXVII-O/97), AG/RES. 2018 (XXXIV-O/04), AG/RES. 2165 (XXXVI-O/06), AG/RES. 2372 (XXXVIII-O/08), AG/RES. 2558 (XL-O/10), AG/RES. 2704 (XLII-O/12), AG/RES. 2827 (XLIV-O/14), and AG/RES. 2881 (XLVI-O/16); and declarations AG/DEC. 45 (XXXV-O/05) and AG/DEC. 55 (XXXVII-O/07),

RESOLVES:

1. To reiterate its support for the White Helmets Initiative as one of the hemispheric mechanisms for disaster risk reduction and its recognition of the solidarity-driven actions carried out in recent years in member states affected by disasters.

2. To underscore the opportunities for the White Helmets Initiative and the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development of the OAS to work jointly, particularly in implementing the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development, in accordance with the guidelines of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

3. To renew the invitation to member states to make contributions to the OAS/White Helmets Special Fund in order to facilitate continuation of seminars and training workshops on disaster risk reduction and the implementation of capacity-building projects in the areas of disaster resilience, prevention, and risk mitigation and international humanitarian assistance.

Promoting cleaner and renewable energy in the Americas through the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA)

RECALLING resolution AG/RES. 2882 (XLVI-O/16), “Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development,” and recognizing that energy is fundamental to achieving sustainable development objectives and that, therefore, the combination and complementarity of use of all types of energy sources, including renewable ones, contribute to the attainment of those objectives; and underscoring the need to promote the development and use of clean and renewable energy through research, development, the voluntary transfer of environmentally sound technology on mutually

agreed upon terms and conditions and through international partnerships and/or the conclusion of international instruments;

RECALLING ALSO the Second Ministerial Meeting of the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA) held in Mérida, Mexico, on May 25 and 26, 2015, and recognizing that since its inception in 2009, the ECPA has worked on diverse projects designed to bolster energy security, promote low-carbon growth, and foster regional integration to realize sustainable development in the Americas; and

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT Annex I (Matrix with Strategic Lines and Objectives of the Pillars) to resolution AG/RES. 1 (LI-E/16) rev. 1 “Comprehensive Strategic Plan of the Organization” in which Objective 2.5 of Strategic Line 2 (Strengthening the implementation of sustainable development goals in accordance with PIDS 2016-2021) of the Integral Development Pillar is to “[e]nhance member states’ capacities in the area of sustainable energy management, prioritizing the promotion of clean, renewable, environmentally sustainable energy and energy efficiency in line with the goals and strategic actions outlined in section 3.5 of the PIDS,”

RESOLVES:

1. To instruct the General Secretariat to continue to promote, as resources permit, regional dialogue among member states and between the public and private sectors with a view to developing reliable, cleaner, more-affordable, renewable and sustainable energy systems that facilitate access to energy and energy-efficiency technologies and practices, and also that it continue to encourage partnerships that promote greater donor coordination, voluntary access to information and sharing of knowledge on mutually agreed upon terms and conditions in order effectively to coordinate regional renewable energy strategies.

2. To instruct the SEDI to continue providing assistance for the preparations for the Third Ministerial Meeting of the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA) in keeping with the ECPA Action Plan.

Water and sustainable development

RECALLING:

The Declaration on Institutional Strengthening for Sustainable Development in the Americas [AG/DEC. 81 (XLVI-O/16)], in which the OAS adopted a steadfast commitment to implement the 2030 Agenda in the Americas and to attain that Agenda’s goals and targets, which are integrated and indivisible in nature;

United Nations General Assembly resolution 70/1, “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,” especially Goal 6 thereof, which is to “[e]nsure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all”; and

The Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development (PIDS) [AG/RES. 2882 (XLVI-O/16)], under strategic area of action 3.3. “Integrated Water Resources Management,”

RESOLVES:

1. To recognize that social and economic development are linked to the sustainable management of our planet's natural resources and that, in that sense, the availability of water and its sustainable management and use are important to achieving development, and therefore should be managed in an integrated manner to achieve social, economic, and environmental benefits, strengthen cooperation at all levels, and promote water projects in the countries of the Americas with a special emphasis on strengthening national capacities and institutions responsible for sustainable water management in order to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 6, which is to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

2. To encourage SEDI to foster dialogue, technical cooperation, sharing of information, and exchanges of experience and best practices among member states to develop public policies to achieve universal access to safe and affordable drinking water and basic sanitation and to protect and sustainably manage water-related ecosystems.

Integrated water resource management

RECALLING resolution AG/RES. 2780 (XLIII-O/13) "Promoting Integrated Water Resource Management in the Americas";

RECOGNIZING the vital role of water-related ecosystems in the hydrological cycle, in biodiversity conservation, and in productive activities;

CONSIDERING the fragility of water-related ecosystems and their vulnerability to climate change, as well as the consequences of these changes on human wellbeing; and

REAFFIRMING that every State has, and shall freely exercise, full and permanent sovereignty over all its wealth, natural resources, and economic activity, consistent with the rights and obligations of States under international law,<sup>4/</sup>

RESOLVES:

1. To promote conservation, sustainable use, restoration, and knowledge generation for comprehensive management of water-related ecosystems, in the context of Goal 6.6 of the Sustainable Development Goals, for biodiversity conservation and its related ecosystem services, as well as mitigation of and adaptation to climate change.

2. To instruct the General Secretariat to explore the possibility of developing, in the framework of the OAS member states' National Focal Points Network on Water and the Inter-American Water Resources Network (IWRN), a hemispheric dialogue to exchange information on the role of water-related ecosystems in integrated water resource management. The focal points, as an OAS specialized network, should report on the results of that dialogue to the Inter-American Committee for Sustainable Development.

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4. The United States wishes to underscore that the language in the fourth preambular paragraph should not be read as promoting state ownership in the economy, or suggesting in any way ...

#### IV. REPORTING AND FOLLOW UP

1. To thank those member states that have contributed financial, logistical, and human resources to support the programs and activities mentioned in this resolution, and to request the General Secretariat to continue developing new partnerships.

2. To instruct the Committee on Program Budget and Evaluation to examine and make recommendations to CIDI regarding all matters in the Organization's program-budget having to do with partnership for development that are necessary to fulfill the mandates pertaining to the Integral Development Pillar and the Comprehensive Strategic Plan of the Organization, as envisaged in Article 57 of the Rules of Procedure for Regular and Special Meetings of CIDI.

3. To request the General Secretariat to instruct all the areas responsible for implementation and follow-up on mandates, programs, and activities related to the Integral Development Pillar to submit semiannual reports to the Committee on Partnership for Development Policies on progress in their fulfillment and implementation.

4. To request CIDI to report to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth regular session on the implementation of this resolution. Execution of the activities envisaged in this resolution will be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

## FOOTNOTES

1. ... It is still within the denunciation period established in Article 143 of the OAS Charter.
2. ... because on those occasions the Heads of State and Government did not adopt the political declarations that contained the mandates and the operative paragraphs on the core themes that were part of those political declarations.
3. ... the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor, the Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Social Development within the Framework of CIDI, the Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development within the Framework of CIDI; the Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities within the framework of CIDI; the Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities on Science and Technology within the Framework of CIDI, the Inter-American Congress of Ministers and High-Level Authorities of Tourism; and the Specialized CIDI Meeting of High-Level Cooperation Authorities. There are also other meetings that support the integral development priorities under the Comprehensive Strategic Plan of the OAS in the areas of energy, competitiveness, and micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs).
4. .... that governments may deprive private interests of wealth or resources without compensation in accordance with international law, or otherwise fail to observe a State's legal obligations.

AG/RES. 2905 (XLVII-O/17)

STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY<sup>1/</sup>

(Adopted at the first plenary session, held on June 20, 2017)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the “Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly June 2016-June 2017” (AG/doc.5565/17 add. 1), in particular the section on the activities of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP);

CONSIDERING that the programs, activities, and tasks set out in the resolutions within the purview of the CAJP help further the essential purposes of the Organization of American States (OAS) as enshrined in its Charter;

REAFFIRMING the norms and principles of international law and those contained in the Charter of the OAS;

MINDFUL that the Charter of the OAS provides in its preamble “that representative democracy is an indispensable condition for the stability, peace and development of the region” and proclaims that one of the essential purposes of the Organization is to “promote and consolidate representative democracy, with due respect for the principle of nonintervention;” and

RECALLING resolutions AG/RES. 2703 (XLII-O/12), AG/RES. 2768 (XLIII-O/13), AG/RES. 2853 (XLIV-O/14), AG/RES. 2891 (XLVI-O/16), AG/RES. 2894 (XLVI-O/16), and all previous resolutions adopted on this subject,

I. ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE ON JURIDICAL AND POLITICAL AFFAIRS

RESOLVES:

1. To instruct the Permanent Council, the General Secretariat, and the other organs identified in Article 53 of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS) to continue working on the implementation of the applicable current mandates set out in previous General Assembly resolutions assigned to the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP), except as stated otherwise in any resolution.

2. To urge the member states of the Organization to continue contributing to the attainment of the objectives established in said resolutions through the development and execution of activities, the submission of reports, the exchange of information, the adoption of measures and policies, and cooperation, support, and mutual assistance; and to instruct the General Secretariat to provide the necessary support to those ends.

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1. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela does not agree to any commitment or mandate issued in this resolution as it did not participate in the negotiation of said resolution. It is still ...

i. Follow-up to the Inter-American Democratic Charter

RECALLING that the Inter-American Democratic Charter states that “the peoples of the Americas have a right to democracy and their governments have an obligation to promote and defend it” and that “democracy is essential for the social, political, and economic development of the peoples of the Americas”;

MINDFUL that the Charter of the Organization of American States establishes that “[e]very State has the right to choose, without external interference, its political, economic, and social system and to organize itself in the way best suited to it, and has the duty to abstain from intervening in the affairs of another State. Subject to the foregoing, the American States shall cooperate fully among themselves, independently of the nature of their political, economic, and social systems”;

RECALLING that the Inter-American Democratic Charter establishes that “[t]he promotion and observance of economic, social, and cultural rights are inherently linked to integral development, equitable economic growth, and to the consolidation of democracy in the states of the Hemisphere”; and

REAFFIRMING all the mandates contained in resolution AG/RES. 2835 (XLIV-O/14), “Promotion and Strengthening of Democracy: Follow-Up to the Inter-American Democratic Charter,”

RESOLVES:

1. To continue promoting democratic cooperation in order to support member states, at their request, in their efforts to strengthen democratic institutions, values, practices, and governance; fight corruption; enhance the rule of law; bring about the full exercise of human rights, and reduce poverty, inequity, and social exclusion.

2. To instruct the Permanent Council to continue the dialogue on the effectiveness of the implementation of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, taking into account all the topics addressed and discussions contained in the Final Report (CP/doc.4669/11 rev. 3), adopted on December 14, 2011.

3. To request the General Secretariat to continue conducting training programs to promote the principles, values, and practices of a democratic culture, in accordance with Articles 26 and 27 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, and to improve awareness and promote the application of that inter-American instrument in the countries of the Hemisphere. Furthermore, to instruct the General Secretariat to continue to support the Permanent Council and member states that so request with implementation of the Inter-American Program on Education for Democratic Values and Practices.

ii. Technical Cooperation and Electoral Observation Missions

HIGHLIGHTING the substantive contribution made by the Organization of American States (OAS) to the strengthening and development of electoral processes and systems in the member states



through electoral observation missions, electoral advice, and technical cooperation, when so requested by a member state and consistent with the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation and the Code of Conduct for International Election Observers; and

NOTING that, since the decision contained in resolution CP/RES. 572 (882/91), “Program of Support for the Promotion of Democracy,” to restrict financing for electoral observation missions to external sources of funds, the OAS has been invited by an increasingly large number of member states to deploy electoral observation missions, and that the resulting growing importance of those missions demands a reassessment of their means of financing,

RESOLVES:

1. To request that the General Secretariat provide assistance to member states that so request in the implementation of recommendations contained in the reports of OAS electoral observation missions, and to invite donors to coordinate, through the General Secretariat, their support for OAS electoral observation missions in order to facilitate the planning of those missions.

2. To support the institutional strengthening of the Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation, ensuring the conditions for the development of methodological tools, the dissemination of good electoral practices in the member states, training services, and applications for the efficient management of electoral observation missions.

3. To lift the restrictions that prevent the Regular Fund from being used, subject to the availability of resources, to cover costs associated with electoral observation missions.

4. To request that the General Secretariat present an annual report to the Permanent Council on the sources of funding of electoral observation missions and on the amounts spent on each individual mission.

iii. Inclusive Dialogue for Effectively Dealing with Social Conflicts in Investments for Integral Development

REAFFIRMING, as Article 11 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter acknowledges, that democracy and social and economic development are interdependent and mutually reinforcing; and its conviction that a peaceful and constructive approach to social conflicts associated with investment projects, from a rights-based perspective and through dialogue and other peaceful means for the prevention and alternative resolution of conflicts, contributes to democratic governance and integral development; and

REAFFIRMING ALSO the commitment to promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, to facilitating access to justice for all, and to building effective, responsible, and inclusive institutions at all levels,

RESOLVES:

1. To instruct the General Secretariat to continue, upon request, to support member states in developing institutional capacities for dealing with social conflicts associated with

investment projects, in the interests of integral development, of eradicating poverty—particularly extreme poverty—and of equality, equity, and social inclusion.

2. To request the General Secretariat to continue strengthening coordination of the projects and programs implemented by the various areas of the Organization, as well as their ties to other entities in the inter-American system and international organizations, with a view to promoting peaceful and inclusive societies, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals.

iv. Mission to Support the Fight against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras (MACCIH)

STRESSING that corruption undermines the legitimacy of public institutions and constitutes a threat to democracy, peace, the rule of law, and justice, as well as to the overall development of peoples;

BEARING IN MIND the signing on January 19, 2016, of the agreement between the Government of the Republic of Honduras and the General Secretariat of the OAS to establish the Mission to Support the Fight against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras (MACCIH); and

CONSIDERING the semiannual reports of the MACCIH presented to the Permanent Council of the OAS (First Semiannual Report [CP/doc.5353/16], October 2016; Second Semiannual Report [CP/doc.5310/17], May 2017),

RESOLVES:

1. To recognize the progress made by the Honduran institutions that, accompanied by the MACCIH, have made progress in the fight against corruption and eliminating impunity, particularly with the legislative and institutional reforms under way.

2. To encourage member states and observer countries to continue cooperating with the MACCIH and supporting its funding in order to ensure that it fulfills its objectives.

3. To instruct the General Secretariat to continue to support the work of the MACCIH, in the interests of democracy and development for the Honduran people.

v. Follow-up on the Inter-American Convention against Corruption and on the Inter-American Program of Cooperation to Fight Corruption

RECALLING resolution AG/RES. 1 (XLVII-E/14), “Guidelines and Objectives of the Strategic Vision of the Organization of American States,” Annex II, Section III of which identifies fighting corruption as one of the OAS priority areas; the mandates of the Summits of the Americas with respect to the fight against corruption; the Inter-American Program of Cooperation to Fight Corruption (MESICIC/CEP-II/doc.5/06 rev. 2); and the “Recommendations of the Fourth Meeting of the Conference of States Parties to the MESICIC” (MESICIC/CEP-IV/doc.2/15 rev. 1),

RESOLVES:

1. To instruct the Department of Legal Cooperation of the Secretariat for Legal Affairs,, in its capacity as the Technical Secretariat of the Follow-up Mechanism for the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (MESICIC), to continue implementing the mandates contained in the “Recommendations of the Fourth Meeting of the Conference of States Parties to the MESICIC” (MESICIC/CEP-IV/doc.2/15 rev. 1), in accordance with the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

2. To resolutely endorse the commitment of the member states to preventing and combating corruption and to promoting transparency in order to help improve efficiency in public and private management and promote accountability, while working together to continue moving forward with the Fifth Round of Review of the MESICIC.

3. To instruct the MESICIC Technical Secretariat, to continue to provide legal advice and identify opportunities for technical assistance to the Conference of States Parties and the Committee of Experts of the MESICIC; support the organization of on-site visits and the preparation of draft reports with recommendations for each country; carry out programs and activities to facilitate the implementation of the Convention and their recommendations; offer states parties programs, projects, studies, mechanisms for exchanges of best practices, and legal and technical cooperation tools to help them prevent, detect, and punish acts of corruption in accordance with the Convention, and provide technical support, as necessary, to the Inter-American Program of Cooperation to Fight Corruption; maintain the Anticorruption Portal of the Americas; and pursue efforts to raise funds to finance regional cooperation activities, including legal cooperation, in the fight against corruption.

4. To urge the MESICIC Technical Secretariat to continue strengthening its coordination and collaboration with the secretariats of other international cooperation agencies, entities, and mechanisms active in that area; promoting an anti-corruption culture; and discharging its various other functions under the Document of Buenos Aires and the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of States Parties to the MESICIC and of its Committee of Experts.

vi. Meeting of Ministers of Justice or Other Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA)

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that “cooperation among authorities with responsibilities in the area of justice” is one of the priority areas of the OAS, and that “the REMJA has consolidated itself as the hemispheric political and technical forum in the areas of justice and international legal cooperation,” which is essential for the development of justice systems and consolidation of the rule of law in the region; and that at the Summits of the Americas, the Heads of State and Government have supported the work carried out through the REMJA process and the implementation of its conclusions and recommendations,

RESOLVES:

1. To instruct the Department of Legal Cooperation, in its capacity as Technical Secretariat of the Meeting of Ministers of Justice or Other Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA), to continue implementing the mandates contained in the “Conclusions and

Recommendations of REMJA X” (REMJA-X/doc.2/15 rev. 2), in accordance with the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

2. To instruct the REMJA Technical Secretariat to continue to provide support, legal advice, and technical assistance to the REMJA process and to its working groups and technical meetings; prepare documents and studies to support follow-up and implementation of their recommendations; carry out programs, projects, and technical cooperation activities in pursuit thereof; manage and maintain the networks created in the REMJA area for which it is responsible; take steps to secure funding for the activities of the REMJA process; strengthen coordination and collaboration with the secretariats of other international cooperation agencies, entities, and mechanisms in areas that concern the REMJA; and discharge the other functions assigned to it in the Document of Washington.

vii. Strengthening the activities of the Inter-American Program of Judicial Facilitators

CONSIDERING:

That the positive impact and results of national judicial facilitator services and the training of justice operators promoted by the Inter-American Program of Judicial Facilitators, which strengthen justice institutions and open up access for people in a vulnerable situation, thereby helping to prevent crime and violence, promote a culture of peaceful settlement of disputes, and reduce the judicialization of disputes in Argentina, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, and Paraguay,

RESOLVES:

1. To support the work of the Inter-American Program of Judicial Facilitators, when so requested by member states, in establishing national judicial facilitator services, training justice operators, and supporting other access-to-justice initiatives, with a view to assisting the majority of member states by 2020.

2. To urge the General Secretariat to continue, when so requested, to assist member states in establishing national judicial facilitator services and providing training to their operators through the Inter-American Program of Judicial Facilitators.

3. To support efforts to collect voluntary contributions, consolidate and expand the services of the Inter-American Program of Judicial Facilitators where they are already being provided, and extend them to other member states that so request. To instruct the General Secretariat to give priority to, and assist in, mobilizing specific funds for that purpose.

viii. Effective Public Management Strengthening and Innovation in the Americas

CONSIDERING that democracy is essential for consolidating sustainable and inclusive development and equitable growth for the peoples of the Americas and that effective public management, the fight against corruption, and the promotion of transparency are fundamental components for the eradication of poverty and the full exercise of democracy; and

TAKING NOTE of the regional study “Promoting Public Servant Integrity in Interaction with the Public” (CP/CAJP/INF.339/17) prepared by the Department for Effective Public Management of the OAS General Secretariat,

RESOLVES:

1. To encourage member states to continue promoting public policies of transparency, accountability, probity, citizen participation, and improved delivery of public services to citizens and businesses, and to promote exchanges of experience and best practices in this area.

2. To invite member states to continue implementing public policies intended to promote probity in public administrations, taking into consideration the recommendations contained in the “Guidelines for the Management of Policies for Probity in the Public Administrations of the Americas” (CP/CAJP/INF.340/17).

3. To instruct the General Secretariat, through the Department for Effective Public Management, to continue to support the efforts of member states, when so requested, to strengthen their public management institutions—both national and local—through training programs on promoting innovation in public management, technical cooperation, dialogue facilitation, mutual learning, and the sharing of experience through, among other initiatives, the Inter-American Cooperation Mechanism for Effective Public Management (MECIGEP), and to continue promoting and contributing to the implementation of open government principles, such as transparency, collaboration with the various social actors, and citizen engagement.

ix. Access to public information and protection of personal data

RECALLING that access to public information and protection of personal data are indispensable for democracy and the full exercise of human rights, and that they perform complementary functions in bringing about effective citizen participation, thus contributing to the strengthening of public institutions, equality, and full observance of the rule of law,

RESOLVES:

1. To instruct the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States to continue supporting, with the assistance of civil society and other social actors, the efforts of member states that so request to adopt legislative and other appropriate measures to ensure access to public information and protection of personal data in accordance with their domestic laws and consistent with their international obligations and commitments, in particular to implement the Model Inter-American Law on Access to Public Information or to continue to bring themselves into line with it.

2. To request member states, in the framework of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP), to report annually and voluntarily on their progress and exchange best practices in implementing the Inter-American Program on Access to Public Information.

3. To request the General Secretariat, in consultation with the focal points for the Inter-American Program on Access to Public Information and taking into account input from civil society, to identify thematic areas in which it considers it necessary to update or broaden the Model Inter-

American Law on Access to Public Information and to forward its findings to the Inter-American Juridical Committee to develop.

- x. Support for the Inter-American Network on Government Procurement (INGP) as a mechanism of the inter-American system

CONSIDERING the recognition that the INGP has garnered as a high-level horizontal technical cooperation mechanism for the mobilization and exchange of human, technical, financial, and material resources for the generation of knowledge, experience, and best practices in public procurement among the member states of the Organization through resolution AG/RES. 2894 (XLVI-O/16); and

RECOGNIZING the work done by the OAS as the Technical Secretariat of the Network since 2008 in terms of facilitating technical and policy dialogue forums, promoting capacity building for public officials in national government procurement institutions, promoting the generation of knowledge in government procurement, and providing technical assistance, bearing in mind common needs and challenges, in order to develop regional solution strategies,

RESOLVES:

To renew its request that the General Secretariat continue supporting the operation of the INGP and the modernization of government procurement as a fundamental element to enhance transparency, efficiency, effectiveness, and innovation in public management, as well as promoting mechanisms for citizen participation and accountability.

- xi. E-Government

TAKING NOTE of the Declaration of Santiago arising from the Fourth Ministerial Meeting on E-Government in Latin America and Caribbean and the Tenth Meeting of the Network of E-Government Leaders of Latin America and the Caribbean (GEALC Network), held on December 1 and 2, 2016, in Santiago, Chile, and mindful of the importance of promoting the use of information and communication technologies, as well as the digitalization of services, in order to assist in strengthening the effectiveness and efficiency of public institutions, making their management transparent, and promoting democracy, open government, civic innovation, and citizen participation as a key aspect of public administration,

RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm the importance that using digital technologies holds for the governments of Latin America and the Caribbean as one of the most transformative factors of our times, given their impact on effective public service, democratization of public services, open government, the organization, systematization, and availability of public information, and citizen empowerment, as well as in terms of enhancing economic development, narrowing reducing social gaps, bring about digital inclusion, and moving towards an increasingly knowledge-based society and economy.

2. To encourage and promote advances in information and communication technologies for promotion of human rights, democracy, education for peace, tolerance, political participation, and gender equality.

3. To underscore the important role of the Network of E-Government Leaders of Latin America and Caribbean (GEALC Network), its contribution to dialogue, cooperation, and e-government promotion, and the need to extend its scope to all OAS member states; and to instruct the General Secretariat to promote the coordination of activities, projects, and programs in relation to the Network and to encourage best e-government practices for and among member states that so request, with a view to furthering the digital transformation of governments.

xii. Rights of the child

1. To support the actions being pursued by the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN) to promote the participation of children and adolescents and the exercise of their right to seek, receive, and disseminate information and ideas, keeping in mind at all times the best interests of the child, and to encourage authorities, political actors, and adults in general, to listen to and respect the opinions and proposals of children and adolescents.

2. To promote intergenerational dialogue through coexistence based on democratic values that respect different opinions, while encouraging gender equality, equity, and nonviolence, all geared towards the peaceful settlement of disputes.

3. To encourage existing OAS forums to allow children and adolescents the opportunity to participate and have their opinions and proposals heard, fostering intergenerational dialogue on important issues that focus the attention of the region.

## II. FOLLOW-UP AND REPORTING

### RESOLVES:

1. To instruct the Permanent Council to follow up on the topics addressed in this resolution through their inclusion on the work plan of the CAJP, and the General Secretariat to report to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth regular session.

2. To instruct the General Secretariat, through the areas responsible for follow-up and implementation of activities connected with the purpose of this resolution, to submit in due course its 2017-2018 plan of activities for consultations or proper oversight by member states.

3. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth regular session on the implementation of this resolution. Execution of the activities envisaged in this resolution will be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

FOOTNOTE

1. ... within the denunciation period established in Article 143 of the OAS Charter.



AG/RES. 2906 (XLVII-O/17)

MODEL LAW ON THE SIMPLIFIED CORPORATION<sup>1/</sup>

(Adopted at the first plenary session, held on June 20, 2017)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

CONSIDERING the report of the Inter-American Juridical Committee entitled “Recommendations on the Proposed Model Act on the Simplified Corporation” (CJI/doc.380/11 corr. 1), adopted in March 2012;

BEARING IN MIND the contribution that these new forms of companies may make to economic development in the member states; and

BEARING IN MIND ALSO that by resolution AG/RES. 2886 (XLVI-O/16) the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs was requested to study the possibility that the Model Law be submitted to the General Assembly for consideration at this regular session,

RESOLVES:

1. To take note of the Model Law on the Simplified Corporation appended hereto.
2. To request the Inter-American Juridical Committee (CJI) and its Technical Secretariat—the Department of International Law of the Secretariat for Legal Affairs of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States—to disseminate the Model Law as widely as possible among the member states.
3. To invite member states to adopt, in accordance with their domestic laws and regulatory framework, those aspects of the Model Law on the Simplified Corporation that are in their interest.
4. To instruct the Technical Secretariat of the CJI to provide those member states that so request with all collaboration and support necessary to implement the preceding paragraph.

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1. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela does not agree to any commitment or mandate issued in this resolution as it did not participate in the negotiation of said resolution. It is still ...

FOOTNOTE

1. ... within the denunciation period established in Article 143 of the OAS Charter.

## MODEL ACT ON THE SIMPLIFIED STOCK CORPORATION (MASSC)<sup>1</sup>

### CHAPTER I GENERAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 1. NATURE. The simplified stock corporation is a profit legal entity by shares, the nature of which will always be commercial irrespective of the activities set forth in its purpose clause.

ARTICLE 2. LIMITED LIABILITY. The simplified stock corporation may be formed by one or more persons or legal entities.

Shareholders will only be responsible for providing the capital contributions promised to the simplified stock corporation.

Except as set forth in Article 41 of this Act, shareholders will not be held liable for any obligations incurred by the simplified stock corporation, including, but not limited to, labor and tax obligations.

There shall be no labor relationship between a simplified stock corporation and its shareholders, unless an explicit agreement has been executed to that effect.

ARTICLE 3. LEGAL PERSONALITY. Upon the filing of the formation document before the Mercantile Registry [include the name of corresponding company registrar's office], the simplified stock corporation will form a legal entity separate and distinct from its shareholders.

ARTICLE 4. INABILITY TO BECOME A LISTED ENTITY. The shares of stock and other securities issued by a simplified stock corporation shall not be registered within a stock exchange, nor traded in any securities market.

### CHAPTER II FORMATION AND PROOF OF EXISTENCE

ARTICLE 5. CONTENTS OF THE FORMATION DOCUMENT. A simplified stock corporation will be formed by contract or by the individual will of a single shareholder, provided that a written document is granted. The formation document shall be registered before the Mercantile Registry [include the name of corresponding company registrar's office], and shall set forth:

1. The name and address of each shareholder;

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1. In subsequent discussions among the Rapporteur, the Colombian expert, OAS translators, and the Technical Secretariat, it was determined that the more accurate English translation of the ...

2. The name of the corporation followed by the words “simplified stock corporation” or the abbreviation “S.A.S.”;
3. The corporation’s domicile;
4. If the simplified stock corporation is to have a specific date of dissolution, the date in which the corporation is to dissolve;
5. A clear and complete description of the main business activities to be included within the purpose clause, unless it is stated that the corporation may engage in any lawful business;
6. The authorized, subscribed and paid-in capital, along with the number of shares to be issued, the different classes of shares, their par value, and the terms and conditions in which the payment will be made;
7. Any provisions for the management of the business and for the conduct of the affairs of the corporation, along with the names and powers of each manager. A simplified stock corporation shall have at least one legal representative in charge of managing the affairs of the corporation in relation with third parties.

No additional formalities of any nature shall be required for the formation of the simplified stock corporation.

ARTICLE 6. ATTESTATION. The Mercantile Registrar [include the name of corresponding company registrar’s office] shall attest to the legality of the provisions set forth in the formation document and any amendments thereof.

The Registrar shall only deny registration where the requirements provided under Article 5 have not been met. The decision rendered by the Registrar shall be issued within three days after the relevant filing has been made. Any decision denying registration will only be subject to a rehearing conducted by the Registrar.

Upon the approval of a formation document by the Mercantile Registrar, challenges will not be heard against the existence of the simplified stock corporation and the contents of the formation document will constitute the simplified stock corporation’s by-laws.

ARTICLE 7. ASSIMILATION TO PARTNERSHIP. Where a formation document has not been duly approved by the Mercantile Registrar [include the name of corresponding company registrar’s office], the purported corporation will be assimilated to a partnership. Accordingly, partners will be jointly and severally liable for all obligations in which the partnership is engaged. If the partnership has only one member, such member will be held liable for all obligations in which the partnership is engaged.

ARTICLE 8. PROOF OF EXISTENCE. The certificate issued by the Mercantile Registrar [include the name of corresponding company registrar’s office] is conclusive evidence as regards the existence of the simplified stock corporation and the provisions set forth in the formation document.

CHAPTER III  
SPECIAL RULES REGARDING SUBSCRIBED, PAID-IN CAPITAL  
AND SHARES OF STOCK

ARTICLE 9. CAPITAL SUBSCRIPTION AND PAYMENT. Capital subscription and payment may be carried out under terms and conditions different to those set forth under the Commercial Code or corporate statute [include the name of the relevant Code, Decree, Law or Statute]. In any event, payment of subscribed capital shall be made within a period of two years to be counted from the date in which the shares were subscribed. The rules for subscription and payment may be freely set forth in the by-laws.

ARTICLE 10. CLASSES OF SHARES. The simplified stock corporation may issue different classes or series of shares, including preferred shares with or without vote. Shares may be issued for any consideration whatsoever, including in-kind contributions or in exchange for labor, pursuant to the terms and conditions contained in the by-laws.

Any special rights granted to the holders of any class or series of shares shall be described or affixed upon the back of the stock certificates.

ARTICLE 11. VOTING RIGHTS. The by-laws shall depict in full detail the voting rights corresponding to each class of shares. Such document shall also determine whether each share will grant its holder single or multiple voting rights.

ARTICLE 12. SHARE TRANSFERS TO A TRUST. Any shares issued by a simplified stock corporation may be transferred to a trust provided that an annotation is made in the corporate ledger concerning the trustee company, the beneficial owners and the percentage of beneficial rights.

ARTICLE 13. LIMITATION ON THE TRANSFERABILITY OF SHARES. The by-laws may contain a provision whereby the shares may not be transferred for a period not to exceed ten years, to be counted from the moment in which the shares were issued. Such term can only be extended by consent of all the holders of outstanding shares.

Any such limitation on share transferability shall be described or affixed upon the back of the stock certificate.

ARTICLE 14. AUTHORIZATION FOR THE TRANSFER OF SHARES. The by-laws may contain provisions whereby any transfer of shares or of any given class of shares will be subject to the previous authorization of the shareholders' assembly, which shall be granted by majority vote or by any supermajority included in the by-laws.

ARTICLE 15. BREACH OF RESTRICTIONS ON NEGOTIATION OF SHARES. Any transfer of shares carried out in a manner inconsistent with the rules set forth in the by-laws shall be null and void.

ARTICLE 16. CHANGE OF CONTROL IN A CORPORATE SHAREHOLDER. The by-laws may impose upon an incorporated shareholder the duty to notify the simplified stock

corporation's legal representative about any transaction that may cause a change in control regarding such shareholder.

Where a change in control has taken place, the shareholders' assembly, by majority decision, shall be entitled to exclude the corresponding incorporated shareholder.

Aside from the possibility of being excluded, any breach of the duty to inform changes in control may subject the concerned shareholder to a penalty consisting of a 20% reduction of the fair market value of the shares, upon reimbursement.

In the event set forth in this article, all decisions concerning the exclusion of shareholders, as well as the determination of any penalties, shall require an approval rendered by the shareholders' assembly by majority vote. The votes of the concerned shareholder shall not be taken into account for the adoption of these decisions.

#### CHAPTER IV ORGANIZATION OF THE SIMPLIFIED STOCK CORPORATION

ARTICLE 17. ORGANIZATION. Shareholders may freely organize the structure and operation of a simplified stock corporation in the by-laws. In the absence of specific provisions to this effect, the shareholders' assembly or the sole shareholder, as the case may be, will be entitled to exercise all powers legally granted to the shareholders' assemblies of stock corporations, whilst the management and representation of the simplified stock corporation shall be granted to the legal representative.

Where the number of shareholders has been reduced to one, the subsisting shareholder shall be entitled to exercise the powers afforded to all existing corporate organs.

ARTICLE 18. MEETINGS. Meetings of shareholders may be held at any place designated by the shareholders, whether it is the corporate domicile or not. For these meetings, the regular quorum provided in the by-laws will suffice, pursuant to Article 22 hereof.

ARTICLE 19. MEETINGS BY TECHNOLOGICAL DEVICES OR BY WRITTEN CONSENT. Meetings of shareholders may be held through any available technological device, or by written consent. The minutes of such meetings shall be drafted and included within the corporate records no later than 30 days after the meeting has taken place. These minutes shall be signed by the legal representative or, in her absence, by any shareholder that participated in the meeting.

ARTICLE 20. NOTICE OF MEETING. In the absence of stipulation to the contrary, the legal representative shall convene the shareholders' assembly by written notice addressed to each shareholder. Such notice shall be made at least five days in advance to the meeting. The agenda shall in all cases be included within any notice of meeting.

Whenever the shareholders' assembly is called upon to approve financial statements, the conversion of the corporation into another business form, or mergers or split-off proceedings, shareholders will be entitled to exercise information rights concerning any documents relevant to the

proposed transaction. Information rights may be exercised during the five days prior to the meeting, unless a longer term has been provided for in the by-laws.

Any notice of meeting may determine the date in which the Second Call Meeting will take place, in case the quorum is insufficient to hold the first meeting. The date for the second meeting may not be held prior to ten days following the first meeting, nor after thirty days from that same moment.

ARTICLE 21. WAIVER OF NOTICE. Shareholders may, at any moment, submit written waivers of notice whereby they forego their right to be convened to a meeting of the shareholders' assembly. Shareholders may also waive, in writing, any information rights granted under Article 20.

In any given shareholders assembly and even in the absence of a notice of meeting, the attendees will be deemed to have waived their right of being summoned, unless such shareholders make a statement to the contrary before the meeting takes place.

ARTICLE 22. QUORUM AND MAJORITIES. Unless otherwise specified in the by-laws, quorum to a shareholders' meeting will be constituted by a majority of shares, whether present in person or represented by proxy.

Decisions of the assembly shall be taken by the affirmative vote of the majority of shares present (in person or represented by proxy), unless the by-laws contain supermajority provisions.

The sole shareholder of a simplified stock corporation may adopt any and all decisions within the powers granted to the shareholders' assembly. The sole shareholder will keep a record of such decisions in the corporate books.

ARTICLE 23. VOTE SPLITTING. Shareholders may split their votes during cumulative voting proceedings for the election of directors or the members of any other corporate organ.

ARTICLE 24. SHAREHOLDERS' AGREEMENTS. Agreements entered into between shareholders concerning the acquisition or sale of shares, preemptive rights or rights of first refusal, the exercise of voting rights, voting by proxy, or any other valid matter, shall be binding upon the simplified stock corporation, provided that such agreements have been filed with the corporation's legal representative. Shareholders' agreements shall be valid for any period of time determined in the agreement, not exceeding 10 years, upon the terms and conditions stated therein. Such 10 year term may only be extended by unanimous consent.

Shareholders that have executed an agreement shall appoint a person who will represent them for the purposes of receiving information and providing it whenever it is requested. The simplified stock corporation's legal representative may request, in writing, to such representative, clarification as regards any provision set forth in the agreement. The response shall be provided also in writing within the five days following the request.

SubArticle 1. The President of the shareholders' assembly, or of the concerned corporate organs, shall exclude any votes cast in a manner inconsistent with the terms set forth under a duly filed shareholders' agreement.

SubArticle 2. Pursuant to the conditions set forth in the agreement, any shareholder shall be entitled to demand, before a court with jurisdiction over the corporation, the specific performance of any obligation arising under such agreement.

ARTICLE 25. BOARD OF DIRECTORS. The simplified stock corporation is not required to have a board of directors, unless such board is mandated in the by-laws. In the absence of a provision requiring the operation of a board of directors, the legal representative appointed by the shareholders' assembly shall be entitled to exercise any and all powers concerning the management and legal representation of the simplified stock corporation.

If a board of directors has been included in the formation document, such board will be created with one or more directors, for each of whom an alternate director may also be appointed. All directors may be appointed either by majority vote, cumulative voting, or by any other mechanism set forth in the by-laws. The rules regarding the operation of the board of directors may be freely established in the by-laws. In the absence of a specific provision in the by-laws, the board will be governed under the relevant statutory provisions.

ARTICLE 26. LEGAL REPRESENTATION. The legal representation of the simplified stock corporation will be carried out by an individual or legal entity appointed in the manner provided in the by-laws. The legal representative may undertake and execute any and all acts and contracts included within the purpose clause, as well as those which are directly related to the operation and existence of the corporation.

The legal representative shall not be required to remain at the place where the business has its main domicile.

ARTICLE 27. LIABILITY OF DIRECTORS AND MANAGERS. All Commercial Code [include the name of the relevant Code, Decree, Law or Statute] provisions relating to the liability of directors and managers may also be applicable to the legal representative, the board of directors, and the managers and officers of the simplified stock corporation, unless such provision is opted out of in the by-laws.

SubArticle 1. Any individual or legal entity who is not a manager or director of a simplified stock corporation that engages in any trade or activity related to the management, direction or operation of such corporation shall be subject to the same liabilities applicable to directors and officers of the corporation.

SubArticle 2. Whenever a simplified stock corporation or any of its managers or directors grants apparent authority to an individual or legal entity to the extent that it may be reasonably believed that such individual or legal entity has sufficient powers to represent the corporation, the company will be legally bound by any transaction entered into with third parties acting in good faith.

ARTICLE 28. AUDITING ORGANS. A simplified stock corporation shall not, in any case, be legally mandated to establish or provide for internal auditing organs [include the name of corresponding auditing entity, e.g., fiscal auditor, auditing committee, etc.].



## CHAPTER V BY-LAW AMENDMENTS AND CORPORATE RESTRUCTURINGS

ARTICLE 29. BY-LAW AMENDMENTS. Amendments to the corporate by-laws shall be approved by majority vote. Decisions to this effect will be recorded in a private document to be filed with the Mercantile Registry [include the name of corresponding company registrar's office].

ARTICLE 30. CORPORATE RESTRUCTURINGS. The statutory provisions governing conversion into another form, mergers and split-off proceedings for business associations will be applicable to the simplified stock corporation. Dissenters' rights and appraisal remedies shall also be applicable.

For the purpose of exercising dissenters' rights and appraisal remedies, a corporate restructuring will be considered detrimental to the economic interests of a shareholder, *inter alia*, whenever:

1. The dissenting shareholder's percentage in the subscribed paid-in capital of the simplified stock corporation has been reduced;
2. The corporation's equity value has been diminished, or
3. The free transferability of shares has been constrained.

ARTICLE 31. CONVERSION INTO ANOTHER BUSINESS FORM. Any existing business entity may be converted into a simplified stock corporation by unanimous decision rendered by the holders of all issued rights or shares in such business form. The decision to convert into a simplified stock corporation shall be registered before the Mercantile Registry [include the name of corresponding company registrar's office].

A simplified stock corporation may be converted into any other business form governed under the Commercial Code [include the name of the relevant Code, Decree, Law or Statute] provided that unanimous decision is rendered by the holders of all issued and outstanding shares in the corporation.

ARTICLE 32. SUBSTANTIAL SALE OF ASSETS. Whenever a simplified stock corporation purports to sell or convey assets and liabilities amounting to 60% or more of its equity value, such sale or conveyance will be considered to be a substantial sale of assets.

Substantial sales of assets shall require majority shareholder approval. Whenever a substantial sale of assets is detrimental to the interests of one or more shareholders, it shall give rise to the application of dissenters' rights and appraisal remedies.

ARTICLE 33. SHORT-FORM MERGER. In any case in which at least 90% of the outstanding shares of a simplified stock corporation is owned by another legal entity, such entity may absorb the simplified stock corporation by the sole decision of the boards of directors or legal representatives of all entities directly involved in the merger.

Short-form mergers may be executed by private document duly registered before the Mercantile Registry [include the name of corresponding company registrar's office].

## CHAPTER VI DISSOLUTION AND WINDING UP

ARTICLE 34. DISSOLUTION AND WINDING UP. The simplified stock corporation shall be dissolved and wound up whenever:

1. An expiration date has been included in the formation document and such term has elapsed, provided that a determination to extend it has not been approved by the shareholders, before or after such expiration has taken place;
2. For legal or other reasons, the corporation is absolutely unable to carry out the business activities provided under the purpose clause;
3. Compulsory liquidation proceedings have been initiated;
4. An event of dissolution set forth in the by-laws has taken place;
5. A majority shareholder decision has been rendered or such decision has been made by the will of the sole shareholder, and
6. A decision to that effect has been rendered by any authority with jurisdiction over the corporation.

Whenever the duration term has elapsed, the corporation shall be dissolved automatically. In all other cases, the decision to dissolve the simplified stock corporation shall be filed before the Mercantile Registry [include the name of corresponding company registrar's office].

ARTICLE 35. CURING EVENTS OF DISSOLUTION. Events of dissolution may be cured by adopting any and all measures available to that effect, provided that such measures are adopted within one year, following the date in which the shareholders' assembly acknowledged the event of dissolution.

Events of dissolution consisting of the reduction of the minimum number of shareholders, partners or members in any business form governed under the Commercial Code [include the name of the relevant Code, Decree, Law or Statute] may be cured by conversion into a simplified stock corporation, provided that unanimous decision is rendered by the holders of all issued shares or rights, or by the will of the subsisting shareholder, partner or member.

ARTICLE 36. WINDING UP. The simplified stock corporation shall be wound up in accordance with the rules that govern such proceeding for stock corporations. The legal representative shall act as liquidator, unless shareholders appoint any other person to wind up the company.

## CHAPTER VII MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 37. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS. The legal representative shall submit financial statements and annual accounts to the shareholders' assembly for approval.

In the event that there is a single shareholder in a simplified stock corporation, such person shall approve all financial statements and annual accounts and will record such approvals in minutes within the corporate books.

ARTICLE 38. SHAREHOLDER EXCLUSION. The by-laws may contain causes by virtue of which shareholders may be excluded from the simplified stock corporation. Excluded shareholders shall be entitled to receive a fair market value for their shares of stock.

Shareholder exclusion shall require majority shareholder approval, unless a different procedure has been laid down in the by-laws.

ARTICLE 39. CONFLICT RESOLUTION. Any conflict of any nature whatsoever, excluding criminal matters, that arises between shareholders, managers or the corporation may be subject to arbitration proceedings or to any other alternative dispute resolution procedure. In the absence of arbitration, the same disputes will be resolved by (include specialized judicial or quasi-judicial tribunal).

The decisions rendered by the tribunal are final and shall not be subject to appeals before any court.

ARTICLE 40. SPECIAL PROVISIONS. The legal mechanisms set forth under Articles 13, 14, 38 and 39 may be included, amended or suppressed from the by-laws only by unanimous decision rendered by the holders of all issued and outstanding shares.

ARTICLE 41. PIERCING THE CORPORATE VEIL. The corporate veil may be pierced whenever the simplified stock corporation is used for the purpose of committing fraud. Accordingly, joint and several liability may be imposed upon shareholders, directors and managers in case of fraud or any other wrongful act perpetrated in the name of the corporation.

ARTICLE 42. ABUSE OF RIGHTS. Shareholders shall exercise their voting rights in the interest of the simplified stock corporation. Votes cast with the purpose of inflicting harm or damages upon other shareholders or the corporation, or with the intent of unduly extracting private gains for personal benefit or for the benefit of a third party shall constitute an abuse of rights. Any shareholder who acts abusively may be held liable for all damages caused, irrespective of the judge's ability to set aside the decision rendered by the shareholders' assembly.

A suit for damages and nullification may be brought in case of:

1. Abuse of majority;
2. Abuse of minority; and
3. Abusive deadlock caused by one faction under equal division of shares between two factions.

ARTICLE 43. CROSS-REFERENCES. The simplified stock corporation shall be governed:

1. By this Law;
2. By the formation document, as amended from time to time; or

3. By statutory provisions contained in the Commercial Code [include the name of the relevant Code, Decree, Law or Statute] governing stock corporations.

PROMULGATION. This Act shall be effective as of the date of its promulgation, and it repeals any and all statutes, acts, codes, decrees, or provisions of any nature that are inconsistent with this Act.

FOOTNOTE

1. ... Spanish *Sociedad por acciones simplificada* would be *Simplified Corporation*, instead of *Simplified Stock Corporation*, as it was originally rendered. A more accurate translation for *Ley Modelo* is *Model Law*, rather than *Model Act*.



AG/RES. 2907 (XLVII-O/17)

ADVANCING HEMISPHERIC SECURITY: A MULTIDIMENSIONAL APPROACH<sup>1//</sup>

(Adopted at the first plenary session, held on June 20, 2017)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the “Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly June 2016-June 2017” (AG/doc.5565/17 add. 1), in particular the section on the activities of the Committee on Hemispheric Security (CSH);

REAFFIRMING the commitment of the Organization of American States to strengthening peace and security in the Hemisphere, with full respect for international law and in accordance with the domestic law of each country;

RECALLING the provisions contained in the Declaration on Security in the Americas, which recognizes that the states of the Hemisphere face both traditional threats to security and new threats, concerns, and other challenges that, in view of their complex characteristics, have meant that security is multidimensional in nature; as well as the resolutions entrusted to the CSH as detailed in the document “List of Resolutions assigned to the Committee on Hemispheric Security (1995-2017) and Other Resolutions Related to Security Issues (1991-1994)” (CP/CSH/INF. 471/17);

HAVING SEEN the annual reports presented to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh regular session by the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) (CP/doc.5301/17), the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) (CP/doc.5306/17 rev. 1), and the Inter-American Defense Board (IADB) (CP/doc.5283/17);

EXPRESSING ITS SATISFACTION with the meetings and conferences on security-related matters held in implementation of the mandates of this General Assembly and with the preparations for the meetings programmed for the second half of 2017;<sup>2/</sup>

BEARING IN MIND the results, reports, and recommendations of the aforesaid conferences and meetings;

NOTING WITH SATISFACTION the adoption of the Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs 2016-2020 as a supporting guide for the implementation of the Hemispheric Drug Strategy of 2010, and the agreements reached at the hemispheric level in declaration AG/DEC. 73 (XLIII-O/13) corr. 1, “Declaration of Antigua Guatemala ‘For a Comprehensive Policy Against the World Drug Problem in the Americas,’” adopted on June 6, 2013; and in accordance with the mandate in resolution AG/RES. 1 (XLIV-E/14), “Reflections and Guidelines to Formulate and Follow up on

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1. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela does not agree to any commitment or mandate issued in this resolution as it did not participate in the negotiation of said resolution. ...
  2. Meetings held: Seventeenth regular session of CICTE, held at the Headquarters of the OAS General Secretariat on April 6 and 7, 2017; seventh meeting of the Forum on Confidence and ...

Comprehensive Policies to Address the World Drug Problem in the Americas,” adopted in Guatemala City, Guatemala on September 19, 2014;

TAKING NOTE of the XII Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas (CDMA), hosted by the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago in October 2016, and of the commitment of the defense ministers to join with other ministerial forums within the Americas in reporting on the outcomes of the CDMA to the Summits of the Americas, starting with the Eighth Summit to be hosted by the Government of Peru in 2018;

RECALLING the adoption and entry into force of the Paris Agreement on climate change;<sup>3/ 4/</sup>

RECOGNIZING the important leadership role played by and contributions of, member states of the Organization of American States in finalizing that ambitious agreement;<sup>5/</sup>

RECOGNIZING ALSO with grave concern that the Latin America and Caribbean Region is one of the most vulnerable in the world to the adverse impacts of climate change, and that within it many small island and low-lying coastal developing states face a grave threat to their survival and viability from climate change and sea level rise;

RECOGNIZING FURTHER the urgency of sharing experiences and best practices in order to understand and address the security implications of climate change in the Hemisphere;

EXPRESSING ITS SATISFACTION with the outcome of the meeting on the special security concerns of the small island states of the Caribbean, held in the framework of the CSH on March 23, 2017, at which it was underscored that, in view of their unique characteristics as small, fragile, open economies with scarce resources and perennial exposure to natural disasters, those low-lying coastal developing states are persistently vulnerable, so that there was consensus that the issue continue to be addressed in the CSH;

ACKNOWLEDGING the multidimensional nature of security and the new and emerging threats, including the withdrawal by global banks from correspondent banking relationships with Caribbean financial institutions;<sup>6/</sup>

ACKNOWLEDGING ALSO the multidimensional nature of security as well as new and emerging threats, and pointing out that to combat them effectively, there needs to be better understandings among the authorities of member states, involving a strengthening of their financial systems and adoption of measures to prevent, detect, and suppress the movement and use of funds by persons operating outside the law, through international cooperation, in accordance with applicable international and internal laws;

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3. The U.S. President announced that the United States will withdraw from the Paris Agreement unless and until the U.S. can negotiate a better deal for the American people. ...
  4. The government of National Reconciliation and Unity of the Republic of Nicaragua cannot endorse the reference to the so-called “Paris Agreement” as it is not a party thereto. During the negotiation ...
  5. See footnote 4.
  6. The United States does not consider this committee to be the appropriate venue to consider this issue, and has consistently and publicly maintained that the issue of access to banking services, ...



MINDFUL that the effect of excluding Caribbean countries, among others, from access to the global finance and trading system generates grave consequences for the maintenance of financial stability, economic growth, remittance flows, and poverty alleviation and makes it difficult for those countries to achieve what was agreed upon in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, thereby reversing their economic accomplishments and thwarting their future progress;<sup>7/</sup>

AWARE of the threat posed to state security and the safety of the citizens of the Hemisphere by the proliferation in the Americas of firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials and their undeniable impact on the levels of crime and violence in member states; and

REITERATING the commitment of member states to peace and the security of their citizens, and recognizing the need to continue implementing or strengthening, as appropriate, national public policies and measures to combat illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in small arms and light weapons, their parts and components, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials, along with measures such as border controls, controls on imports and exports of weapons and ammunition, and record keeping, marking and tracing of small arms and light weapons,

RESOLVES:

#### I. ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE ON HEMISPHERIC SECURITY AND OF MEMBER STATES

1. To reaffirm to the Permanent Council and to the General Secretariat the applicable General Assembly mandates on hemispheric security; to urge member states to continue contributing to the attainment of the objectives established in those mandates through the development and execution of activities, the submission of reports, the exchange of information, and the adoption of measures and policies, as well as through cooperation, support, and mutual assistance, and technical and financial contributions; and to instruct the General Secretariat to provide the necessary support to those ends.

2. To recognize the central role of the Committee on Hemispheric Security (CSH) in matters of multidimensional security, including defense, in the framework of the Organization of American States (OAS), and to instruct the Permanent Council to continue, through the CSH, promoting and coordinating cooperation among the organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization, and participating in and holding consultations with other regional and international forums as well as sharing experiences and information with them.

#### The Americas as a Zone of Peace

3. To instruct the CSH to give attention in its schedule of activities for 2017–2018 to what was agreed upon in resolution AG/RES. 2862 (XLIV-O/14), “The Americas: A Zone of Peace, Cooperation, and Peaceful Dispute Settlement,” with a view to its analysis and moving forward in that regard.

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7. See footnote 6.

4. To applaud the progress made with the implementation of the Final Peace Accord between the Government of the Republic of Colombia and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC-EP), and the commitment of the parties to achieving a stable and lasting peace, as well as the progress made in the dialogue between the Government of Colombia and the National Liberation Army (ELN), while expressing its hopes for a successful outcome to that process.

#### Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas

5. To take note of the outcomes of the XII Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas (XII CDMA) to strengthen the relationship between the CDMA and the OAS, including the establishment of the Inter-American Defense Board as the institutional memory and provider of technical support to the host country of the CDMA when so requested.<sup>8/</sup>

6. To welcome the inclusion of the crosscutting themes of environmental protection and gender equality into defense policy-making in the Americas, consistent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals.<sup>9/</sup>

7. To urge the full participation of member states in the working groups established in the Declaration of Port of Spain to address the issues of search and rescue; environmental protection and climate resilience; hemispheric security and defense cooperation policy for emergency/disaster assistance; gender inclusion in defense and security policy; and the evolving role of the armed forces in defense and security.<sup>10/</sup>

8. To commend the Government of Mexico, the host country of the XIII CDMA, for its leadership in the progress made in the fulfillment by member states of their commitments to strengthen security and defense cooperation in the Americas.

#### Police Technical Cooperation<sup>11/</sup>

9. To encourage the General Secretariat, through the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security (SMS), to consider further strengthening police cooperation in areas such as technical assistance, science, and education, through the Inter-American Network for Police Development and Professionalization, and implementation of the Framework Agreement for Interinstitutional Cooperation between the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States and the American Police Community (AMERIPOL).

10. To urge member states of AMERIPOL to continue to offer police technical cooperation to countries that so request and to designate, where appropriate and in accordance with their domestic law, the relevant liaison officers in coordination with the AMERIPOL Secretariat and the SMS, for which purpose the SMS has a support unit at the service of all of its departments.

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8. The Government of Nicaragua disagrees with the references to the outcomes of the XII Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas (XII CDMA), as the contents of this Declaration ...

9. See footnote 8.

10. See footnote 8.

11 Footnote of Bolivia: Agreements signed by the General Secretariat neither can nor should become a source of mandates for the Organization, given that the member states gathered in the ...

11. To invite member states to continue making voluntary contributions to support the activities of the Inter-American Network for Police Development and Professionalization.

12. To accept with gratitude the offer of the Government of Honduras to host the first on-site police training course of the Inter-American Network for Police Development and Professionalization, scheduled to be held in the second half of 2017, and to request that it present the results at the Sixth Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Public Security in the Americas (MISPA VI).

#### Declaration of San Salvador on Citizen Security in the Americas

13. To urge member states and the General Secretariat to continue to implement the Hemispheric Plan of Action to Follow-up on the Declaration of San Salvador on Citizen Security in the Americas, the implementation of which has been extended; and to include the consideration of this topic in the schedule of activities of the CSH for 2017–2018.

#### Disarmament and nonproliferation in the Hemisphere

14. To reaffirm its commitment to continue promoting a universal, genuine, nondiscriminatory regime for disarmament and nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction, in order to advance common interests in implementing the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and other treaties concerning weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems, and in recognizing the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, where appropriate and in accordance with the law of each state.<sup>12/</sup>

15. To underscore the importance of the implementation by member states of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) in the framework of the assistance provided to them by the CSH and the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE), cooperation, and information sharing with the United Nations Security Council's 1540 Committee, bearing in mind the current global context in terms of threats to international peace and security and the need to intensify efforts to fully implement this resolution in order to counter the proliferation of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons and their means of delivery to non-state actors.

16. To take note of the efforts being made at the multilateral level to identify and seek effective measures to enable fulfillment of the commitments on non-proliferation.

17. To acknowledge the efforts of Costa Rica during its tenure as Chair of the United Nations Conference to Negotiate a Legally Binding Instrument to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons, Leading Towards their Total Elimination pursuant to United Nations General Assembly resolution 71/258.<sup>13/</sup>

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12. The United States does not support this text. It impugns existing treaty regimes, such as the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, the Chemical Weapons Convention, and the Biological Weapons Convention, ...

13. The United States does not support the UN Conference to negotiate a treaty banning nuclear weapons, and we are not participating. We have made significant progress in reducing the number of ...

18. To reaffirm the commitment to actively combat the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery, and related materials; pursue universal implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004); and encourage endorsement of the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI). To welcome the commitment made to that effect in the Declaration of Port of Spain (XII CDMA) in 2016.

19. To urge member states that have not already done so to give prompt consideration to ratifying or acceding to, as appropriate, the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism and the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and its 2005 Amendment.

#### Hemispheric efforts to prevent and combat crimes that affect the environment

20. To prevent, prosecute, and condemn crimes that affect the environment which have environmental, economic, social, national-security, and public-health impacts in countries. In preventing and tackling this phenomenon, national laws, international cooperation, capacity building, and responses must be strengthened in order, among other things, to combat transnational organized crime, corruption, and money laundering linked to those crimes.

21. To include the topic of crimes that affect the environment in the schedule of activities of the CSH for 2017-2018.

22. To invite member states to establish national points of contact for combating crimes that affect the environment with a view to their holding a face-to-face or virtual meeting in 2017 to share their experiences, best practices, and cooperation programs with other states. The information arising from this meeting will be conveyed to the CSH, which will compile it and submit a report thereon to the relevant governments.

#### Hemispheric efforts to combat trafficking in persons

23. To express appreciation for and accept the offer of the Government of Mexico to host the Fifth Meeting of National Authorities on Trafficking in Persons, which will be held in the second half of 2017.

24. To strengthen international, regional, and subregional cooperation to prevent and combat trafficking in persons and to provide care and protection with a gender perspective to victims of trafficking.

25. To underscore the importance of implementing the Second Work Plan against Trafficking in Persons in the Western Hemisphere 2015-2018 and to request the General Secretariat to report on its progress in carrying out the mandates that were assigned to it.

26. To mark World Day against Trafficking in Persons on July 30, as established by the United Nations, and to foster awareness-raising activities in that regard with the support and participation of the public and private sectors, civil society, and academia, as appropriate.

27. To instruct the SMS to continue to support the efforts of member states to combat trafficking in persons through the joint work of the Department of Public Security and the Department against Transnational Organized Crime.

Information and knowledge with regard to multidimensional security

28. To invite member states to consider implementing or strengthening, as applicable, national data and information gathering systems on crime; violence; victim and witness protection; police and prison reform; cybersecurity; drug abuse; and terrorism, in addition to methods for processing, analyzing, and evaluating such data and information, as well as policies, programs, and projects implemented for their prevention; and to request the SMS, through its Multidimensional Security Information and Knowledge Section, to assist the efforts of member states in that regard, in coordination with all areas of that Secretariat.

29. To renew the commitment of member states to efforts towards the implementation and standardization of definitions of crime contained in the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes, as appropriate, and in accordance with domestic law, with a view to improving national data collection, processing, and analysis to enable better public policy decision-making on security.

Security implications of climate change

30. To convene before the end of 2017, a joint high-level meeting of the Permanent Council and the CSH on the security implications of climate change, with the aim of sharing experiences and best practices for understanding and addressing the security implications of climate change in the Hemisphere.

31. To request that the General Secretariat establish working and cooperation relationships with relevant regional and international financial and technical organizations that are involved in addressing climate change, including the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Caribbean Development Bank, the climate change centers for the Latin American region and its subregions, the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre, relevant agencies of the United Nations, and civil society.

32. To request the Inter-American Defense Board to continue considering the security implications of climate change in its ongoing work in order to identify appropriate responses to the security challenges posed by climate change and submit its findings to the CSH for consideration.<sup>14/</sup>

33. To establish, strengthen, and use the bodies established within the inter-American system and with international and regional organizations, including the CDMA, to identify, better understand, and address the consequences of climate change for security in the Hemisphere.

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14. The Government of Nicaragua cannot endorse the wording of this paragraph because it oversteps the IADB's role by assigning it functions that do not correspond to this agency's nature ...

The Americas as an antipersonnel-landmine-free zone<sup>15/</sup>

34. To instruct the General Secretariat to continue its work in support of the efforts of the member states concerned to rid their territories of anti-personnel landmines, destroy stockpiles thereof, and make the Americas the world's first anti-personnel-landmine-free zone; and to firmly condemn, in accordance with the principles and norms of international humanitarian law, the use, stockpiling, production, and transfer of antipersonnel mines and improvised explosive devices. In this framework, to specifically condemn such practices by illegal armed groups, whose acts put at grave risk the population of the countries affected; and to strongly appeal to non-state actors to observe the international norms established by the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (Ottawa Convention) to facilitate progress in the Americas toward a mine-free world.

35. To recognize the twentieth anniversary of the signing of the Ottawa Convention; to urge states that have not yet signed the Convention to do so; and to continue enforcing this treaty, which has benefited humanity since 1997.

36. To urge all States Parties to the Ottawa Convention, interested states, the United Nations, other competent international organizations or institutions, regional organizations, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and competent nongovernmental organizations to review progress made in implementing the commitments under the Maputo Action Plan 2014-2019 and the Maputo+15 Declaration, which were adopted at the Third Review Conference, held in Maputo, Mozambique, from June 23 to 27, 2014, and to renew their commitment to the Ottawa Convention.

37. To resolutely support and promote compliance with the principles of the Ottawa Convention in each of its pillars, to wit: universality, education on risks, assistance to victims, humanitarian demining, and international cooperation and assistance, including the commitments undertaken at the Review Conference; and to support states that have requested an extension of the deadline to fulfill their commitments in the areas of clearance and decontamination, in order to meet the established deadlines.

38. To urge the States Parties that have requested extensions under Article 5 of the Ottawa Convention to make every effort necessary to fulfill their obligations by the established deadlines.<sup>16/</sup>

39. Considering the importance of policies for comprehensive action against anti-personnel mines, to recognize the results achieved by the Government of the Republic of Colombia in this area, underscoring the contributions of the international community channeled through the OAS. These reaffirm the unwavering intent of the member states and the General Secretariat to continue to support efforts underway in that country to fulfill the commitments assumed under the Ottawa Convention.

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15. The United States is the largest contributor of humanitarian demining assistance in the world and the Hemisphere. We have contributed over \$2.8 billion for conventional weapons destruction ...

16. Given the existence of a sovereignty dispute with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland over the Malvinas, South Georgia, and South Sandwich Islands and ...

40. To emphasize the contribution of humanitarian demining as a proven tool for building peace in the region, underscoring the key role of comprehensive action against anti-personnel mines during the negotiation of the Final Peace Accord agreed by the Government of Colombia and the FARC-EP guerilla movement in ending the conflict, and its effectiveness as an instrument for providing reparation to victims. Additionally, to applaud the agreement reached in the discussions now under way between the Government of Colombia and the ELN for the development of a pilot humanitarian demining program as conducive to rapprochement between the parties and de-escalation of the conflict.

41. To point out that, upon ratifying and assuming the obligations contained in the Ottawa Convention, States Parties have confirmed their commitment to peace, disarmament, and international humanitarian law, by destroying or ensuring the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in the Americas, as in the case of the successful humanitarian demining process both along the Peruvian-Ecuadorian border and in Central America.

42. To underscore Chile's role in 2016 as Chair of the Ottawa Convention, a body that has reaffirmed the region's commitment to humanitarian demining and the goal of a mine-free world by 2025.

#### Combating transnational organized crime

43. To endorse the Report on the Meeting of National Points of Contact on Transnational Organized Crime held on April 3 and 4, 2017 (CP/CSH/SA-274/17). To acknowledge the importance of the preliminary report prepared and presented by the SMS based on information received in the questionnaires from the member states on their progress in implementing the Hemispheric Plan of Action against Transnational Organized Crime.

44. To urge the member states that have not yet submitted the questionnaires on implementation of the Hemispheric Plan of Action against Transnational Organized Crime to do so no later than December 30, 2017; and to request those countries that have already delivered the questionnaire to remit new information with a view to correcting, supplementing, and improving the information provided, based on the initial findings contained in the preliminary report.

45. To request the Department against Transnational Organized Crime (DDOT) to conclude its analysis of the questionnaires, prepare the final report to be submitted to the CSH in the first quarter of 2018, and follow up on all the proposals presented by the member states to improve the aforementioned Plan of Action.

46. To request the DDOT to promote technical assistance to OAS member states with a view to advancing implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the three Protocols thereto, and the Hemispheric Plan of Action against TOC. To encourage greater coordination within the OAS General Secretariat and with other bodies addressing TOC-related issues, as well as other pertinent multilateral agencies, such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), so as to avoid duplicating programs and activities and thereby contribute to effective implementation of the international and regional instruments in this field.

47. To schedule at least one annual meeting of national points of contact on TOC or, if necessary, a meeting of national authorities on TOC, within the framework of the CSH, to analyze progress made by the countries, exchange information, and hear about best practices that together may help achieve greater and better regional coordination for addressing the phenomenon.

48. To instruct the General Secretariat to provide the DDOT—within the resources allocated in the OAS program-budget—with sufficient human and financial resources to enable it to furnish, as soon as possible, advice, cooperation, and technical assistance to member states in support of full implementation of the Hemispheric Plan of Action. To request the General Secretariat to update the SMS website and provide funding for it to include the activities of the DDOT with a view to facilitating the work of member states, in particular by posting the List of National Authorities and other relevant material.

49. To invite the member states to make voluntary contributions to the Fund against Transnational Organized Crime envisaged in the Hemispheric Plan of Action against Transnational Organized Crime.

50. To support the establishment of the DDOT by the General Secretariat and to urge that it be provided with the human and financial resources needed for it to function effectively as soon as possible.

51. To recognize the efforts of the Governments of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras to implement the Tri-national Task Force, whose aim is to combat together transnational organized crime, drug trafficking, vehicle theft, arms trafficking, extortion, trafficking in persons, migrant smuggling and related offenses, the scourge of criminal gangs and bands, and money laundering, as well as coordinated operations and border control in Central America's Northern Triangle area.

52. To request the General Secretariat to continue, through the SMS, to assist member states with the cooperation and technical assistance needed to combat transnational organized crime in all its manifestations.

Confidence- and security-building measures in the Americas<sup>17/</sup>

53. To continue to encourage and implement confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs) in keeping with the provisions of the Declaration of San Salvador on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures, the Declaration of Santiago on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures, the Consensus of Miami, and the Declaration on Security in the Americas, among other declarations and resolutions on CSBMs, and to urge all member states to furnish the General Secretariat, by March 15 of each year at the latest, with information on the application of CSBMs applied from January 1 to December 31 of the previous year, utilizing the New Consolidated List of Confidence- and Security-Building Measures (CP/CSH-1743/16).

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17. The Government of the Republic of Nicaragua acknowledges confidence- and security-building measures as a mechanism that helps to foster an international climate of trust and peace in the region. ...



54. To take note of the Chairman's Conclusions (CSH/FORO-VII/doc.5/17) from the seventh meeting of the Forum on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures held in Washington, D.C., on April 27, 2017.

55. To welcome the progress made with the design of the database and electronic template for the online presentation of annual reports on CSBMs and to request the Secretariat, with the support of the IADB, to complete the process of design and implementation.

56. To convene the eighth meeting of the Forum on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures in 2018 to review and evaluate existing CSBMs and consider new CSBMs, taking into account the multidimensional approach to hemispheric security.

Special security concerns of the small island states of the Caribbean

57. To support the implementation of the following recommendations advanced by member states and the SMS with regard to strengthening the security of small island and low-lying coastal developing states of the Caribbean:

- a. Strengthen the capacity of small island and low-lying coastal developing states of the Caribbean to further improve their regulatory frameworks and enhance transparency and accountability in particular, in order to bolster anti- money laundering and counter-terrorism financing regimes, all consistent with international standards;
- b. Create a platform for exchange of experiences on reintegration of deportees and other returning nationals and develop programs to assist with the rehabilitation of deportees, recognizing that deportation and reverse migration constitute a challenge to the multidimensional security of small island states with low-lying coastal areas;
- c. Strengthen border security throughout the region through the enhancement of information exchanges and coordination of regional law enforcement on defense, immigration, and customs issues in order to build regional capacity to combat money laundering, terrorist financing, and corruption, as well as to reduce the flow of drugs and other illicit goods while promoting legitimate trade and travel;
- d. Call on the hemispheric community to take due account of the effects of the withdrawal of correspondent bank relations from Caribbean financial institutions and to promote collaboration and cooperation in order to achieve effective solutions.<sup>18/</sup>

58. To instruct the Permanent Council to continue promoting collaborative efforts on those issues that have an impact on the security of the small island and low-lying coastal developing states and convening the annual meeting on the special security concerns of the small island and low-lying coastal developing states of the Caribbean.

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18. See footnote 6.

59. To instruct the General Secretariat through the SMS, to collaborate with member states to enhance implementation of measures that address the security concerns of the small island and low-lying coastal developing states of the Caribbean through capacity building initiatives and by providing support to address the challenges of their economic, social and environmental vulnerabilities, as detailed in this resolution.

#### Preventing violence and crime

60. To request that the General Secretariat, through the SMS and the CSH, continue reporting to the Permanent Council on progress with the implementation of the Inter-American Network for the Prevention of Violence and Crime, and that it present a report on the use of the specific fund set up to support the activities carried out under the aegis of the Network.

61. To invite member states to continue making voluntary contributions to the specific fund set up to support activities to prevent violence and crime, including those of the Inter-American Network for the Prevention of Violence and Crime, and to be proactive in strengthening the participatory and collaborative nature of the Network.

62. In order to support the achievement of that goal, to urge the General Secretariat, through the Information and Knowledge and the Prevention of Violence and Crime Sections of the Department of Public Security of the SMS, to make the necessary information and knowledge resources available to member states, including a programs database and a compendium of good practices and lessons learned, among other reference resources.

63. To develop comprehensive human rights-based strategies and intervention models that include violence prevention and foster a culture of peace with the aim of preventing criminal organizations from recruiting and using children and adolescents.

#### Program for Prevention of Crimes Related to Irregular Migration in Mesoamerica

64. To request countries that are members of the Program for Prevention of Crimes Related to Irregular Migration in Mesoamerica to continue supporting the Program's activities and establish the necessary institutional points of contact to work on strengthening the System for the Exchange of Information on crimes affecting migrants in an irregular situation (SIAT), and to urge other countries to join this initiative to continue advancing its effective implementation.

65. To instruct the SMS, through the Department of Public Security, to continue supporting the efforts of member states, through the Program for Prevention of Crimes related to Irregular Migration in Mesoamerica.

#### Protecting critical infrastructure in the event of natural disasters

66. To instruct the CSH to hold in the first of half 2018—with the support of the SMS, member states, and the Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction (IACNDR)—a meeting of experts on Protecting Critical Infrastructure in the Event of Natural Disasters with a view to proposing measures and strengthening already existing measures for the protection of that

infrastructure and to evaluate the possibility of developing cooperation arrangements for the exchange of human resources competent in that field. Likewise, to request the IADB to conduct a study on protecting critical infrastructure in the event of natural disasters for presentation at that meeting.

#### Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Public Security in the Americas (MISPA)

67. To request that the Chair of the Sixth Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Public Security in the Americas (MISPA VI) submit to the Permanent Council, through the CSH, progress reports on the preparatory meetings for that meeting.

68. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly, at its forty-eighth regular session, on the proceedings of MISPA VI.

69. To request that the General Secretariat, through the SMS Department of Public Security, continue to support member states in implementing the Lima Recommendations for the Prevention of Crime, Violence, and Insecurity (MISPA-V/doc.3/15 rev. 1), the Recommendations of Medellin for Strengthening International Cooperation in the Area of Public Security, the Consensus of Santo Domingo on Public Security, the Port of Spain Recommendations for Police Management, and the Commitment to Public Security in the Americas; and to request that the OAS General Secretariat continue providing technical support to member states and subregional bodies that so request, with a view to attaining the goals and objectives of those recommendations for preventing crime, violence, and insecurity in the region; and that it keep the Permanent Council informed, through the CSH, of the results obtained.

70. To convene the first meeting of the Subsidiary Technical Working Group on the Prevention of Crime, Violence, and Insecurity—chaired by Ecuador—at the headquarters of the OAS in Washington, D.C., in the second half of 2017, pursuant to follow-up paragraph 3 of the Lima Recommendations for the Prevention of Crime, Violence, and Insecurity, and to request that the General Secretariat allocate the necessary funds in the budget for the aforementioned meeting and for a preparatory meeting, and that it lend the support needed for the preparations.

#### Follow-up to the Special Conference on Security

71. To reaffirm its commitment to the multidimensional approach to security in accordance with the Declaration on Security in the Americas of 2003, recognizing the important contribution of that this concept has made to the hemispheric agenda and the need for the OAS and its member states to continue its implementation.

#### Cybersecurity

72. To reaffirm its commitment to promoting a free, open, and secure cyberspace; promoting the development and implementation of national policies on cybersecurity and—depending on the definition used by member states—digital security that include participation by relevant actors from the private sector and civil society; and encouraging specific actions that will allow the development of awareness-raising and education initiatives on cybersecurity and the use of technology.

73. To support and promote the strengthening of national capacities, including those of law enforcement agencies, for preventing, responding to, and mitigating cyber incidents, and improving capacity to support cyber incident management, through the creation and strengthening of computer security incident response teams (CSIRTs).

Justice, prison, and penitentiary systems

74. To request that the MISPA and the Meeting of Ministers of Justice or Other Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas coordinate their efforts to step up best practices for strengthening justice and prison systems, taking into consideration the specific situation of each country.

75. To continue strengthening domestic juvenile justice systems, including juvenile criminal liability systems, restorative justice systems, and/or socio-educational assistance systems, among others, by promoting noncustodial measures and designing strategies that promote observance of human rights as well as social reintegration and inclusion.

76. To instruct the SMS, through the Department of Public Security, to continue supporting member states in the development and implementation of comprehensive strategies based on sound practices in order to achieve effective results with the social reintegration of persons deprived of liberty.

77. To instruct the SMS, through the Department of Public Security, to continue supporting member states in the development and implementation of strategies that are committed to improving effective management and administration of prisons and to addressing and reducing overcrowding in prisons, or reducing the prison population, as the case may be. Such strategies should encourage the adoption of alternatives to incarceration and of measures to protect citizens deprived of their liberty, as well as an improved structuring of the services offered by public defender offices.

78. To recommend that the Fourth Meeting of Authorities Responsible for Penitentiary and Prison Policies take account of initiatives and good practices at the national and regional levels that could help address the causes behind the worsening prison situation in the Hemisphere.

79. To request the SMS, within the framework of the prisons strategy being implemented by the Department of Public Security to promote—in coordination with Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) and taking its Plan of Action and relevant programs being developed by its Executive Secretariat into consideration, as well as in cooperation with the Inter-American Commission of Women—the implementation of alternatives to incarceration, special treatment initiatives, and evidence-based social reintegration programs, bearing in mind the increasing number of women in the region who have been deprived of their liberty for drug use or minor drug-trafficking offenses, and the enormous family, social, economic, and institutional repercussions thereof.

Illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects

80. To underscore that the issue of illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects requires concerted efforts at the national, regional, and international levels to prevent, combat, and eradicate the illicit manufacturing, international transfer, and circulation of small arms and light weapons, and that their illicit proliferation in many parts of the world has a whole series of humanitarian and socioeconomic consequences and constitutes a grave threat to peace, reconciliation, security, stability and sustainable development at the individual, local, national, regional, and international levels.

81. To urge member states to implement the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects and to underscore the importance of voluntarily presenting national implementation reports every two years.

82. To include the topics of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, and ammunition in the schedule of activities of the CSH for 2017-2018.

83. To request the General Secretariat to promote, through the DDOT of the SMS, the implementation of technical cooperation projects relating to control of small arms and light weapons, the parts and components thereof, ammunition, explosives and other related materials, in order to support and strengthen the national efforts of member states, including the commitments under the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (CIFTA).

84. To request that the General Secretariat, through the DDOT, in coordination with the UNODC, prepare a hemispheric study on the subject of the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons in the Hemisphere, that, taking a joint and shared responsibility approach, will identify threats and challenges, put forward action-oriented recommendations, and consider, among other factors, the strengthening of border controls to prevent and combat illicit arms trafficking, based on the information provided by the member states; and to request that the DDOT report on progress made with the preparation of this study to the CSH in the first quarter of 2018.

Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco)

85. To welcome with satisfaction the fiftieth anniversary of the opening for signature of the Treaty of Tlatelolco marked at the ministerial level in Mexico City, Mexico, on February 14, 2017, at the XXV session of the General Conference of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean.

86. To recognize the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean on the fiftieth anniversary of its entry into force, as demonstrating that the absence of nuclear weapons in the region strengthens security and confidence among the states of the

Hemisphere, sets a clear example for those states that possess such weapons, and contributes to efforts to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons.<sup>19/</sup>

## II. LEGAL INSTRUMENTS

87. To urge member states that have not already done so to give prompt consideration to ratifying or acceding to, as the case may be, the Inter-American Convention to Facilitate Disaster Assistance (IACFDA), the CIFTA, the Inter-American Convention on Transparency in Conventional Weapons Acquisitions (CITAAC), and the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism.

### Inter-American Convention against Terrorism

88. To invite member states that have not already done so to consider acceding to the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism.

89. To call on member states, to the extent not already done so, to advance their efforts to adhere to the commitments made in Article 4 of the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism, to complement the work of the CICTE Secretariat in assisting member states to prevent, combat, and eradicate the financing of terrorism, and for effective international cooperation.

### Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (CIFTA)

90. To invite member states that have not already done so to consider acceding to the CIFTA.

91. To urge member states to strengthen coordination and cooperation mechanisms in order to consolidate effective enforcement of the CIFTA.

92. To promote and strengthen synergies between the United Nations—especially its Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat, and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (UNPoA); the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime; and the Arms Trade Treaty—and the OAS and all the Hemisphere's subregional mechanisms, so as to enable member states to explore more and better possibilities to work together in this area.

93. To underscore that the CIFTA is a regional instrument that could contribute considerably to the fulfillment of the universal commitment to significantly reduce illicit arms flows adopted in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

94. To call on all OAS member states to participate actively in the Fourth Conference of the States Parties to the CIFTA, scheduled for the second half of 2017.

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19. The United States believes that the Treaty of Tlatelolco is an example for all states to follow and serves as a key international model for limiting the risks of nuclear war and strengthening ...

95. To instruct the Technical Secretariat of the CIFTA, in coordination with the UNODC, to complete by the third quarter of 2017 the comparative study of the CIFTA and other binding international instruments on such matters, including the UNPoA and the International Tracing Instrument (ITI), to be presented at the eighteenth regular meeting of the CIFTA Consultative Committee in accordance with the decision adopted at the seventeenth regular meeting of the Consultative Committee.

Inter-American Convention to Facilitate Disaster Assistance (IACFDA)

96. To request the General Secretariat to include this Convention as a topic on the schedule of activities of the CSH for 2017-2018, in order to consider the need to review, update, and strengthen its provisions, especially bearing in mind the increased incidence of major natural disasters since the Convention entered into force in 1996, giving particular attention to the experiences of State Parties to the IACFDA.

97. To request the General Secretariat to promote awareness of the IACFDA among member states that have not yet acceded to the Convention and among permanent observer states.

Inter-American Convention on Transparency in Conventional Weapons Acquisitions (CITAAC)

98. To request States Parties to submit in a timely fashion annual reports and notifications in compliance with their obligations under Articles III and IV of the Inter-American Convention on Transparency in Conventional Weapons Acquisitions (CITAAC), and to identify before July 1 of each year national points of contact to contribute to the preparation of notifications and annual reports.

99. To request the General Secretariat to contact non-member states of the Organization so that they may contribute to the objectives of the CITAAC by providing information annually to the General Secretariat on their exports of conventional weapons to States Parties to the CITAAC, in accordance with Article V thereof.

100. To set March 1, 2018, at the headquarters of the OAS General Secretariat as the date and place of the Second Conference of the States Parties to the Convention, in accordance with Article VIII of the CITAAC and resolution AG/RES. 2809 (XLIII-O/13), and to request that the General Secretariat budget for the above conference and a preparatory meeting and that it support the preparations for and follow-up on said conference.

III. OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE ANNUAL REPORTS  
OF THE ORGANS, AGENCIES, AND ENTITIES OF THE ORGANIZATION  
(ARTICLE 91.F OF THE CHARTER OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES)

Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD)

101. To recognize that in the Americas, the world drug problem has become an increasingly complex, dynamic and multi-causal phenomenon that includes persistent, new and evolving challenges and has adverse effects on health, social cohesion and relations, citizen security,

the integrity of democratic institutions, development, and economic activities in the countries of the region, with political, economic, social and environmental costs.

102. To recognize that the world drug problem requires a comprehensive, balanced and multidisciplinary approach based on scientific knowledge and evidence, and on the principle of common, shared and differentiated responsibility, built on a framework of full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, sovereignty and territorial integrity of states in accordance with the aims and principles of the United Nations Charter, the Organization of American States, international law, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

103. To adopt the Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs 2016-2020, approved by CICAD at its sixtieth regular session, held in Nassau, The Bahamas, on November 2, 2016, reaffirming the commitment to its implementation.

104. Convinced of the value of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) as the only valid hemispheric instrument to measure the progress of drug control efforts of member states in the implementation of the Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs 2016-2020, to welcome the convocation and the ongoing work of the Inter-Governmental Working Group (IWG) to review and update the MEM for the Seventh Round in the priority action areas of institutional strengthening, demand reduction, supply reduction, control measures, and international cooperation, and to encourage all member states to participate actively in this Group, while recognizing the existence of other multilateral mechanisms established to monitor, collect, and exchange information, as a tool to strengthen mutual trust, dialogue, and hemispheric cooperation to address the drug problem.

105. To reaffirm the role that member states and the CICAD Executive Secretariat fulfill in advancing and effectively implementing the operational recommendations contained in the Outcome Document of the 2016 United Nations General Assembly Special Session on the World Drug Problem (UNGASS) and the provisions set out in the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action, and reaffirm the efforts to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to effectively address the world drug problem are complementary and mutually reinforcing.

106. To foster dialogue in CICAD in order to contribute to discussions in the United Nations, to take stock of the implementation of the commitments made to jointly address and counter the world drug problem, particularly in light of the 2019 target date.

107. To adopt the Work Plan of the CICAD Executive Secretariat for 2017, in accordance with the CICAD Statutes and in fulfillment of the Hemispheric Drug Strategy of 2010 and its Plan of Action on Drugs 2016-2020.

108. To instruct the CICAD Executive Secretariat, through its Institutional Strengthening, Demand Reduction, and Supply Reduction units, the MEM, and the Inter-American Observatory on Drugs, to continue offering technical assistance to build capacities in member states to effectively address the world drug problem and to promote multilateral cooperation in the design, implementation, and evaluation of national drug policies.

109. To instruct the General Secretariat to strengthen the CICAD Executive Secretariat, so that it may continue to fulfill its mandates, including, but not limited to, providing member states,



when so requested, with technical assistance to contribute to the development and implementation of scientific knowledge- and evidence-based drug policies, centered on a comprehensive, balanced, and multidisciplinary approach, and to invite member states, permanent observers, and other international donors to continue to make voluntary contributions towards those goals.

Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE)

110. To reaffirm and support the commitments undertaken in the Declaration “Strengthening National Financial Systems through International Cooperation and Information Sharing as a Means to Prevent Terrorism and the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction,” adopted by the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) at its seventeenth regular session, held at OAS headquarters in Washington, D.C., on April 6 and 7, 2017.

111. To express its full support for the establishment of a Working Group on Cooperation and Confidence-Building Measures in Cyberspace within the framework of CICTE and to urge the Secretariat of that Committee to initiate the work of the Working Group at the earliest opportunity. The results agreed upon by the Working Group will be analyzed by CICTE and the CSH.

112. To ensure that the 2018 program-budget of the Organization allocates the CICTE Secretariat with the human and financial resources needed to guarantee continuity in its endeavors, as well as implementation of the mandates, programs and activities contained in the CICTE Work Plan adopted at its seventeenth regular session.

113. To encourage member states, permanent observers, and international organizations to continue supporting the CICTE Secretariat through external funding, so that it may fulfill its functions.

114. To convene the eighteenth regular session of CICTE at OAS headquarters in Washington, D.C., on March 22 and 23, 2018; two one-day preparatory meetings to be held at OAS headquarters on January 30 and March 6, 2018; as well as a meeting, whose date and place will be determined, to promote the exchange of information between national points of contact and the CICTE Secretariat, discuss advances in the implementation of the CICTE Work Plan, and learn about new threats and the needs of the countries in this area.

115. To request the Chair of CICTE to report to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth regular session on the implementation of the mandates contained in the CICTE Work Plan.

Inter-American Defense Board (IADB)<sup>20/21/22/</sup>

116. To request that the IADB, in keeping with its Statutes and the mandates of the OAS, continue providing technical, consultative, and educational advice to the OAS and member states that

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20. Footnote by Bolivia: On June 28, 2016, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, pursuant to Article 4 of the Inter-American Defense Board (IADB), gave notice of its definitive withdrawal from the IADB. ...

21. The Government of Nicaragua is of the view that the historical context that led to the emergence of the IADB is different from the present realities in our states....

22. The Government of Ecuador, in keeping with Article 4, paragraph 4.4 of the Statutes of the Inter-American Defense Board (IADB), gave notice of its definitive withdrawal from the IADB ...

so request, as well as the technical advisory support needed by the Pro Tempore Secretariat of the XII Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas , to be held in Mexico in 2018; and to invite member states that deem it appropriate to provide the IADB with the necessary financial and human resources to support that institution.

117. To request the member states to give consideration to the designation of personnel for inclusion in the activities of IADB Humanitarian Demining Mission.

118. To request that the IADB, within the framework of its Statutes:

- a. conduct a study in 2018 on the evolving role of armed forces, in accordance with national legislation and constitutional provisions, to address emerging multidimensional security challenges and threats;
- b. co-host with appropriate hemispheric and subregional partner organizations of the OAS, a conference in 2018, with a table-top simulation exercise that tests the processes and procedures used by the IACNDR to address a major disaster in the Western Hemisphere and serves to put forward recommendations for strengthening the Inter-American Convention to Facilitate Disaster Assistance;
- c. present recommendations to the CSH for improving the operations, maintenance, and functions of the CITAAC; and
- d. plan, coordinate, and hold a workshop for the CSH in 2018 with the SMS that focuses on the subject of confidence- and security-building measures, taking into account the multidimensional challenges and threats in the Hemisphere.

119. To invite member states to select civilian, military and police candidates to pursue their postgraduate defense and security studies at the Inter-American Defense College—accredited by ACICS (Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools)—and to continue to provide the College with human resources in support of the academic improvements and institutional excellence that have been achieved.

#### IV. FOLLOW-UP AND REPORTING

120. To instruct the SMS to submit, in due course, the work plan of that it will carry out in the 2017-2018 period for consultations or proper oversight by the member states.

121. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth regular session on the implementation of this resolution. Execution of the activities envisaged in this resolution will be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

122. To thank member states, permanent observers and cooperating partners for their important participation and financial contributions, which support the design, implementation and evaluation of the programs and projects in the area of hemispheric security.

## VI. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS<sup>23/</sup>

Provisional sequence	Topic	Estimated Date	Name	Place
1.	MISPA	October 10 and 11, 2017	MISPA VI	San Pedro Sula, Honduras
2.	CSBMs	October 18 and 19, 2017	Workshop on destruction of weapons stockpiles	IADB headquarters, Washington, D.C.
3.	Natural disasters	October 26, 2017	Conference on Natural Disasters	IADB headquarters, Washington, D.C.
4.	CICAD	November 14 and 16, 2017	Sixty-second regular session of CICAD	Mexico City
5.	Trafficking in Persons	Second half of 2017 (to be determined)	Fifth Meeting of National Authorities on Trafficking in Persons	Mexico (to be determined)
6.	CIFTA	Second half of 2017 (to be determined)	Fourth Conference of States Parties to the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and other Related Materials	Mexico (to be determined)
7.	MISPA	Second half of 2017 (to be determined)	First Meeting of Subsidiary Technical Working Group on the Prevention of Crime, Violence, and Insecurity	OAS headquarters, Washington, D.C.
8.	Security implications of climate change	Second half of 2017 (to be determined)	Joint meeting of the Permanent Council and the Committee on Hemispheric Security on "Security implications of climate change"	OAS headquarters Washington, D.C.
9.	CICTE	March 22 and 23, 2018	Eighteenth regular session of CICTE	OAS headquarters, Washington, D.C.

23. Provisional list of meetings.

Provisional sequence	Topic	Estimated Date	Name	Place
10.	Special Security Concerns of the Small Island States of the Caribbean	First half 2018 (to be determined)	CSH Meeting on Special Security Concerns of the Small Island States of the Caribbean	OAS headquarters Washington, D.C.
11.	Protection of critical infrastructure in the event of natural disasters	First half 2018 (to be determined)	Meeting of Experts on Protection of Critical Infrastructure in the Event of Natural Disasters	OAS headquarters Washington, D.C.
12.	CSBMs	First half 2018 (to be determined)	CSBMs workshop including multidimensional challenges and threats	IADB headquarters, Washington, D.C.
13.	Natural disasters	First half 2018 (to be determined)	Workshop with simulation exercise on IACNDR natural disaster response procedures	IADB headquarters, Washington, D.C.
14.	Emerging threats	First half 2018 (to be determined)	Seminar on armed forces participation in addressing emerging threats	IADB headquarters, Washington, D.C.
15.	CDMA	First half 2018 (to be determined)	Preparatory Conference for the CDMA	Mexico City

## FOOTNOTES

1. .... It is still within the denunciation period established in Article 123 of the OAS Charter.
2. ... Security Building Measures. Meetings scheduled for the second half of 2017: Fifth Meeting of National Authorities on Trafficking in Persons and Sixth Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Public Security in the Americas (MISPA VI).
3. ... The U.S. is developing its policy on climate change.
4. ... of this instrument, Nicaragua demanded – and still demands – a realistic and genuinely responsible proposal with clear and substantive approaches, establishing “shared but differentiated responsibilities,” demanding strict commitments from the heaviest polluters to reducing emissions, with funding for adaptation and/or mitigation as compensation for those most affected and those most vulnerable, among them Central America and the Caribbean.

We call upon our developed sister countries to be more committed to mitigating the effects of climate change for the benefit of future generations, Mother Earth, and life itself. Nicaragua will continue to pursue the set of policies that have helped us to transform the energy mix and reduce dependence on fossil fuels, based on our alternative sources of energy. We reaffirm our inalienable prerogative to defend Mother Earth, the planet, and life with consistent policies and practices.

6. ... including correspondent banking, should be addressed by the existing and ongoing dialogues in the appropriate fora such as the Financial Action Task Force, the Financial Stability Board’s Correspondent Banking Coordination Group, and the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision. The United States notes that there is a lack of evidence to indicate that changes in access to correspondent banking relationships have had an impact on global financial stability and economic performance. The United States also acknowledges the importance of continuing to monitor the situation with our Caribbean partners, in particular through the ongoing collection of better data regarding changes in access to international banking systems.

8. ...exceed the authority of the Conference as a policy forum whose exclusive purpose is to promote the sharing of ideas and experiences on defense and security issues. The CDMA was not established to coordinate specialized hemispheric military conferences or to develop operating mechanisms.

Nicaragua also used that occasion to enter its reservation to the amendments to the CDMA Regulations, due to the fact that established procedures to adopt it were not complied with and their contents are contrary to the nature of this policy-making forum. We place on record our concern regarding the risks involved in reforming the CDMA, which would affect the processes of stability and dialogue being fostered by the Heads of State and Government at the various international policy forums in the interests of peace, security, institutions, and development for citizens.

The Government of Nicaragua reaffirms its commitment to peace, security, respect for the sovereignty of states, and noninterference in their domestic affairs, and supports the mechanisms for dialogue and consensus in the interests of stability in the Hemisphere.

11. ... appropriate organs are the only ones that can set mandates. Therefore, the agreement with AMERIPOL does not constitute a mandate for member states.

12. ... as not being “universal, genuine and non-discriminatory.” These treaties continue to serve as the cornerstones for disarmament and non-proliferation progress and are open to adherence by all states.

While the revised text recognizes “common interests in the implementation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and other arms-related agreements,” it puts too much emphasis on their shortcomings, rather than their strengths.

13. ... nuclear weapons by working through practical steps and negotiating on the basis of consensus. As in the past, any future disarmament steps must take account of the broader international security environment. A negotiation to ban these weapons without addressing the security concerns that continue to make nuclear deterrence necessary will not result in the elimination of a single nuclear weapon and will not enhance any country’s security.

14. ... or area of specialty. It is up to each member state of the Organization of American States to define its responses to the security challenges posed by climate change.

15. ... (which includes humanitarian demining) since 1993. The United States will continue to support OAS efforts to eliminate the humanitarian threat of all remaining landmines and declare countries “mine-impact-free.” In September 2014, the United States announced that it would align its activities outside the Korean Peninsula with key requirements of the Ottawa Convention. This means the United States will:

- not use anti-personnel landmines (APL) outside the Korean Peninsula;
- not assist, encourage, or induce anyone outside the Korean Peninsula to engage in activity prohibited by the Ottawa Convention; and
- undertake to destroy APL stockpiles not required for the defense of the Korean Peninsula.

16. ... the surrounding maritime spaces, which is acknowledged by the United Nations and the Organization of American States, the Argentine Republic is *de facto* prevented from accessing the antipersonnel mines deployed on the Malvinas Islands so that it might comply with the commitments undertaken in the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction.

17. ... It agrees that such measures need to be consistent with geographic, political, social, cultural, economic, and technological conditions and realities. In that sense, it is broadly in favor of a confidence-building measure geared towards the exchange of information related to adopting and/or adapting provisions under domestic laws that govern processes for obtaining data and information, and the exchange of experiences involving government regarding prevention, management of and protection against cyber threats. The participation of service providers and end-users under this measure should be voluntary and should not entail any obligation for States.

19. ... regional nuclear nonproliferation. In light of the increasing threat posed by the DPRK’s unlawful pursuit of nuclear weapons, the Treaty serves as an ever more cogent and well-established example for other regions to follow.

20. ...Hence it cannot be party to any commitment or mandate established in relation to that body.

21. ... Nicaragua does not agree that the IADB should intervene in matters of a military or other nature that might undermine the sovereignty, independence, institutional system, and legal order of any country.

22. ... on February 20, 2014, and in keeping with the established procedure, ceased its membership on the Board on February 20, 2015. Hence, Ecuador cannot be part of any consensus reached or commitment assumed by the states on these matters.

AG/RES. 2908 (XLVII-O/17)

PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS <sup>1/2/3/</sup>

(Adopted at the third plenary session, held on June 21, 2017)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the “Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly June 2016-June 2017” (AG/doc.5565/17 add. 1), in particular the section on the activities of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP);

CONSIDERING that the programs, activities, and tasks set out in the resolutions within the purview of the CAJP help to further the essential purposes of the Organization enshrined in the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS);

REAFFIRMING the norms and principles of international law and those contained in the Charter of the OAS, international human rights law, and international humanitarian law, as well as the rights enshrined in the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, the American Convention on Human Rights, and other binding inter-American instruments on this subject, as well as the important role played by the organs of the inter-American human rights system in promoting and protecting human rights in the Americas; and

RECALLING declarations AG/DEC. 71 (XLIII-O/13) and AG/DEC. 89 (XLVI-O/16); resolutions AG/RES. 2887 (XLVI-O/16) and AG/RES. 2888 (XLVI-O/16); as well as all previous resolutions adopted on this topic,

i. Human rights defenders

HIGHLIGHTING the commitment of the member states of the OAS to promote, respect and ensure the rights of everyone, including on-line, among them the human right to promote and strive for the protection and realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms at the national and international levels,

RESOLVES:

1. To reiterate its support for the work carried out at the national and regional levels by human rights defenders and to recognize the important and legitimate work carried out by individuals, groups and communities that engage in nonviolent protest; express their opinions; publicly denounce abuses and violations of human rights; provide rights education; seek justice,

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1. Guatemala reaffirms that it has the sovereign right to enforce its Constitution and its domestic laws, taking into account its priorities and development plans, and in a way that is compatible ...
  2. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela does not agree to any commitment or mandate issued in this resolution as it did not participate in the negotiation of said resolution ...
  3. Trinidad and Tobago is unable to join the consensus on this document, as some areas are contrary to the laws of the Republic. Trinidad and Tobago remains firmly committed to the promotion and ...

truth, reparation, and nonrepetition in response to human rights violations; or exercise other activities to promote human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as their contribution, *inter alia*, to the promotion and protection of, and respect for, human rights and fundamental freedoms in the Hemisphere.

2. To express strong condemnation of actions that prevent or hinder, whether directly or indirectly, the work of human rights defenders in the Americas.

3. To urge member states to strengthen the guarantees that enable human rights defenders to do their work intensify efforts to adopt necessary measures to safeguard the lives, freedom, and personal safety of human rights defenders and their families, and combat impunity for attacks—including on-line—against human rights defenders, in order to create a climate conducive to the protection of rights and fundamental freedoms.

4. To urge member states to promote and ensure the full and safe participation of human rights defenders as potential strategic allies who can contribute deep, critical analyses of human rights issues in the region, and to meet their needs, in particular those of women, who have historically promoted the defense and full exercise of their rights in conditions of equality and non-discrimination.

5. To encourage member states, the international community, and human rights defenders to support the creation of opportunities for dialogue and cooperation, as appropriate, in order to continue working to promote and safeguard efforts toward human rights protection in the region, sharing experiences, as well as advances made by, and challenges to, institutions in this area.

ii. Right to freedom of thought and expression and the safety of journalists and media workers

CONSIDERING that the exercise of the right to freedom of opinion and expression is one of the cornerstones of a democratic society; is enabled by a democratic environment which, *inter alia*, offers guarantees for its protection; is essential for full and effective participation in a free and democratic society; and is pivotal in the development and strengthening of effective democratic systems;

CONSIDERING ALSO that the effective exercise of the right to freedom of opinion and expression is an important indicator of the level of protection of other human rights and freedoms, bearing in mind that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent, and inter-related;

RECOGNIZING the importance of the work being done by the Special Rapporteurship for Freedom of Expression of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) on the safety of journalists and on combating impunity during its 20 years of existence;

CONSIDERING that journalism is the primary and principal manifestation of freedom of thought and expression and, for that reason, cannot be considered simply the provision of a service to the public that applies knowledge or training acquired at university. On the contrary, what journalists do is devote themselves professionally to social communication. Thus, the practice of journalism requires a person's responsible involvement in activities that are defined or encompassed by the freedom of expression guaranteed in the American Convention on Human Rights; and



RECOGNIZING that the work done by journalists, especially those who investigate and report on human rights violations, organized crime, corruption, and other serious wrongdoings, exposes them to being victims of acts of aggression and other violence detrimental to their integrity, the existence of which deters them from doing their work and, therefore, deprives society of information of public interest; and expressing concern at the particular risks faced by women who practice journalism, who, in addition, are victims of discrimination, harassment, and sexual violence, including on line,

RESOLVES:

1. To condemn murders, acts of aggression, and other violence against journalists and media workers, given that such acts are an assault, not only on the lives, safety, and freedom of expression of the victims, but also on the right of everyone to receive information of public interest.

2. To reaffirm that journalism must be practiced free of threats, physical or psychological aggression, or other acts of intimidation, and to urge member states to implement comprehensive measures for prevention, protection, investigation and punishment of those responsible, as well as to put into action strategies to end impunity for crimes against journalists and share good practices, such as, *inter alia*, (i) creation of independent specialized prosecution units; (ii) adoption of specific investigation and prosecution protocols and methods; and (iii) provision of continuous training for members of the judiciary on freedom of expression and the safety of journalists.

3. To reaffirm that all journalists have the right to receive, seek, and impart information without any discrimination for reasons of race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinions, national or social origin, economic status, birth, or any other social condition.

4. To recommend that the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) and its Special Rapporteurship for Freedom of Expression continue to devote particular attention to activities concerning the safety of journalists and combating impunity for crimes committed against them, including holding workshops and meetings with academia, as well as the preparation of studies and reports on the subject; and to encourage member states to consider supporting the work of the IACHR and its Special Rapporteurship in that regard.

iii. Prevention and reduction of statelessness and protection of stateless persons in the Americas

CONSIDERING that statelessness, in all its forms, is a violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms and a serious humanitarian problem at the global level, and underlining the importance of the right of all persons to nationality, as recognized in Article XIX of the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man and in Article 20 of the American Convention on Human Rights, as well as the importance of promoting accession to the 1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness; and

CONSIDERING ALSO the crucial role played by states in preventing and eradicating cases of stateless persons in the region and the world,

RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm its commitment to eradicating statelessness in the Americas and to invite member states to continue to move forward with implementing the actions proposed in the Global Action Plan to End Statelessness: 2014-2024 and in the Brazil Plan of Action of 2014, and to support the global #Ibelong Campaign to eliminate statelessness by 2024 led by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

2. To underscore the importance of the conventions on statelessness, to urge member states that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to them; and to urge all member states to establish fair and efficient procedures deemed appropriate for determining statelessness, grant facilities for the naturalization of stateless persons, as applicable, and consider including that authority in the powers of the national committees for refugees (CONAREs) or equivalent technical bodies, in accordance with each country's domestic law.

3. To urge member states that have not yet done so to eliminate discrimination against women from the legal framework pertaining to nationality, include appropriate safeguards to prevent cases of statelessness, promote civil registry, and duly resolve existing cases of statelessness in line with their international obligations relating to human rights and statelessness, taking into account the specific needs of groups in vulnerable situations that are targets of discrimination or that have traditionally been discriminated against.

4. To recommend that member states consider the possibility of including, in their domestic laws, fair and efficient procedures for determining statelessness, in keeping with the applicable international instruments, in order to deal with those cases through an approach based on human rights that allows such persons access to a nationality, in accordance with the domestic law of each member state.

iv. Protection of refugees and asylum seekers in the Americas<sup>4/</sup>

EMPHASIZING that the commemoration in 2014 of the thirtieth anniversary of the 1984 Cartagena Declaration on Refugees (Cartagena 30) has identified new demands and challenges in international protection for refugees, displaced, and stateless persons in the Americas, through active participation by the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in collaboration with international agencies, civil society organizations, and other social actors;

UNDERSCORING the importance of the Brazil Declaration "A Framework for Cooperation and Regional Solidarity to Strengthen the International Protection of Refugees, Displaced and Stateless Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean" and the Brazil Plan of Action "A Common Roadmap to Strengthen Protection and Promote Sustainable Solutions for Refugees, Displaced and Stateless Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean within a Framework of Cooperation and Solidarity," which were adopted on December 3, 2014, as the new strategic framework for protection of refugees, asylum seekers, displaced and stateless persons;

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4. The United States understands the resolution's reaffirmation of prior documents to apply to those who affirmed them initially.

UNDERSCORING ALSO the importance of the commitments adopted globally by States in the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, including participation in the development of the Global Compact on Refugees, which will conclude at the High-Level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on the subject, to be held in September 2018, that should reflect the positions and interests of the community with respect to refugees;

NOTING the contributions of Advisory Opinion OC-21/14 issued by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights on August 19, 2014, as regards the commitment of states to adopt regulations and guidelines to ensure the rights of refugee children in the region; and

CONSIDERING the convergence of international human rights law, international refugee law, and international humanitarian law, as well as the essential role of states in preventing situations in which human rights are undermined and can cause future cases of displaced persons and refugees,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge all states to continue to defend and observe the international principles on protection of refugees and asylum seekers, in particular the principle of *nonrefoulement* as well as promoting shared responsibility and international cooperation among member states.<sup>5/</sup>

2. To recognize and reaffirm the full effect and fundamental importance of the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol as the principal instruments for refugee protection, and, where applicable, of the Declaration of Cartagena of 1984, and to reaffirm the commitment of the states parties to those instruments to fully and effectively implement the obligations contained therein, in accordance with their objective and purpose.

3. To urge the countries that adopted the Brazil Declaration “A Framework for Cooperation and Regional Solidarity to Strengthen the International Protection of Refugees, Displaced and Stateless Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean,” at Brasilia on December 3, 2014, as a new strategic framework for meeting the protection needs of refugees, displaced, and stateless persons, to take an active part in the triennial evaluation of the Brazil Action Plan, pursue their thematic programs over the next decade on a footing of regional solidarity and cooperation, as well as shared responsibility, and continue facilitating exchanges of best practices among the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, with the support of the international community and the UNHCR.

4. To invite states to demonstrate their solidarity with those countries that receive the largest numbers of, or register a significant increase in, refugees in the region through, *inter alia*, resettlement measures, as part of a lasting solution.

v. Strengthening the Follow-up Mechanism for Implementation of the Protocol of San Salvador

HIGHLIGHTING that, to date, 16 member states of the OAS have ratified the Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the Area of Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, (Protocol of San Salvador), Article 19 of which provides that the States Parties shall

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5. For Colombia, the concept of shared responsibility does not imply additional obligations for states of origin and should be interpreted based on principles of solidarity and international cooperation.

undertake to submit periodic reports on the progressive measures they have taken to ensure due respect for the rights set forth in the Protocol, and that the corresponding rules were established by resolution AG/RES. 2074 (XXXV-O/05) and other subsequent resolutions; and

MINDFUL that by resolution AG/RES. 2823 (XLIV-O/14) and subsequent resolutions, the Technical Secretariat of the Working Group to Examine the Periodic Reports of the States Parties to the Protocol of San Salvador was requested to review all existing regulations concerning the composition, designation, and rotation of the members of the Working Group and the length of their terms of office and, as necessary, to submit to the General Assembly any relevant adjustments and clarifications to ensure the Group's correct operation in its review of the reports; and that the Regulations and Rules of Procedure of the Working Group (CP/CAJP/INF. 186/13) provide that if new members of the Working Group have not been elected to replace those completing their term of office, the latter shall continue to serve until the new members are elected,

RESOLVES:

1. To commend the commitment and efforts of the States Parties that met the deadlines for the presentation of national reports, and to request the States Parties that have not yet done so to submit promptly the reports covering both groups of rights; and, in addition, to applaud the work of the Working Group to Examine the Periodic Reports of the States Parties to the Protocol of San Salvador, which to date has concluded the evaluation process for eight States Parties.

2. To invite member states to consider signing, ratifying, or acceding to, as applicable, the Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the Area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Protocol of San Salvador) and to invite member states and permanent observer states, as well as individuals or public or private institutions, whether national or international, as defined in Article 74 of the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat and other provisions of the Organization of American States, to contribute to the Specific Fund for the Working Group to Examine the Periodic Reports of the States Parties to the Protocol of San Salvador.

3. To update the document "Composition and Functioning of the Working Group to Examine the National Reports Envisioned in the Protocol of San Salvador," adopted by resolution AG/RES. 2262 (XXXVII-O/07), in order to ensure an orderly process that will guarantee the correct operation of the Working Group. This update shall be conducted on the basis of the alternatives assessed by the Working Group at the meeting held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in May 2017, on the composition, designation, and rotation of the members of the Working Group and the length of their terms of office. The document shall be updated by the CAJP for adoption by the Permanent Council in the second half of 2017.

vi. Autonomous official public defenders as a guarantee of access to justice for vulnerable groups

RECALLING the Brasilia Rules regarding Access to Justice for Vulnerable Persons adopted by the XIV Ibero-American Judicial Summit in March 2008, which systematize principles and standards in the area of human rights in order to ensure access to justice for vulnerable groups; and the results of the XVIII Ibero-American Judicial Summit, held in Asunción, Paraguay, in April 2016,

which contributed to the strengthening of judicial coordination and cooperation as an indispensable element for guaranteeing access to justice for all persons, especially those in vulnerable circumstances; and

TAKING NOTE of the Principles and Guidelines on Public Defense in the Americas, unanimously adopted by the Inter-American Juridical Committee (CJI) in resolution CJI/RES. 226 (LXXXIX-O/16) at its 89th regular session, held in Rio de Janeiro, on October 16, 2016,

RESOLVES:

1. To encourage member states and official public defender institutions in the Americas to pursue, in their day-to-day activities and as autonomous bodies, as appropriate, best practices to implement tools, including the Brasilia Rules regarding Access to Justice for Vulnerable Persons, with a view to working to remove existing barriers to access to justice and enjoyment of rights for vulnerable persons.

2. To encourage member states and official public defender institutions to seek absolute respect for the work of public defenders in the exercise of their functions, free from interference and undue controls from the other powers of the state, as a means to ensure the right of access to justice for all persons, especially those in vulnerable situations.

3. To take note of the Principles and Guidelines on Public Defense in the Americas, unanimously adopted by the Inter-American Juridical Committee in resolution CJI/RES. 226 (LXXXIX-O/16), which systematize and reinforce central concepts of the resolutions on public defense adopted by this General Assembly session, and to request the Department of International Law to disseminate them broadly.

4. To encourage member states and official public defender institutions in the Americas to ensure effective and equal access to justice for women, without discrimination of any kind.

vii. Follow-up to the Inter-American Program for Universal Civil Registry and the “Right to Identity”

CONSIDERING that recognition of the identity of persons facilitates the enjoyment of human rights, including the right to nationality, which is enshrined in international instruments such as the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man and the American Convention on Human Rights, and understanding that the exercise of these rights is essential for the consolidation of any democratic society,

RESOLVES:

1. To express satisfaction with the outcomes of the First Meeting of Ministers and National Authorities in the Americas on the Right to Identity and of the XIII Meeting of the Latin American and Caribbean Council for Civil Registration, Identity, and Vital Statistics (CLARCIEV); to thank the Government of Mexico for the successful organization of those meetings; and to endorse the ministerial declaration signed in Mexico City on September 29, 2016.

2. To instruct the General Secretariat, through its Universal Civil Identity Program in the Americas (PUICA), to continue providing member states that so request with the necessary assistance for improving their civil registry systems and bringing about their universal coverage.

3. To recommend that member states consider making the necessary adjustments to ensure full respect for human rights in relation to identity, including nationality, name, and family members, as established in international human rights instruments, including the American Convention on Human Rights, without discrimination of any kind or interference.

viii. Rights of Persons Deprived of Liberty

RECOGNIZING the commitment of the member states to respect, ensure, and protect the human rights of persons deprived of liberty, as established in international instruments and human rights treaties on the subject, and taking into account the reports published by the IACHR on the human rights of persons deprived of liberty,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge member states to continue to comply with their international obligations to respect, ensure, and protect the human rights of persons deprived of liberty, with a gender perspective sensitive to the varied needs of different groups, paying particular attention to the situation of vulnerable groups and of persons sentenced to death, consistent with the existing domestic laws.

2. To urge member states to consider adjusting their regulatory, legal, institutional, and public-policy frameworks in order to ensure that conditions of detention abide by the principle of human dignity, applying a gender perspective and other approaches addressing the circumstances of groups in situations of vulnerability, and to consider incorporating noncustodial alternatives or substitutes whose application takes into account international instruments adopted on such matters, the principle of presumption of innocence, proportionality of punishment, and social reintegration; and to encourage them to take the necessary steps to prevent torture in detention facilities.

3. To encourage member states, the IACHR, and its Rapporteurship on the Rights of Persons Deprived of Liberty to continue the dialogue on best practices with respect to prison and penitentiary policies, placing particular emphasis on strategies and actions to ensure respect, guarantees, and protection for the human rights of persons deprived of liberty.

4. To encourage countries to cooperate with the efforts carried out by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) within its sphere of competence, in order to contribute to national and regional initiatives and address the needs of persons deprived of liberty in the various countries where the ICRC operates.

ix. Promotion and protection of human rights in business

UNDERSCORING that the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development promotes development based on responsible corporate behavior and makes reference to the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, among other initiatives;

RECOGNIZING that companies have the capacity to contribute to economic wellbeing, development, technological progress, and wealth, as well as the responsibility to respect human rights and promote gender equality and equity and economic empowerment for women, among other issues;

CONSIDERING the importance of continuing progress in the area of business and human rights in the Hemisphere through constructive dialogue among all actors involved, whether from the public sector, private sector, or civil society; and

TAKING NOTE of the reports prepared on this subject by the CJI and the IACHR, together with the resolutions on the matter adopted by the General Assembly of the OAS, including resolution AG/RES. 2887 (XLVI-O/16), which requested the IACHR to conduct a study on inter-American standards on business and human rights based on an analysis of conventions, case law, and reports put forth by the inter-American system, contingent on the necessary financial resources being identified,

RESOLVES:

To renew the request to the IACHR to conduct a study on inter-American standards on business and human rights based on an analysis of conventions, case law, and reports put forth by the inter-American system, which could be an input for the efforts of member states in the context of their national initiatives in the area of business and human rights.

- x. Support for the Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities and Follow-up to the Program of Action for the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities

BEARING IN MIND the commitments undertaken by the member states with respect to promoting the rights of persons with disabilities in the Americas, reflected, *inter alia*, in the Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (CIADDIS) and the Program of Action for the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities (PAD), as well as the need to revise and update the contents of that program in keeping with the change of paradigm from a medical care model to a social model in which persons with disabilities are recognized as holders of rights within a framework of full respect for human diversity,

RESOLVES:

1. To encourage OAS member states that are not parties to the CIADDIS to accede to and ratify that convention with a view to stepping up regional efforts with regard to the inclusion of persons with disabilities and, likewise, to reiterate the importance of making voluntary contributions to the Specific Fund for the Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (CEDDIS) [CP/RES. 947 (1683/09)] established to supplement funding for the activities of CEDDIS and its Technical Secretariat, as well as to encourage the States Parties to make every effort to implement the recommendations put forward by CEDDIS in its evaluations, for each sphere of activity, of national reports on implementation of the CIADDIS-PAD.

2. To instruct CEDDIS to form a joint working group composed of its members and of experts from civil society organizations of and for persons with disabilities and other social actors in the region, with a view to formulating a proposal for improving and updating the contents of the PAD, to be presented for consideration by the General Assembly at its forty-eighth regular session.

3. To urge that working group, in updating the PAD, to consider including the following spheres of action: recognition of the right of persons with disabilities to exercise their legal capacity and their access to justice; the right to personal autonomy and an independent life; sexual and reproductive health of persons with disabilities; priority attention to persons with disabilities in risk management and disaster prevention; the right to inclusive and accessible education; and a life free from violence, among other issues, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

4. To recognize the work of the Department of Social Inclusion of the General Secretariat in its capacity as the Technical Secretariat of CEDDIS, and to instruct it, in coordination with the member states, to continue disseminating and promoting the rights of persons with disabilities and their full participation in all spheres of society; and to reiterate the request to the General Secretariat to make the greatest possible efforts to mainstream a perspective of inclusion for persons with disabilities, with a rights-based approach.

xi. Plan of Action for the Decade for People of African Descent in the Americas (2016-2025)

TAKING NOTE WITH SATISFACTION of the adoption of the Plan of Action for the Decade for People of African Descent in the Americas (2016-2025) by resolution AG/RES. 2891 (XLVI-O/16);

BEARING IN MIND that the Inter-American Democratic Charter proclaims that respect for ethnic, cultural, and religious diversity in the Americas contributes to strengthening democracy and citizen participation, and that the Social Charter of the Americas provides that “[m]ember states recognize the contributions of indigenous peoples, afro-descendants, and migrant communities to the historical process of the Hemisphere and will promote recognition of their value”; and

REAFFIRMING the steadfast commitment of the member states to confront, through various mechanisms, the scourge of racism, discrimination, and intolerance in their societies as a problem that affects society in general, and that all of its individual, structural, and institutional manifestations must be fought,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge OAS member states to adopt all measures needed at the national level to implement the Plan of Action for the Decade for People of African Descent in the Americas (2016-2025).

2. To urge member states and permanent observers to provide the OAS with the human and financial resources needed to implement the Plan of Action for the Decade for People of African Descent in the Americas (2016-2025).



3. To instruct all the secretariats, executive secretariats, and institutions of the OAS to make every effort to disseminate and implement the Plan of Action for the Decade for People of African Descent in the Americas (2016-2025).

xii. Human rights, sexual orientation, and gender identity and expression<sup>6/7/8/9/10/11/12/</sup>

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) persons are subject to various forms of violence and discrimination based on the perception of their sexual orientation and gender identity or gender expression; recognizing that many challenges remain regarding the promotion and protection of the human rights of LGBTI persons; and taking into consideration the important work carried out by the IACHR Rapporteurship on the matter,

RESOLVES:

1. To condemn all forms of discrimination and acts of violence on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity or expression; to urge member states within the parameters of the legal institutions of their domestic systems to eliminate, where they exist, barriers faced by lesbian, gays, bisexual, trans, and intersex (LGBTI) persons to equal access to political participation and other areas of public life, and to avoid interferences in their private life; and to encourage member states to consider adopting public policies against discrimination and violence by reason of sexual orientation and gender identity or expression.

2. To condemn acts of violence and human rights violations committed by reason of sexual orientation and gender identity or expression; to urge member states to strengthen their national institutions, including through the production of data on homophobic and transphobic violence for the promotion of public policies that protect the human rights of LGBTI persons, with a view to preventing and investigating acts of violence and ensuring due judicial protection for victims on an equal footing and that the perpetrators are brought to justice; in addition, to consider the recommendations contained in the report “Violence against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Persons in the Americas” adopted by the IACHR in November 2015, with the aim of adopting and implementing effective measures to combat violence and discrimination against LGBTI persons.

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6. The Republic of Paraguay reiterates its commitment toward the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international conventions signed on the topic, ...
  7. The State of Guatemala declares that it promotes and defends all human rights. With respect to the provisions of this section, it reaffirms the equality of all human beings under the provisions of ...
  8. The Government of Suriname remains committed to promoting and defending all human rights for all and, based on the principle of equality by which all who are ...
  9. The Government of Jamaica is fully committed to protecting the human rights of all its citizens including from any form of violence in accordance with the rule of law ...
  10. Saint Lucia is unable to agree to this section. Most of the terms are not defined under international agreements and resolutions to which Saint Lucia is committed. ...
  11. The Government of Barbados is unable to join consensus on the approval of this section given that a number of the issues and terms contained in the resolution are neither reflected ...
  12. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is unable to join consensus on the approval of this resolution. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines promotes and defends human rights, and reaffirms ...

3. To urge member states to ensure adequate protection for human rights defenders who work in the area of violence, discrimination, and human rights violations committed against individuals on the basis of their sexual orientation and gender identity or expression.

4. To urge member states to afford appropriate protection to intersex people and to implement policies and procedures, as appropriate, to ensure medical practices that are consistent with applicable human rights standards.

5. To request the IACHR and the General Secretariat to continue to pay particular attention to activities related to protection and promotion of the rights of LGBTI persons, including the preparation of studies and regional or thematic reports and the generation of spaces for exchanges of good practices; and to urge member states to support the efforts of the Commission and the General Secretariat in that connection.

xiii. Observations and recommendations on the Annual Report of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights<sup>13/</sup>

RECOGNIZING the work of the IACHR in fulfilling its function of promoting observance and protection of human rights and as an advisory body in this area, particularly as regards the development of human rights protection standards on such issues as equality and nondiscrimination through its thematic, country, and individual case reports; conducting observation and working visits; implementing innovative mechanisms to provide technical advice and promote justice in member states; underlining also its progress in updating the individual cases and petitions system in order to facilitate access to justice for victims of human rights violations, promoting the use of its friendly settlement mechanism, organizing human rights promotion and training activities, and holding public hearings as an inter-American forum for human rights in the region;

RECOGNIZING ALSO the adoption by the IACHR, following extensive consultations, of the 2017-2021 Strategic Plan, which contains five strategic objectives and 21 programs aimed at fulfilling its mission and addressing current and future challenges in promoting and protecting human rights in the Hemisphere;

REITERATING the importance that all OAS member states ratify or adhere to, as appropriate, the inter-American conventions and protocols on human rights, particularly the American Convention on Human Rights; and

CONSIDERING that compliance with the decisions of the organs of the inter-American human rights system is a factor in ensuring the full effect and observance of human rights in OAS member states and in contributing to the consolidation of that system's legitimacy,

RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm member states' commitment to the IACHR.

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13. The Government of Nicaragua considers unacceptable the double standard of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in maintaining Chapter IV.B of its Annual Report. ...

2. To urge the member states that have not yet done so to sign, ratify, or accede to, as soon as possible and as applicable, all universal and inter-American human rights instruments, particularly the American Convention on Human Rights.

3. To reaffirm its commitment to attaining full financing of the IACHR through the Regular Fund of the Organization of American States, without prejudice to the financing of the other mandates of the Organization. Until that commitment is fulfilled, to invite member states, observer states, and other institutions to continue making voluntary contributions. In this context, member states are encouraged to evaluate the possibility of continuing to invite the Commission to make observation and working visits and to hold special sessions in the member states. Also to encourage the IACHR to continue submitting the financial and resources report that is customarily included in its annual report.

xiv. Observations and recommendations on the Annual Report of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights

RECOGNIZING that the Inter-American Court of Human Rights is the region's only human rights tribunal and that compliance with its judgments is mandatory for states recognizing its jurisdiction;

UNDERSCORING the importance of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in the effective promotion and protection of human rights in the Hemisphere, through the performance of its adjudicatory and advisory functions; and

RECOGNIZING the importance of continuing to extend invitations for the Inter-American Court of Human Rights to hold sessions away from its seat as an important initiative to raise awareness of, and promote, human rights; and the constructive nature of hearings to monitor compliance with its judgments,

RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm the essential value of the work, jurisprudence, and advisory opinions of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights for the effective exercise and observance of human rights in the Hemisphere and for the rule of law, to underscore its work in monitoring compliance with judgments, and to urge states to comply with its judgments.

2. To encourage member states to continue extending invitations to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights for it to meet away from its headquarters, insofar as it is an important mechanism for disseminating the inter-American system for protection of human rights in the region.

3. To reaffirm its commitment to attaining full financing of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights through the Regular Fund of the OAS, without prejudice to the financing of the other mandates of the Organization. Until that commitment is fulfilled, to invite member states, observer countries, and other institutions to continue making voluntary contributions, within their capabilities, to the Inter-American Court. Member states and other institutions are also invited to continue to make contributions, within their capabilities, to the Victims' Legal Assistance Fund.

xv. Gender equity and balanced geographic and legal-system representation on the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights

UNDERSCORING the importance that the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the IACHR be composed of impartial, independent individuals of recognized competence in the field of human rights, in keeping with the principles of nondiscrimination, gender equality and equity, and geographic representation, so that they can continue to carry out their mandates properly; and

CONSIDERING that a gender-balanced composition, and balanced geographic and legal-system representation on the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the IACHR will result in sound treatment for the prevention, promotion, protection, and guarantee of regional human rights issues and problems, with special attention to areas for which the IACHR has rapporteurships, among others,

RESOLVES:

1. To encourage states, in selecting judges of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and commissioners of the IACHR, to nominate and elect persons who would ensure a membership that offers balance in terms of gender and representation of the different regions, population groups, and legal systems of the Hemisphere, while guaranteeing the requirements of independence, impartiality, and recognized competence in the field of human rights.

2. To instruct the Permanent Council to invite the candidates proposed by member states for the position of judge on the Inter-American Court of Human Rights or commissioner on the IACHR to deliver a public presentation to the Council prior to the elections, if possible, in order to describe in greater detail their vision, proposals, and initiatives that they would undertake if elected. Such presentations will be made, if possible, at the same meeting of the Council and be disseminated as widely as possible.

3. To instruct the CAJP to include in its 2017-2018 work program follow-up of application of the principles of nondiscrimination, gender equity and equality, and geographic representation in the election of commissioners of the IACHR and judges of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, and to report to the Permanent Council thereon.

xvi. Financing of the organs of the inter-American human rights system from the program-budget of the Organization for 2018

CONSIDERING:

That at its forty-sixth regular session, through resolution AG/RES. 2887 (XLVI-O/16), the OAS General Assembly underscored the importance of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights for the effective protection of human rights and recognized the work of the IACHR in fulfilling its function of promoting observance and defense of human rights, while reaffirming the commitment to achieve full funding for both organs from the OAS Regular Fund;

That, at the fifty-first special session of the General Assembly, the delegations of Mexico and Argentina each presented proposals aimed at increasing funding for the inter-American human rights system, in order to enable it to function appropriately and effectively;

That, at its fifty-first special session, the General Assembly reiterated, through resolution AG/RES. 2 (LI-E/16) rev. 4, “Program-Budget of the Organization for 2017,” that the member states are committed to continuing to seek solutions to attain full financing of the organs of the inter-American human rights system through the OAS Regular Fund, including an assessment as to whether to reallocate funds from the Regular Fund and an analysis of different funding options for ensuring the medium- and long-term sustainability of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights; and

That, likewise, resolution AG/RES. 2 (LI-E/16) rev. 4, “Program-Budget of the Organization for 2017,” instructed the General Secretariat and the Permanent Council to review funding arrangements to support the organs of the inter-American human rights system when budgetary issues arise that jeopardize their ability to carry out their activities and fulfill their functions,

RESOLVES:

1. To request the CAAP, considering the existing resources, to double the amount of Regular Fund resources earmarked for the organs of the inter-American human rights system—IACHR and Inter-American Court of Human Rights—over a three-year period.

2. That the options for doubling the budget allocation for the organs of the inter-American human rights system shall not entail an increase in the member states’ quotas for the regular budget of the OAS and shall be based on a clear and detailed plan of activities outlining the capacity of the Commission and the Court to absorb an increase in financing and to achieve expected results. That the level of funding and the modalities and procedures to be followed to reach the doubling of resources mentioned in the previous paragraph will be included in the resolution on the financing of the Organization and in the OAS program-budget for the years 2018, 2019, and 2020.

xvii. Rights of the child

CONSIDERING the demographic characteristics of the region, where 40 percent of the population are under the age of 18, and that in subregions such as Central America more than 55 percent are;

UNDERSCORING the importance of strengthening the participation of children and adolescents in decisions that affect their lives; and

CONSIDERING that the Inter-American Children’s Institute (IIN) is the specialized organization of the OAS on policies for children and adolescents,

RESOLVES:

1. To help strengthen comprehensive systems for promoting and protecting the rights of children and adolescents in the region by fostering universal and inclusive public policies that pay

special attention to groups that have traditionally been excluded and/or are vulnerable, including girls, indigenous and Afro-descendent children, and children with disabilities.

2. To foster educational, communications-related, and coordination activities in an effort to advance a culture of human rights, with the conviction that an approach that ensures the rights of children and adolescents, promotion of equality, and a gender perspective are inextricably linked to the consolidation and deepening of democracies as a way of life that respects the dignity of all, irrespective of differences.

3. To request the CAAP to increase, within existing resources, the total Regular Fund resource allocation to the IIN by 49 percent. That the methods and procedure to be followed in making the above-mentioned increase shall be included in the resolution on the financing of the Organization and in the program-budget of the OAS for 2018, and shall not entail a quota increase.

xviii. Strengthening the Inter-American Commission of Women for the promotion of gender equity and equality, the human rights of women and girls, and elimination of discrimination and all forms of violence against them

RECOGNIZING the importance that the OAS has placed on gender equality and gender equity, empowerment of women and girls, and on them fully exercising their human rights, as well as on strengthening the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), including providing it with adequate human and financial resources to accomplish its mandates, as the main forum for generating hemispheric policies to support these objectives,

RESOLVES:

1. To continue supporting the work of the CIM in fulfillment of its objectives and functions by addressing issues of special concern, in particular: (i) Women's participation and leadership in the political arena on an equal footing and free from discrimination and violence; (ii) Promotion of the human rights of women and girls and the eradication of gender-based violence and harmful practices, including child, early, and forced marriage and unions; (iii) Promotion of women's autonomy and economic empowerment; and (iv) Communication promoting gender equality and human rights.

2. To follow up, through the corresponding committees, on the objectives set forth in the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality (IAP) and the CIM 2016-2021 Strategic Plan, adopted by the Thirty-seventh Assembly of Delegates of the CIM, particularly with respect to gender mainstreaming in all activities of the OAS and, as a matter of priority, at ministerial meetings, at OAS General Assembly sessions, and in preparations for and follow-up on Summits of the Americas.

3. To request the CAAP to increase, within existing resources, the allocation from the OAS regular budget for the CIM. The modalities and the amount to be allocated to the CIM, which shall not entail any quota increases, will be included in the resolution on the financing of the Organization and in the OAS program-budget for 2018.

xix. Strengthening the Mechanism to Follow Up on Implementation of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women (MESECVI)

RECALLING that the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women, “Convention of Belém do Pará,” establishes the duty of the States Parties to pursue, by all appropriate means and without delay, policies and programs to prevent, punish, and eradicate discrimination and violence against women and girls in the public and private spheres, and mindful that it is important and necessary to strengthen the Convention’s follow-up mechanism, the MESECVI,

RESOLVES:

1. To strengthen support for the work of the Mechanism to Follow Up on Implementation of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women (MESECVI), as a hemispheric benchmark in preventing, punishing, and dealing with violence against women and girls, and to monitor the full implementation of the Convention, including adapting their laws and implementing, as appropriate, the recommendations of the multilateral evaluation rounds conducted by the Mechanism.

2. To continue to promote, through the Mechanism’s follow-up work, implementation of the Convention of Belém do Pará, promoting gender equality and empowerment for women and girls, taking into account the multiple and cross-cutting forms of discrimination suffered by women and girls belonging to groups in vulnerable circumstances, in the following areas: (a) sexual violence and teenage pregnancy, as well as the link between them; (b) STIs and HIV/AIDS; (c) political violence against and harassment of women; (d) stereotype-free education; (e) access to justice; and (f) social and institutional tolerance of gender-based violence.

3. To underscore the work done by the MESECVI Committee of Experts for the drafting of the “Hemispheric Report on Child Pregnancy in the States Party to the Belém do Pará Convention.”

4. To request the MESECVI Technical Secretariat to promote and support dialogue between the competent national authorities and the MESECVI Committee of Experts on progress and challenges in important areas related to strengthening, compliance with, and raising awareness of the Convention of Belém do Pará, as decided by the Sixth Conference of States Parties to the Convention of Belém do Pará.

## II. FOLLOW-UP AND REPORTING

RESOLVES:

1. To instruct the General Secretariat to submit in due course, through the areas responsible for follow-up and execution of activities in connection with the purposes of this resolution, its 2017-2018 plan of activities for consultation or proper oversight by member states.

2. To request the Permanent Council, through the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP), to include in its agenda the following matters covered by this resolution, prior to the forty-eighth regular session of the General Assembly, with a view to promoting exchanges of experiences and best practices:

- “Autonomous official public defenders as a guarantee of access to justice for vulnerable groups.” The holding in the first quarter of 2018 of the sixth special meeting of the CAJP on best practices for full implementation of the Brasilia Regulations Regarding Access to Justice for Vulnerable People pursued by each public defender institution in the region, attended by member states and their respective official public legal aid institutions, members of the Inter-American Association of Public Defender Offices (AIDEF), experts from academia, civil society, and international organizations. That organization will ensure the attendance of AIDEF members.
- To request that the Permanent Council, through the CAJP, hold a special meeting on the topic of “human rights and business,” no later than the first quarter of 2018, with a broad agenda that considers national practices—including legislation and case law—and multilateral initiatives at the regional and global level, as well as the reports on this topic produced by the CJI and the IACHR. The meeting will be attended by national representatives and experts from academia, civil society, business, and international organizations; also to request the Secretariat for Legal Affairs to prepare a report on that meeting for the information of the General Assembly. The meeting will be held within the resources assigned to the CAJP.

3. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth regular session on the implementation of this resolution. Execution of the activities envisaged in this resolution will be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.



## FOOTNOTES

1. ... with universally agreed on international human rights.
2. .... It is still within the denunciation period established in Article 143 of the OAS Charter.
3. ... preservation of the rule of law and the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms of all people, as enshrined in the Constitution of Trinidad and Tobago.
5. ... and inconsistent with the primary function of promoting and protecting human rights assigned by the states to this organ. The Government of Nicaragua, therefore, recommends the elimination of that chapter, which contravenes the provisions established in the American Convention on Human Rights.
6. ... and it reaffirms the contents of Title II, "Rights, Duties, and Guarantees," Chapter III, "Equality," and Chapter IV, "The Rights of the Family," of its national Constitution and related provisions. Consequently, it notes its reservation regarding the text of section xii, "Human rights, sexual orientation, and gender identity and expression." Furthermore, the expression "gender identity" as contained in other paragraphs of this resolution will be interpreted in accordance with its domestic laws.
7. ... the Constitution of the Republic of Guatemala and does not discriminate for any reason. It also considers that the lawful nonrecognition of marriage between persons of the same sex is not a discriminatory practice. Guatemala also dissociates itself from those parts that are incompatible with, or contrary to, current national law, and it reserves the right to interpret the terms of section xii.
8. ... within the territory of Suriname have an equal claim to protection of person and property, does not discriminate on the grounds of birth, sex, race, language, religious origin, political beliefs, economic position or any other status.

As a multicultural society, the subject of sexual orientation and gender identity is one that requires a broad consultation process at the national level, involving all sectors of the society, including civil society. While the national process of consultations has begun, no outcome has been reached on the many principles expressed in this resolution.

The Republic of Suriname would be willing to join in the adoption of this resolution, but places on record that it can only be in a position to acknowledge some of the elements and principles addressed in this resolution once its national consultation process is concluded and consensus is reached on these matters. The Government of Suriname remains committed to intergovernmentally agreed human rights and fundamental freedoms, as enshrined in the various global human rights instruments.
9. ... and the Jamaican Constitution. Jamaica, however expresses its reservation regarding terminologies such as gender identity and gender expression which are not defined in Jamaican law and have not gained international acceptance.
10. ... The terms indicated do not enjoy international consensus, nor are they defined under international law. These undefined terms thus make it impossible for the Government of Saint Lucia to commit itself.

At the same time, the Government of Saint Lucia reaffirms its commitment to the protection of human rights for all, non-discrimination, fundamental freedoms for all persons, the family, and the preservation of the rule of law as enshrined in its Constitution.

11. ... in its national laws nor the subject of national consensus. As such, Barbados would not be in a position to meet these requirements. However, the Government of Barbados remains committed to protecting the rights of all from harm and violence, in keeping with the rule of law and the provisions of its Constitution.

12. ... the equality of all human beings as enshrined in its Constitution. It is necessary to underscore that some of the terms in this resolution are not defined in the domestic laws of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines nor internationally. Accordingly, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines disassociates itself from those terms that are incompatible with and contrary to its national laws, reserving its rights to interpret the terms of this resolution.

13. ... The criteria used are subjective, politicized, discriminatory, and inconsistent with the primary function of promoting and protecting human rights assigned by the states to this organ. The Government of Nicaragua, therefore, recommends the elimination of that chapter, which contravenes the provisions established in the American Convention on Human Rights.

In addition, we categorically reject the efforts of the IACHR to embroil the Government of Nicaragua in personal disputes among residents of Nicaragua's Caribbean Coast region, as well as its distorted portrayal of the facts, by which it falsely asserted those individuals to be human rights defenders with the clear aim of tarnishing the credibility and good standing that the Government of the Republic of Nicaragua enjoys in the area of human rights promotion and protection, which actions do not contribute to the social and political stability of the Nicaraguan State.

AG/RES. 2909 (XLVII-O/17)

INTERNATIONAL LAW<sup>1/</sup>

(Adopted at the third plenary session, held on June 21, 2017)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the “Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly June 2016-June 2017” (AG/doc.5565/17 add. 1), in particular the section on the activities of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP); and

RECALLING resolutions AG/RES. 2852 (XLIV-O/14) and AG/RES. 2886 (XLVI-O/16), as well as all previous resolutions adopted on this topic,

I. ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE ON JURIDICAL AND POLITICAL AFFAIRS

RESOLVES:

1. To instruct the Permanent Council, the General Secretariat, and the other bodies referred to in Article 53 of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS) to continue working on the implementation of the applicable current mandates set out in previous General Assembly resolutions assigned to the CAJP, except as stated otherwise in any resolution.

2. To urge the member states of the Organization to continue contributing to the attainment of the objectives established in said resolutions through the development and execution of activities, the submission of reports, the exchange of information, the adoption of measures and policies, and cooperation, support, and mutual assistance; and to instruct the General Secretariat to provide the necessary support to those ends.

i. Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law

BEARING IN MIND the report that the Department of International Law, in the framework of the Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law—as adopted by resolution AG/RES. 1471 (XXVII-O/97) and updated by resolution AG/RES. 2660 (XLI-O/11)—presented to the CAJP at its meeting on April 20, 2017, reporting on the activities carried out for its implementation,

RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm the importance of and its support for the Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law and request that the Department of International Law continue to implement the actions called for in that program and provide a biennial report thereon to the CAJP.

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1. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela does not agree to any commitment or mandate issued in this resolution as it did not participate in the negotiation of said resolution. ...

2. To instruct the Department of International Law, as part of the activities envisaged in the Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law, to continue supporting member states in the implementation of domestic laws on access to public information; to continue its training of judges and other officials in effective application of international treaties on enforcing arbitral decisions and awards, as applicable; to continue promoting the Model Law on Secured Transactions among member states; and to raise awareness of the work of the Inter-American Juridical Committee, including on, *inter alia*, the Model Law on the Simplified Corporation, the Principles and Guidelines on Public Defense in the Americas, the reports on business and human rights and cultural heritage assets, the Principles for Electronic Warehouse Receipts for Agricultural Products, and international consumer protection.

3. To instruct the Department of International Law to promote among member states further development of private international law, in collaboration with organizations and associations engaged in this area, including the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law, the Hague Conference on Private International Law, the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT), and the American Association of Private International Law (ASADIP).

ii. Observations and recommendations on the Annual Report of the Inter-American Juridical Committee

HAVING SEEN the observations and recommendations of the member states on the annual report of the CJI (CP/doc.5261/17), presented to the CAJP on April 20, 2017,

RESOLVES:

1. To instruct the Permanent Council, through the CAJP, to give due consideration to the most recent resolutions adopted by the Inter-American Juridical Committee (CJI), along with their accompanying reports, to wit, resolution CJI/RES. 233 (XCI-O/17), “Cultural Heritage”; resolution CJI/RES. 232 (XCI-O/17), “Conscious and Effective Regulations for Companies in the Sphere of Human Rights”; and document CJI/doc.505/16 rev. 2, “Electronic Warehouse Receipts for Agricultural Products,”; and to report to the General Assembly and the CJI on the outcome of these considerations.

2. To underscore the need to strengthen the administrative and budgetary support provided for the CJI and the Course on International Law organized each year in Rio de Janeiro by the CJI and its Technical Secretariat, and to reaffirm the importance of the contacts that the Committee maintains with the Organization’s organs and with the offices of legal counsel of member states’ ministries of foreign affairs.

iii. Promotion of the International Criminal Court<sup>2/3/</sup>

REAFFIRMING the primary responsibility of States to investigate and prosecute the perpetrators of the most serious crimes of concern to the international community, as well as the

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2. The United States remains steadfastly committed to promoting the rule of law and supporting efforts to bring those responsible for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide to justice. ...
  3. The Government of Nicaragua expresses its profound concern over the ongoing systematic violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law taking place worldwide. ...

complementary nature of the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court as an effective instrument for ending impunity for such crimes and contributing to the consolidation of lasting peace;

WELCOMING WITH SATISFACTION the fact that 29 member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) have ratified or acceded to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, of which 5 have ratified the amendments on the crime of aggression to the Rome Statute, and that 18 member states have ratified or acceded to the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the International Criminal Court;

RECOGNIZING the importance of the universality of the Rome Statute for fulfilling the objectives of the International Criminal Court;

MINDFUL of the importance of full and effective cooperation from States, international and regional organizations, and civil society for the International Criminal Court to function effectively, as recognized in the Rome Statute; and underscoring the recent signing of agreements by the Argentine Republic and the International Criminal Court on the relocation of witnesses, on November 21, 2016; and on the enforcement of sentences, on April 18, 2017; and

UNDERSCORING the importance of the “Exchange of Letters for the establishment of a cooperation agreement with the International Criminal Court,” signed by the OAS General Secretariat and the International Criminal Court on April 18, 2011; of the cooperation agreement signed by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the International Criminal Court in April 2012; and of the Memorandum of Understanding between the International Criminal Court and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, signed on February 15, 2016,

RESOLVES:

1. To renew its appeal to those member states that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to, as the case may be, the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and its Agreement on Privileges and Immunities.

2. To remind those member states that are parties to said instruments of the importance of the promotion of their universality and their continued adoption of the necessary measures to achieve their full and effective implementation and adjust their national legislation, as well as to encourage them to participate constructively in discussions on the activation of the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court over the crime of aggression.<sup>4/</sup>

3. To welcome with satisfaction the cooperation and assistance provided to date to the International Criminal Court by those member states that are parties to the Rome Statute, by those member states that are not, and by international and regional organizations, and to urge them to continue their efforts to ensure cooperation with and assistance to the International Criminal Court in accordance with any applicable international obligations, particularly as regards arrest and surrender, presentation of evidence, protection and relocation of victims and witnesses, and enforcement of sentences, so as to prevent the impunity of the perpetrators of crimes over which it has jurisdiction.

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4. The amendments to the Rome Statute adopted in Kampala are being analyzed in Brazil with a view to their possible approval and ratification.

4. To express satisfaction at the cooperation in the area of international criminal law between the OAS and the International Criminal Court; to urge the General Secretariat to continue to strengthen that cooperation and to mark the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Rome Statute in 2018; and to request the Permanent Council to hold, prior to the forty-ninth regular session of the General Assembly, a working meeting that should include a high-level dialogue session among the permanent representatives of all member states to discuss, among other matters, measures that could strengthen cooperation with the International Criminal Court. The International Criminal Court, international organizations and institutions, and civil society will be invited to cooperate and participate in that working meeting.

## II. FOLLOW-UP AND REPORTING

### RESOLVES:

To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth regular session on the implementation of this resolution. Execution of the activities envisaged in this resolution will be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

FOOTNOTES

1. ... It is still within the denunciation period established in Article 143 of the OAS Charter.
2. ... Although the United States is not a party to the Rome Statute, the United States recognizes that the International Criminal Court can play a key role in bringing those responsible for the worst atrocities to justice in appropriate circumstances. With respect to the amendments on the crime of aggression adopted at the Kampala Review Conference, the United States notes the differences between the crime of aggression and the crimes defined in Articles 6, 7, and 8 of the Rome Statute. The United States has significant concerns about ambiguities in the amendments and believes further clarification is needed before any decision is taken to activate the amendments. The United States understands that any OAS support rendered to the ICC would be drawn from specific-fund contributions rather than the OAS regular budget.
3. ... In the context of our domestic legal system, Nicaraguan criminal law accords special importance to this matter, defining such offenses under Title XXII of Law No. 641 of 2007 (Criminal Code). The application of those norms is the exclusive jurisdiction of the Nicaraguan judiciary. With regard to the appeal to States to consider acceding to or ratifying the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, the Government of Reconciliation and National Unity is unable to agree to the current text in this resolution and enters its reservation thereto, as the conditions appropriate for its accession to the Statute are not in place.





AG/RES. 2910 (XLVII-O/17)

MIGRATION IN THE AMERICAS<sup>1/2/</sup>

(Adopted at the third plenary session, held on June 21, 2017)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

REAFFIRMING that the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man proclaims that all persons are equal before the law and have the rights and duties enshrined in that Declaration without distinction as to race, sex, language, creed, or any other factor;

EMPHASIZING that the American Convention on Human Rights recognizes that the essential rights of man are not derived from one's being a national of a certain state, but are based upon attributes of the human personality;

RECALLING that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaims that everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state, and to leave any country, including his own, and return to his country;

REAFFIRMING that the principles and standards enshrined in these instruments take on special relevance in the context of protecting the human rights of migrants, including migrant workers and their families;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

That, through the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants adopted in September 2016, we affirmed the commitment to protecting the safety, dignity and human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, regardless of their migratory status, at all times, and to cooperate closely to facilitate and ensure safe, orderly and regular migration, including return and readmission, taking into account national legislation;

That in the New York Declaration we also committed to launching a process of intergovernmental negotiations leading to the adoption in 2018 of a global compact for safe, orderly, and regular migration; and considering that to make effective progress in the construction of such a global compact it is necessary to adopt a holistic approach in considering migration's challenges and opportunities, based on cooperation and grounded in solidarity among countries of origin, transit, destination, and return;

The annual reports of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), its thematic reports on this subject, including the report "Human Mobility, Inter-American Standards,"

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1. The United States underscores its understanding that none of the provisions in this resolution create or affect rights or obligations of States under international law. The United States joins consensus .....
  2. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela does not agree to any commitment or mandate issued in this resolution as it did not participate in the negotiation of said resolution. ...

and Advisory Opinions OC-16/99 (1999), OC-18/03 (2003), and OC-21/14 (2014) issued by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights;

The Inter-American Program for the Promotion and Protection of the Human Rights of Migrants, Including Migrant Workers and Their Families, adopted by resolution AG/RES. 2883 (XLVI-O/16);

The declarations adopted by the Permanent Council: “Inter-American Cooperation to Address the Challenges and Opportunities of Migration” of December 15, 2016 [CP/DEC. 68 (2099/16)], and “Central American Unaccompanied Child Migrants” of July 23, 2014 [CP/DEC. 54 (1979/14)];

The reports of the Continuous Reporting System on International Migration for the Americas (SICREMI) and the report on irregular migration flows from Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean (CP/doc.5263/17 rev. 1), presented to the Permanent Council on March 9, 2017;

The invitation to a high-level forum on irregular migration flows in the Americas, which is to take place in San José, Costa Rica, in the second half of 2017; and

The convening of the World People’s Conference “For a world without walls towards the universal citizenship” by the government and community organizations of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, to build bridges of integration among people, that will take place in Cochabamba in June 2017;<sup>3/</sup> and

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT ALSO the relevant international and regional instruments, as appropriate, including, among others, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; the Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination, and Related Forms of Intolerance; the Convention on the Rights of the Child; the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belem do Para); the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol; the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Inter-American Convention on Forced Disappearance of Persons; the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the work of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families within the framework of the United Nations; the Protocols against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air and to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo Convention); the 1984 Cartagena Declaration on Refugees, and the 2014 Brazil Declaration and Plan of Action;

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3. As regards the reference to the World People's Conference, “For a world without walls towards universal citizenship,” the Governments of Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, ...

RECOGNIZING:

That international migration is a multidimensional reality with a pronounced impact on the development of countries of origin, transit, destination and return; and recognizing, in that context, that international migration is an intersectoral issue that should be addressed in a coherent, broad, and balanced way, combining development with due consideration of the social, economic, and environmental dimensions and respect for human rights; and

The major contribution made by migrants and migration to inclusive growth and sustainable development in countries of origin, transit, and destination;

CONCERNED about the extremely vulnerable situation in which many migrants and their families find themselves in the Hemisphere, leading them frequently to be victims of crime, abuse, racism, and xenophobia, as well as acts of discrimination that violate their human rights; and concerned that migrant women, children, and adolescents are especially vulnerable to gender-based violence and other forms of sexual and labor exploitation;

RECOGNIZING that human trafficking and migrant smuggling remain a serious challenge that calls for a concerted international evaluation and response through effective multilateral cooperation among countries of origin, transit, destination, and return to prevent, investigate, combat, and eradicate them, as well as assistance to victims;

NOTING that the increasing feminization of migration, largely driven by socioeconomic factors, requires that greater attention be paid to gender-related matters; and

RECOGNIZING the importance of promoting actions to protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of accompanied and unaccompanied children and adolescents in the context of international migration and of migrants in situations of vulnerability,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge member states to promote and protect more effectively the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, including migrant workers and members of their families, with special emphasis on migrant women, children, and adolescents, regardless of their migratory status, in accordance with international human rights law and, where applicable, international refugee law and international humanitarian law.

2. To reaffirm that in exercising their sovereign right to enact and enforce measures relating to migration and the security of their borders, member states must fulfill the obligations incumbent upon them under international law to fully respect the human rights of migrants.

3. To vigorously condemn all manifestations or acts of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related forms of intolerance against migrants, including those related to access to employment, professional training, housing, education, health care services, social services, and public services. In view of the foregoing, to urge member states to enforce and strengthen, as appropriate, legislation and policies in force to address such situations, especially in order to hold accountable those who commit acts of racism or xenophobia.

4. To urge member states to avoid enacting laws that discriminate against migrants or otherwise violate their human rights.

5. To reiterate that no state should consider an individual's migratory status a crime in itself or encourage, on the basis of migratory status, the adoption of criminal sanctions or those of equivalent effect; to urge that the administrative detention of migrants by reason of their migratory status be used as an exceptional measure of last resort, according preference at all times to alternatives to detention, in accordance with the right to personal liberty and security, as determined individually on the basis of need, reasonableness, and proportionality; and to reaffirm that the treatment of migrants held in administrative detention and the conditions in which they are held must be decent, without punitive effect, and that states must comply with their obligation to respect the human rights of migrants at all times, including the guarantees of due process.<sup>4/</sup>

6. To vigorously condemn violations of the human rights of migrants, including excessive use of force; arbitrary arrests; arbitrary separation of families; forced disappearances; torture; mistreatment in detention, including sexual violence; and violations of the right to life, including extrajudicial executions. In that regard, to urge states to adopt, as appropriate, concrete measures to: (i) prevent such violations, including in ports and airports, and at borders and migration checkpoints; (ii) provide training, as required and appropriate, to public officials who work in those facilities and in border regions; (iii) treat migrants with respect and in accordance with the law; and (iv) ensure, in accordance with the relevant domestic law and any applicable international obligations, that such violations are investigated, prosecuted, and, as appropriate, punished, and that the victims thereof are afforded redress.

7. To urge member states to take joint and coordinated actions to combat transnational organized crime and the criminal activities of other groups that profit from crimes against migrants, especially migrant women, children, and adolescents; the dangerous and inhumane conditions to which they subject their victims in flagrant violation of domestic and international law; and the high level of impunity enjoyed by human traffickers, migrant smugglers, their accomplices, and other members of transnational organized crime groups; and, in that context, to encourage member states to take specific actions to combat such situations and to provide procedural guarantees and access to justice to migrants who have suffered abuse.

8. To encourage member states that have not already done so to enact national laws and adopt more effective measures to combat migrant smuggling and human trafficking, including servitude, debt bondage, slavery, sexual exploitation, and/or forced labor, bearing in mind that such crimes endanger the lives of migrants or expose them to harm; and to request that states step up international cooperation to combat such offenses.

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4. The Government of The Bahamas supports the humanitarian principles and values in the development of non-criminalization and non-punitive standards for the management of irregular migrants; ...

9. To urge all states, in accordance with national legislation and applicable international and inter-American legal instruments to which they are party, to enforce labor law effectively and to address violations of such law in connection with migrant workers' labor relations and working conditions, including those related to their remuneration, workplace health and safety, and right to freedom of association, and to promote, as appropriate, the implementation of campaigns and programs to inform workers about their basic workplace rights, applicable labor law, and available mechanisms for upholding them, regardless of their migratory status.

10. To encourage states, as appropriate and in accordance with national legislation, to promote conditions for cheaper, faster and safer transfer of remittances in both source and recipient countries; recalling also the commitment assumed in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to reduce to less than 3 percent the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 percent.

11. To promote, as appropriate and in accordance with national legislation, the signing of bilateral or regional agreements on the social security benefits of migrants and their families, so that social security contributions made in one state can be claimed in, or transferred to, the state where the migrant worker is located.

12. To advance policies and programs to promote access to health services for migrants, particularly those in situations of vulnerability.

13. Implement the actions and programs needed to improve effective and equitable access to education for all migrants and their families, especially children and adolescents, consistent with each state's constitutional and domestic legal framework and applicable international human rights law.

14. To reaffirm the right that every person may resort to the courts to ensure respect for their legal rights and should have available to them an effective procedure whereby the courts will protect them from acts of authority that violate, to their prejudice, any fundamental constitutional rights.

15. To reaffirm the duty of the States Parties to the 1963 Vienna Convention on Consular Relations to fulfill their obligations under the Convention, including their duty to inform foreign nationals detained within their territory of their right to communicate with consular officials from their respective countries of origin.

16. To welcome with satisfaction, the migrant regularization programs adopted by some states that allow migrants to integrate fully into the host countries, facilitate family reunification, and promote an environment of harmony, tolerance, and respect; and to encourage states to consider the possibility of adopting these types of programs, including those related to labor migration.

17. To urge member states, international organizations, and other actors concerned, when defining, adapting, and carrying out their laws, policies, practices, or initiatives, as appropriate, for the promotion and protection of migrants' human rights, to encourage and favor:

- a. constructive dialogue among all states, competent national authorities, and actors concerned, including civil society and migrants,
- b. international, regional, and bilateral cooperation and coordination, and
- c. exchanges of best practices and experience in this area.

18. To urge member states to consider signing, ratifying, or acceding to, as appropriate, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and all related international and inter-American legal instruments on human rights, and to encourage the States Parties to those instruments to take the necessary measures to bring their legal frameworks into line with their commitments under said instruments for the benefit of all migrants, including migrant workers and their families, among others.

19. To urge member states to continue cooperating with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and supporting its work in the promotion and protection of the human rights of migrants, and to take into account, as appropriate, the efforts made by other international organizations in support of migrants, including migrant workers and their families, in order to contribute to improving their situation in the Hemisphere and, in particular and as applicable, the efforts of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants and the OAS Rapporteurship on the Rights of Migrants, as well as those of the International Organization for Migration, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families, the United Nations Children's Fund and the different components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

20. To urge member states to make contributions to the negotiation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and, to that end, to instruct the OAS General Secretariat to provide support so that, through the OAS Committee on Migration Issues and, as appropriate, in coordination with the Regional Conference on Migration and the South American Conference on Migration, states may make hemispheric contributions to the construction of that document in accordance with the calendar established in the resolution on modalities adopted by the United Nations General Assembly.

#### FOOTNOTES

1. ... on this resolution to the extent the provisions therein are consistent with U.S. law and policy and the federal government's authority. In pursuing the important goals outlined in this resolution, the United States will also continue to take steps to ensure national security, protect territorial sovereignty, and maintain the health and safety of its people, including by exercising its rights and responsibilities to prevent irregular migration and control its borders, consistent with international obligations.

2. ... It is still within the denunciation period established in Article 123 of the OAS Charter.

3. ... Peru and the United States, hereby state for the record that it is a nongovernmental entity promoted by the Plurinational State of Bolivia and, therefore, its conclusions in no way constitute a conceptual frame of reference for the work of the Organization of American States or other international agencies and mechanisms, nor are they in any way binding on them.

4. ... and the right to livelihood of migrants. At the same time capacity constraints are a perennial challenge to The Bahamas' investment effort in an improved, alternative system for irregular migrant management. However, constitutional protections and a stable Government which reinforces the Rule of Law and due process support a legal policy culture of improving protections of the rights of migrants in The Bahamas. The Bahamas is a party to the 1951 UN Refugee Convention and the 1967 Protocol, and enjoys functional cooperation with the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on improving policies on migrant processing.





AG/RES. 2911 (XLVII-O/17)

PROGRESS TOWARD ACCOUNTABILITY, EFFICIENCY, AND EFFECTIVENESS,  
AND RESULTS IN THE OAS GENERAL SECRETARIAT<sup>1/</sup>

(Adopted at the third plenary session, held on June 21, 2017)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING that in resolutions AG/RES. 2353 (XXXVII-O/07), AG/RES. 2437 (XXXVIII-O/08), AG/RES. 1 (XXXVI-E/08), AG/RES. 1 (XXXVIII-E/09), AG/RES. 1 (XL-E/10), AG/RES. 1 (XLII-E/11) rev. 1, AG/RES. 1 (XLIII-E/12), AG/RES. 2774 (XLIII-O/13), AG/RES. 1 (XLV-E/13), AG/RES. 2815 (XLIV-O/14), and AG/RES. 2889 (XLVI-O/16) it requested the General Secretariat to pursue efforts, for the purpose of improving the transparency and efficiency of the General Secretariat's operations, to establish appropriate planning, control, and evaluation systems that will enable the member states to follow up on budget programming and fiscal supervision;

BEARING IN MIND resolutions AG/RES. 2814 (XLIV-O/14), which adopted the strategic vision statement for the Organization; AG/RES. 1 (XLVII-E/14) rev. 1, "Guidelines and Objectives of the Strategic Vision of the Organization of American States"; and CP/RES. 1061 (2063/16), "Conclusion of the Mandate Prioritization Process and Preparation of the Organization's Four-Year Strategic Plan";

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that at its fifty-first special session, by resolution AG/RES. 1 (LI-E/16 rev. 1), it adopted the Strategic Lines and Objectives of the Strategic Plan for each of the Organization's pillars as well as for the areas of institutional strengthening and administrative management;

EMPHASIZING the importance of upholding the highest standards of transparency and quality of information provided by the General Secretariat;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

Article 135 of the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (General Standards), which indicates in regards to the Board of External Auditors that "[t]he Board shall submit its report to the Permanent Council within the first four months of the year" and "[t]he Permanent Council shall make such observations and recommendations as it sees fit"; and

That section 1.F of resolution AG/RES. 2892 (XLVI-O/16), "Management Modernization," instructed the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs (CAAP), "after reviewing the report of the Board of External Auditors, to present a consolidated response to the recommendations of the Board to the Permanent Council no later than September 15 each year," but that it is necessary

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1. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela does not agree to any commitment or mandate issued in this resolution as it did not participate in the negotiation of said resolution. ...

to change this date to better accommodate the CAAP and Permanent Council's consideration of the annual program-budget during that period;

NOTING that the date to be established for the Permanent Council to transmit its response to the Board should be in advance of the Board's annual review conducted in April each year;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

Article 122 of the General Standards, which indicates: "The Inspector General shall present quarterly and annual reports to the Permanent Council on the observations and recommendations emanating from the audits conducted, as well as on measures taken by the General Secretariat to implement them";

Article 124 of the General Standards, which states: "The Inspector General shall meet as necessary with the CAAP and with CIDI, in order to exchange information and views on matters that fall within its purview"; and

The progress made in implementing the mandates contained in resolution AG/RES. 2889 (XLVI-O/16), "Progress toward Accountability, Efficiency and Effectiveness, and Results in the OAS General Secretariat," and resolution AG/RES. 2892 (XLVI-O/16), "Management Modernization";

TAKING NOTE of the Report of the OAS Board of External Auditors on the Results of the Audit of the OAS Accounts and Financial Statements (CP/doc.5307/17), which reiterates the recommendation "that the OAS develop a funding strategy to support the SAF/DOITS Strategic Development Plan";

TAKING NOTE ALSO of the "Strategic Plan for Management Modernization of the Organization of American States" (CP/doc.5077/14 corr. 1), which recommends the financing of "IT upgrades to keep pace with changing business needs and to better manage and preserve the Organization's critical documents and data"; and

CONSIDERING:

That a comprehensive real estate strategy for the OAS should include all real estate of the Organization; that the OAS now occupies more space than it needs; that keeping this extra space is very costly; and that the total space needs to be reduced to reflect the Organization's real needs for space and its financial means;

That, although, in keeping with resolution AG/RES. 2892 (XLVI-O/16), the Secretariat presented a plan to house the Inter-American Defense Board (IADB) in the facilities of the Administrative Building, the member states have not reached consensus regarding the sale of the Casa del Soldado; and

That, also in keeping with resolution AG/RES. 2892 (XLVI-O/16), the CAAP analyzed different scenarios for reducing the total space of the OAS' real estate and the maintenance and operating costs thereof, including, among other things, the possible sale of the General Services Building,

RESOLVES:

A. To renew the following mandates contained in resolution AG/RES. 2889 (XLVI-O/16).

1. Columbus Memorial Library

To request the General Secretariat to prepare options for better leveraging existing internal and external resources through strategic alliances with other libraries and academic institutions and for applying modern information management principles to facilitate and expand access, and present a proposal to the Permanent Council through the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs (CAAP) no later than February 28, 2018.

2. International Public Sector Accounting Standards

To instruct the Permanent Council, through the CAAP, to identify the necessary funding for the project on Implementation of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) within the General Secretariat.

3. Budget review process

- a. To instruct the General Secretariat, in direct collaboration with the different secretariats of the Organization, to adopt a rigorous approach to developing, clearly presenting, executing, and evaluating the program-budget in accordance with Chapters IV to VIII of the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (General Standards). The draft program-budget shall include the rationale for proposals as well as explanations of variances from the previous year and of human and financial resources requirements in line with expected results.
- b. To request that the Permanent Council, with the assistance of the CAAP, give consideration to amending the General Standards in order to align them with the requirements of a biennial program-budget, in keeping with the Four-year Strategic Plan of the Organization. To that end:
  - i. the overall budget level for the second year will be considered a tentative planning figure; and
  - ii. it is understood that member states' financial commitments to the Regular Fund are made on an annual basis.
- c. To instruct the General Secretariat to identify the necessary financial resources to establish a benchmarking framework that provides the basis for an audit to identify optimal staffing levels, in order transparently to assess the performance of the areas programmed based on the Organization's activities, vision, direction, and results. In parallel, the above should be complemented by a general audit of all the Organization's functions that also examines the

conversion of independent consultants and contractors (CPRs) into staff. To that end, independent auditors should be hired for the post audit, and an external specialist retained to determine the Organization's optimal staffing levels.

- d. To instruct the General Secretariat that, in keeping with the results of the ongoing analysis referred to in resolution CIDI/RES. 316 (LXV-O/16), which is due no later than July 31, 2017, as well as the detailed report referred to in resolution AG/RES. 2904 (XLVII-O/17), "Advancing Hemispheric Initiatives on Integral Development," to present to the Permanent Council and the Inter-American Council for Integral Development by April 30, 2018, a plan to achieve full Regular Fund financing for the contributions of the OAS General Secretariat to regular academic programs, the Partnerships Program for Education and Training (PAEC) and the Professional Development Scholarships Program (PDSP).<sup>2/3/</sup>
- e. To instruct the General Secretariat to submit by July 31, 2017, a detailed report for the consideration of the CAAP on the legal, financial and operational situation of the Capital Fund for the OAS Scholarship and Training Programs, as well as the Fund's withdrawals in recent years. Based on that report, to prepare a proposed payment plan for the reimbursement of the Fund's resources.<sup>4/5/</sup>

4. Effectiveness and efficiency

- a. To request the General Secretariat to report, within 30 days after the conclusion of regular sessions of the General Assembly, on the cost of the mandates contained in the approved resolutions and on their impact on the program-budget.
- b. To request the General Secretariat to realign the Organization's resources and organizational structure with the mandates.

5. Accountability and transparency

- a. The General Secretariat shall continue to publish the following updated information on the Organization's website, in accordance with the Organization's legal structure:
  - 1. Organizational structure of each organizational unit;

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2. Canada places great interest on the issue of the sustainability and effectiveness of the scholarship programs. In light of this, we support the efforts of the Working Group to Analyze and ...

3. Brazil is committed to the sustainability and effectiveness of the scholarships and training programs of the OAS. We support and are engaged in the efforts of the Working Group to Analyze and ...

4. See footnote 2.

5. See footnote 3.

2. The operational plans of the organizational units of the General Secretariat established based on the strategic lines and objectives of the Strategic Plan approved in resolution AG/RES. 1 (LI-E/16) rev. 1;
3. The results of evaluations, monitoring, and audits of programs and operations;
4. Staffing per organizational unit, including the salary scale and other benefits, as well as vacant positions; and
5. Performance contracts awarded for both consultants and goods and services, pursuant to applicable regulations.

6. External resource mobilization

To instruct the Secretary General to present, in consultation with the Permanent Council, a strategic plan for mobilizing the external support and funding needed to implement the mandates of the member states and the priorities of the Organization, by November 30, 2017.

7. Foundations and other organizations created by the General Secretariat<sup>6/</sup>

To request foundations and other organizations created and subsidized by the OAS to maintain a culture and practice of austerity, effectiveness, efficiency, transparency, prudence, and accountability in the use, execution, and management of resources allocated by the Organization.

8. Gender equity and equality policies

To urge the Secretary General to continue the work of executing gender equity and equality policies in the workplace and to ensure accountability for their implementation.

9. Official travel

To instruct the Secretary General and Assistant Secretary General to submit to the Permanent Council on a quarterly basis, a detailed report on their activities away from headquarters, including, *inter alia*, the following information: travel dates, destination, accompanying delegation, and objective.

10. Cycle of the Chair of the CAAP

To instruct the Permanent Council to make the necessary amendments to its Rules of Procedure in order to be able to change the cycle of the Chair of the CAAP to make it

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6. The Republic of Ecuador places on record its opposition to the financing of foundations that maintain clear links to companies that have been convicted in the justice systems of OAS member states ...

consistent with the Organization's fiscal and budget year, which runs from January to December, and to include a transition period.

B. To renew the following mandate contained in resolution AG/RES. 2892 (XLVI-O/16):

1. Quotas and liquidity

To authorize the Permanent Council, taking into account the recommendations of the CAAP, to consider such measures as may be needed to encourage prompt payment and increase liquidity, *ad referendum* of the General Assembly at its special session in October 2017.

C. To approve the following mandates:

1. Recommendations of the Board of External Auditors

Following the presentation of the annual report of the Board of External Auditors, the CAAP shall prepare a formal written response to the recommendations of the Board which shall be transmitted to the Permanent Council by March 1. The Permanent Council shall transmit the approved response to the Board of External Auditors by March 31.

The response shall be prepared in collaboration with the General Secretariat and include current status, measures taken, and next steps, as well as identifying those with lead responsibility.

2. Recommendations of the Inspector General

- a. The Inspector General shall present to the CAAP on a quarterly basis an analysis on the status of implementation of recommendations made;
- b. As appropriate, the CAAP will request from the relevant sector of the General Secretariat a response on actions taken to implement high-priority/high-risk recommendations;
- c. The CAAP will report on a quarterly basis to the Permanent Council on recommendations considered and actions taken or proposed by the General Secretariat to implement these recommendations.

3. Quota System<sup>7/</sup>

To instruct the Permanent Council to make a proposal, through the CAAP, for the revision of the current quota system and to present the results for approval at the next special session of the General Assembly in October 2017. To that end, the CAAP will present to the Permanent Council, by October 15, 2017, a proposal for the amendment of the Methodology

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7. Brazil is unable to accept any discussion outcome that involves increasing its contribution to the Regular Fund of the OAS.

for Calculating the Scale of Quota Assessments to Finance the Regular Fund of the Organization contained in resolution AG/RES. 1 (XXXIV-E/07) rev. 1, which might include, among others, the following considerations:

- Modification of paragraphs 1(f), (g), and (h), of the Methodology for Calculating the Scale of Quotas Assessments to Finance the Regular Fund of the OAS contained in resolution AG/RES. 1 (XXXIV-E/07) rev. 1
- A tentative implementation schedule for the next five years, starting in fiscal year 2019
- The gradual reduction of the percentage assigned to the largest contributor to below 50 percent, as well as the possibility of not reducing the amount of its annual contribution
- It will not modify the technical criteria included in paragraphs 1(a), (b), (c), (d), and (e) of the aforementioned methodology.

To adopt the transitional quota scale for the Regular Fund (Annex A) to finance the 2018 program-budget.

4. National Offices

To instruct the General Secretariat in preparing the 2018 program-budget to present a strategy for National Offices in member states with specific operational guidelines and objectives with a view to optimizing their technical role and impact.

5. Indirect cost recovery

To instruct the Permanent Council, through the CAAP, to review and propose measures to update the indirect cost recovery (ICR) policy.

6. Real estate strategy

a. To authorize the sale of the General Services Building (GSB), located on F Street N.W., Washington, D.C., and the construction of a new building on the lot of and adjacent to the Main Building (17th Street and C Street), through the launch of a competitive bidding process that will include a request for proposals with the following elements and options:

- i. The construction of a new building with at least 100,000 sq. ft. of office space and functional space plus underground parking;
- ii. An option for the General Secretariat to retain ownership of the GSB and use of the building until the construction of the new building is completed, at which time the sale agreement of the GSB would be completed; such options, if offered would include a proposal to refinance current debt on the GSB, a requirement for the deferred sale of the property; and

- iii. The retrofitting of the Administration Building to meet the needs of the General Secretariat.

b. To instruct the General Secretariat to conduct the bidding process in accordance with its rules and regulations and with the above elements; to conduct an analysis of offers received to determine the proposal with the best value; and to submit it to the Permanent Council for consideration. The General Secretariat may include multiple proposals if bidders make offers with distinctly different potential benefits. The final sale of the GSB will be contingent on the Permanent Council's approval.

c. To instruct the General Secretariat to use the proceeds of the transaction authorized above for the purposes explicitly set forth in this resolution and to use any remaining funds to address deferred repairs and other infrastructure issues in the Organization's remaining buildings.

d. To instruct the General Secretariat, in accordance with Articles 114 to 116 of the General Standards, to submit quarterly reports to the CAAP on the activities authorized above and on the use of the corresponding funds.

e. To request the General Secretariat to submit to the Permanent Council for consideration a strategy to allocate part of the resources obtained from the sale of the GSB to the reestablishment of the Fund for Building Improvement, Maintenance Services, and Other Urgent Needs.

f. To instruct the General Secretariat, once the winner of the bidding process has been selected, to have contracts and other legal documents expressly prohibit the winning company from hiring General Secretariat staff members, consultants, or independent contractors (CPRs) for at least five years.

g. To instruct the Permanent Council to continue consideration of the comprehensive real estate strategy.

7. Information Technology Strategic Plan

To instruct the General Secretariat to include in its proposed program-budget for 2018 sufficient resources to upgrade critical information technology systems and processes based on the Strategic Plan for Management Modernization of the Organization of American States and the Information Technology Strategic Plan 2018-2020 presented by the General Secretariat.





**TABLE A**  
**ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES**  
**REGULAR FUND**  
**REGULAR FUND QUOTA ASSESSMENTS FOR 2018**

Member States	Assessed Percentage	Quota Assessment	Tax Reimbursement	<sup>(a)</sup> Credits	Total
Antigua and Barbuda	0.022%	18,800			18,800
Argentina	3.000%	2,560,200			2,560,200
Bahamas	0.047%	40,100		836	39,264
Barbados	0.026%	22,200	12,000 <sup>(b)</sup>		34,200
Belize	0.022%	18,800			18,800
Bolivia	0.070%	59,700		956	58,744
Brazil	12.457%	10,630,600		106,050	10,524,550
Canada	9.801%	8,364,000		270,942	8,093,058
Chile	1.415%	1,207,500		34,485	1,173,015
Colombia	1.638%	1,397,800		11,188	1,386,612
Costa Rica	0.256%	218,500		4,015	214,485
Dominica	0.022%	18,800			18,800
Dominican Republic	0.268%	228,700			228,700
Ecuador	0.402%	343,100			343,100
El Salvador	0.076%	64,900			64,900
Grenada	0.022%	18,800			18,800
Guatemala	0.171%	145,900			145,900
Guyana	0.022%	18,800		188	18,612
Haiti	0.022%	18,800		666	18,134
Honduras	0.043%	36,700		716	35,984
Jamaica	0.053%	45,200			45,200
Mexico	6.470%	5,521,400			5,521,400
Nicaragua	0.022%	18,800		444	18,356
Panama	0.191%	163,000			163,000
Paraguay	0.087%	74,200		1,280	72,920
Peru	1.005%	857,700		7,339	850,361
Saint Kitts and Nevis	0.022%	18,800			18,800
Saint Lucia	0.022%	18,800		564	18,236
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	0.022%	18,800			18,800
Suriname	0.022%	18,800			18,800
Trinidad and Tobago	0.129%	110,100			110,100
United States	59.470%	50,750,700	5,300,000 <sup>(b)</sup>		56,050,700
Uruguay	0.298%	254,300			254,300
Venezuela	1.940%	1,655,600			1,655,600
Subtotal	99.555%	84,958,900	5,312,000	439,669	89,831,231
Cuba <sup>(c)</sup>	0.446%	380,600			380,600
TOTAL	100.001%	85,339,500	5,312,000	439,669	90,211,831

a. Represents 1% of 2017 quota assessment if full payment of 2017 quota was received by March 31, 2017, plus 2% of any payment received before February 28, 2017 and 3% if received by January 31, 2017.

b. The amount shown is estimated and may differ from the actual amount billed.

c. Shown only to establish the percentage corresponding to each member state.

FOOTNOTES

1. ... It is still within the denunciation period established in Article 143 of the OAS Charter.
2. ... Assess the Functioning of all OAS Scholarships and Training Programs to present proposals for strengthening the program. We believe that any consideration of funding of the programs should build on the findings of the Working Group, as well as on a rigorous analysis of actual needs and on an independent evaluation of the program's efficiency, effectiveness and results achieved. It should also take into account the financial situation of the OAS.
3. ... Assess the Functioning of all OAS Scholarships and Training Programs to present concrete proposals for strengthening the programs. We believe that the consideration of funding of the programs should build on the findings of the Working Group.
6. ... for acts that are patently detrimental to the human rights of their citizens and peoples.

AG/RES. 2912 (XLVII-O/17)

FINANCING OF THE 2018 PROGRAM-BUDGET OF THE ORGANIZATION<sup>1/</sup>

(Adopted at the third plenary session, held on June 21, 2017)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

The “Report of the Preparatory Committee to the General Assembly at Its Forty-seventh Regular Session” (AG/doc.5566/17); and

The “Report of the Chair of the Subcommittee on Administrative and Budgetary Matters on the Work Done in the Budget Area in Preparation for the Forty-seventh Regular Session of the General Assembly” (AG/CP/Sub.AAP-406/17); and

CONSIDERING:

That, in accordance with Articles 54.e and 55 of the Charter of the Organization of American States, the General Assembly approves the program-budget of the Organization and establishes the basis for setting the quota that each government is to contribute to the maintenance of the Organization, taking into account the respective countries’ ability to pay and their determination to contribute in an equitable manner;

That resolution AG/RES. 1757 (XXX-O/00), adopted by the General Assembly at its thirtieth regular session, approved measures to encourage the timely payment of quotas and has since modified those measures by way of resolutions AG/RES. 2157 (XXXV-O/05) and AG/RES. 1 (XLII-E/11) rev. 1;

That resolution AG/RES. 1 (XXXIV-E/07) rev. 1, adopted by the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth special session, approved the method for calculating the scale of quotas for financing the Regular Fund of the Organization;

That, pursuant to the methodology established by resolution AG/RES. 1 (XXXIV-E/07) rev. 1, the percentage quotas of the member states for 2018-2020 have been assigned;

That, by resolution AG/RES. 2 (LI-E/16) rev. 4, the General Assembly instructed the General Secretariat to submit to the Preparatory Committee a proposed overall budget level for 2018, as well as the tentative overall budget level for 2019, including the adjustment for cost of living and inflation, as necessary, in accordance with the current rules;

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1. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela does not agree to any commitment or mandate issued in this resolution as it did not participate in the negotiation of said resolution. ...

That it is necessary to establish the overall budget level and the sources of financing for the 2018 program-budget, which will be adopted by the General Assembly at a special session to be held no later than October 31, 2017;

That, based on Article 80 of the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (General Standards), the General Secretariat shall submit to the Permanent Council a proposed budget for use of the indirect cost recovery (ICR) resources, which shall be based on projected revenue equivalent to 90 percent of the average ICR obtained in the three years immediately preceding the year in which the program-budget is adopted, and that the General Assembly shall also adopt the ICR budget; and

That in 2018 no contributions to the Regular Fund are expected from specific funds for technical supervision and administrative support, in accordance with Article 80 of the General Standards,

RESOLVES:

1. To set the quotas through which the member states will finance the Regular Fund of the Organization for 2018 and the assessments for income tax reimbursements in keeping with the methods adopted in resolutions AG/RES. 1 (XXXIV-E/07) rev. 1 and AG/RES. 41 (I-O/71), respectively, using the scale and amounts that appear in Annex A “Regular Fund Quota Assessments for 2018.”

2. To set the overall budget level of the 2018 Regular Fund program-budget at US\$84,822,831 and to finance it as follows:

- a. Net contributions of member states in the form of quota payments to the Regular Fund totaling US\$84,519,231, computed as follows:
  - i. Total gross assessments of US\$84,958,900, apportioned according to the methodology for calculating the scale of quota assessments adopted in resolution AG/RES. 1 (XXXIV-E/07) rev. 1;
  - ii. A reduction of US\$439,669 in prompt payment discounts pursuant to the measures to encourage the prompt payment of quotas adopted by means of resolution AG/RES. 1757 (XXX-O/00), as amended by AG/RES. 2157 (XXXV-O/05) and AG/RES. 1 (XLII-E/11) rev. 1.
- b. A contribution of US\$41,600 from the Development Cooperation Fund of the Organization of American States (OAS/DCF) to the Regular Fund for technical supervision and administrative support, in keeping with Article 80 of the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (General Standards); that contribution, according to the OAS/DCF Statutes and Article 80 of the General Standards, will be up to 15 percent of the net amount approved in 2017 for execution in 2018;

- c. Income in the amount of US\$262,000 from interest and refunds and other income, in accordance with Article 72 of the General Standards.

3. The level of expenditure for 2018 established in the draft program-budget for 2018 that the General Secretariat will submit for consideration by the member states at least 90 days prior to the special session of the General Assembly in October 2017, pursuant to Article 90 of the General Standards, shall include the funds needed to:<sup>2/</sup>

- a. Comply with resolution AG/RES. 2908 (XLVII-O/17), “Promotion and Protection of Human Rights” [Section xvi (1) and (2)], as regards the funding of the organs of the inter-American human rights system—the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights—for the first of the three years established in said resolution, in an amount equivalent to 33 percent of the budget authorized for 2017 for each organ.
- b. Fund the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) and the Inter-American Children’s Institute (IIN), pursuant to resolution AG/RES. 2908 (XLVII-O/17) [Sections xvii (3) and xviii (3)], in an amount equivalent to 26 percent and 49 percent of the budget authorized for 2017, respectively.
- c. Support programs selected by the member states within the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI), pursuant to resolution AG/RES. 2904 (XLVII-O/17), “Advancing Hemispheric Initiatives on Integral Development,” in an amount equivalent to 37 percent of the budget authorized for 2017.

4. The difference between the budget ceiling and the level of expenditure shall be recorded in the account “1240 Reserve Subfund.”

5. The additional funds referred to in the preceding paragraph shall be allocated to the priorities established in the agencies’ strategic and financial plans, and in their strategic objectives.

6. To request the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, the IACHR, the CIM, the IIN, and SEDI each to present in due course an expenditure plan corresponding to its budget, as well as a semi-annual report on budget execution.

7. To instruct the Secretary General to make such adjustments and reductions as may be needed to comply with the foregoing paragraph.

8. To set the overall expenditure ceiling for the Indirect Cost Recovery Fund account at US\$4,500,000, in accordance with the General Standards.

9. To set the tentative overall budget level for 2019 at US\$84,822,831.

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2. Brazil and Canada recognize the importance of the inter-American human rights system and the need to ensure it has the necessary resources in order to function effectively. Brazil and Canada...



TABLE A



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b. The amount shown is estimated and may differ from the actual amount billed.

c. Shown only to establish the percentage corresponding to each member state.

#### FOOTNOTES

1. ... It is still within the denunciation period established in Article 143 of the OAS Charter.
2. ... recognize that the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, in particular, are underfunded and currently heavily dependent on voluntary contributions. We also strongly believe in the importance of ensuring the financial sustainability of all OAS organs. These two priorities are complementary and need to be implemented in a coherent and comprehensive way. Although the situation has improved over the last year, the OAS is still in a fragile financial situation and Brazil and Canada believe that we must act with diligence and prudence. Any discussion on increasing funding for a particular OAS organ should be based on a comprehensive analysis of all financial requirements over time.



AG/RES. 2913 (XLVII-O/17)

PLAN OF ACTION ON THE AMERICAN DECLARATION ON  
THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES (2017-2021)<sup>1/2/</sup>

(Adopted at the first plenary session, held on June 20, 2017)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

BEARING IN MIND the Charter of the Organization of American States, the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, the American Convention on Human Rights, the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and other inter-American and international instruments, in particular the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

REAFFIRMING that the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples establishes that progress in promoting and effectively protecting the rights of the indigenous peoples of the Americas is a priority for the Organization of American States; and

MINDFUL of the work undertaken by the Rapporteurship on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights,

RESOLVES:

To adopt the following Plan of Action on the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples:

- 
1. The United States does not join consensus on this resolution, consistent with our persistent objections to the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples initially placed ...
  2. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela does not agree to any commitment or mandate issued in this resolution as it did not participate in the negotiation of said resolution. ...



## PLAN OF ACTION ON THE AMERICAN DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES (2017-2021)

### I. MISSION

The promotion of public administrative, legislative, judicial and budgetary policies to ensure that indigenous peoples in the Americas enjoy and exercise all of their rights.

### II. VISION

Member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) develop and implement in consultation and cooperation with the indigenous peoples policies, programs and projects for the recognition, promotion, and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples established in the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (ADRIP).

### III. MAINSTREAMING

The implementation of this plan will be crosscutting, adopting a balanced perspective on civil and political rights, economic, social and cultural rights, and the collective rights of indigenous peoples. Moreover, particular attention will be given to marginalized and vulnerable groups within indigenous communities, who suffer multiple, aggravated and concomitant forms of discrimination.

### IV. GENDER PERSPECTIVE

The Plan will adopt a gender perspective so as to promote balance, the empowerment and visibility of indigenous women, and the elimination of all forms of discrimination. By adopting a gender perspective, the Plan seeks to promote a dialogue based on respect for diversity that takes into consideration the varying effects that policies and programs will have on indigenous women and young girls.

### V. INTERCULTURAL PERSPECTIVE

The adoption of an intercultural approach is intended to promote the creation of policies that value and acknowledge ethnic and cultural diversity, and which are based on respect for cultural differences, in accordance with each people's cosmovision, the opening of spaces for dialogue, and the establishment or strengthening of consultation mechanisms to obtain their free, prior, and informed consent.

### VI. MAIN OBJECTIVE

To contribute to the full recognition, exercise, and enjoyment of the rights of indigenous peoples at the national and hemispheric levels through the support of the OAS and other bodies of the inter-American system.

## VII. ACTIVITIES

To promote and draw attention to the culture of the indigenous peoples of the Americas, furthering and encouraging different activities in the framework of the OAS and at the national level to promote their traditions, recognize the value of their languages, transmit their history, and draw attention to their contributions in different fields.

To mark International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples on August 9 each year and to commemorate 2019 as the International Year of Indigenous Languages.

## VIII. STRATEGIC LINES OF THE ACTION PLAN:

1. Dissemination and education on the ADRIP
2. Implementation of the ADRIP
3. Capacity building for states, indigenous peoples, and civil society
4. Sustainable development of indigenous peoples
5. Exchanges of best practices and experience

1. Dissemination and education on the ADRIP

General Objective: To disseminate the contents of the ADRIP across all sectors, in order to incorporate the rights of indigenous peoples in all spheres of public life in a crosscutting and intercultural way.

### 1.1 At the national level:

#### a. For the general population:

- i. Devise and carry out campaigns with key messages to promote knowledge, understanding, and respect for the rights of indigenous peoples, in all their diversity, as recognized in the ADRIP.
- ii. Disseminate the Declaration in accessible formats distributed during educational campaigns on the rights of indigenous peoples.
- iii. Suggest including in national curricula the study, from an intercultural perspective, of the rights, principles, and norms of indigenous peoples recognized in the ADRIP.
- iv. Encourage institutions and universities to disseminate the rights, principles, and norms of indigenous peoples in their higher education curricula.

- b. For indigenous peoples:
  - i. Disseminate among indigenous peoples, in as many indigenous languages as possible, information about the human rights standards recognized in the ADRIP and in other relevant instruments.
  - ii. Disseminate information among indigenous peoples about effective and suitable recourse, including expeditious judicial remedies, to redress any violation of their collective or individual rights.
- c. For civil servants:
  - i. Disseminate and raise awareness of the ADRIP in State institutions in a crosscutting and intercultural way not limited to those responsible for indigenous issues, with a special emphasis on education, health, justice, and security.
  - ii. Seek to include information on the rights of indigenous peoples in the education and training of civil servants.

1.2 At the hemispheric level:

- a. Disseminate information and raise awareness about the ADRIP in a crosscutting and intercultural way.
- b. Develop, through the OAS, a social and electronic media campaign to disseminate key messages to promote knowledge and understanding of the rights of the indigenous peoples, in all their diversity, as recognized in the ADRIP.

2. Implementation of the ADRIP

General Objective: To promote the incorporation and implementation in a crosscutting and intercultural way of the rights of indigenous peoples recognized in ADRIP in all areas of public life of states.

2.1 At the national level:

- a. Formulate and implement action plans, strategies, and other measures to achieve the purposes of the ADRIP through public policies and legislative, regulatory, and administrative measures.
- b. Promote the establishment or strengthening of mechanisms for participation, consultation, and platforms for dialogue between the State and indigenous peoples.

- c. Strengthen intercultural education and health programs as part of indigenous peoples' rights.
- d. Implement affirmative-action policies to foster the enjoyment of human rights by indigenous peoples, especially in the area of economic, social, and cultural rights.
- e. Adopt measures to support the hiring of indigenous persons across sectors without any form of discrimination.

2.2 At the hemispheric level:

Review the possibility of creating an institutional monitoring mechanism within the framework of the OAS, based on experience acquired in other international organizations, to monitor implementation of the ADRIP at the hemispheric level. This review should include discussions on options for the mechanism's mandate, format and costs.

3. Capacity building for states, indigenous peoples, and civil society

General Objective: To promote capacity building of civil servants, indigenous peoples, and civil society to help bring about full enjoyment of rights and protection for indigenous peoples, within a framework of equality, respect, and nondiscrimination, so as to strengthen intercultural societies.

3.1 At the national level:

a. For civil servants:

Develop training programs for civil servants at all levels of government in a crosscutting and intercultural way, with particular emphasis on those whose duties are directly or indirectly related to indigenous issues.

b. For indigenous peoples and civil society:

- i. Develop professionalization and training programs for indigenous representatives and civil society organizations in a crosscutting, intersecting, and intercultural way, with special emphasis on those whose role is directly or indirectly related to indigenous issues.
- ii. Promote the development of cooperation programs for the execution of projects to strengthen the exercise of the rights of indigenous peoples consistent with the DADIN.

3.2 At the hemispheric level:

- a. Incorporate a crosscutting and intercultural perspective in the promotion and protection of the human rights of indigenous peoples in all programs and projects of the OAS and other entities of the inter-American system.
- b. Encourage training on the rights of indigenous peoples for staff of the organs, agencies, and entities of the OAS and the inter-American system.
- c. Support the work of the Office of the Special Rapporteur for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and, in particular, promote the identification of the necessary resources for it to function properly.

4. Sustainable development of indigenous peoples

General Objective: To promote the strengthening of sustainable development for indigenous peoples, ensuring full respect for their rights recognized in the ADRIP, including the establishment or strengthening of consultation mechanisms in order to achieve their free, prior, and informed consent and taking into account ongoing processes in other international forums.

4.1 At the national level:

- a. Take into account the development priorities of indigenous peoples in preparing national, local, and regional development plans and ensure that they are in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the provisions of the ADRIP.
- b. Take into account the knowledge and traditional ancestral practices of indigenous peoples, including knowledge and agricultural techniques, as well as techniques for protecting, safeguarding, and relating to natural resources in plans of action to address the adverse effects of climate change.

4.2 At the hemispheric level:

- a. Promote the coordinated and systematic participation of indigenous peoples in programs, projects and other activities related to the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development (2016-2021), with an emphasis on the participation of indigenous women, persons with disabilities, older persons, children, and young people.

- b. Promote an approach that respects the rights of indigenous peoples in the preparation of cooperation projects in this field, and in activities and training opportunities offered by states and by the organs, agencies, and entities of the inter-American system.
- c. To promote an affirmative action policy for indigenous peoples in the scholarship, training, and internship programs of the organs, agencies, and entities of the inter-American system.

5. Exchanges of best practices and experience

General Objective: To promote dialogue between states and representatives of indigenous peoples in order to exchange experiences and assess fulfillment of the objectives of the ADRIP and this plan of action.

5.1 At the national level:

- a. Promote exchanges of best practices in the promotion and implementation of the ADRIP among states' national and subnational institutions.
- b. Identify, in consultation and collaboration with indigenous peoples measurable and quantifiable social, economic, and cultural indicators, as well as disaggregated data, all in line with the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030, in order to assess progress and challenges.

5.2 At the hemispheric level:

- a. Hold a special annual meeting of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs attended by officials from the national and subnational institutions working on indigenous issues and open to participation by representatives of indigenous peoples, in order to share information on progress, experience, lessons learned, and challenges in the implementation of the ADRIP.
- b. Promote the exchange of information on national and subnational laws and policies on the rights of indigenous peoples.
- c. Compile an inventory of standards and policies on the rights of indigenous peoples in the Americas, as well as of measurable and quantifiable indicators and targets for the entire region.

IX. IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING OF THE ACTION PLAN

This plan of action will remain in force for a period of four years from its adoption. Once the deadline has expired, the OAS General Assembly will evaluate the fulfillment of the proposed



objectives and may request its revision and updating, consistent with the purposes and principles adopted in the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The information and recommendations presented at the special meeting mentioned in Section VIII.5.2 of this plan of action will be integrated into the regular reports of the Permanent Council and brought to the attention of the General Assembly.

Member states will be responsible for the implementation of this plan of action, taking into account their national and subnational realities. To that end, member states may rely on existing mechanisms in the OAS and other agencies of the inter-American system.

The General Secretariat will collaborate with other organizations, universities, research and development centers, and with the public and private sectors to create synergies for the implementation of this plan of action.

States shall strive to allocate the necessary financial resources for the fulfillment of the objectives set forth in this plan of action.

FOOTNOTES

1. ... on the record in 2007 and further elaborated in our footnote to OAS General Assembly resolution AG/RES. 2888 (XLVI-O/16) of June 15, 2016. In particular, we reiterate our view that the focus of the member states of the OAS should be on implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

2. ... It is still within the denunciation period established in Article 143 of the OAS Charter.

AG/RES. 2914 (XLVII-O/17)

VOTE OF APPRECIATION TO THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT OF MEXICO

(Adopted at the closing session, held on June 21, 2017)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

CONSIDERING:

That the forty-seventh regular session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States was held in Cancún, Quintana Roo, Mexico, from June 19 to 21, 2017; and

That during that regular session of the General Assembly, the delegations expressed their profound gratitude to His Excellency Luis Videgaray, Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Mexico, for the skill with which he steered the discussions, which led to the adoption of important declarations and resolutions on high-priority issues on the hemispheric agenda; and

UNDERSCORING the warm welcome extended by the Mexican people and Government,

RESOLVES:

1. To express its gratitude to His Excellency Enrique Peña Nieto, President of the United Mexican States, and particularly to the citizens of Cancún, Quintana Roo, for the warm and generous hospitality that they showed to the participants in the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS).

2. To recognize and commend His Excellency Luis Videgaray, Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Mexico, on his able leadership as President of the forty-seventh regular session of the General Assembly.

3. To express its appreciation and gratitude to Ambassador Luis Alfonso de Alba Góngora, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the OAS, the members of the Permanent Mission of Mexico to the OAS, and the officials from the Mexican Secretariat for Foreign Affairs, whose efficiency, dedication, and professionalism contributed to the success of the forty-seventh regular session of the General Assembly.



DECISION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO DETERMINE THE PLACE AND DATE  
OF THE FORTY-EIGHTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
(ARTICLE 30 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY)

During the third plenary session, the General Assembly decided to hold the forty-eighth regular session at the headquarters of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States. In accordance with the Assembly's Rules of Procedure, it hereby requests the Permanent Council to determine the date the session will begin.



## THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

The Organization of American States (OAS) is the world's oldest regional organization, dating back to the First International Conference of American States, held in Washington, D.C., from October 1889 to April 1890. At that meeting the establishment of the International Union of American Republics was approved. The Charter of the OAS was signed in Bogotá in 1948 and entered into force in December 1951. The Charter was subsequently amended by the Protocol of Buenos Aires, signed in 1967, which entered into force in February 1970; by the Protocol of Cartagena de Indias, signed in 1985, which entered into force in November 1988; by the Protocol of Managua, signed in 1993, which entered into force on January 29, 1996; and by the Protocol of Washington, signed in 1992, which entered into force on September 25, 1997. The OAS currently has 35 member states. In addition, the Organization has granted permanent observer status to 72 states, as well as to the European Union.

The essential purposes of the OAS are: to strengthen peace and security in the Hemisphere; to promote and consolidate representative democracy, with due respect for the principle of nonintervention; to prevent possible causes of difficulties and to ensure peaceful settlement of disputes that may arise among the member states; to provide for common action on the part of those states in the event of aggression; to seek the solution of political, juridical, and economic problems that may arise among them; to promote, by cooperative action, their economic, social, and cultural development; and to achieve an effective limitation of conventional weapons that will make it possible to devote the largest amount of resources to the economic and social development of the member states.

The Organization of American States accomplishes its purposes by means of: the General Assembly; the Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs; the Councils (the Permanent Council and the Inter-American Council for Integral Development); the Inter-American Juridical Committee; the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights; the General Secretariat; the specialized conferences; the specialized organizations; and other entities established by the General Assembly.

The General Assembly holds a regular session once a year. Under special circumstances it meets in special session. The Meeting of Consultation is convened to consider urgent matters of common interest and to serve as Organ of Consultation under the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance (Rio Treaty), the main instrument for joint action in the event of aggression. The Permanent Council takes cognizance of such matters as are entrusted to it by the General Assembly or the Meeting of Consultation and implements the decisions of both organs when their implementation has not been assigned to any other body; it monitors the maintenance of friendly relations among the member states and the observance of the standards governing General Secretariat operations; and it also acts provisionally as Organ of Consultation under the Rio Treaty. The General Secretariat is the central and permanent organ of the OAS. The headquarters of both the Permanent Council and the General Secretariat are in Washington, D.C.

**MEMBER STATES: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, The Bahamas (Commonwealth of), Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica (Commonwealth of), Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United States, Uruguay, and Venezuela.**





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OEA/Ser.P/XLVII-O.2 PROCEEDINGS VOLUME I

AG/DEC. 95 (XLVII-O/17)

AG/RES. 2898 - 2914 (XLVII-O/17)

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