

AG/RES. 2182 (XXXVI-O/06)

ADOPTION OF THE AMENDED STATUTES OF
THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON NATURAL DISASTER REDUCTION

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

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the report of the Permanent Council and the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development on the creation of a single permanent inter-American committee on natural and other disasters, and the related recommendations contained in that report (CP/CSH-774/06);

RECALLING its resolution AG/RES. 2114 (XXXV-O/05), "Natural Disaster Reduction and Risk Management," which called for a review of the Statutes of the Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction (IACNDR) and the Inter-American Emergency Aid Fund (FONDEM) to propose amendments necessary to create a single permanent inter-American committee to address natural and other disasters;

AWARE of the duplications in the composition and functions of the Inter-American Committee for Emergency Situations under the FONDEM, the IACNDR, and the Inter-American Emergency Aid Committee under the Inter-American Convention to Facilitate Disaster Assistance;

REITERATING:

The importance of reducing member states' vulnerability to disasters by the appropriate use of sustainable development practices as an element of sustained economic and social development; and

The need to strengthen the planning and disaster management activities of the Organization of American States so as to respond more effectively to the increasingly frequent natural disasters in the Hemisphere;

RECOGNIZING the importance of the IACNDR as one of the principal regional instruments for assisting member states in preparing, responding to, and reducing vulnerability to natural and other disasters; and

PURSUANT to Article 15 of the IACNDR Statutes currently in force, which establishes that the current Statutes may be modified by the General Assembly at its own initiative,

RESOLVES:

1. To adopt the amended Statutes of the Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction (IACNDR) attached hereto.

2. To declare that the IACNDR will fulfill the duties and functions of the Inter-American Emergency Aid Committee under the Inter-American Convention to Facilitate Disaster Assistance.

3. To declare that the IACNDR will also fulfill the duties and functions of the Inter-American Committee for Emergency Situations under the Inter-American Emergency Aid Fund (FONDEM).

4. To declare the entry into force of the amended IACNDR Statutes as of the date of the adoption of this resolution.

STATUTES OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE
ON NATURAL DISASTER REDUCTION (IACNDR)

CHAPTER I
NATURE AND PURPOSE

Article 1

The Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction (hereinafter “the IACNDR”) is an entity of the Organization of American States (hereinafter “the OAS” or “the Organization”), established by the General Assembly through resolution AG/RES. 1682 (XXIX-O/99).

Article 2

The purpose of the IACNDR is to act as the principal forum of the Inter-American system for analyzing issues related to natural and other disasters, including the prevention and mitigation of their effects, in coordination with the governments of member states; competent national, regional, and international organizations; and nongovernmental organizations.

The IACNDR seeks to strengthen hemispheric actions to achieve maximum international cooperation in support of national and/or regional efforts for timely prevention, preparedness, early warning, response, vulnerability reduction, emergency care, mitigation, rehabilitation, and reconstruction.

The IACNDR shall provide advisory services to the Inter-American Emergency Aid Fund (FONDEM) in all matters pertaining to emergency aid, including social, humanitarian, material, technical, and financial assistance to member states pursuant to the Statutes of that Fund.

The IACNDR shall provide advisory and coordination services under the Inter-American Convention to Facilitate Disaster Assistance.

Article 3

The IACNDR is governed by these Statutes. Its activities shall be carried out in accordance with the OAS Charter and the mandates handed down by the OAS General Assembly and Permanent Council.

CHAPTER II FUNCTIONS

Article 4

The IACNDR shall submit to the Permanent Council annual progress reports on the implementation and updating of the Inter-American Strategic Plan for Policy on Vulnerability Reduction, Risk Management and Disaster Response (IASP), which contains recommendations on initiatives related to natural disasters and methods of financing, placing particular emphasis on policies, programs, and international cooperation intended to reduce the vulnerability of member states to natural disasters.

CHAPTER III STRUCTURE

Article 5: Composition

The IACNDR shall comprise the Chair of the OAS Permanent Council, the Secretary General of the OAS, the Assistant Secretary General of the OAS, the President of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Director General of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the Secretary General of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), the President of the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF), the Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the Director General of the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD), the Chair of the Inter-American Defense Board (IADB), and the Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM).

Article 6: The Chair and its functions

The Secretary General of the OAS, or, in his absence, his respective representative, is Chair of the IACNDR and, in that capacity, performs the following functions:

- a. Convenes the IACNDR;
- b. Represents the IACNDR before the other organs and agencies of the OAS;
- c. Directs and coordinates the meetings organized by the IACNDR with other agencies responsible for or associated with matters related to the prevention and mitigation of the effects of natural disasters;
- d. Coordinates performance of the IACNDR's functions;
- e. When necessary, invites the member states, permanent observers, and representatives of national, subregional, regional, and international organizations and mechanisms to participate in IACNDR meetings with voice but without vote; said organizations could include the United Nations, the World Bank, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the White Helmets Initiative, the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA), and the Coordination Center for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America (CEPREDENAC);

- f. Coordinates the preparation of the reports that the IACNDR will submit to the Permanent Council;
- g. Coordinates cooperation among National Coordination Authorities of the states parties to the Inter-American Convention to Facilitate Disaster Assistance and offers states affected by a natural disaster to notify the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA); and
- h. Performs such duties as required under Article VII of the Statutes of the Inter-American Emergency Aid Fund (FONDEM).

CHAPTER IV MEETINGS

Article 7

The IACNDR shall meet at least twice a year. At the discretion of the Chair, more frequent meetings may be called.

Article 8

The necessary quorum for a meeting of the IACNDR shall be more than half its members.

Article 9

Should the Secretary General of the OAS be absent from all or part of a meeting of the IACNDR, the other members present shall decide by a majority of votes on a replacement to direct its discussions during his or her absence.

Article 10

A member of the IACNDR may, under special circumstances, appoint another high-level officer of the agency to which he or she belongs to represent it at those meetings that the member cannot attend.

Article 11

Each member of the IACNDR shall have the right to one vote. The Committee shall do everything possible to adopt decisions and recommendations by consensus. Should it not be possible to adopt decisions and recommendations by consensus, the Committee shall adopt them by a majority vote of the members.

Article 12

The IACNDR shall meet at the OAS headquarters, except when it decides on an alternative venue for any of its meetings.

CHAPTER V SECRETARIAT SERVICES

Article 13

The General Secretariat of the OAS shall provide secretariat services to the IACNDR, in accordance with the resources allocated in the Regular Fund program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

CHAPTER VI FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Article 14

The IACNDR shall fund those activities that pertain to Article 4 of these Statutes by soliciting specific contributions from the member states of the OAS and from other states and international intergovernmental organizations, or by seeking to establish the necessary specific and trust funds, pursuant to Articles 69 and 70 of the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat of the Organization.

In addition to financial contributions obtained pursuant to the foregoing paragraph, for purposes of emergency aid under Article V of the FONDEM Statutes, financial resources shall be made available pursuant to Article IV.b of the FONDEM Statutes for such purposes.

CHAPTER VII AMENDMENTS AND ENTRY INTO FORCE

Article 15

These Statutes may be amended by the General Assembly either at its own initiative or at the request of the IACNDR.

Article 16

These Statutes shall enter into force on the date of their adoption by the OAS General Assembly.