

AG/RES. 2255 (XXXVI-O/06)

THE USE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES
IN GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT IN ORDER TO PROMOTE TRANSPARENCY
AND THE PARTICIPATION OF MICRO, SMALL, AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES,
AND OTHER PRODUCTIVE ORGANIZATIONS

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

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

CONSIDERING:

That, in the Declaration of Nuevo León of the Special Summit of the Americas (2004), the Heads of State and Government of the Americas undertook to promote transparency in government transactions in accordance with domestic legislation, in order to, *inter alia*, prevent abuse and maintain public confidence;

That in the same Declaration, the Heads of State and Government said that they would support micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises through policies and programs that, among other things, “allow their effective access to markets and to government procurement.” Further, they said that they would promote “greater international cooperation in order to foster the sharing of best practices for the development of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises”;

That, in the Plan of Action of the Fourth Summit of the Americas (Mar del Plata, Argentina, 2005), the Heads of State and Government agreed to “encourage the exchange of experience with regard to the role of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises and access to procurement programs, in the creation of productive jobs, development of competitive skills, reduction of the informal sector, and the fight against poverty”; and

That, in its resolution AG/RES. 2083 (XXXV-O/05), “Strengthening of Micro, Small, and Medium-Sized Enterprises” (MSMEs), the General Assembly instructed the General Secretariat to “support, to the extent possible, efforts by member states aimed at strengthening the competitiveness of MSMEs for trade and development by,” *inter alia*, “[s]trengthening the institutional framework that support MSMEs, in particular by facilitating their access to markets and to government procurement using electronic means in order to provide broader dissemination of the opportunities available to them”; and

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION:

That the General Secretariat is working with the member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) to strengthen the institutional capacity needed to develop strategies and programs to improve procurement practices, including the use of Internet-based systems and of practices that facilitate participation on more competitive and productive terms for MSMEs in government procurement, including productive organizations such as cooperatives;

That OAS-supported activities on government procurement provide those responsible for strategies and project managers with opportunities to exchange information and experiences on lessons learned and current best practices, access to experts with broad experience, and mechanisms for their institutional cooperation in strategy development and program design;

That one of the results of OAS cooperation activities has been the creation of the Inter-American Government Procurement Network, which brings together the highest-level government procurement officials, business associations, technical institutes, and other players from civil society; and

That the national government procurement institutions of Brazil, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Mexico, Peru, and the United States have hosted and supported OAS-sponsored activities on government procurement,

RESOLVES:

1. To underscore the importance of the effectiveness, efficiency, and transparency of government procurement in achieving the best value in purchasing, reducing transaction costs, supporting the implementation of economic and social development programs, promoting participation on more competitive and productive terms for micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), and other productive organizations such as cooperatives, in government procurement in each country, and supporting the development of e-procurement, e-commerce, and e-MSMEs, in order to generate jobs, reduce poverty, deter corruption, and strengthen democratic governance.

2. To underscore the importance of the participation on more competitive and productive terms for MSMEs, and other productive organizations such as cooperatives, in government procurement, in order to promote their formalization and association, and the identification of opportunities to link up stages of production, generate jobs, diversify economic activity, and increase the competitive supply of goods and services for the state.

3. To underscore the importance of the use of the Internet and other digital media in government procurement as a means of increasing the effectiveness, efficiency, and transparency of procurement transactions and of facilitating participation, on more competitive and productive terms for MSMEs, and other productive organizations such as cooperatives, in government procurement.

4. To invite member states to continue to support and to participate in cooperation activities on government procurement in the framework of the Organization of American States (OAS), in order to collaborate in strengthening the capacity of each country to design and implement strategies for improving the effectiveness, efficiency, and transparency of government procurement.

5. To invite member states to continue to support and to participate in the OAS-sponsored cooperation programs and activities aimed at promoting and facilitating participation, on more competitive and productive terms for MSMEs, and other productive organizations such as cooperatives, in government procurement.

6. To instruct the General Secretariat to work toward expanding the Inter-American Government Procurement Network and to support to the extent possible, with the resources available, the activities of this Network established by the highest-level government procurement officials of the member states to enhance their operations based on the exchange of information and experiences on lessons learned and best practices, the rendering of mutual support, and the organization and implementation of joint activities.

7. To foster dialogue among the OAS, the Inter-American Government Procurement Network, the Inter-American Development Bank, and other relevant entities in order to coordinate government procurement-related activities, including the consideration of strategies for improving connections between electronic government procurement systems and for publicizing and facilitating contacts among MSMEs in the Hemisphere, so that they can participate effectively in procurement opportunities associated with development bank programs.

8. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session on the implementation of this resolution.