

GENERAL ASSEMBLY



FIFTIETH REGULAR SESSION
October 20 and 21, 2020
Washington, D.C., United States of America
VIRTUAL

OEA/Ser.P
AG/doc.5717/20 rev. 1
21 June 2021
Original: Spanish

DECLARATION AND RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

(Reviewed by the Style Committee)

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AG/DEC. 102 (L-O/20)

DECLARATION ON THE QUESTION OF THE MALVINAS ISLANDS^{1/2/}

(Adopted at the first plenary session, held on October 20, 2020)

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 Georgias 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.

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1. Antigua and Barbuda considers that the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is not a member state of the Organization of American States since, on April 27, 2017, the Government of the Bolivarian ...
 2. Mexico reiterates the position articulated in its statement during the report of the Secretary General on Credentials at the plenary session of the fiftieth regular session of the General Assembly.

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.

FOOTNOTE

1. ... Republic of Venezuela properly notified the Secretary General of its denunciation of the Charter in accordance with Article 143 of the Charter of the Organization of American States, and the Charter ceased to be in force with respect to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, which ceased to belong to the Organization on April 27, 2019.

Antigua and Barbuda did not support resolution CP/RES. 1124 (2217/19) of April 9, 2019, which sought to appoint Mr. Gustavo Tarre as the National Assembly's representative to the OAS, and it did not accept the credentials of the officials intending to represent the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela at the forty-ninth and fiftieth regular sessions of the General Assembly.

Therefore, Antigua and Barbuda notifies all member states and the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States, as it did at the forty-ninth regular session of the General Assembly, that until further notice it will not consider itself bound by any declaration or resolution of the fiftieth regular session of the General Assembly or any future declarations or resolutions of any council or organ of the Organization that includes the participation of any person or entity purporting to speak for or act on behalf of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and in which 18 votes are attained with the participation of a purported representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

AG/RES. 2948 (L-O/20)

SUPPORT FOR AND FOLLOW-UP TO THE SUMMITS OF THE AMERICAS PROCESS^{1/2/}

(Adopted at the first plenary session, held on October 20, 2020)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the mandates and 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), the Seventh Summit of the Americas (Panama City, 2015),^{3/} and the Eighth Summit of the Americas (Lima, 2018);^{4/}

BEARING IN MIND that the Inter-American Democratic Charter is a key accomplishment resulting from the Summits of the Americas process, based on leaders' commitments at the 2001 Summit of the Americas in Quebec City, and adopted by a special session of the General Assembly in Lima, Peru, on September 11, 2001;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT 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; and

HIGHLIGHTING the importance of following-up in a coordinated, timely, and effective manner on the mandates and initiatives of the Summits of the Americas and the important technical support that the OAS and the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG) provide,

RESOLVES:

1. To continue implementing 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 to serve as the institutional memory and technical secretariat of this process, advising the host country of the Ninth 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, which is to be held in the United States,

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1. Antigua and Barbuda considers that the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is not a member state of the Organization of American States since, on April 27, 2017, the Government of the Bolivarian ...
 2. Mexico reiterates the position articulated in its statement during the report of the Secretary General on Credentials at the plenary session of the fiftieth regular session of the General Assembly.
 3. The Government of the Republic of Nicaragua has been placing on record its express reservation to the mandates and initiatives put forth at the V, VI, and VII Summits of the Americas, given the fact ...
 4. With respect to the Eighth Summit of the Americas, the Government of Nicaragua informed the Heads of State and Government present at the Eighth Summit of the Americas that Nicaragua was not ...

as well as the Summit-related activities associated with the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Inter-American Democratic Charter.

2. To request that the General Secretariat, through the Summits Secretariat, continue:
 - a. Supporting follow-up and dissemination of Summits mandates and initiatives, as applicable, including through the involvement of ministerial processes;
 - b. Providing member states with support in the implementation of the mandates and initiatives of the Summits, supplying technical support to the Summits of the Americas Follow-up System, and advising member states on all aspects related to the process, when so requested, as well as supporting the follow-up activities in relation to the Eighth Summit,^{5/} held in Lima, Peru, in April 2018, primarily in connection with the implementation of the Lima Commitment; and
 - c. Making efforts to promote and publicize the mandates and initiatives among the stakeholders involved, in order to facilitate their contribution to, and participation in, follow-up and implementation through the available information and communications platforms, including social networks, and the Summits of the Americas Virtual Community.^{6/}

3. To instruct the General Secretariat, in its capacity as Chair of the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG), 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 institution 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 (CISC) and the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG).

4. To request that the CISC collaborate with the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs to help organize, in coordination with the Summits Secretariat, a special joint meeting in the first quarter of 2021 on “Democratic Resiliency, the Role of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, and the Summits Process,” with a view to sharing possible recommendations for consideration by the SIRG in advance of the Ninth Summit of the Americas.

5. To urge member states to report regularly, through the SIRG, on their implementation and follow-up on the mandates and initiatives established by the Summits of the Americas process; and to request the States and organizations that make up the JSWG that have not yet submitted their information to the Mechanism for Follow-Up and Implementation of the Lima Commitment to do so.

6. 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 use its resources as needed and 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. Idem.

6. Idem.

FOOTNOTES

1. ... Republic of Venezuela properly notified the Secretary General of its denunciation of the Charter in accordance with Article 143 of the Charter of the Organization of American States, and the Charter ceased to be in force with respect to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, which ceased to belong to the Organization on April 27, 2019.

Antigua and Barbuda did not support resolution CP/RES. 1124 (2217/19) of April 9, 2019, which sought to appoint Mr. Gustavo Tarre as the National Assembly's representative to the OAS, and it did not accept the credentials of the officials intending to represent the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela at the forty-ninth and fiftieth regular sessions of the General Assembly.

Therefore, Antigua and Barbuda notifies all member states and the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States, as it did at the forty-ninth regular session of the General Assembly, that until further notice it will not consider itself bound by any declaration or resolution of the fiftieth regular session of the General Assembly or any future declarations or resolutions of any council or organ of the Organization that includes the participation of any person or entity purporting to speak for or act on behalf of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and in which 18 votes are attained with the participation of a purported representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

3. ... that the Heads of State and Government at those summits could not address – neither did they adopt – the political declarations of those Summits. The mandates and operative parts of the core themes were part of the political declarations and, since the latter were not adopted, the former were also rendered not adopted. Nicaragua therefore does not agree with mention being made of these documents and mandates that were not adopted.

4. ... approving the Lima Commitment: “Democratic Governance against Corruption,” nor other documents, declarations, communiqués, or resolutions issued by this Summit, because it was not involved in negotiating them.

AG/RES. 2949 (L-O/20)

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^{1/2/}

(Adopted at the first plenary session, held on October 20, 2020)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECOGNIZING the importance of participation by civil society organizations and other social actors in strengthening democracy, integral development, promotion and protection of human rights, and multidimensional 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”; and

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT resolutions AG/RES. 1915 (XXXIII-O/03), AG/RES. 2901 (XLVII-O/17), AG/RES. 2902 (XLVII-O/17), AG/RES. 2920 (XLVIII-O/18), AG/RES. 2924 (XLVIII-O/18), AG/RES. 2933 (XLIX-O/19), CP/RES. 759 (1217/99), CP/RES. 864 (1413/04), and all prior resolutions adopted on this subject,

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 to generate concrete measures to actively support and promote the registration of civil society organizations and other social actors, as well as national and multilateral efforts to enable civil society organizations and other social actors to participate in OAS activities in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Organization; and (b) 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 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.

3. To instruct the General Secretariat to continue to invite indigenous peoples and communities of African descent in member states, or their representatives, to participate in the

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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, when so requested, to support member states in their efforts to increase and strengthen the institutional capacity of their governments to receive, integrate, and incorporate input and suggestions from civil society and other social actors.

5. 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, created by resolution CP/RES. 864 (1413/04), 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.

6. To instruct the General Secretariat to identify the human resources needed to implement the mandates entrusted by the member states with respect to the Relations with Civil Society Section of the Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity.

FOOTNOTE

1. ... Republic of Venezuela properly notified the Secretary General of its denunciation of the Charter in accordance with Article 143 of the Charter of the Organization of American States, and the Charter ceased to be in force with respect to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, which ceased to belong to the Organization on April 27, 2019.

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AG/RES. 2950 (L-O/20)

ADVANCING HEMISPHERIC SECURITY: A MULTIDIMENSIONAL APPROACH^{1/2/}

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on October 21, 2020)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the “Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly, July 2019 – October 2020” ([AG/doc.5691/20 add. 1](#)), in particular the section on the activities of the Committee on Hemispheric Security;

REAFFIRMING its commitment to promoting and strengthening peace in the Hemisphere, with full respect for the sovereignty of each state and for international law, and in accordance with the domestic laws of each country, the principles and shared values, common approaches and commitments, and cooperation measures articulated in the Charter of the Organization of American States and the Declaration on Security in the Americas;

BEARING IN MIND the unprecedented impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the health, security, and well-being of the peoples of the Americas, and reaffirming the importance that the Organization of American States (OAS) contribute to national and regional efforts to reduce the impact of the pandemic on hemispheric security from a multidimensional perspective;

HAVING SEEN the annual reports presented to the General Assembly at its fiftieth regular session by the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission ([CP/doc.5625/20](#)), the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism ([CP/doc.5612/20](#)), and the Inter-American Defense Board ([CP/doc.5598/20](#));

BEARING IN MIND the results, reports, and recommendations of the meetings and conferences on security-related matters held in implementing the mandates of the General Assembly;^{3/} and

RECOGNIZING with concern the serious global situation affecting member states as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the associated economic and social harm, for which reason the Organization needs to be strengthened without neglecting the progress made in the area of security to combat violence and transnational organized crime, and to consolidate cooperation with other international institutions within the scope of their competencies, with a view to contributing to efforts to protect citizen security and to confront, mitigate, and address the epidemic in the Americas,

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 2. Mexico reiterates the position articulated in its statement during the report of the Secretary General on Credentials at the plenary session of the fiftieth regular session of the General Assembly.
 3. Seventh Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Public Security in the Americas (MISPA-VII), Ecuador, October 30-31, 2019; Special Meeting to consider ties between cybercrime and TOC, ...

RESOLVES:

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

1. To reaffirm the ongoing validity of the applicable General Assembly mandates on hemispheric security, as contained in document [CP/CSH/INF.502/20](#); to urge the Permanent Council, through the Committee on Hemispheric Security (CSH), and member states to continue contributing to the attainment of the objectives established in those mandates through the development, execution, evaluation, and reporting of programs, the exchange of information, and the adoption of cooperation measures and policies, as well as through mutual assistance and technical and financial contributions and support; and to instruct the General Secretariat to provide the necessary support to those ends and continue its implementation of those mandates.

I. Hemispheric multidimensional security review and outlook

A. Declaration on Security in the Americas

2. To instruct the CSH to hold a meeting in the first half 2021 to review the Declaration on Security in the Americas, taking into account new threats, concerns, and other challenges; and to assess the advisability of convening a special conference on security in order to continue fostering hemispheric security; and to request that member states submit their views in writing to the CSH by February 15, 2021.

3. To urge member states to promote balanced representation of women in all decision-making processes on security issues and to request the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security (SMS) to include in its activities the promotion of effective participation of women in said processes.

4. To reaffirm the twentieth anniversary of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security, which stresses the importance of equal participation by women in peacebuilding, peace negotiations, and conflict prevention.

B. Effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on hemispheric security

5. To request the SMS to prepare specific technical assistance programs for member states, tailored to the availability of financial resources, to enhance or strengthen institutional capacity in the areas of hemispheric security that have been exacerbated by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, such as:

- Public security
- Threats to cybersecurity and critical infrastructure security
- Falsification and contraband of medicines and medical supplies
- Trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants
- Transnational organized crime and its illegal activities
- Drug abuse
- Domestic violence

6. To request that the SMS notify the CSH regarding progress with the fulfillment of the mandate established in the preceding paragraph and, based on information provided by member states, that it identify other aspects of hemispheric security affected by the COVID-19 pandemic where the CSH might be able to offer technical assistance.

7. To urge member states to share best practices and challenges in confronting a pandemic from a security perspective, with a view to the CSH developing, with support from the SMS, a document to serve as a guide for member states.

8. To urge member states to develop and implement, together with the specialized agencies in the OAS measures mindful of human rights and the rights of the child, so that, as States find their economies weakened by the COVID-19 pandemic, they undertake concrete actions designed to ensure proper protection for children and adolescents, as well as other vulnerable segments of the population, from the threat of an increase in child labor, trafficking in persons in all its forms, sexual abuse and exploitation, death threats against children and adolescents, and recruitment into criminal and armed groups.

II. Commitments to peace, disarmament, and nonproliferation

A. The Americas as a zone of peace

9. To reaffirm the commitment of member states to continue the work of consolidating the Americas as a zone of peace, to which end democratic processes must be strengthened, with full respect for the sovereignty and independence of each state and for international law, justice, human rights, solidarity, and security, in accordance with the domestic laws of each country.

10. To reiterate the interest in, and importance of, holding a meeting with the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission on a date to be agreed upon by that Commission and the CSH, in order to enable an exchange of best practices in peacebuilding and preservation of peace in the region.

B. Disarmament and nonproliferation in the Hemisphere

11. To celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the entry into force of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and reaffirm the commitment to implementing the treaty's obligations, emphasizing its role as the cornerstone of the nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament regime and ensuring the benefits of the exclusively peaceful use of nuclear energy.

12. To reaffirm its commitment to compliance with existing instruments on disarmament and nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction and to the search for multilateral solutions in this area, with a view to bringing about a more peaceful and safer world.

13. To support and promote efforts by member states to ensure the security of nuclear facilities, materials, and radioactive sources—including their transport—in advancing the fight against illicit trafficking in nuclear and other materials, in nuclear forensics, nuclear security culture, information security, international cooperation, and synergies addressing the interface between nuclear safety and accident prevention.

14. To note that the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons has been open for signature and ratification since 2017.^{4/}

15. To reaffirm its commitment to international regulations and multilateral mechanisms against the use of biological and chemical weapons, and to reiterate its unwavering commitment to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction, to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction, and to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

16. To recognize that the peaceful application of nuclear energy requires that the safe and secure operation of nuclear reactors and facilities, and the security of nuclear material and radioactive sources is ensured by and the responsibility of each operating State.

C. The Americas as an antipersonnel-land-mine-free zone^{5/}

17. To resolutely support and promote compliance with the principles of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction (Ottawa Convention) and the Oslo Action Plan 2019–2024 with the aim of achieving their objectives, to the extent possible, by 2025.

18. To congratulate the Republic of Chile for having been declared “free of antipersonnel mines” upon completion of its efforts to clear all minefields in its national territory, thereby fulfilling its obligations under the Ottawa Convention.

19. To reiterate the mandate to the General Secretariat to continue, through the Program for Comprehensive Action against Antipersonnel Mines (AICMA) of the Department of Public Security of the SMS, its efforts with member states, permanent observers, other States, and donor organizations to identify and obtain voluntary funding for the programs on comprehensive action against antipersonnel mines implemented by the Governments of Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru, and to continue cooperating in humanitarian demining, physical and psychological rehabilitation for victims and their families, prevention education, and socioeconomic reclamation of demined areas, as well as training in explosive ordnance disposal and courses on new techniques for humanitarian demining, when so requested by States and in close coordination with national authorities.

4. The United States does not support and will not sign the “Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons” and does not consider it to be an “effective measure” for disarmament as set forth ...

5. The United States is not a party to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction. The United States is ...

III. Strengthening hemispheric security and defense cooperation

A. Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas^{6/}

20. To stress the importance of participating in the XIV Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas (CDMA), which will be held virtually in second half of 2020, in order to continue advancing defense and security cooperation in the region.

21. To offer the Government of Chile, as host country of the Conference, any technical and advisory support requested from the OAS through the Inter-American Defense Board (IADB), in order to contribute to the success of the XIV CDMA.

22. To request the IADB to continue its work to integrate the institutional memory of the work of the CDMA through the historical archive and permanent updating of the website.

B. Confidence- and security-building measures in the Americas^{7/}

23. To adopt the OAS List of Confidence- and Security-Building Measures (CSBMs) ([CP/CSH-1953/20 rev. 1](#)) as a regional guide on possible measures to implement to address new and traditional threats, concerns, and other challenges in the Hemisphere, and to report annually, no later than July 15 of each year, with information on the application of CSBMs, using the new inter-American CSBMs database (<http://www.oas.org/MFCS/>).

24. To request that the IADB provide the SMS with technical support for the management and operation of the OAS CSBMs database, and States with regular guidance and instruction on its use to facilitate reporting.

25. To request that the General Secretariat continue to provide IT assistance for the operation of the CSBMs database.

26. To request the CSH to convene the Ninth Meeting of the Forum on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures in March 2021 in the framework of the CSH and to request the IADB to provide the necessary technical support to the CSH and the SMS to hold the Forum.

IV. Public security, justice, and violence and crime prevention

A. Process of Meetings of Ministers Responsible for Public Security in the Americas (MISPA)

27. To encourage member states to implement the Quito Recommendations for Strengthening International Cooperation on Public Security in Preventing and Fighting Crime and to request the General Secretariat to continue, through the SMS, to support member states that so request in implementing the recommendations of the MISPA process to design and implement a hemispheric

6. The Government of Nicaragua will not join consensus on any declaration of the Conference of Ministers of the Americas whose objectives go beyond the character and nature of a policy forum ...

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

strategy to prevent and combat transnational organized crime based on the Hemispheric Plan of Action on the subject.

28. To thank the Government of El Salvador for its offer to host the Eighth Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Public Security in the Americas (MISPA-VIII) and convene it in the second half of 2021, and, to that end, to instruct the Permanent Council to establish, through the CSH, a working group chaired by El Salvador to coordinate all the preparations for MISPA-VIII.

29. To thank the Government of the Dominican Republic for its offer to chair the Third Meeting of the Subsidiary Technical Working Group on Prevention of Crime, Violence, and Insecurity of the MISPA process scheduled for the first half of 2021, and to request the General Secretariat to allocate in the budget the funds necessary for holding the meeting and preparatory meetings and to provide the necessary support for the preparations.

30. To thank the Government of Ecuador for agreeing to chair the meeting of the Subsidiary Technical Working Group on Emergency Services, to be held in 2021, and to request that the Secretariat, through the SMS and, pursuant to paragraphs 7 and 8 of the Quito Recommendations, allocate the funds needed for that meeting and for holding preparatory meetings, as well as for preparing a draft Protocol-Guide for the Establishment of National Emergency Systems in the Countries of the Americas for consideration by said working group.

31. To convene the Third Meeting of the Subsidiary Technical Working Group on Police Management, chaired by Ecuador, in December 2020 and to request that the General Secretariat allocate in the budget the necessary funds for holding that meeting and its preparatory meetings and that it provide the necessary support for the preparations.

B. Preventing violence and crime

32. To urge member states to consider implementing the recommendations of the Hemispheric Plan of Action to Guide the Design of Public Policies to Prevent and Reduce Intentional Homicide (document [AG/doc.5667/19](#) rev. 1), in accordance with the specific needs and conditions of each country, making use of the Homicide Knowledge Platform, among other instruments, and to request the General Secretariat, through the Department of Public Security (DPS), to provide technical assistance in the implementation of the Plan to member states.

33. To urge member states to appoint a focal point to provide the General Secretariat, particularly the DPS, with information on the implementation of the Hemispheric Plan of Action to Guide the Design of Public Policies to Prevent and Reduce Intentional Homicide.

34. To reaffirm the importance of carrying out activities geared to violence and crime prevention that involve the citizenry, especially vulnerable groups, children and adolescents, persons with disabilities, and older persons, among others.

35. To invite member states and permanent observers to access the Inter-American Network for the Prevention of Violence and Crime's virtual platform, publicize it, and participate in uploading publications, studies, reports, and news items about preventing violence and crime that are relevant to the region (website: <https://www.oas.org/ext/en/security/crime-prevention-network/>).

36. To request the General Secretariat, through the DPS and subject to the availability of funds, to continue supporting member states in the implementation of projects to prevent violence and crime under the Inter-American Program for the Prevention of Violence and Crime, prioritizing projects aimed at preventing homicidal violence, firearm violence, and violence against population groups and subgroups vulnerable to specific forms of violence, especially those referred to in Recommendation 2.7 of the Hemispheric Plan of Action to Guide the Design of Public Policies to Prevent and Reduce Intentional Homicide (document [AG/doc.5667/19 rev. 1](#)).

C. Information and knowledge with regard to multidimensional security

37. To underscore the importance of member states appointing a national focal point for the United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems and of reaffirming their commitment to the official information gathering process using the aforesaid instrument to keep the Inter-American Security Observatory up to date.

38. To invite member states that have not yet done so to join the Latin America and the Caribbean Crime Victimization Survey Initiative (LACSI) led by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Centre of Excellence in Statistical Information on Government, Crime, Victimization and Justice and aimed at standardizing the measurement of victimization and generating comparable data from throughout the Hemisphere.

39. To stress among member states the importance of evaluating public security interventions and promoting the development of tools to enable them to document and share best practices and lessons learned in their implementation.

40. To invite crime observatories in member states to participate in the Inter-American Community of Observatories, managed by the Information and Knowledge Section of the DPS.

41. To urge emergency and security systems to join the virtual community that was specially created for them and to share useful information for operating and managing those systems.

D. Advancing police cooperation^{8/}

42. To thank the Government of El Salvador for its offer to host the third on-site police training course of the Inter-American Network for Police Development and Professionalization (REDPPOL), to be held in the second half of 2021; to request that the results achieved during that training course be presented at MISPA-VIII; and to invite member states to continue making technical and financial contributions in support of REDPPOL's activities.

43. To urge member states to appoint a police officer to support the General Secretariat, including by virtual means, in implementing the REDPPOL virtual platform through the DPS, as well as providing technical advice on police practices and policies.

8. The Government of Nicaragua disagrees with the establishment of a police support unit within the structure of the SMS because it would imply a duplication of countries' efforts and resources, ...

44. To request continued technical assistance on police policies and practices, from the American Police Community (AMERIPOL), within the framework of the existing memorandum of understanding between AMERIPOL and the SMS.

45. To thank the Government of Italy for its contribution to the development of the management standard of excellence for the police within the framework of REDPPOL.

46. To request the General Secretariat, through the DPS and in the framework of REDPPOL, to further strengthen the capacity of police forces that operate in border regions and address matters of migration control.

E. Justice, penitentiary, and prison systems

47. To take note of the recommendations of the Fourth Meeting of Officials Responsible for the Penitentiary and Prison Policies of the OAS Member States, adopted at Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, which will be transmitted to the Meeting of Ministers of Justice or Other Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA); in addition, to thank the Government of Honduras for its offer to host the Fifth Meeting of Officials Responsible for the Penitentiary and Prison Policies of the OAS Member States, to be held in 2021.

48. To develop, as appropriate, the capabilities of juvenile justice systems to promote social inclusion and reduce violence.

49. To instruct the SMS, through the DPS, to promote the professionalization, at all levels, of prison staff in the member states, in line with the requirements and conditions of their positions, given that a trained, ethical staff with the tools to handle the demands of the prison system is fundamental for humanizing incarceration.

50. To instruct the SMS, through the DPS, to present to the CSH the guidelines of its prison strategy and to continue to implement all the pillars of that strategy to support member states in adopting alternatives to incarceration and measures to protect citizens deprived of their liberty, as well as in better structuring the services provided by public defender offices.

51. To instruct the DPS, with the support of competent authorities and subject to the availability of funds, to prepare a proposed methodology and a standardized prison survey form for the region, and to submit a report to the CSH in the second half of 2021.

52. To instruct the SMS, through the DPS, to continue to provide support for member states that so request, in developing and implementing initiatives for strengthening assistance programs for victims of violence and crime, as well as coordination among justice, security, and prison systems.

53. To instruct the SMS, through the DPS, to support member states that so request in developing restorative justice strategies for their criminal justice systems by identifying innovative restorative models; and to propose guidelines for the implementation of restorative justice in the context of criminal proceedings.

54. To urge member states, as appropriate, to publicize access to justice for vulnerable communities in member states.

55. To recognize the need to address the limited access to justice for members of populations in situations of vulnerability—especially children and adolescents—when migrating due to economic circumstances, whether COVID-19-related or not, and to encourage member states to enhance mechanisms for access to justice, in order to ensure timely and effective assistance to those populations.

F. Improved coordination for strengthening public security in the Americas

56. To request the SMS and the Secretariat for Legal Affairs (SLA) to coordinate and cooperate on the implementation of recommendations adopted in the MISPA and REMJA processes, on which they shall report to the CSH in the first half of 2021.

57. To encourage member states to continue to accord importance to bilateral and multilateral regional and subregional processes that support and promote efforts to ensure the public safety and security of the region's citizens.

58. To recommend respect for shared principles and values, common perspectives and commitments, and citizen security and crime prevention through compliance with the law and full respect for human rights, as well as to promote a culture of peace, especially in the areas worst affected by transnational organized crime.

G. Promoting cybersecurity

59. To encourage regional action in response to significant malicious cyber incidents that threaten the national security of member states and our common vision of an open, accessible, interoperable, reliable, and secure Internet.

60. To urge member states to implement cyber confidence-building measures identified in the OAS List of Confidence- and Security-Building Measures (CSBMs) ([CP/CSH-1953/20 rev. 1](#)).

61. To encourage dialogue and voluntary, non-confidential information-sharing efforts to secure next-generation technology, including 5G, and to protect the integrity of digital infrastructure, with the aim of strengthening national capacities in that regard, recognizing that this is a shared concern and an existing gap among the member states.

62. To promote sharing of cybersecurity best practices and support the development of national cybersecurity policies among member states that encourage public-private partnership and collaboration.

63. To work collaboratively towards fostering a trusted, active cybersecurity and incident response community among member states to share actionable information through the OAS Computer Security Incident Response Team (CSIRT) and the Americas Information Sharing Network in order to prevent, identify, thwart, mitigate, respond to, and recover from incidents.

64. To continue to support and participate in OAS initiatives related to cybersecurity capacity building, workforce development, and public-awareness campaigns to strengthen the security and resilience of the regional cybersecurity landscape.

V. Transnational organized crime

A. Combating transnational organized crime

65. To remind those member states that have not yet done so to appoint or update, as soon as possible, their national points of contact for coordinating and facilitating monitoring of the Hemispheric Plan of Action against Transnational Organized Crime, and to notify the Department against Transnational Organized Crime (DTCO) thereof.

66. To convene the Third Meeting of National Authorities on Transnational Organized Crime (RANDOT III) under the CSH during the second half of 2021 and, to that end, to instruct the Permanent Council to establish, through the CSH, a working group to coordinate all the preparations for RANDOT III.

67. To encourage member states to strengthen cooperation and exchanges of experience to confront cybercrime and to urge those member states that have not yet done so to consider acceding to the Convention on Cybercrime of the Council of Europe (Budapest Convention).

68. To request the SMS, through CICTE and the DTCO, to render, in coordination with the SLA, technical assistance and support to member states that are about to initiate or are in the process of accession to the Budapest Convention, and to promote exchanges of experience among OAS countries involved in that process.

69. To urge member states to enhance bilateral and multilateral legal assistance mechanisms to combat cybercrime, taking into account the importance of access to digital evidence for investigating and prosecuting such criminality, as well as the growing links between cybercrime and transnational organized crime.

70. To request the SMS and the SLA to coordinate and cooperate in dealing with aspects relating to transnational organized crime, especially cybercrime, so as to promote synergies, avoid overlap, and provide comprehensive support to member states, and to report thereon to the CSH in the first half of 2021.

71. To request the SMS to provide technical assistance to member states through the DTCO and in coordination with the SLA and CICTE in order to enhance or strengthen institutional capacities for investigating and punishing cybercrime associated with transnational organized crime.

72. To request the OAS Group of Experts for the Control of Money Laundering (GELAVEX) to report its conclusions and technical recommendations directly to the CSH and RANDOT. Likewise, to request the General Secretariat to provide the financial and human resources required to continue strengthening GELAVEX.

73. To recognize that sophisticated money-laundering schemes are being used by criminal groups, such as organized crime groups, drug traffickers, and other illegal actors, to launder the proceeds of their crimes and finance their operations and, in this context, to reaffirm the commitment of member states to combat financial crimes by increasing cooperation and information sharing.

74. To encourage member states to strengthen their laws and the enforcement thereof in order to enable efficient management of assets seized in the context of combating transnational organized crime. In addition, the creation of a strong compliance culture will benefit efforts related to the fight against crime as a whole.

75. To instruct the General Secretariat to prepare a compilation of good practices and innovative experiences adopted in this context.

76. To encourage member states to implement the resolution “Combating transnational organized crime and its links to illicit trafficking in precious metals and illegal mining including by enhancing the security of supply chains of precious metals” adopted on the recommendation of the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,⁹ and to invite them to work together to: (1) increase transparency and security along all parts of the gold supply chain; (2) implement mercury trade regulations and coordinate regional mechanisms to regulate both licit and illicit mercury trade, transportation, handling, and secure storage; (3) encourage authorities working on the gold supply chain to submit a report on suspicious activities for the national Financial Intelligence Unit; (4) implement anti-money laundering policies in the gold and mercury trade in accordance with national legislation and relevant international standards; and (5) encourage companies operating in their jurisdictions to adopt procedures to ensure that their purchases of precious minerals do not contribute to conflict or to financing organized crime.

77. To encourage those member states that have not yet done so to consider acceding to the 2013 Minamata Convention on Mercury.

78. To support OAS and subregional conferences and workshops seeking to combat transnational organized crime and its links to illicit trafficking in precious metals and illegal mining and facilitate regional cooperation on mercury.

79. To recognize the role that illicit exploitation and trade in natural resources can play in generating or prolonging conflict and to call on the member states to combat those crimes.

80. To encourage member states to work together to combat other crimes and illegal activities associated with illicit trafficking in precious metals and illegal mining, such as corruption, wildlife trafficking, illegal logging and timber trafficking, and illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, in accordance with resolutions adopted by the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

81. To request the SMS to prepare, in coordination with the Secretariat of the REMJA Working Group on Cyber-Crime, a consolidated list of education and ongoing training mechanisms available for strengthening institutional capacity building in order to enable member states to address

9. Resolution 2019/23 adopted by United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on July 23, 2019.

the growing links between transnational organized crime and cybercrime, including training mechanisms offered under the Budapest Convention. Said list shall be presented to the member states at a meeting of the CSH and updated annually.

82. To request that, through the DTOC, the SMS provide technical assistance to member states when so requested, in order to enhance or strengthen their institutional capacities for combating transnational organized crime associated with crimes that affect the environment.

83. Within the context of the Lima Commitment, to request the SMS to continue supporting member states, through the DTOC in its sphere of competence, in preventing and combating corruption, particularly with regard to money laundering and the recovery of assets associated with it.^{10/}

84. To request the SMS to provide technical assistance to member states, through the DTOC, to enhance or strengthen institutional capacities for combating transnational organized crime associated with new criminal trends, including, *inter alia*, the smuggling and trafficking of persons, drugs, weapons, and currency; the smuggling of illegal products and substances, including but not limited to medications, biological specimens, flora and fauna; the trade and smuggling of counterfeit and pirated goods; crimes against cultural heritage, including but not limited to the illicit traffic of cultural property; the counterfeiting of currency and security documents; financial crimes; and the illegal use of virtual currencies.

85. To instruct the SMS to develop and establish, through the DTOC, a hemispheric database with official information on current regulations, policies, programs, strategies, and lessons learned, so as to facilitate the circulation of useful, up-to-date information on combating transnational organized crime.

86. To request the DTOC to draw up a proposal, to be submitted to the CSH in the first quarter of 2021, for a comprehensive agenda for cooperation in combating transnational organized crime that includes specific issues and activities that the Organization could pursue in the short term (the next three years).

87. To invite member states and regional and international organizations to make voluntary contributions to the Fund against Transnational Organized Crime envisaged in the Hemispheric Plan of Action.

88. To encourage member states to increase cooperation and information sharing to counter illegal, unregulated, and unreported (IUU) fishing. In the first quarter of 2021, to convene a working group of technical authorities of member states to discuss options to support and maintain sustainable fishing practices in the Western Hemisphere.

89. To encourage member states to bolster cooperation and enhance international collaboration, particularly in border security management, information sharing, and maritime security actions in order to ensure an effective response to emerging challenges, including illicit trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, drugs, and weapons, bearing in mind that criminal groups and

10. With respect to the Eighth Summit of the Americas, the Government of Nicaragua advised the Heads of State and Government present at the Eighth Summit of the Americas that Nicaragua did not ...

transnational organized crime are adapting to the dynamics of the COVID-19 pandemic and exploiting new vulnerabilities.

B. Hemispheric cooperation efforts to combat trafficking in persons

90. To recognize the 2030 Agenda as a framework for sustainable development that can help countries work to achieve peace and prosperity in the world, including the goals and targets relating to the eradication of trafficking in persons: targets 5.2, 8.7, and 16.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

91. To request the SMS to continue, through the DPS and the DTOC, to provide technical assistance to member states in order to bolster implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo Convention) and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children (Palermo Protocol), in the context of the Second Work Plan against Trafficking in Persons in the Western Hemisphere 2015-2020.

92. To request the General Secretariat to update the Second Work Plan against Trafficking in Persons in the Western Hemisphere, which concludes this year (2020).

93. To urge member states to redouble their efforts to identify victims of trafficking in persons without delay, in order to provide them with access to the assistance to which they are entitled under domestic law and to effectively prosecute the crime, while taking into consideration, as appropriate, that victims of trafficking in persons may have committed crimes as a direct result of being trafficked and where there is a criminal record of such acts, provide them with access to channels for remedy for the expungement or vacatur of their criminal records, within the framework of existing domestic law.

94. To urge member states to integrate a victim-centered and trauma-informed approach into national responses to combating trafficking in persons, with full respect for the human rights of victims of such crimes.

95. To encourage member states to incorporate the voices of victims and survivors of trafficking in the development and application of victim-centered and trauma-informed policies and programs, including consultative platforms made up of civil society members and survivors of human trafficking.

96. To urge member states, as necessary, to establish, maintain, or strengthen comprehensive anti-money laundering legislation, to strengthen their regulatory frameworks with a view to the effective implementation of existing standards, and to treat trafficking in persons as a predicate offence for money laundering, consistent with the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children.

97. To encourage member states to undertake proactive parallel financial investigations, including through collaboration with public and private financial institutions, as a standard practice when investigating and prosecuting crimes related to trafficking in persons, with a view to tracing, freezing, and confiscating the proceeds of such crimes.

98. To instruct the General Secretariat to continue supporting member states that so request, through the DPS and subject to the availability of funds, in the design, implementation, and management of policies, projects, and measures aimed at preventing human trafficking and assisting and protecting victims of this crime, especially the most vulnerable ones.

99. To encourage member states to continue to collaborate and share intelligence and information to identify, deter, and dismantle transnational criminal organizations, gangs, and other actors involved in human trafficking and migrant smuggling.

100. To combine prevention measures with information/awareness materials, especially in border areas and at migrant shelters, in order to reach out to migrant populations and other individuals in situations of greater vulnerability to the crime of human trafficking.

101. To encourage the exchange of best practices and lessons learned on the regular and continuous sharing of criminal and biometric data collection, route identification, and information management.

102. To thank the Government of Argentina for its financial support for the ongoing design of the Knowledge Base on Trafficking in Persons, to be hosted on the website of the Inter-American Network for the Prevention of Violence and Crime, and to invite member states to make financial contributions for its maintenance.

103. To instruct the DPS, in coordination with the DDOT, to prepare and send the member states the questionnaire to collect information to serve as the basis for preparing the Second Progress Report on the Second Work Plan against Trafficking in Persons in the Western Hemisphere 2015-2020, and to urge member states to provide that information.

104. To thank the Government of Argentina for its offer to chair the Sixth Meeting of National Authorities on Trafficking in Persons, to be held virtually in the second half of 2020, and to request the General Secretariat, through the DPS and DTOC, to provide the necessary assistance and technical support for holding the meeting.

105. To welcome the directives issued by the General Secretariat to prevent trafficking in persons in the Organization's procurement: "Modification of the Performance Contract Rules of the General Secretariat to Strengthen Protection against Human Trafficking" and "Modification of Procurement Contract Rules of the General Secretariat to Strengthen Protection against Human Trafficking."

C. Illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects^{11/}

106. To invite member states to promote the exchange of information and experience in the framework of the project "In Support of Countering Illicit Proliferation and Trafficking of Small Arms, Light Weapons (SALW) and Ammunition and their Impact in Latin America and the Caribbean," to remit the information requested in the questionnaires sent to them via the permanent missions in

11 The Government of Nicaragua remains committed to the prevention, combat, and eradication of illicit firearms trafficking. Bearing in mind its commitment to peace and citizen security, it has signed ...

connection with that project, and to designate a focal point to access and participate actively in the Virtual Information Network on Illicit Trafficking in Small Arms and Light Weapons.^{12/}

107. To request the SMS to provide technical assistance to member states, through the DPS and the DTOC when so requested, in order to enhance and strengthen their institutional capacities for preventing and combating illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons and their ammunition.

108. To instruct the SMS to continue, through the DPS, to assist member states, when so requested, with strengthening their institutional capacities in the areas of physical security and stockpile management; marking, recordkeeping, and tracing of weapons; destruction of weapons and ammunition; prevention of armed violence; development and implementation of tools to facilitate the exchange of information on the subject; and legal assistance to harmonize domestic laws in that regard in accordance with international standards.

109. To invite member states to collaborate with the hemispheric study on illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons and ammunition in the Hemisphere by sending the information requested in questionnaires and collection tools in a timely manner; and to request the SMS, through the DPS and DTOC, to report to the CSH every six months during the 2020-2021 term and annually to the meetings of the CIFTA Consultative Committee on the progress made with the aforementioned study, in order to identify threats and challenges, and to include action-oriented recommendations for member states to strengthen efforts to combat and prevent illicit trafficking in small arms, light weapons, and ammunition.

VI. Regional and specialized security challenges and concerns

A. Central American security concerns

110. To invite member states to continue bolstering and supporting regional and subregional efforts to address and mitigate security concerns in Central America.

111. To urge member states, within the framework of full respect for human rights, to continue strengthening mechanisms for bilateral cooperation and exchanges of experience on regional challenges such as transnational organized crime, drug trafficking, violence against women, and other related crimes.

112. To recognize the key role that respect, protection, and promotion of human rights have in ensuring peace and stability in the region and to reaffirm the commitment of member states to continue working to consolidate democratic processes and principles.

113. To instruct the SMS to continue promoting and strengthening consultations with the relevant United Nations entities, such as the UNODC, as well as with the General Secretariat of the Central American Integration System (SICA), in order to continue providing the member states with technical support in response to security challenges in Central America.

12. The Virtual Information Network on Illicit Trafficking in Small Arms and Light Weapons, created in the framework of the project "In support of Countering Illicit Proliferation and Trafficking ...

B. Special security concerns of the small island and low-lying coastal developing states of the Caribbean

114. To take note of the observations and outcomes of the CSH meeting to discuss the special security concerns of the small island and low-lying coastal developing states of the Caribbean, held on June 25, 2020, with the theme “The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the persistent multidimensional security vulnerabilities of the small island and low-lying coastal developing states of the Caribbean.”

115. To take note also of the following recommendations made by the Regional Security System (RSS) at the meeting on special security concerns of small island and low-lying coastal development states of the Caribbean:

- a. To make full use of the crime observatories being developed by CARICOM’s RSS and IMPACS.
- b. To develop an interagency and multi-stakeholder health governance system, further strengthened by cooperation among law enforcement agencies, customs, and other regulatory authorities of the CARICOM member states.
- c. To strengthen national investigative agencies to properly investigate cybercrime.
- d. To continue to work with other member states in the development of adequate cyber incident response plans, protocols, and training to enhance detection and response to cybercrime.
- e. To consider creating a regional response mechanism that includes the development of plans for biological, chemical, radiological, and nuclear hazards.
- f. To make full use of existing regional mechanisms such as the Treaty on Security Assistance among CARICOM Member States, the Agreement Concerning Co-operation in Suppressing Illicit Maritime and Air Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances in the Caribbean (San Jose Treaty), and the Budapest Convention, as well as partnerships with other subregional organizations to define common approaches to address security threats.

116. To instruct the General Secretariat, through the SMS, in view of the emerging multidimensional threats to security posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, to conduct an evaluation of the OAS/SMS 5-Year Work Plan (2017–2022) to support the CARICOM Crime and Security Strategy and to commence work on the development of a 2023–2025 work plan in cooperation with CARICOM IMPACS and other CARICOM entities and organizations, as necessary.

117. To instruct the CSH, with technical support from the IADB and relevant OAS institutions and entities, to convene a meeting in the first quarter of 2021 to discuss hemispheric cooperation with respect to humanitarian assistance and disaster response in the age of COVID-19.

118. To reiterate the call for the General Secretariat to support multidimensional security initiatives, including debt forgiveness and rescheduling, in all hemispheric and international security cooperation forums, in order to enhance economic resilience in affected member states, particularly

those to which tourism is a major contributor, given the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic such as declines in gross domestic product, severely reduced revenues and debt servicing capacity, and increased poverty, unemployment, and crime—including transnational organized crime and drugs—all of which increase their vulnerability.^{13/14/}

119. To request that the SMS, through CICTE and the DTOC, continue to provide technical assistance and training, as applicable, to assist Caribbean States with cybersecurity capacity building to defend against attacks on critical infrastructure, ransomware attacks, money laundering, and financial crimes using financial technology and cyberspace.

120. To instruct the General Secretariat to provide, through the SMS, technical and other support to OAS-member small island and low-lying coastal developing states of the Caribbean for strengthening their border management and security in an effort to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and the perpetuation of transnational organized crime.

C. Security implications of climate change^{15/16/17/}

121. To take note of the contribution made by the IADB through its ongoing presentations to the CSH on the security implications of climate change and to acknowledge the validity of further consideration of the topic.

122. To recognize the particular vulnerabilities to external shocks and unique security and development challenges faced by Caribbean countries, including climate-change-related risks, and to acknowledge that the COVID-19 pandemic further constrains the ability of many states—in particular small island and low-lying coastal states—to respond to those challenges.

123. To reiterate the call for the General Secretariat, subject to available resources, to continue to provide technical and administrative assistance to support member states in their efforts to implement the recommendations of the CSH to address the security implications of climate change.

124. To instruct the General Secretariat through the SMS to compile and present a report to the CSH during the first half of 2021 on the activities of member states and the General Secretariat to address the security implications of climate change.

13. The United States does not consider the Organization of American States and the Committee on Hemispheric Security to be appropriate forums to collectively address ...

14. The delegation of Brazil believes that it is not appropriate to address economic issues such as debt forgiveness and rescheduling for Caribbean states in a resolution on hemispheric security. ...

15. The United States notes that the references to climate change and/or the Paris Agreement are without prejudice to U.S. positions. The United States notes that it submitted formal notification of ...

16. The Government of Nicaragua attaches particular importance to the general security implications of climate change, but it cannot support the language of some of the paragraphs contained in this ...

17. The Delegation of Brazil does not subscribe to the current language of this section. Starting with the title, the expression “security implications of climate change” is not supported by any multilaterally ...

VII. Disaster response and critical infrastructure protection

125. To encourage member states, within the framework of the CSH, to increase efforts on enhancing the protection of critical infrastructure against threats and sharing their respective strategies, policies, best practices, and lessons learned; on obtaining a common understanding of basic critical infrastructure protection terminology and respective identification of critical infrastructure sectors; on providing insight on their respective approaches to identifying, assessing, and managing risks to critical infrastructure; and on sharing their respective response and recovery mechanisms.

126. To instruct the General Secretariat to complete, through the SMS and the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI), the development of a Model National Strategy on Protection of Critical Infrastructure in the Event of Natural Disasters pursuant to the mandate established in operative paragraph 89 of resolution AG/RES. 2925 (XLVIII-O/18) and to present in 2021 a draft to member states for consideration; and to request that member states consider providing resources or specialized technical knowledge on a voluntary basis and in accordance with national capacities and that they submit their questionnaires at their earliest convenience in order to conclude the execution of this mandate.

VIII. Inter-American instruments and institutions

A. Inter-American legal instruments

127. To request the SLA to provide, through the Department of International Law, legal support and assistance to the technical secretariats of the inter-American conventions on security matters.

128. To invite member states that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the Agreement Concerning Co-operation in Suppressing Illicit Maritime and Air Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances in the Caribbean Area, as part of the Hemisphere's efforts in this field.

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

129. To invite member states that have not yet done so to consider acceding to the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (CIFTA), and to strengthen coordination and cooperation mechanisms in order to consolidate effective implementation of the Convention.

130. To invite the states parties to advance implementation of the 2018–2022 Course of Action for the Operation and Implementation of the CIFTA and, if necessary, to request technical assistance and cooperation from the General Secretariat.

131. To encourage member states, permanent observers, international organizations, and the international community to make voluntary contributions to the voluntary trust fund for enhancing the operations and functions of the mechanisms established in the CIFTA.

132. To convene the twentieth regular meeting of the Consultative Committee of the CIFTA, pursuant to Article XXI of the Convention, as a one-day meeting in the second half of 2020 and to request the Technical Secretariat of the CIFTA to assist with the preparations for and follow-up on that meeting.

133. To hold the Fifth Conference of the States Parties to the CIFTA in the first half of 2021.

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

134. To schedule the Second Conference of the States Parties to the Inter-American Convention on Transparency in Conventional Weapons Acquisitions (CITAAC) for March 2021 at the headquarters of the General Secretariat, 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 that conference and for a preparatory meeting and that it support the preparations for and follow-up on said conference.

135. To take note of the recommendations of the SMS and IADB on the establishment of a technical secretariat for the CITAAC (document CP/CSH-1978/20) and to request the CSH to examine those recommendations prior to the Second Conference of the States Parties to the Convention.

Inter-American Convention against Terrorism

136. To convene the first meeting of the States Parties to the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism in the first half of 2021 at OAS headquarters in Washington, D.C.

137. To invite those member states that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to, as appropriate, the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism adopted at Bridgetown, Barbados, on June 3, 2002, and to support its full implementation.

B. Inter-American institutions: Observations and recommendations in the annual reports of the organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization (Article 91.f of the OAS Charter)

Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE)

138. To reiterate its strong and unequivocal condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, regardless of by whom, where, and for what purpose it is committed.

139. To reaffirm its commitment to the work of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) as the leading regional entity intended to prevent and combat terrorism in the Americas, and to acknowledge its major achievements over more than 20 years.

140. To continue, in accordance with declaration AG/DEC. 101 (XLIX-O/19), "The Threat of Terrorist Groups to International Security and the Full Enjoyment of Human Rights," to commemorate Inter-American Day against Terrorism on June 3 each year in an appropriate manner,

including educational and public awareness activities and dissemination of efforts to strengthen hemispheric cooperation to prevent, combat, and eliminate terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

141. To promote strong cooperation on the cybersecurity of critical infrastructure between government representatives and the private sector, including those owning or operating critical infrastructure, members of civil society, and academia, as well as the general public, with an emphasis on the importance of sharing and implementing cybersecurity best practices at every level.

142. To strengthen protective measures for children, including protection against sexual exploitation, by modernizing criminal law provisions to more effectively circumscribe the use of computer systems in the commission of sexual offenses against children.

143. To underscore the need for close cybersecurity cooperation among member states, as the effects of the COVID 19 pandemic expand the cyber threat landscape and increase opportunities for malicious cyber activities, making citizens and governments more vulnerable.

144. To request the CICTE Secretariat, through its Cybersecurity Program, to support member states in the implementation of the 11 voluntary, non-binding norms of responsible state behavior, endorsed in United Nations General Assembly resolution 70/237 “Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security.”

145. To thank the Government of Chile, in its capacity as Chair of the Working Group on Cooperation and Confidence-Building Measures in Cyberspace, for its offer to host the third meeting of that Working Group when conditions permit, and to request the support of the CICTE Secretariat with organizing informal talks in the meantime, using virtual platforms to advance considerations regarding the Working Group’s mandates.

146. To instruct the CICTE Secretariat to support, within its sphere of competence and where applicable, implementation of the recommendations adopted by the REMJA Working Group on Cybercrime and, in coordination with the Department of Legal Cooperation of the SLA and the Secretariat of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission, to implement the recommendations adopted by the CSH for enhancing cooperation among the three bodies.

147. To urge member states to continue strengthening cooperation, coordination, and mutual assistance among institutions in charge of law enforcement to confront the increasingly complex and diverse expressions of cybercrime in the Hemisphere, and to entrust the Secretariat for Legal Affairs and the CICTE Secretariat, within the scope of their powers, to support, as appropriate, the implementation of the Quito Recommendations for Strengthening International Cooperation on Public Security in Preventing and Fighting Crime, in coordination with the DPS.

148. To take steps to bolster security and protection measures in all crowded spaces, including strengthening national capacities to analyze risks, manage crises, and enhance preparedness, coordination, and communication among agencies and governments; and to recognize that preparedness for terrorist attacks includes prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery, with an emphasis on promoting security and resilience, including through public-private partnerships where appropriate.

149. To foster measures to prepare the region for crisis management and risk assessment in the tourism sector, which has been particularly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, the impacts of which have demonstrated the need to adjust existing protocols in the area of biosafety and biosecurity in relation to the transit of people, among other aspects.

150. To recognize that the COVID-19 pandemic poses a challenge for all sectors of society, including those involved in border and supply-chain security, and to promote sustainable prevention, mitigation, and recovery strategies as a general rule with regard to border control operations, along with the development of health guidelines for officials deployed at border crossing points.

151. To take note that the COVID-19 pandemic is a potential catalyst for the spread of misinformation and disinformation that may be used by terrorist groups to their advantage, and to acknowledge the efforts made by CICTE within the Violent Extremism Prevention Program, to promote discussions at the regional level on the importance of preventing and combating violent extremism that can lead to terrorism, in order to strengthen hemispheric cooperation and capacities to address this threat.

152. To support the CICTE Secretariat in its implementation of programs and activities within its sphere of competence in the 2020-2021 period, adopting a pragmatic approach sensitive to the global circumstances brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic in order to enable it to continue to provide support to member states based on the experience gained over more than two decades and, at the same time, to bolster capacity to respond to current and emerging challenges.

153. To thank the CICTE Secretariat for the steps it has taken and the results it has achieved in support of member states during the COVID-19 pandemic in such priority areas as cybersecurity, biosafety and biosecurity, border security, security in crowded spaces (including tourist destinations and major events), technical assistance with combating the financing of terrorism, and preventing violent extremism, as well as development or strengthening of tools to facilitate the sharing of information and best practices in areas within the Committee's remit.

154. To complement and strengthen law enforcement measures with preventive efforts in accordance with budgetary capacities, in order to detect and prevent irregular cross-border travel of foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs) and other known and suspected terrorists (KSTs), in accordance with national laws, including preventing exploitation of the transportation sector to facilitate the movement of people for the purpose of committing terrorist attacks, illicit trafficking of small arms and advanced weapon systems, such as man portable air defense systems (MANPADS) and unmanned aerial systems (UAS), as well as illicit transportation of explosive, chemical, biological, nuclear, and radiological material, and to respond effectively to the threats posed by FTFs and their accompanying families, consistent with UN Security Council resolutions 2396 (2017) and 2178 (2014), such as by implementing passenger data collection and analysis protocols that enhance the abilities of authorities to detect fraud and other suspicious activity during border screening of cargo and document checks, while fully respecting human rights, fundamental freedoms, and the rule of law, in accordance with the domestic laws of each state.

155. To urge member states, in biosafety and biosecurity matters, to develop coordinated responses for detecting and effectively addressing possible biological incidents, with a multi-sectoral

approach, to which end it is essential to coordinate efforts by government, academic, private sector, civil society, and other institutions and organizations.

156. To emphasize the importance of designating one or more national points of contact to CICTE and to recommend that the national points of contact have competence in the area of prevention and countering terrorism in order to strengthen cooperation across the region and to facilitate exchanges of information and close cooperation among authorities in different countries.

157. To increase efforts to build capability, forge resilience, and increase preparedness in all sectors of society, as well as to strengthen the national counter terrorism laws and investigation and prosecutorial systems of member states in order to prevent and mitigate the impact of any terrorist incident, including through the establishment of public-private partnerships, where appropriate.

158. To continue following up on the considerations and proposals put forward at the nineteenth regular session of CICTE held in 2019 to enhance the Committee's work; and to request the CICTE Secretariat to report to the CSH on progress made in that regard, as necessary.

159. To continue to strengthen cooperation and the exchange of information among States to prevent, investigate, counter, and punish terrorist acts, including by fostering the full functioning of the Inter-American Counterterrorism Network, an initiative implemented by the CICTE Secretariat, as a quick and secure mechanism for exchanging operational information regarding terrorist threats, and to encourage all member states that have not yet done so to appoint focal points for the Network, in order to strengthen rapid response capability and foster greater cooperation and coordination in preventing and countering terrorism in the Americas.

160. To express appreciation for the ongoing collaboration between the CICTE Secretariat and the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), and other international and regional organizations and agencies specializing in the field, with a view to underscoring the important contributions made by regional organizations, tightening coordination of hemispheric cooperation, seeking complementarity, and avoiding duplication of counter-terrorism efforts.

161. To ensure that the 2021 program-budget of the Organization allocates to the CICTE Secretariat the financial resources needed to implement the mandates, programs, and activities contained in the CICTE work plan adopted at its twentieth regular session, as well as sufficient resources to support the preparation and holding of the annual CICTE meeting, participation in political and technical dialogues on matters within its sphere of competence, joint activities with other agencies specializing in this field, and its day-to-day operations as the Committee Secretariat.

162. 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.

163. To convene the twenty-first regular session of CICTE in the first half of 2021 or sufficiently in advance of the regular session of the General Assembly that year.

164. To request that the Chair of CICTE report to the General Assembly at its fifty-first regular session on implementation of the mandates contained in the CICTE 2020-2021 work plan.

Inter-American Defense Board (IADB)^{18/}

165. To request that the Inter-American Defense Board (IADB) continue providing technical advice on humanitarian demining to the Program for Comprehensive Action against Antipersonnel Mines (AICMA) and technical advisors and/or quality assurance monitors for missions that the AICMA program establishes in support of member states that so request, in order to contribute to the goal of making the Americas an antipersonnel-mine-free zone.

166. To request that the IADB disseminate lessons learned in humanitarian demining of the countries of the Hemisphere with the objective of enhancing the model and of being able to apply it in the future in other countries or missions in the region in order to contribute to achieving the goal of “the Americas as an antipersonnel-land-mine-free zone.”

167. To request the IADB to continue to participate in OAS events on technical humanitarian demining issues and on international and regional issues, subject to the availability of financial resources, in order to strengthen networks and relationships, update information, and strengthen technical advice to the AICMA program.

168. To request the IADB to continue to work with SEDI to maintain and update: (1) the database that complements the Inter-American Network for Disaster Mitigation (INDM) on the response capabilities of OAS member states in the event of an emergency; (2) the directory of contacts in case of disasters; and (3) bilateral agreements on standards to facilitate the response and expedite search and rescue equipment and materials through customs.

169. To instruct the IADB to establish a set of standard operating procedures to assist member states and regional organizations that participate in humanitarian assistance and disaster response operations in mitigating the possible spread of COVID-19 and which could serve as a basis for future disaster response in the region.

170. To urge member states to continue providing their important support to the IADB with the designation of the necessary human resources that allow it to function appropriately for the full performance of its technical advisory tasks for the benefit of the OAS.

171. To request the IADB to coordinate with OAS/SEDI and the Executive Secretariat of the Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas (CDMA) and, subject to the availability of financial resources, to organize and carry out a simulation exercise in disaster management, disaster response, and humanitarian assistance operations, in order to integrate the efforts requested of the IADB by the Inter-American Committee for Natural Disaster Reduction with the efforts requested by the Executive Secretariat of the CDMA.

172. To request the IADB to analyze and develop proposed changes to the Improved IADB Plan for Advisory Services in Disaster Response within the Inter-American System in consultation with SEDI, in order to support OAS efforts to realign actions to address disasters in conjunction with regional organizations and institutions responsible for disaster mitigation.

18. The Government of Nicaragua is of the view that the historical context that gave rise to the conditions that led to the emergence of the IADB does not match the realities of our countries. ...

173. To request the IADB to organize, in coordination with SEDI, a conference on protection of critical infrastructure in the event of disasters, subject to the availability of financial resources, building on lessons learned inside and outside the Hemisphere, in order to strengthen preventive actions against similar threats.

174. To request the IADB, in coordination with other organs, agencies, and entities, to continue to strengthen cyberdefense cooperation mechanisms in the Hemisphere, through the following actions:

- a. Promotion of high-level dialogue and exchanges that address shared cyberdefense and cybersecurity challenges, which serve to improve collaboration and information-sharing within and among military institutions and governments in the Americas, should it prove necessary, through the IADB, supported by the Inter-American Defense Foundation (IADF).
- b. Preparation of cyberdefense capacity-building and technical assistance programs for member states, subject to the availability of resources, through the IADB and supported by the IADF, with the purpose of strengthening cyber defense strategies and response capacity in the Western Hemisphere and enhancing skills, awareness, and knowledge of cyberdefense threats to nations, systems, infrastructure, and operations within military institutions.
- c. Support for the CDMA and other initiatives designed to support and encourage collaboration on cyberdefense, in partnership with the IADF, through the IADB. In that regard, recognize the Ibero-American Cyber Defense Forum as a mechanism for cooperation and capacity building in cyberdefense and seek to encourage its initiatives.

175. To request that the IADB pursue activities in the following areas:

- a. Provide, on an ongoing basis, advisory services and technical analysis on new and persistent threats and challenges.
- b. Human rights and international humanitarian law, in order to promote and strengthen respect for them in the armed and security forces of the Hemisphere.
- c. Gender mainstreaming, in order to disseminate successful experiences in the area of hemispheric defense and security.
- d. The changing role of the armed forces and their possibilities for mitigating and facing new threats, in order to disseminate successful experiences, good practices, and lessons learned in that regard, in coordination with the SMS.

176. To request that the IADB continue its active participation in the CDMA, Conference of American Armies (CAA), Inter-American Naval Conferences (IANC), System of Cooperation among Air Forces of the Americas (SICOFAA), MISPA, Conference of Central American Armed Forces (CFAC), CARICOM, Caribbean Nations Security Conference (CANSEC), Central American Security Conference (CENTSEC), among others, in order to disseminate relevant conclusions, results, agreements, and commitments of those regional defense and security meetings.

177. To support the Inter-American Defense College (IADC) in its educational activities by establishing a voluntary inter-American fund to finance the position of an educational extension professor, in order to ensure attention to priorities in the areas of defense and security identified by member states through their delegations to the IADB.

178. To congratulate the Secretariat of the IADB and OAS/SEDI on the signing of a cooperation agreement that opens access to scholarships and financial assistance offered by the OAS to candidates who wish to attend programs at the IADC and encourages continued cooperation between the OAS Department of Human Development, Education and Employment and the IADC in the area of defense and security education.

Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD)

179. To reiterate the commitment of member states, with the support of the Executive Secretariat of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (ES-CICAD), to the principle of common and shared responsibility to address all matters related to the world drug problem, including international cooperation as an effective and necessary tool.

180. To strengthen communication, collaboration, cooperation, and exchange of information between member states and ES-CICAD in order to address and counter the world drug problem with a comprehensive, balanced, sustainable, and multidisciplinary approach based on technical and scientific evidence, in full conformity with the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, international law, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and within the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant United Nations instruments.

181. To invite all member states, through ES-CICAD, to participate in and contribute to the process of reviewing and updating the Hemispheric Drug Strategy and its Plan of Action, coordinated by the Government of the United States of America as Chair and to be presented to CICAD at its sixty-eighth regular session, which will take place in the Republic of Colombia in November 2020, bearing in mind the obligations of member states under the relevant instruments of the international drug control system as well as other pertinent instruments.

182. To note the conclusion and approval of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) seventh round (2014-2018) Hemispheric Report on the evaluation of drug policies at the sixty-sixth regular session of CICAD, as well as the report “Drug Policies in the Americas and Gender Perspective: Findings from the Seventh Round Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) National Reports”; to underscore the value of the MEM, the most important tool of the OAS for measuring the progress of drug control efforts of member states; and to encourage countries to disseminate these reports as part of the ongoing support for the evaluation process.

183. To recall the convocation of the Inter-Governmental Working Group (IWG) to review and update the MEM for the eighth round, and to encourage all member states to participate actively in that Group, coordinated by the Government of Canada, as its Chair.

184. To request that ES-CICAD continue supporting capacity-building programs and activities at the local, national, and regional levels to develop, implement, and strengthen national drug

strategies, plans of action and associated programming, recalling the 2019 Ministerial Declaration of the sixty-second session of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs, on strengthening actions at the national, regional, and international levels to accelerate the implementation of joint commitments to address and counter the world drug problem, including the operational recommendations of the Outcome Document of the 2016 United Nations General Assembly Special Session on the World Drug Problem (2016 UNGASS).

185. To encourage member states to continue to implement and strengthen monitoring and evaluation processes for programs and policies on drugs, and to request ES-CICAD to support those efforts when so requested.

186. To encourage member states to carry out technical and scientific, peer-reviewed research studies supported by international cooperation, where applicable, on all aspects of the world drug problem in their countries, so that the research obtained informs national drug policies, with the aim of increasing their efficiency and effectiveness.

187. To invite member states to continue strengthening or establishing, as appropriate, national drug observatories or similar offices, and to encourage ES-CICAD to support them, when so requested, in the development of national drug information systems and networks, as well as in scientific research, in addition to enhancing cooperation between national drug observatories or similar offices to strengthen the exchange of drug information in the region.

188. To remind member states of their commitment to respond to the recently updated Annual Report Questionnaire (ARQ) of the UNODC, which collects data on trends in drug production, trafficking, interdiction, and use, considering the importance of improving comparability of reported data, and to invite ES-CICAD to provide assistance to member states, when so requested.

189. To encourage member states to develop and implement scientific, evidence-based policies aimed at improving drug use prevention, early intervention, care, recovery, rehabilitation and social reintegration, taking into consideration the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic; to bear in mind the availability of, access to, and delivery of healthcare and social services for all individuals who use drugs, including young people; and to promote non-stigmatizing attitudes, language, inclusion, and consideration of social contexts, gender perspectives, and age groups in promoting access to and the availability of these demand reduction measures.

190. To encourage member states to design and implement scientific, evidence-based drug use prevention strategies, starting from early childhood, with a particular emphasis on preventing adolescent drug use.

191. To consider and encourage the use of interventions in line with international standards when developing quality assurance systems for drug treatment programs.

192. To encourage member states to continue incorporating innovative and scientific evidence-based alternatives to incarceration for minor, non-violent, drug use-related offenses, and to request ES-CICAD to continue providing technical assistance and exchange of good practices in this regard to member states that request such assistance.

193. To encourage member states to consider implementing comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programs, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development and the participation of subnational communities and relevant organizations, in enhancing the welfare of affected and vulnerable populations.

194. To reiterate the joint commitment of member states to appropriately mainstream gender and human-rights perspectives in drug-related programs and projects, and to ensure, to the extent possible, women's effective and meaningful participation in drug control agencies and organizations and, in that regard, to encourage the participation of member states in the Gender in the Criminal Justice System Program and in the Inter-American Program for Strengthening Gender Equality in Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (GENLEA), among others.

195. To strengthen coordination and cooperation among member states and across all the organs, agencies, and entities of the OAS to counter illicit activities that facilitate transnational organized crime, such as trafficking in narcotics and firearms, money laundering, and other drug-related activities.

196. To strengthen the capacities of counterdrug law enforcement agencies in member states to effectively counter the production, trafficking, and distribution of illicit plant-based and synthetic drugs, including new psychoactive substances (NPS) and the substances and chemicals used in their manufacture, such as through the adoption of technology for monitoring and surveillance, chemical identification, and specialized training to prosecute criminal behavior involving drugs and chemical precursors, as well as to develop and strengthen capabilities, including through international cooperation, to identify and disrupt emerging modalities, such as the use of the Internet (including the dark net), postal service systems, and cryptocurrencies, for the sale and distribution of illicit drugs.

197. To promote international cooperation to provide technical assistance and capacity building in support of member states' efforts to control the cultivation and production of illicit drugs that contribute to the world drug problem.

198. To encourage member states in the design, development, and strengthening of national early warning systems (EWS) on NPS, synthetic drugs, and other emerging drugs in coordination with existing EWS at the global and regional levels, and to request ES-CICAD to provide member states with training and technical assistance to build capacity in the development of EWS, including guidance to the applicable entities and agencies on how to use evidence in the development of national action plans that effectively counter the adverse consequences of misusing and trafficking in these substances.

199. To encourage member states to consider signing and/or ratifying the Agreement Concerning Co-operation in Suppressing Illicit Maritime and Air Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances in the Caribbean Area, given that maritime drug trafficking is a significant and growing threat in the region, and to request that ES-CICAD continue to provide, when requested, technical assistance and training to member states on maritime counterdrug cooperation and control.

200. To invite member states to support implementation of the decision of the sixty-third session of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs to continue considering the recommendations of the World Health Organization on cannabis and related substances, bearing in mind their complexity, implications, consequences, and reasoning, and to request CICAD to continue

promoting dialogue with relevant international organizations with the aim of advancing technical understanding and the implications of said recommendations.

201. To promote cooperation among national drug commissions, ministries of health, educational institutions, civil society, private-sector actors, and other competent institutions in member states, with the aim of enhancing efforts to counter the world drug problem.

202. To continue encouraging member states to support the work of the four CICAD groups of experts (Demand Reduction, Maritime Narcotrafficking, Chemical Substances and Pharmaceutical Products, and Comprehensive and Sustainable Alternative Development), and to request ES-CICAD, when it is so requested and where possible, to support increased participation of national experts at the annual meetings of the groups of experts.

203. To request ES-CICAD to continue promoting synergies with other regional, subregional, and international organizations, with a view to making the best use of resources and avoiding duplication of efforts in addressing and countering the world drug problem.

204. To support the strengthening of ES-CICAD and to invite member states, permanent observers, and other international donors to continue making voluntary financial contributions to enable it to meet its goals.

205. To thank the Government of the Republic of Colombia and accept its offer to host the sixty-eighth regular session of CICAD, which will take place in November 2020.

II. FOLLOW-UP AND REPORTING

206. To request that the CSH review, in the second half of 2020, the List of National Points of Contact and National Authorities (document [CP/CSH-1984/20](#)) with a view to consolidating the national authorities/points of contact for various security issues, that it send annual reminders to member states to update and validate submissions, and that it provide access for member states to such records.

207. To instruct the SMS to submit its annual plan of activities at the start of each term for consultations or proper oversight by member states.

208. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-first 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.

209. 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.

III. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS^{19/}

| Provisional sequence | Topic | Estimated date | Name | Place |
|----------------------|---|------------------------------|--|---|
| 1 | CDMA | November 2020 | XIV Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas | Virtual |
| 2 | CICAD | December 2020 | Sixty-eighth regular session of CICAD | Colombia |
| 3 | CIFTA | 2 nd half of 2020 | Twentieth regular meeting of the Consultative Committee of CIFTA | To be determined |
| 4 | CSBMs | March 2021 | Ninth Forum on Confidence and Security-Building Measures | Headquarters of the General Secretariat |
| 5 | CITAAC | March 2021 | Second Conference of the States Parties to the Convention | To be determined |
| 6 | Inter-American Convention against Terrorism | 1 st half of 2021 | First Meeting of States Parties to the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism | Headquarters of the General Secretariat |
| 7 | RANDOT | 2 nd half of 2021 | Third meeting of National Authorities on Transnational Organized Crime | Headquarters of the General Secretariat |
| 8 | MISPA | 2 nd half of 2021 | Eighth Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Public Security in the Americas (MISPA-VIII) | El Salvador |
| 9 | MISPA | December 2020 | Third Meeting the Subsidiary Technical Working Group on Police Management | Ecuador |
| 10 | Justice, penitentiary, and prison systems | 2021 | Fifth Meeting of Officials Responsible for Penitentiary and Prison Policies | Honduras |

19. Provisional list of meetings.

FOOTNOTES

1. ... Republic of Venezuela properly notified the Secretary General of its denunciation of the Charter in accordance with Article 143 of the Charter of the Organization of American States, and the Charter ceased to be in force with respect to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, which ceased to belong to the Organization on April 27, 2019.

Antigua and Barbuda did not support resolution CP/RES. 1124 (2217/19) of April 9, 2019, which sought to appoint Mr. Gustavo Tarre as the National Assembly's representative to the OAS, and it did not accept the credentials of the officials intending to represent the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela at the forty-ninth and fiftieth regular sessions of the General Assembly.

Therefore, Antigua and Barbuda notifies all member states and the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States, as it did at the forty-ninth regular session of the General Assembly, that until further notice it will not consider itself bound by any declaration or resolution of the fiftieth regular session of the General Assembly or any future declarations or resolutions of any council or organ of the Organization that includes the participation of any person or entity purporting to speak for or act on behalf of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and in which 18 votes are attained with the participation of a purported representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

3. ... Washington, D. C., December 5, 2019; IV Meeting of Officials Responsible for Penitentiary Policies, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, February 3–4, 2020; Meeting to consider tools to strengthen legislative and cooperation measures to combat transnational organized crime, Washington, D. C., February 20, 2020; Central American Security Concerns, June 11, de 2020 (virtual meeting); Special security concerns of the small island and low-lying coastal developing states of the Caribbean, June 25, 2020 (virtual meeting); Sixty-seventh regular session of CICAD, virtual meeting, July 16, 2020 (virtual meeting).

4. ... in Article VI of the NPT. No state possessing nuclear weapons, or which depends upon such weapons for its security supports this treaty. And this treaty will not result in the elimination of a single nuclear weapon, enhance the security of any state, or contribute in any tangible way to peace and security in the geopolitical reality of the 21st century. Rather, it will detract from legitimate efforts to advance the cause of nuclear disarmament. It ignores the current security challenges that make nuclear deterrence necessary, and risks undermining existing efforts to address global proliferation and security challenges. We share the desire to achieve a security environment that would make such progress possible and to make more and faster progress on nuclear disarmament, but the TPNW is not the answer. Effective, verifiable arms control and disarmament measures have proven to be the appropriate tools for limiting nuclear risks and preventing nuclear war. The TPNW cannot replace the NPT as the global gold standard for nuclear non-proliferation, nuclear disarmament, and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. We reiterate our continued commitment to the better approach reflected in the NPT, including its disarmament provisions, and reaffirm our determination to safeguard and further promote its authority, universality, and effectiveness. The United States invites all states to support U.S. pursuit of a “new era of arms control” as we seek to engage Russia and China to limit all nuclear warheads and strengthen verification, and to participate in other dialogues that will facilitate progress on nuclear disarmament. In this regard, we welcome the participation of regional states in the initiative on “Creating the Environment for Nuclear Disarmament (CEND).”

5. ... the largest contributor of humanitarian demining assistance in the world and the Hemisphere. We have contributed over \$3.7 billion for conventional weapons destruction (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.”

6. ... intended to foster the exchange of ideas, good practice, and experiences in the area of defense and security. The CDMA was not established to coordinate and monitor specialized hemispheric military conferences or to develop operating mechanisms.

7. ... region. Hence the need for such measures to be consistent with geographic, political, social, cultural, economic, and technological conditions and realities. Bearing in mind that approach, it is broadly in favor of a confidence-building measure geared towards the exchange of information related to the adoption and/or adaptation of legal provisions governing processes for obtaining data and information, as well as the exchange of experiences among governments regarding prevention, management of, and protection against cyber threats and the scope of this confidence-building measure. The participation of service providers and end-users should be voluntary and should not entail any obligation for States.

8. ... especially when support lines and programs already exist within the framework of MISPA meetings with police components. The role of the SMS is to monitor those outcomes.

10. ... approve the Lima Commitment: “Democratic Governance against Corruption” or any other documents, declarations, communiqués, or resolutions issued by said Summit because it was not involved in their negotiation.

11. ... various international instruments for combating and prevention of illicit trafficking in firearms and has incorporated in its national system of laws the United Nations Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument through the Special Law for Control and Regulation of Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Related Materials (Law 510), which has enabled us to implement a strict plan of control and registration of firearms in civilian possession and confiscation of weapons of war. As a nation we are mindful of the humanitarian impact and of all the repercussions caused by this scourge in the Hemisphere, particularly in the Central American region, which is why we remain committed to multilateralism when it comes to combating this challenge.

12. ... of Small Arms, Light Weapons (SALW) and Ammunition and their Impact in Latin America and the Caribbean,” implemented by the DPS with funding from the European Union, is a support tool that compiles and enables the exchange of information on the various issues related to SALW control in the Hemisphere. The Network contains information on the various activities implemented under the project, and on materials and good practices in that regard.

13. ... all the socio-economic effects of the pandemic. It will be important to ensure that these issues remain the focus of those forums that have the most technical capacity, the finest institutional expertise, and the mandate to address these specific issues.

14. ... Brazil believes that the OAS Committee on Hemispheric Security is not the appropriate forum for addressing this issue. Brazil believes that in order to approach the matter more judiciously, these issues should be discussed within the specialized international economic organizations.

15. ... its withdrawal from the Paris Agreement to the United Nations on November 4, 2019. The withdrawal will take effect one year from the delivery of the notification.

16. ... section because its content exceeds the functions of the IADB by attributing to them functions and powers that do not correspond to the nature and specialty of that agency. For that reason, it is up to each member state of the Organization of American States to define its responses to the security challenges arising from climate change.

17. ... adopted language in the framework of the United Nations on the subject, which refers merely to the “potential adverse security effects of climate change,” according to operative paragraph 26 of Security Council resolution 2349 (2018).

In Brazil’s opinion, the OAS Committee on Hemispheric Security is not the appropriate forum to address the issue of climate change. The appropriate instance for dealing with that agenda is the negotiating context associated with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Brazil defends the premise that potential adverse effects of climate change do not necessarily constitute a threat to hemispheric peace and security. Therefore, such a relationship should be seen as entirely nuanced and dependent on the level of socioeconomic development reached by the region’s countries, which substantially affects the capacity of those societies to respond and adapt adequately to climate change’s possible adverse effects. It is not clear, therefore, how the security language of the section could contribute to adequately tackling the possible adverse impacts of climate change on the security of the region’s countries, taking into account the demands of the sustainable development paradigm and the multilateral provisions on climate change agreed on at the international level.

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

***AG/RES. 2951 (L-O/20)

UPDATE OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL AND ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES^{1/2/}

(Adopted at the first plenary session, held on October 20, 2020)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECOGNIZING the urgent need to update and optimize the workings of the representative bodies of the Organization in order to avoid procedural impasses, such as those seen during the crisis precipitated by the COVID-19 pandemic, which challenged the effectiveness of the Organization and tested its resilience;

CONSIDERING resolutions AG/RES. 2892 (XLVI-O/16), "Management Modernization," AG/RES. 2903 (XLVII-O/17), "Institutional Framework of the Organization of American States: Review and Strengthening," and AG/RES. 2937 (XLIX-O/19), "Final Report of the Working Group to Prepare an Institutional Strengthening Proposal for the Organization of American States," along with other relevant decisions of the General Assembly and recommendations made by the working groups established by those resolutions;

BEARING IN MIND resolution CP/RES. 1150 (2280/20), "Virtual Meetings of the Permanent Council Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic," adopted by the Permanent Council at its virtual special meeting of April 16, 2020;

TAKING NOTE of document CP/INF.8685/20, "Proposed Modus Operandi for the Permanent Council during the Extraordinary Period of the Pandemic"; and

BASED ON the provisions of Article 15 of the Statutes of the Permanent Council and Articles 24 and 80.b of the Rules of Procedure of the Permanent Council,

RESOLVES:

1. To request the Permanent Council to establish a working group under the aegis of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs to analyze the current regulatory framework and pertinent documents related to the functioning and procedures of the Permanent Council, including its permanent committees, special committees, subcommittees, working groups, and other mechanisms, and to put forward recommendations that might contribute to strengthening the Organization's resilience.

2. To instruct said working group to submit, by April 30, 2021, draft recommendations, that include specification of the juridical nature thereof, for adoption by the Permanent Council. The

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1. Antigua and Barbuda considers that the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is not a member state of the Organization of American States since, on April 27, 2017, the Government of the Bolivarian ...
 2. Mexico reiterates the position articulated in its statement during the report of the Secretary General on Credentials at the plenary session of the fiftieth regular session of the General Assembly.

resulting document shall be submitted to the General Assembly for consideration at its fifty-first regular session.

3. To request the General Secretariat to identify the financial resources that might exceptionally be needed to ensure the operation of the working group and the fulfillment of the mandate contained in the preceding paragraph, taking into account the budgetary constraints of the Organization and the limited functions of the working group, which shall submit a report upon concluding its mandate detailing the resources and assets used to fulfill it.

FOOTNOTE

1. ... Republic of Venezuela properly notified the Secretary General of its denunciation of the Charter in accordance with Article 143 of the Charter of the Organization of American States, and the Charter ceased to be in force with respect to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, which ceased to belong to the Organization on April 27, 2019.

Antigua and Barbuda did not support resolution CP/RES. 1124 (2217/19) of April 9, 2019, which sought to appoint Mr. Gustavo Tarre as the National Assembly's representative to the OAS, and it did not accept the credentials of the officials intending to represent the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela at the forty-ninth and fiftieth regular sessions of the General Assembly.

Therefore, Antigua and Barbuda notifies all member states and the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States, as it did at the forty-ninth regular session of the General Assembly, that until further notice, it will not consider itself bound by any declaration or resolution of the fiftieth regular session of the General Assembly or any future declarations or resolutions of any council or organ of the Organization that includes the participation of any person or entity purporting to speak for or act on behalf of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and in which 18 votes are attained with the participation of a purported representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

AG/RES. 2952 (L-O/20)

ADVANCING THE HEMISPHERIC RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE
IN THE CONTEXT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC^{1/2/3/}

(Adopted at the first plenary session, held on October 20, 2020)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

EXPRESSING solidarity with the people and governments of the Americas as they confront the human, social, and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, experienced especially through the loss of livelihoods, the disproportionate loss of life among, and the impact on, vulnerable populations, and a projected GDP loss in excess of 9 percent in Latin America and the Caribbean as a whole;

RECOGNIZING that the Hemisphere's recovery from the impacts of COVID-19 will require enhanced multilateral cooperation to meet financing needs and build resilience against future shocks for a durable recovery, as well as policy responses that are inclusive and consider a gender perspective to drive new economic growth;

RECOGNIZING ALSO the challenges and time lost due to COVID-19 in 2020, which marks the beginning of the Decade of Action to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals;

ACKNOWLEDGING the critical role that women are playing in COVID-19 response efforts, and the need for member states to ensure full, equal, and meaningful participation of women in decision making and equal access to leadership and representation in all spheres of society as a basis for an effective response;

MINDFUL that the Americas region is one of the most disaster-prone in the world, with events such as floods, drought, extreme temperatures, forest fires, and major hurricanes having severe consequences on livelihoods, infrastructure, economies, healthcare systems, and coastal zones in the countries of the Hemisphere;

CONCERNED about increased weather- and climate-related impacts in North America, which in 2019 accounted for US\$45 billion in economic losses in the United States alone, as well as projected losses of between US\$21 billion and US\$43 billion per year in Canada by 2050;

AWARE of the Hemisphere's vulnerability to climate change and natural disasters, which already pose an urgent threat with potentially irreversible effects on populations and the planet, and underscoring the need to ensure that emergency responses to the COVID-19 crisis do not derail and

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1. The United States notes that references to climate change and/or the Paris Agreement are without prejudice to U.S. positions. The United States notes that it submitted formal notification of its ...
 2. Antigua and Barbuda considers that the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is not a member state of the Organization of American States since, on April 27, 2017, the Government of the Bolivarian ...
 3. Mexico reiterates the position articulated in its statement during the report of the Secretary General on Credentials at the plenary session of the fiftieth regular session of the General Assembly.

put at risk efforts in the Americas to address pressing climate challenges, while considering the potential of ecosystem-based approaches and nature-based solutions to address climate change and improve the environmental health and resilience of their societies;^{4/}

NOTING that public investment in building resilience, climate adaptation, and mitigation creates new growth opportunities for economies in the Americas, including from foreign investment, while making livelihoods more resilient to future shocks;

NOTING ALSO the emerging scholarship around new instruments such as debt-for-climate swaps to complement contingent debt instruments, green and blue bonds, and natural-disaster clauses in multilateral loan agreements, particularly for, but not limited to, small island and low-lying coastal states of the Americas;

RECALLING the adoption and entry into force of the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the climate mitigation and adaptation ambitions of Parties to the Agreement through their nationally determined contributions (NDCs), as well as its provisions on, and support for, the mitigation and adaptation efforts of developing country Parties, taking into account the continuing process of developing new or updated NDCs to provide more ambitious mitigation targets and the need to make adaptation planning more robust for the achievement of sustainable development;

NOTING the work of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development, the Committee on Hemispheric Security and the Inter-American Defense Board aimed at addressing the multisectoral effects of climate change;

HIGHLIGHTING the role of Costa Rica, as host of the Preparatory Meeting of the Twenty-Fifth Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Pre-COP 25), and of Chile, as the Presidency of COP 25, and expressing appreciation for their efforts and leadership in promoting an ambitious climate agenda;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the upcoming COP 26, to be held in Glasgow, and the opportunity that this provides OAS member states to highlight the vulnerabilities of the region to climate change;

ACKNOWLEDGING that climate change is a common concern of humankind and that when taking action to address climate change, States should respect, promote, and consider their respective obligations on human rights, the right to enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities, and people in vulnerable situations, and the right to development, as well as gender equality, empowerment of women, and intergenerational equity;

EXPRESSING concern that, while climate change implications affect individuals and communities around the world, the adverse effects of climate change will be felt most acutely by those segments of the population that are already in vulnerable situations, owing to factors such as geography, poverty, gender, age, indigenous, afro-descendent or minority status, and disability; and

4. The concept of “ecosystem-based approaches” is spelled out in detail in Decision VII/11 of the Convention on Biological Diversity. As yet, there is no internationally agreed definition of ...

RECOGNIZING the intrinsic relationship of climate change actions to equitable access to sustainable development and poverty eradication in the Americas, and the need for an effective and progressive response to the urgent threat of climate change, in tandem with the COVID-19 economic recovery response,

RESOLVES:

1. To call on all member states to take robust and integrated action to prevent and address the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, drive growth, and build resilience in their economic response to the pandemic, while making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development, as well as respecting the human rights of individuals in situations of vulnerability.

2. To call on those OAS member states that are parties to the Paris Agreement on climate change to continue the momentum of climate action in the Americas.

3. To invite member states, as they consider appropriate, to engage permanent observers in consultation with the General Secretariat, as well as to request the General Secretariat to engage donors, to advance and promote funding for, *inter alia*, capacity building, enhancing technology development, and voluntary transfer on mutually-agreed terms, taking into account the expressed needs of member states, in order to assist those States in implementing their environmental objectives, exploring the potential of ecosystem-based approaches and nature-based solutions to address climate change, and supporting their domestic policy responses to drive economic growth.

4. To request the General Secretariat to use its good offices to advocate for new and accelerated financing solutions and enhance access to existing technical and financial support mechanisms, where appropriate, to advance the hemispheric response to the crises generated by the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change.

FOOTNOTES

1. ... withdrawal from the Paris Agreement to the United Nations on November 4, 2019. The withdrawal will take effect one year from the delivery of the notification.

2. ... Republic of Venezuela properly notified the Secretary General of its denunciation of the Charter in accordance with Article 143 of the Charter of the Organization of American States, and the Charter ceased to be in force with respect to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, which ceased to belong to the Organization on April 27, 2019.

Antigua and Barbuda did not support resolution CP/RES. 1124 (2217/19) of April 9, 2019, which sought to appoint Mr. Gustavo Tarre as the National Assembly's representative to the OAS, and it did not accept the credentials of the officials intending to represent the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela at the forty-ninth and fiftieth regular sessions of the General Assembly.

Therefore, Antigua and Barbuda notifies all member states and the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States, as it did at the forty-ninth regular session of the General Assembly, that until further notice it will not consider itself bound by any declaration or resolution of the fiftieth regular session of the General Assembly or any future declarations or resolutions of any council or organ of the Organization that includes the participation of any person or entity purporting to speak for or act on behalf of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and in which 18 votes are attained with the participation of a purported representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

4. ... "nature-based solutions."

AG/RES. 2953 (L-O/20)

THE KEY ROLE OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES IN ADVANCING
TELECOMMUNICATIONS/INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES
THROUGH THE INTER-AMERICAN TELECOMMUNICATION COMMISSION^{1/2/}

(Adopted at the first plenary session, held on October 20, 2020)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING:

Resolution AG/RES. 2938 (XLIX-O/19), “The Leading Role of the Organization of American States in Developing Telecommunications/ Information and Communication Technologies through the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission,” adopted on June 27, 2019; and

Resolution AG/RES. 2940 (XLIX-O/19), “Program-Budget of the Organization for 2020,” adopted on June 27, 2019, as regards the mandates relating to Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL);

NOTING resolution CITEL/RES. 80 (VII-18), “Strengthening CITEL within the OAS,” adopted by the seventh regular meeting of the CITEL Assembly, in which CITEL invites the OAS General Assembly to renew its commitment to the financial sustainability of CITEL; and,

CONSIDERING:

That telecommunications and information and communication technologies (ICTs) are key tools for enabling social, economic, cultural, and environmental development and also, therefore, for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

That CITEL is the specialized agency of the OAS in the area of telecommunications and ICTs and, as such, effectively contributes to the implementation of the four OAS pillars and the mandates and initiatives of the Summits of the Americas, to which end it has encouraged, along with the region’s political leaders, actions such as the launch of the public-private 2030 ICT Alliance for the Americas, calls for greater investment in broadband infrastructure, the promotion of broadband access in the interests of social inclusion, and the Rural Women’s Alliance: Empowering Rural Women Through ICTs;

That, reflecting its unique membership-based role and its ability to bring academia, the private sector, the technical community, and government together, CITEL promoted the interests of the entire Hemisphere at the World Radiocommunication Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) through the adoption of more than 300 inter-American proposals;

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1. Antigua and Barbuda considers that the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is not a member state of the Organization of American States since, on April 27, 2017, the Government of the Bolivarian ...
 2. Mexico reiterates the position articulated in its statement during the report of the Secretary General on Credentials at the plenary session of the fiftieth regular session of the General Assembly.

That according to the ITU, a third of the region's people currently have no access to broadband connectivity, and that it is important to continue strengthening CITELE as the crucial arena for cooperation in communications and ICTs in the Americas, most particularly in its role in discussing and reaching agreements on digital inclusion, the development of telecommunication infrastructure, radio spectrum use, and the creation of an enabling environment for investment in ICTs;

That the efforts made to facilitate the process of switching from analog to digital terrestrial television (DTT) and the allocation of the digital dividend, optimizing mutual compatibility among broadcasting and mobile stations on the VHF and UHF bands within Central America and the Caribbean, have laid the groundwork for radio spectrum coordination and future collaboration in the region;

That CITELE undertook actions in coordination with the ITU, the Caribbean Telecommunications Union, and the Telecommunications Regional Technical Commission of Central America to improve communications and response capabilities with a view to building resilience to disasters and emergency situations in the region; and

That, having assessed the positive results of the work it has been doing, CITELE needs to be made financially sustainable in order to ensure that it is equipped with the tools required to continue with its tasks and to implement its 2018–2022 Strategic Plan in line with the Organization's Comprehensive Strategic Plan,

RESOLVES:

1. To encourage member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) to intensify horizontal cooperation and the exchange of information, experiences, and best practices among them in the area of telecommunications and information and communication technologies (ICTs), with the support of the Secretariat of Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITELE).

2. To encourage member states to implement activities in their countries and in the region to advance connectivity and broadband access as key drivers of sustainable development, and to invite them to participate in the various activities organized by CITELE.

3. To request that in the draft program-budget for 2021 submitted for consideration by the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs and for adoption by the General Assembly, the General Secretariat continue taking into account the financial needs of CITELE in keeping with resolution CITELE/RES. 80 (VII-18), adopted at the seventh regular meeting of the CITELE Assembly, and with resolution AG/RES. 2940 (XLIX-O/19), "Program-Budget of the Organization for 2020," adopted at the forty-ninth regular session of the General Assembly, so that CITELE can continue fulfilling its goals and mission and functioning optimally.

4. To request that the CITELE Secretariat report to the General Assembly at its fifty-first regular session on the implementation of this resolution, execution of which will be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

FOOTNOTE

1. ... Republic of Venezuela properly notified the Secretary General of its denunciation of the Charter in accordance with Article 143 of the Charter of the Organization of American States, and the Charter ceased to be in force with respect to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, which ceased to belong to the Organization on April 27, 2019.

Antigua and Barbuda did not support resolution CP/RES. 1124 (2217/19) of April 9, 2019, which sought to appoint Mr. Gustavo Tarre as the National Assembly's representative to the OAS, and it did not accept the credentials of the officials intending to represent the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela at the forty-ninth and fiftieth regular sessions of the General Assembly.

Therefore, Antigua and Barbuda notifies all member states and the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States, as it did at the forty-ninth regular session of the General Assembly, that until further notice it will not consider itself bound by any declaration or resolution of the fiftieth regular session of the General Assembly or any future declarations or resolutions of any council or organ of the Organization that includes the participation of any person or entity purporting to speak for or act on behalf of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and in which 18 votes are attained with the participation of a purported representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

AG/RES. 2954 (L-O/20)

TOWARDS AN INTER-AMERICAN BUSINESS CHARTER^{1/2/3/}

(Adopted at the first plenary session, held on October 20, 2020)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

CONSIDERING that the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS) provides that integral development encompasses the economic, social, educational, cultural, scientific, and technological fields through which the goals that each country sets for accomplishing it should be achieved;

RECALLING that the Social Charter of the Americas recognizes that the business sector plays a key role in creating jobs, expanding opportunity, and contributing to poverty reduction, and that public policies and regulatory frameworks should facilitate the establishment of new enterprises and the incorporation of the informal sector into the formal economy, including women entrepreneurs, youth, as well as persons with disabilities and other excluded groups;

CONVINCED of the positive role of business initiatives and activities, together with investment, entrepreneurship, and private innovation as contributory drivers of the economies of member states and their progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals;

RECOGNIZING that the resilience capabilities of the region to vulnerabilities such as natural disasters and other external shocks could be strengthened through the establishment of public-private partnerships;

RECALLING the Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy of the International Labour Organization;

EMPHASIZING that cooperation between States and all other relevant partners, in particular the private sector, can contribute to the development of countries through the incorporation of responsible business practices, respect for the principles of the United Nations Global Compact, and promotion of the Sustainable Development Goals;

RECOGNIZING, in particular, that the support of the Human Rights Council, in its resolution 17/4, for the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights served to establish an authorized framework aimed at preventing and addressing the adverse effects of business activities on human rights based on the three pillars of the United Nations “Protect, Respect and Remedy” Framework; and

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1. Mexico supports the initiation of discussions on a draft resolution entitled “Towards an Inter-American Business Charter,” on the understanding that for Mexico that document will not be legally ...
 2. Antigua and Barbuda considers that the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is not a member state of the Organization of American States since, on April 27, 2017, the Government of the Bolivarian ...
 3. Mexico reiterates the position articulated in its statement during the report of the Secretary General on Credentials at the plenary session of the fiftieth regular session of the General Assembly.

RECALLING that on September 26, 2019, the President of Colombia proposed the idea of an Inter-American Business Charter within the OAS framework, as a tool to support efforts by member states to meet their integral development goals, through the strengthening of private initiatives for inclusive and sustainable development; formalization of jobs, employment, and education; and business innovation, technology, and creative industries,

RESOLVES:

1. To prepare a draft resolution entitled “Inter-American Business Charter” to buttress OAS instruments in order to promote the role of the private sector in integral development in the Hemisphere, and to use the accompanying preliminary draft proposed by the Government of Colombia to begin discussions as soon as possible, with a view to considering its adoption by the General Assembly at its fifty-first regular session.
2. To request the General Secretariat to provide the necessary technical and logistical support for holding discussions on the proposal of the Government of Colombia.
3. To encourage member states to conduct broad and inclusive internal consultations with interested stakeholders in the context of the discussion process.

INTER-AMERICAN BUSINESS CHARTER

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

CONSIDERING that the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS) provides that integral development encompasses the economic, social, educational, cultural, scientific, and technological fields through which the goals that each country sets for accomplishing it should be achieved;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that the Inter-American Democratic Charter recognizes that democracy and economic and social development are interdependent and mutually reinforcing; and that the promotion and observance of economic, social, and cultural rights are inherent to integral development, economic growth with equity, and the consolidation of democracy and the rule of law in the states of the Hemisphere;

RECALLING that the Social Charter of the Americas recognizes that the business sector plays a key role in creating jobs, expanding opportunities, and contributing to poverty reduction. Public policies and regulatory frameworks should facilitate the establishment of new companies and the incorporation of the informal sector into the formal economy;

REAFFIRMING that extreme poverty constitutes an obstacle to development and, in particular, to the full democratic development of the peoples of the Hemisphere, and that its elimination is essential and constitutes a common and shared responsibility of the American States;

CONSIDERING that development is the primary responsibility of each State and must constitute an integral and continuous process that allows and contributes to the full realization of the human person;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that progress in reducing inequalities and in concrete actions for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals, with the participation of all members of society, including private companies of any size as well as civil society organizations, and philanthropic organizations, will help us build prosperous, peaceful and inclusive societies that leave no one behind;

REAFFIRMING that achieving SDG 1, on the fight against poverty in all its forms everywhere, is essential for the promotion and consolidation of democracy and constitutes an interest shared by the American States;

BEARING IN MIND that for the fulfillment of SDG 5, on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, it is necessary to strengthen and expand the participation of the private sector, strengthening the entrepreneurial capacities of women and promoting their participation [GT: and leadership] in important parts of the economy such as STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) careers, among other areas;

RECALLING that collective efforts to achieve SDG 8, on decent work and inclusive and sustainable economic growth, will contribute to the stability of the region, the consolidation of democracy, and the prosperity of citizens;

RECOGNIZING that in order to leave no one behind and bring the benefits of development to all members of society, it is necessary to build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation, all referred to in SDG 9;

CONVINCED of the positive role of business initiatives and activities, together with investment, entrepreneurship, and private innovation as drivers of States' economies and as generators of wealth and social inclusion, decent jobs, greater societal welfare, and sustainable development;

AWARE that Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs), as creators of the majority of jobs in our States and regions, sometimes face regulatory barriers or lack sufficient access to finance and technology; added to this, they often do not have sufficient information related to the rights and obligations involved in formalization;

RECALLING the Declaration of Mar del Plata of 2005, adopted at the end of the Fourth Summit of the Americas, in which the Heads of State of the Americas recognized the importance of creating jobs to confront poverty and strengthen democratic governance, as well as the need to improve transparency and the investment climate in our region, in order to achieve sustained economic growth, with equity and social inclusion;

BEARING IN MIND that the Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the Area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Protocol of San Salvador) highlights the importance of such rights being reaffirmed, developed, perfected, and protected in order to consolidate representative democratic governance;

RECALLING that in the 1994 Declaration of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, the Heads of State and Government of the Americas reaffirmed their determination to advance sustainable development and implement the decisions and commitments of the Rio Declaration and Agenda 21, and agreed also to advance in their understanding and integration of environmental, social and economic considerations in planning and decision making;

REITERATING the mandates derived from the sixth Summit of the Americas regarding the promotion of economic growth with equity and social inclusion through the strengthening of cooperatives and micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, including cultural industries, as well as the initiatives of popular economy and other units of production, innovation and competitiveness in the countries of the Americas;

CONSCIOUS that respect for private property, together with legal and political stability, are fundamental conditions for the promotion of entrepreneurship, the formalization of the economy, foreign investment, technological innovation, and increased productivity;

BEARING IN MIND resolution AG/RES. 2840 of 2014 on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in Business, in the sense that Companies play an important role in political, economic and social life and have a responsibility to respect human rights in any place where they conduct their

activities and to address those cases in which a harmful action takes place as a result of their activities or due to omission of their responsibilities;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that the full exercise of economic, social, and cultural rights requires the progressive adoption of measures by member states, as well as regional and international cooperative action;

RECOGNIZING that the region's vulnerability to natural disasters and other external shocks requires the strengthening of resilience capacities through the creation of public-private partnerships,

RESOLVES to approve the following:

INTER-AMERICAN BUSINESS CHARTER

CHAPTER I

RECOGNITION OF THE ROLE OF BUSINESSES AS DEVELOPMENT CATALYSTS

Article 1

Member states, in compliance with the inter-American principles and values enshrined in their founding charter and other instruments, shall seek to strengthen business organizations as actors that are fundamental for inclusive and sustainable development, taking into account their social function in terms of job creation, reducing poverty and inequality, and producing basic goods and services for the well-being of society, as well as their primary role in building resilience to external shocks.

Article 2

Member states shall promote policies aimed at creating, formalizing, and consolidating more companies in the hemisphere and integrating them into global value chains, with special emphasis on MSMEs.

Article 3

Member states, making use of inter-American instruments, shall foster the development of a favorable environment for the growth of a competitive private sector, where entrepreneurs have the appropriate conditions and legal stability to make high-impact investments that promote shared value and formalization and contribute to the fulfillment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

CHAPTER II

STRENGTHENING LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS

Article 4

Member states, pursuant to their domestic laws and international obligations, and with respect for their sovereignty, recognize the importance of improving and implementing good regulatory practices, applicable to business activities, in order to attract private investment by creating a stable and predictable business environment that allows companies to evaluate existing risks.

Article 5

Member states, in their determination and commitment to free business development, commit to implementing public policies and regulatory frameworks that promote the elimination of administrative, bureaucratic, and para-tariff barriers that hinder the creation of new companies or cause the demise of existing companies.

Article 6

Member states shall promote the development of policies and regulatory frameworks that facilitate and diversify the options that entrepreneurs have to access financial services and adopt new knowledge and technologies, particularly those related to innovative financing mechanisms for the early stages of business, allowing companies to innovate, produce goods or services with greater added value, and facilitate their integration into national, regional, and international value chains.

Article 7

Member states shall develop productivity and competitiveness policies that contribute to the development of MSMEs as a crucial component of the sustainable development of our countries, facilitating their digital transformation, innovation, production updates, internationalization, improvement in processes and emergence of new business models.

CHAPTER III
ROLE OF FOREIGN INVESTMENT AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Article 8

Member states shall promote, through international development cooperation mechanisms, such as Official Development Assistance and South-South and Triangular Cooperation, as well as multi-stakeholder alliances, the enhancement of productive, technological, logistics, and transportation infrastructure to achieve a favorable ecosystem for generating new and diverse business initiatives, especially those located in the most remote and vulnerable areas of each state.

CHAPTER IV
ROLE OF MICRO, SMALL, AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES

Article 9

Member states recognize the role of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises as engines of growth and as key factors in reducing poverty, promoting sustainable development, formalizing employment, and fostering social inclusion.

Article 10

Member states shall endeavor to establish adequate financing modalities that allow increasing the number of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, promoting their development, and fostering their growth.

Article 11

Member states shall strengthen the entrepreneurial capacities of women in the region through training policies and advisory services in the commercial, administrative, and information and communications technology fields, working hand in hand with the private sector to increase their participation in decision-making positions within companies.

Article 12

Member states shall promote policies to strengthen financing for women-owned micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises in order to create a climate conducive to increasing the number of women entrepreneurs and the size of their enterprises, raising the overall productivity levels of women in the countries of the Hemisphere.

Article 13

Member states shall promote ambitious plans that provide growth strategies for entrepreneurs such as innovation zones/centers, training, and entrepreneurial incubators and accelerators. This also includes linking entrepreneurship with education.

CHAPTER V
COMMITMENTS TO FORMALIZATION, EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION

Article 14

Member states shall promote the design and implementation of adequate policies that contribute to business formalization as a measure to combat inequality and improve productivity, tax collection, and economic growth. They shall support the role of the private sector to contribute to a higher quality of employment, aware that through formalization it is possible to generate higher wages, less job insecurity, and better working conditions compared to the informal economy.

Article 15

It is a priority for member states to promote entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial education by consolidating efforts to encourage entrepreneurship, with a differential approach.

Article 16

Member states shall encourage the adoption of measures to provide education for work and human development, which are articulated with the needs of society and the current labor market, and which allow access to decent work and entrepreneurship. In particular, they will support actions that

promote strategic alliances with the private sector and academia, as well as those that incorporate a gender perspective. Thus, we will be able to make worker skills more relevant in the labor market, with special emphasis on the fields of science, technology, robotics and engineering.

CHAPTER VI BUSINESS INNOVATION, TECHNOLOGY ADOPTION, AND CREATIVE ECONOMIES

Article 17

Member states shall build initiatives to promote open innovation with collaboration and interconnection between large companies, recently-created companies, and MSMEs.

Article 18

Member states shall promote public policies that incorporate innovation as an engine for structural transformation, modernization, efficiency, transparency, participation, and accountability, and thus contribute to strengthening democratic systems and securing inclusive and sustainable development.

Article 19

Member states shall promote hemispheric cooperation to promote innovation ecosystems, where improvements in activities, processes, and technologies generate economic, social, and environmental value for all actors in society, under the principles of collaboration, sustainable production, and affordable access to essential products and services.

Article 20

Member states shall promote cooperation and technology transfer to achieve productive diversification, especially aiming to ensure that micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) can adopt disruptive technologies to innovate, conduct business, or create new services, with the purpose of accelerating their adaptation to the technological changes brought on by the industrial revolution 4.0 and their integration into international value chains.

Article 21

The member states will implement strategic actions to establish, develop and strengthen the Original Content Market for our cultural and creative industries, especially at the level of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, in order to consolidate the creative economy—or Orange Economy—in our hemisphere as a source of sustainable economic growth.

Article 22

Member states undertake to promote and support social entrepreneurs, hybrid organizations, and purpose-driven business models that aspire to achieve financial profitability simultaneously with social and environmental benefit.

CHAPTER VII
PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND BUILDING RESILIENCE

Article 23

Member states shall promote the early adoption of environmentally and socially sustainable business practices as a pillar to promote business development.

Article 24

To overcome the vulnerabilities of rural populations and guarantee the Hemisphere's food and nutritional security, Member states will promote policies aimed at formalizing ownership of rural property, implementing sustainable agriculture practices, and increasing investment in rural areas by increasing investment to promote private-sector initiatives that benefit farmers, adoption of new technologies for agribusiness development, and inclusion of new actors in production chains.

Article 25

Member states shall promote the development of joint plans coordinated with the private sector aimed at strengthening policies and programs for building resilience, adaptation, and social and economic recovery from natural disasters and other external shocks.

Article 26

Member states undertake to manage agreements and programs with international banks in order for private companies to be able to access flexible loans to foster building resilience and enable rapid economic recovery from natural disasters and other external shocks.

Article 27

Member states shall foster the development of innovative private sector projects for transition to a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy, in an inclusive manner, recognizing the catalytic role of the private sector in achieving this objective.

CHAPTER VIII
COMPLIANCE WITH COMPLEMENTARY OBLIGATIONS UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW

Article 28

Member states shall make efforts to strengthen the mechanisms that guarantee businesses' respect for human rights and the environment, in accordance with applicable international instruments and in compliance with national law.

Article 29

Member states reaffirm their obligations in the fight against corruption, particularly those contained in the Inter-American Convention against Corruption. Companies shall combat corruption

in all its forms, adopting containment plans, cooperating with the authorities, and implementing applicable international good practices, among other actions.

Article 30

Member states shall ensure that companies with activities under their jurisdiction strengthen their policies to guarantee respect for the fundamental labor rights recognized by the 1998 ILO Declaration, as well as other applicable international instruments and corresponding national laws.

Article 31

The Permanent Council shall hold two extraordinary sessions a year, where possible, where Member states will have the opportunity to share their experience in the implementation of the Inter-American Business Charter. As a result of these sessions, the General Secretariat will present a report on the statements made by the States, as well as the comments that the Member states agree to include in the report to be presented to the General Assembly each year.

To facilitate the preparation of the report to the General Assembly, the President of the Permanent Council may establish a Working Group so that, with the technical support of the General Secretariat, they prepare the report, which will be submitted to the Permanent Council for consideration, subject to the availability of financial resources in the Organization's program-budget and other resources.

Article 32

The member states shall promote the creation of a mechanism in which representatives of the business sector participate, in addition to government representatives, in order to follow up on this Charter. It may meet in spaces such as during the Summit of the Americas or the General Assembly of the OAS.

FOOTNOTES

1. ... binding in nature and that the discussions on it will take place in the framework of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI).

2. ... Republic of Venezuela properly notified the Secretary General of its denunciation of the Charter in accordance with Article 143 of the Charter of the Organization of American States, and the Charter ceased to be in force with respect to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, which ceased to belong to the Organization on April 27, 2019.

Antigua and Barbuda did not support resolution CP/RES. 1124 (2217/19) of April 9, 2019, which sought to appoint Mr. Gustavo Tarre as the National Assembly's representative to the OAS, and it did not accept the credentials of the officials intending to represent the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela at the forty-ninth and fiftieth regular sessions of the General Assembly.

Therefore, Antigua and Barbuda notifies all member states and the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States, as it did at the forty-ninth regular session of the General Assembly, that until further notice it will not consider itself bound by any declaration or resolution of the fiftieth regular session of the General Assembly or any future declarations or resolutions of any council or organ of the Organization that includes the participation of any person or entity purporting to speak for or act on behalf of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and in which 18 votes are attained with the participation of a purported representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

AG/RES. 2955 (L-O/20)

ADVANCING HEMISPHERIC INITIATIVES ON
INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT: PROMOTING RESILIENCE^{1/2/}

(Adopted at the first plenary session, held on October 20, 2020)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

REITERATING the importance of fostering integral development –including building resilience– as one of the essential purposes of the Organization of American States (OAS), as contained in instruments of the inter-American system, such as the OAS Charter, the Inter-American Democratic Charter, and the Social Charter of the Americas, as well as OAS mandates and the initiatives emanating from the Summits of the Americas;

MINDFUL that OAS member states have been significantly affected by the social, economic, and environmental impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, including those that are more vulnerable to external shocks, such as small island and low-lying coastal developing states, and recognizing that those effects differ across populations in our Hemisphere, increasing the vulnerability of informal workers and those who have lost their livelihoods, as well as other vulnerable populations;

RECOGNIZING that the COVID-19 pandemic threatens global progress in eradicating poverty –including extreme poverty– in all its forms and dimensions, which is an indispensable requirement for sustainable development;

BEARING IN MIND that the pandemic reinforces the urgent need for member states to design and implement policies, strategies, and programs to reduce their vulnerability and build their resilience to external shocks, including the adverse effects of climate change,^{3/} consistent with their national and international obligations;

RECOGNIZING that the health, social, economic, environmental, and financial challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic impact the implementation of policies aimed at sustainable development and that some States require technical and financial support, where appropriate, offered, *inter alia*, by international financial organizations and development institutions, taking into account the individual capacities and challenges of each country, to address this crisis and achieve stronger and more climate-resilient sustainable socioeconomic development;

RECALLING that the work of the OAS relating to the development pillar is governed by the Comprehensive Strategic Plan of the Organization [[AG/RES. 1 \(LI-E/16 rev. 1\)](#)] for the 2016-2020 period and the “Compilation of the OAS 2019 Comprehensive Strategic Plan” ([CP/doc.5469/19 rev. 1](#)), which are aligned with, and contribute to the implementation of, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable

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1. Antigua and Barbuda considers that the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is not a member state of the Organization of American States since, on April 27, 2017, the Government of the Bolivarian ...
 2. Mexico reiterates the position articulated in its statement during the report of the Secretary General on Credentials at the plenary session of the fiftieth regular session of the General Assembly.
 3. The United States notes that references to climate change and/or the Paris Agreement are without prejudice to U.S. positions. The United States notes that it submitted formal notification ...

Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as the general framework within which it acts;

EMBRACING the outcomes of the meetings of ministers and high-level authorities within the framework of Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) in the areas of education, culture, and energy, as well as the sectoral processes on labor, ports, cooperation, science and technology, tourism, competitiveness, and micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises;

GIVING CONTINUITY to the provisions contained in resolution [AG/RES. 2939 \(XLIX-O/19\)](#), “Advancing Hemispheric Initiatives on Integral Development,” adopted by the General Assembly at its forty-ninth regular session;

TAKING NOTE of the progress made by the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development within the framework of the Comprehensive Strategic Plan of the Organization [AG/RES. 1 (LI-E/16) rev. 1] for 2016–2020, pursuant to its seven strategic lines and its objectives for the integral development pillar and as indicated in the “Annual Report of the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) to the Inter-American Council for Integral Development” ([CIDI/doc.283/20 rev. 1](#)); and

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that CIDI adopted resolution CIDI/RES. 342 (CII-O/20), “Amendments to the Statutes of the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD) and to the Statutes of the Committee of the Capital Fund for the OAS Scholarship and Training Programs,”

RESOLVES:

1. To thank the governments of the following member states that chaired and hosted meetings of ministers and high-level authorities within the framework of Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) and sectoral processes held since the forty-ninth regular session of the General Assembly, for their hospitality, leadership, and commitment:

- Antigua and Barbuda, for chairing the Tenth Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Education within the Framework of CIDI on July 8 and 9, 2019;
- Honduras, for hosting the Twentieth Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Committee of Ports (CECIP) on the Island of Roatán on July 17, 2019;
- Barbados, for hosting the Eighth Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities within the Framework of CIDI on September 19 and 20, 2019;
- Chile, for holding the XII Americas Competitiveness Exchange (ACE) from October 6 to 10, 2019;
- Peru, for hosting the First International Seminar of Technology Foresight for the Americas (Prospecta Americas) in Lima on October 24 and 25, 2019;
- Ecuador, for hosting the Meeting of the Working Groups of the XX Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor in Quito from December 3 to 5, 2019;
- Jamaica, for hosting the Fourth Ministerial Meeting of the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA) on February 27 and 28, 2020; and
- Mexico, for chairing the Second Special Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Tourism (CITUR), held virtually on August 14, 2020.

2. To accept with satisfaction the kind offers of the following member states to host the upcoming sectoral meetings at the ministerial level and the respective processes that will be held within the framework of CIDI, conscious that they may need to be rescheduled in light of the current global pandemic, and to urge the authorities of all member states to take part in those meetings:

- Costa Rica: Fourth Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development, scheduled for July 2020, now postponed to the second half of 2021;
- Argentina: Twelfth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Ports (CIP) in Buenos Aires from May 19 to 21, 2021;
- Mexico: Second International Seminar of Technology Foresight for the Americas (Prospecta Americas) to be held in two sessions: the first (virtual) in November 2020, the second (in person) during the first quarter of 2021;
- Jamaica: Sixth Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities on Science and Technology within the Framework of CIDI in 2021;
- Argentina: XXI Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor (IACML) from September 22 to 24, 2021;
- Ecuador: XI Americas Competitiveness Forum in March 2021;
- Paraguay: Twenty-fifth Inter-American Congress of Ministers and High-Level Authorities of Tourism, scheduled for 2021;
- Chile: VII Inter-American Dialogue of High-Level MSME Authorities, scheduled for 2021;
- United States: XIII ACE in August 2021 and the XIV ACE in November 2021
- Dominican Republic: V Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Social Development within the Framework of CIDI, scheduled for 2022; and
- Guatemala: Ninth Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities within the Framework of CIDI, scheduled for 2022.

I. REGARDING THE STRATEGIC LINE “PROMOTING INCLUSIVE AND COMPETITIVE ECONOMIES”

3. To urge member states, through exchanges of good practice, experience, training opportunities, and technical assistance, to strengthen the Virtual Group of Experts within the framework of Prospecta Americas of the Inter-American Committee on Science and Technology (COMCyT) with the purpose of addressing development imperatives in the Americas, including those arising as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic. Likewise, member states with interest and existing capacities in transformative technologies are encouraged to join the COMCyT network of inter-American centers of excellence in technology foresight in order to complement regional resources and capacities, carry out studies, develop lines of research, and other collaborative activities to address strategic challenges in the Americas, and support economic recovery by bringing technologies, knowledge, jobs, and growth to the countries of the region. The contributions should not be interpreted as mandates that presuppose or promote financial disbursements as a condition of participation.

4. To instruct the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) to continue to support the work of COMCyT, including the second Prospecta Americas seminar in Hidalgo, Mexico, as well as the Inter-American Competitiveness Network (RIAC) and the Americas Competitiveness Exchange (ACE), and to encourage the fullest participation of member states at the highest level possible.

5. To instruct SEDI to continue supporting all member states during the 2019-2022 triennium in the implementation of the OAS MSME Digitization Program, which is designed to enable micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises to digitize through training and technical support that allow them to create free websites, among other technological tools necessary for their survival and successful economic development. Preliminary results will be shared at the VII Inter-American Dialogue of High-Level MSME Authorities scheduled to be held in Chile in 2021. Additionally, SEDI will continue to promote and support, to the extent that resources-allow, strengthening of capacities and technical support for the Small Business Development Centers Program in the region, to help member states to enhance the resilience, competitiveness, and internationalization of MSMEs and to adequately respond to the needs of local economies after the COVID-19 pandemic.

6. To instruct SEDI, in its capacity as Technical Secretariat of CITUR, in keeping with the provisions of the Declarations of Lima and Georgetown and the CITUR work plan and taking into account the context of each country, to continue to support the efforts of member states within the CITUR framework to strengthen tourism sector recovery from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and to continue working to create a sustainable rural community tourism development management model for the Americas, taking into account existing national and international models and initiatives, such as the recommendations emanating from the World Tourism Organization in 2020 around its declared theme of “Tourism and Rural Development.”

7. To instruct SEDI, in its capacity as Technical Secretariat of CITUR), to continue supporting the activities and initiatives undertaken to meet the challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic and to encourage member states to support the efforts of CITUR on the conceptualization of a tourism agenda with a 2050 vision for the Americas.

8. To instruct SEDI, in its capacity as Technical Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee on Culture (CIC) and in keeping with the provisions of the Declaration of Bridgetown and the CIC work plan, to continue supporting the Working Group on Cultural Satellite Accounts in its exchange of experience for strengthening the capacity of member states to measure the contribution of culture and the creative economy, and to request SEDI, with the support of the CIC, to share country experiences regarding efforts to sustain and promote culture and the creative economy in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath.

II. REGARDING THE STRATEGIC LINE “STRENGTHENING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE INTER-AMERICAN PROGRAM FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (PIDS) 2016–2021”

9. To encourage member states to incorporate in their development plans and financial strategies disaster preparedness, recovery and reconstruction planning in the framework of disaster risk reduction management.

10. To instruct SEDI to continue facilitating exchanges of experience and best practices among member states in community emergency preparedness and response.

11. To instruct SEDI to continue developing and presenting training, targeting youth towards providing them with knowledge and tools in the area of sustainable communities under an integral approach, including through the Educational Portal of the Americas.

12. To instruct SEDI to continue to assist the ECPA in its efforts to support member states to develop renewable energy and natural gas, as well as some possible options for building cross-cutting and cross-border energy infrastructure and energy services, diversifying sources and geographic distribution for power generation and protecting communities from power grid failures caused by disasters.

13. To instruct SEDI to continue providing support for the promotion or development as appropriate, of comprehensive water management policies, as well as on water security, which include provisions for the mitigation and adaptation to the effects of climate change,^{4/} such as extreme droughts and floods, in particular for water-stressed countries and Regions at risk.

14. To instruct the CIP Secretariat to continue its work to implement programs that promote environmental sustainability in member states, including pollution reduction in the framework of the Port Incentive Program to Reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions from cargo ships.

15. To reiterate its support for the White Helmets Initiative as an invaluable hemispheric prevention, reduction, and response mechanism against disasters for the fight against hunger and poverty.

16. To encourage the White Helmets Initiative to continue fostering growing regional humanitarian collaboration and, in that context, to continue sharing its experience and best practices in disaster prevention, preparedness, and response, particularly in the international context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

17. To note the work of the Committee on Partnership for Development Policies in analyzing the study “Tools and Entities of the Inter-American System to Address Natural Disaster Response.”

18. To endorse the recommendations of CIDI contained in document CIDI/CPD/doc.200/20 rev. 3 on the tools and entities of the inter-American system to address natural disaster response, and to task CIDI, in coordination with the Committee on Hemispheric Security, with overseeing implementation of the mandates entrusted to the General Secretariat.

19. To adopt the amended Statutes of Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction contained in the Annex to this resolution.

III. REGARDING THE STRATEGIC LINE “PROMOTING EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT IN THE AMERICAS”

20. To endorse the Plan of Action of Antigua and Barbuda 2019, “The Inter-American Education Agenda: Building Sustainable Partnerships through Cooperation, with Renewed Focus on Education and Skills Development for Better Citizenry,” adopted at the Tenth Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Education, held in Washington, D.C., on July 8 and 9, 2019 (CIDI/RME/doc.6/19).

21. To instruct SEDI to continue to support the 2019–2022 work plan of the CIE and its goal of sharing concrete initiatives for the implementation of the Inter-American Education Agenda (IEA); to deepen synergies among global, hemispheric, and subregional educational initiatives; and to

4. The United States notes that references to climate change and/or the Paris Agreement are without prejudice to U.S. positions. The United States notes that it submitted formal notification ...

promote inter-sectoral cooperation and cooperation with other social actors in order to help achieve the goals set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and contribute to reducing the inequalities exacerbated by the pandemic.

22. To instruct SEDI to support education ministries and institutions in charge of education in the region in promoting the Hemispheric Action Plan for the Continuity of Education (PHACE) in the context of the coronavirus pandemic.

23. To instruct SEDI, in its coordinating capacity as Technical Secretariat of the CIE, to encourage and promote spaces for dialogue among the officers of the working groups and other member states interested in the implementation of programs that contribute to the achievement of the mandates contained in the Plan of Action of Antigua and Barbuda 2019.

24. To instruct SEDI, in compliance with the mandates from the Tenth Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Education within the Framework of CIDI and the XX Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor, to consider, in consultation with the member states, calling a joint meeting of both sectors within a time frame to be determined.

25. To encourage member states to continue strengthening the contributions and commitments made under the leadership of the officers of the respective working groups in order to ensure this systemic and integrated approach to the policy dialogue process, the impact of which is reflected in the strengthening of the region's public policies and in their impact on local and regional programs and initiatives.

26. To instruct SEDI, as the Technical Secretariat of the CIE, to begin planning the second phase of the IEA by proposing guidelines for the next five-year period (2022–2027).

27. To support member states in achieving their goals for the development and consolidation of human capital through the strengthening of the OAS Scholarship and Training Programs, which include strategic partnerships with academic institutions, the private sector, and civil society organizations to support member states in achieving their integral development goals, including by contributing to the development of relevant skills to access and remain in employment within the post-COVID-19 context; and to instruct SEDI to promote and support the Educational Portal of the Americas and the Inter-American Teacher Education Network as tools for training and human development, stimulating the continuity of efforts to ensure the efficiency, impact, and sustainability of these programs in the region, with attention to technological innovation and virtual education and/or training.

28. To reiterate the instruction that SEDI promote and expand the OAS Consortium of Universities with a focus on national/state universities, technical and vocational institutions, and educational institutions in Latin America and the Caribbean.

29. To instruct the CIP Secretariat to continue working, in line with the CIP Mexico City Plan of Action 2018–2020 and in collaboration with its members and strategic partners, on offering professional development and capacity-building opportunities in all four languages of the OAS, where possible, for officials in the port sector in the Americas, contributing to the strengthening of existing partnerships in the sector.

IV. REGARDING THE STRATEGIC LINE “PROMOTING DECENT, DIGNIFIED, AND PRODUCTIVE WORK FOR ALL”

30. To take note of the updates to the Work Plan 2018–2020 of the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor (IACML) in February and May 2020 ([CIMT-20/GT1-GT2/doc.12/20](#)) in light of the ongoing pandemic.

31. To instruct SEDI to continue supporting the Work Plan 2018-2020 of the IACML and its objective of achieving decent, dignified, and productive employment for all, through regional and bilateral cooperation initiatives, including for the institutional strengthening of ministries of labor, and that it continue providing technical advice on the priority issues identified by its working groups and the labor market impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

32. To instruct SEDI to support member states through the Inter-American Network for Labor Administration in sharing experience on measures to promote decent work and productive employment, including in areas such as youth employment, strengthening social protection systems, and promotion of dignified aging.

33. To encourage member states to develop policies and programs for economic recovery and promotion of decent work and productive employment, particularly for workers who lost their jobs as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

V. REGARDING THE STRATEGIC LINE “FOSTERING THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF MIGRANTS, INCLUDING MIGRANT WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE INTER-AMERICAN PROGRAM ON THIS SUBJECT TO ENHANCE THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO DEVELOPMENT”

34. To acknowledge the importance of safe, orderly, and regular migration and the need for member states to promote empirical public policies to address the structural causes of migration and reduce the risks associated with irregular migration.

35. To encourage the countries of the region, to establish or implement, as necessary, cooperation agreements and protocols on assistance and protection of accompanied and unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents and to promote the best interests of the child, respecting and protecting their rights and taking into account relevant obligations of countries under international human rights law. Likewise, to encourage member states to ensure that accompanied and unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents receive specialized assistance and protection in any situation affecting them.

36. To urge member states, in keeping with their pertinent obligations under international human rights law, to strengthen their public policies for countering discrimination, racism, xenophobia, intolerance, and racial superiority speech, in order to facilitate the socioeconomic integration of migrants.

37. To urge member states also to strengthen their public policies for combating the crimes of trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling.

38. To recognize the need to eliminate the barriers that hamper access for migrants – regardless of their migration status– to health care and disease prevention policies, consistent with

national law and international obligations, bearing in mind the negative effects that the COVID-19 pandemic has had throughout the Hemisphere, especially for groups in situations of vulnerability.

39. To urge member states to adopt a comprehensive human-rights approach toward migrants and their families when formulating and implementing policy responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, including taking into consideration the particular impacts on women and children based on the principles of equality and nondiscrimination, consistent with the domestic law and international obligations of each State.

40. To recognize the work of existing regional mechanisms such as the Regional Conference on Migration, the South American Conference on Migration, the Caribbean Migration Consultations, and the Quito Process, as appropriate, and to continue to promote dialogue and cooperation among States of origin, transit, and destination to comprehensively address international migration and its multiple causes through sharing of information, experience, and best practices, including those concerning the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on migrants and of policies espoused by countries in the region in the current context.

41. To encourage international cooperation initiatives to support countries of origin, transit, and destination of migrants and refugees, especially those from Venezuela; to facilitate, as appropriate, the provision of humane, neutral, impartial, and independent humanitarian assistance, and to foster their socioeconomic integration in accordance with applicable national and international law.

42. To highlight the importance of the Continuous Reporting System on International Migration in the Americas (SICREMI), as the region's instrument for generating and analyzing information on migration flows, regulatory frameworks, and public policies on migration in the Hemisphere; to instruct the General Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources and in coordination with other agencies of the inter-American system and other strategic actors, to order the production of the next edition of the SICREMI Report; and to urge member states to join SICREMI and encourage them and permanent observers to consider making voluntary contributions for its financial sustainability.

43. To encourage member states to foster quicker, safer, and less costly remittances, so as to reduce the average cost of transactions to less than 3 percent of the sum transferred by 2030, by developing legal and regulatory environments to enable competition, regulation, and innovation in the remittances market and offering programs and instruments with a gender perspective to enhance the financial inclusion of migrants and their families.

44. To reaffirm the importance of continuing to strengthen and foster constructive dialogue and regional and bilateral cooperation on migration matters, as appropriate, in confronting migration challenges in the Hemisphere, especially in the Permanent Council, CIDI, and their subsidiary bodies, including the CAM, in accordance with resolution AG/RES. 2910 (XLVII-O/17), "Migration in the Americas," and declaration CP/DEC. 68 (2099/16) "Inter-American Cooperation to Address the Challenges and Opportunities of Migration," adopted by the Permanent Council on December 15, 2016.

45. To highlight multilateral-level initiatives for dialogue and cooperation on migration and international protection, and to take note of those initiatives in which part of the member states are

participants, such as the Global Forum on Migration and Development, the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, and the Global Compact on Refugees.^{5/}

VI. REGARDING THE STRATEGIC LINE “FOSTER COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PARTNERSHIPS”

46. To instruct SEDI to continue working with and supporting the Management Board of the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (MB/IACD) in the implementation of the priorities contained in the 2020–2021 IACD Work Plan.

47. To encourage member states to discuss, in the framework of CIDI, access to international financing and strengthening of international cooperation mechanisms to advance the sustainable development agenda,^{6/} with special attention to the specific challenges faced by small island and low-lying developing states and low- and middle-income countries in the region, and to consider, aside from income-status indicators, additional criteria, where appropriate, to assess poverty and development in countries, such as vulnerability, , in order to maintain and implement social protection programs and policies needed for the well-being of citizens, especially the most vulnerable, as well as for more sustainable, climate-resilient, low-carbon socioeconomic reconstruction and development.^{7/}

48. To approve the amendments to the Statutes of the IACD with retroactive effect to the date of their adoption by resolution CIDI/RES. 342 (CII-O/20) at the regular meeting of CIDI of June 30, 2020.

49. To take note of the amendments to the Statutes of the Committee of the Capital Fund for the OAS Scholarship and Training Programs adopted by resolution CIDI/RES. 342 (CII-O/20) at the regular meeting of CIDI of June 30, 2020.

VII. REGARDING THE STRATEGIC LINE “FOSTERING SOCIAL INCLUSION WITH EQUITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE AMERICAS”

50. To reaffirm the significance of the adoption of the Plan of Action of Guatemala 2019, “Overcoming Multidimensional Poverty and Bridging Social Equity Gaps: Towards an Inter-American Agenda on Social Development” (CIDI/REMDES/doc.6/19 rev. 3), as the first inter-American plan of action on social development and as a roadmap that defines concrete measures for advancing social development in the region; and to urge member states to participate actively in the working groups, in the discussion of a work plan, and in the activities organized by the Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity for the implementation of said Plan of Action.

51. To encourage member states, permanent observers, and other donors to contribute to the Fund for the Implementation of the Plan of Action of Guatemala 2019 to the extent of their possibilities in order to ensure funding for the activities of said Plan.

5. As noted in the December 7, 2018 National Statement of the United States of America on the Adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration (GCM), ...

6. The U.S. believes that the most highly concessional finance should be focused on the countries most in need and least able to mobilize financing from other sources.

7. The United States notes that references to climate change and/or the Paris Agreement are without prejudice to U.S. positions.

52. To encourage member states to strengthen their social protection systems and to take into account the needs of the poor and vulnerable who have been particularly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as to streamline and update their social protection databases, as appropriate, in order to achieve social inclusion consistent with the new reality.

53. To recognize the strategic importance of partnership for development as a tool to support the efforts of member states to overcome poverty and inequality and tackle the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in the context of promotion of sustainable development and, in that regard, to urge member states to support and strengthen the work of the Inter-American Social Protection Network as the hemispheric mechanism for cooperation on social development to strengthen the institutions and agencies responsible for social policies in member states through the exchange of knowledge, lessons learned and experience, technical assistance, mutual learning, and technical cooperation among countries.

54. To continue providing technical assistance to member states, when so requested, in the formulation and implementation of policies to ensure the full integral development of all children and adolescents, within the overarching framework of the current Comprehensive Strategic Plan of the Organization; and to encourage member states, as appropriate, to continue investing in this area, in accordance with their legislation, national priorities, and available resources.

VIII. REGARDING THE CONTINUATION OF SECTORAL PROCESSES WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF CIDI

55. To adopt the following schedule of meetings of ministers and high-level authorities within the framework of CIDI, taking into account the difficulties resulting from the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the maximum number of meetings that may be held based on resources allocated from the Regular Fund of the Organization, and to instruct the General Secretariat to continue implementing the guidelines agreed to in the triennial ministerial cycle in coordination with the competent authorities in each sector.

| Sectoral Process | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|-----------------------|---|---|---|---|--|---|
| 1. Tourism | II Regular Meeting of CITUR <i>(virtual, November 19-20)</i> | XXV Tourism Ministerial <i>(Paraguay)</i> | | III Meeting of CITUR | XXVI Tourism Ministerial <i>(host to be determined)</i> | |
| 2. Ports | | XII Meeting of CIP <i>(Argentina, May 19-21)</i> | | XIII Meeting of CIP <i>(host to be determined)</i> | | XIV Meeting of CIP <i>(host to be determined)</i> |
| 3. Education | | IX Meeting of the CIE | XI Education Ministerial <i>(host to be determined)</i> | | X Meeting of the CIE | XII Education Ministerial <i>(host to be determined)</i> |
| 4. Cooperation | | III Cooperation Ministerial <i>(host to be determined)</i> | | | IV Cooperation Ministerial <i>(host TBD)</i> | |
| 5. Social Development | V Meeting of CIDES | | V Social Development Ministerial <i>(Dominican Republic)</i> | | VI Meeting of CIDES | VI Social Development Ministerial <i>(host to be determined)</i> |

| Sectoral Process | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|--|---|--|---|
| 6. Culture | | VI Meeting of the CIC | IX Culture Ministerial (Guatemala) | | VII Meeting of the CIC | X Culture Ministerial (host to be determined) |
| 7. Sustainable Development | | IV Sustainable Development Ministerial (Costa Rica, 2nd semester) | | VI CIDS meeting | V Sustainable Development Ministerial (host TBD) | |
| 8. Science and Technology | | VI Science and Technology Ministerial (Jamaica) | | X Meeting of COMCyT | VII Science and Technology Ministerial (host to be determined) | |
| 9. Labor | | XXI Labor Ministerial (Argentina, September 22-24) | | Meeting of the WG on Labor | XXII Labor Ministerial (host to be determined) | |
| Other meetings* (for reference only) | Prospecta Americas (Mexico, November) | XI Americas Competitiveness Forum (Ecuador, March) VII Inter-American Dialogue of High-Level MSME Authorities (Chile) Prospecta Americas (Mexico, first quarter) XIII ACE (United States, August) XIV ACE (United States, November) | Prospecta Americas (Colombia) XV and XVI Americas Competitiveness Exchange (hosts to be determined) | XII Americas Competitiveness Forum (host to be determined) VIII Inter-American Dialogue of High-Level MSME Authorities (host to be determined) XVII and XVIII Americas Competitiveness Exchanges (hosts to be determined) | XIX and XX Americas Competitiveness Exchanges (hosts to be determined) | IX Inter-American Dialogue of High-Level MSME Authorities (host to be determined) XXI and XXII Americas Competitiveness Exchanges (hosts to be determined) |

* 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 of the Americas
- RIAC: Inter-American Competitiveness Network
- MSME: Micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises
- ACE: Americas Competitiveness Exchange

IX. REGARDING THE MONITORING OF ADVANCES, CONTRIBUTIONS, AND RESOURCES

56. To request CIDI to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-first regular session on the implementation of this resolution.

57. To thank those member states and permanent observers that have contributed financial, logistical, and human resources to support the programs and activities of SEDI, and to request the General Secretariat to continue strengthening existing partnerships and developing new ones with relevant actors, including the private sector and civil society organizations.

58. To reiterate that the 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.

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 also seeks to harmonize efforts and to facilitate the exchange of information on the actions taken and ongoing, as well as on the response plans of the institutions of the inter-American system, sub-regional and international partners, member states and permanent observers in response to natural and other disasters.

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 STRUCTURE

Article 4: 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 5: 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. Invite member states with voice but without vote and, when necessary, invites permanent observers, and representatives of national, sub regional, regional, and international organizations and mechanisms to participate in IACNDR meetings with voice but without vote.^{8/}
- f. Submits and presents an annual report on its activities to the Permanent Council.
- g. Assists in coordinating the cooperation among member states, when invited to do so by the interested parties, and assists states affected by a natural disaster in notifying OCHA.
- h. Performs such duties as required under Article VII of the Statutes of the Inter-American Emergency Aid Fund (FONDEM), and
- i. Solicits voluntary contributions for the purposes established in this Statutes and in accordance with article 13.

8. Said organizations could include, among others, the United Nations, the World Bank, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC) ...

CHAPTER III MEETINGS

Article 6

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

Article 7

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

Article 8

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 9

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 10

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 11

The IACNDR shall meet at the Headquarters of the General Secretariat of the OAS, except when it decides on an alternative venue or format for its meetings, which could be virtual.

CHAPTER IV SECRETARIAT SERVICES

Article 12

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 V
FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Article 13

The IACNDR through the Secretary General, and without prejudice to the individual competence of its members, shall solicit voluntary contributions from member states and permanent observer states of the Organization and from other member states of the United Nations, as well as from individuals, or public or private institutions, whether national or international, and/or seek to establish the necessary specific and trust funds, pursuant to the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat of the Organization to assist member states consistent with article 2.

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 VI
AMENDMENTS AND ENTRY INTO FORCE

Article 14

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

Article 15

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

FOOTNOTES

1. ... Republic of Venezuela properly notified the Secretary General of its denunciation of the Charter in accordance with Article 143 of the Charter of the Organization of American States, and the Charter ceased to be in force with respect to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, which ceased to belong to the Organization on April 27, 2019.

Antigua and Barbuda did not support resolution CP/RES. 1124 (2217/19) of April 9, 2019, which sought to appoint Mr. Gustavo Tarre as the National Assembly's representative to the OAS, and it did not accept the credentials of the officials intending to represent the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela at the forty-ninth and fiftieth regular sessions of the General Assembly.

Therefore, Antigua and Barbuda notifies all member states and the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States, as it did at the forty-ninth regular session of the General Assembly, that until further notice it will not consider itself bound by any declaration or resolution of the fiftieth regular session of the General Assembly or any future declarations or resolutions of any council or organ of the Organization that includes the participation of any person or entity purporting to speak for or act on behalf of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and in which 18 votes are attained with the participation of a purported representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

3. ... of its withdrawal from the Paris Agreement to the United Nations on November 4, 2019. The withdrawal will take effect one year from the delivery of the notification.

4. ... of its withdrawal from the Paris Agreement to the United Nations on November 4, 2019. The withdrawal will take effect one year from the delivery of the notification.

5. ...the United States opposes the GCM and related processes. Unfortunately, the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) has in recent years served as a vehicle to advance the aims of the GCM. As a result, the United States in 2018 suspended its participation in and contributions to the GFMD.

8. ... Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the World Bank, the Andean Corporation for Development (CAF), the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI), International Organization for Migration (IOM), the International Labor Organization (ILO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the White Helmets Initiative, Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), the Coordination Center for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America (CEPREDENAC), the Andean Committee for the Prevention and Attention to Disasters (CAPRADE) and the Meeting of Ministers and High Level Authorities of Integral Risk Management of MERCOSUR (RMAGIR).

AG/RES. 2956 (L-O/20)

THE CHALLENGES TO FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION IN THE AMERICAS IN THE
CONTEXT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF
THE PLAN OF ACTION OF GUATEMALA 2019^{1/2/}

(Adopted at the first plenary session, held on October 20, 2020)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

EXPRESSING its solidarity with and condolences to the people of the Americas who have suffered the adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, especially those who have contracted the disease, those whose livelihoods have been affected by the crisis, and those who have lost family members;

EXPRESSING ALSO its sincere appreciation and support for the dedication, efforts, and sacrifice beyond the call of duty of health professionals, sanitation workers, and other relevant frontline workers in their response to the COVID-19 pandemic;

DEEPLY CONCERNED about the socioeconomic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which is threatening food security and nutrition in the countries of the Americas, including disproportionately impacting women's and girls' health, education, and access to basic public services, as well as social and financial services, deepening already existing inequalities, as well as poverty, extreme poverty, malnutrition, and hunger, particularly among the most vulnerable;

CONSIDERING that the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) estimates that even larger numbers of people in the region will fall into poverty, that the number of those affected by COVID-19 will increase, and that the number of those in extreme poverty could rise, potentially reversing the advances made in the last decade in terms of economic growth and sustainable development, the fight against food insecurity and inequality, and access to education and health, among others. Also, aware that the Global Report on Food Crises 2020 estimates that acute food insecurity and food crisis have affected over 18.5 million people in eight countries of the region, and mindful that the United Nations World Food Programme warned that due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown measures, the number of food insecure globally may double if action is not taken;

RECOGNIZING that the region has been characterized as the most unequal in the world, with the incidence of poverty and extreme poverty higher among women, older persons, youth and children, as well as all persons in vulnerable situations and marginalized communities in both rural and urban areas and that the situation of vulnerability is exacerbated as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and its multidimensional and unprecedented effects –including the serious disruption of societies,

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1. Antigua and Barbuda considers that the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is not a member state of the Organization of American States since, on April 27, 2017, the Government of the Bolivarian ...
 2. Mexico reiterates the position articulated in its statement during the report of the Secretary General on Credentials at the plenary session of the fiftieth regular session of the General Assembly.

economies, the labor market, global commerce, education— as well as its devastating impact on people’s livelihoods and wellbeing;

DEEPLY CONCERNED that, though rural women account for a high percentage of the region’s agriculture and food production and play an important role in ensuring food security and nutrition, they continue to live under conditions of social and economic inequality with challenges in terms of access to land titles, credit, and technical assistance;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the respective commitments made by member states in relevant international and inter-American instruments to which they are party, such as the Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the Area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Protocol of San Salvador) and the Social Charter of the Americas and its Plan of Action, as well as the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights of the United Nations, in addition to the mechanisms and other instances existing in the inter-American system, such as the Working Group to Examine the Periodic Reports of the States Parties to the Protocol of San Salvador and the Office of the Rapporteur on Economic, Social, Cultural, and Environmental Rights of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, which, through the preparation of progress indicators, reports and other activities, provide tools to member states on the path to food security and nutrition;

RECALLING the commitments emanating from the mandates of the Summits of the Americas aimed at strengthening the agri-food sector in a sustainable, comprehensive, inclusive, and competitive manner that contributes to achieving food security and nutrition, fighting undernutrition, in particular chronic undernutrition, and promoting science-based nutrition policies that are culturally appropriate for our peoples;

REAFFIRMING support for international technical cooperation on agriculture through the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), as well as the determination to complement our capacity-building, innovation, inclusion, and sustainability efforts in the agriculture and food sector across the Hemisphere;

REITERATING the importance of family farming –especially by women and youth in rural areas– in developing countries to achieve food security and nutrition, reduce poverty, and mitigate the effects of the pandemic on food and agriculture;

ACKNOWLEDGING that certain countries’ geographic location and climatic conditions, including susceptibility to natural disasters, inadequate arable land, and poor natural water supply, among others, militate against agricultural production and the achievement of food security and nutrition, particularly in, but not limited to, small island and low-lying coastal developing states. This situation can be improved with measures that introduce new agricultural and emerging technologies, including climate-smart agriculture with capacity-building support for domestic reforms and policies that would require technical and financial support from international financial and development institutions, where appropriate;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the urgent need to accelerate action at all levels and by all interested parties with the ultimate aim of achieving the vision and the goals of the 2030 Agenda, especially the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 to “end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture,” which considers that hunger and malnutrition

represent major obstacles to sustainable development and that governments can design public policies to consolidate measures, strategies, and policies to eliminate hunger and all forms of malnutrition and to achieve food security and nutrition as a priority, and fulfil the commitment to leave no one behind and to reach those who are furthest behind;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT ALSO that, although the world is in the second half of the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025), countries still face tough challenges in achieving food security and nutrition, especially in the context of the effects of the pandemic;

RECOGNIZING that in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the adoption of social protection measures is vital to address the dual challenge of mitigating the pandemic's immediate economic impact and rebuilding the livelihoods, especially for the most vulnerable, and that through public-private partnerships and the private sector, among others, relief could be afforded to a large number of individuals whose food security and nutrition are at risk;

RECALLING that in the Inter-American Declaration on Social Development Priorities, "Equity and Social Inclusion: Overcoming Multidimensional Poverty and Bridging Social Equity Gaps: Towards an Inter-American Agenda on Social Development," and in the roadmap represented by the Plan of Action of Guatemala 2019, "Overcoming Multidimensional Poverty and Bridging Social Equity Gaps: Towards an Inter-American Agenda on Social Development," the Ministers and High Authorities of Social Development recognized the value of social protection programs in the eradication of child hunger and malnutrition in the Americas and the pledge to continue supporting such efforts through inter-American cooperation and institutional strengthening for government agencies, civil society organizations, and other social actors responsible for implementing these programs;

CONSIDERING recent regional and subregional initiatives that address the problems of food security and nutrition, inclusive development, and those related to dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic in order to strengthen the resilience of food security and nutrition through social protection mechanisms; the uninterrupted operation of value chains, production, and people's access to food through transparent international trade, consistent with World Trade Organization rules; and promotion of sustainable agriculture and food systems within the region that meet the needs of the population, protect the environment, and respect the food habits and cultures of the Hemisphere;

RECOGNIZING the science-based work on food safety by member states to protect and preserve the health of all people throughout the supply and consumption chain of agricultural products, as well as the importance of acknowledging the essential role of workers in agriculture and food supply chains and of supporting them so that they can continue their essential work in a safe manner;

RECALLING that the Inter-American Council for Integral Development, at its meeting of November 26, 2019 on "Child Malnutrition in the Americas," heard presentations on public policies, programs, and initiatives for reducing malnutrition, particularly chronic malnutrition, in different contexts of the region, discussed the main challenges faced by countries and institutions, and identified lines of cooperation both at the regional level and between countries to facilitate the transfer of knowledge, lessons learned, best practices, and successful policies;

RECOGNIZING the efforts made to date by member states to address the emergency generated by COVID-19 and to meet the most pressing food security and nutrition needs of people in vulnerable situations; and convinced that the COVID-19 pandemic offers member states, civil society, the private sector, academia, and other relevant social actors the opportunity to collaborate on social protection and assistance policies, plans, and programs, eradication of hunger and chronic undernutrition to better prepare our societies to deal with future crises, and achieving the objectives set forth in this resolution;

TAKING NOTE that the World Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations jointly stated that, to date, there is no scientific evidence that the SARS-CoV-2 virus can be transmitted via food or food packaging and that it is highly unlikely that people can contract COVID-19 from food or food packaging;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that in many member states, particularly in Central America and the Caribbean, even before the COVID-19 pandemic, agricultural production was already adversely affected by natural disasters and climate change,^{3/} reducing food security and nutrition, increasing unemployment and poverty, and displacing people, and that COVID-19 has worsened their circumstances; and

BEARING IN MIND the importance of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), especially small and medium-sized family farms, to food security and nutrition and economic development,

RESOLVES:

1. To request the Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity (SARE), in partnership with the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) and making use of the Inter-American Social Protection Network to promote cooperation in strengthening national social development institutions in collaboration with international organizations, experts on growth, development and prosperity, civil society organizations, the private sector, and academia responsible for combating poverty, reducing inequality with a comprehensive approach, expanding social protection, and promoting social programs to eradicate hunger and malnutrition in the fight against food insecurity through actions aimed at dialogue, capacity building, and the exchange of knowledge and lessons learned, as well as technical assistance and monitoring of indicators related to those issues.

2. To encourage member states to participate actively in the three working groups included in the Plan of Action of Guatemala 2019 and in the activities organized by the SARE to implement the said Plan of Action, giving priority in the agendas of the working groups to the issues of food security and nutrition and reduction of poverty and inequality, among others.

3. To encourage member states to keep value chains open and connected so that international markets can continue to function, supporting the flow of agricultural products and inputs, which play a key role in avoiding food shortages and thus achieving global food security and nutrition, and to ensure that emergency measures related to agriculture and agri-food products for addressing the COVID-19 pandemic are specific, proportionate, transparent and temporary, and do not create

3. The United States notes that references to climate change and/or the Paris Agreement are without prejudice to U.S. positions. The United States notes that it submitted formal notification ...

unnecessary barriers to trade or interrupt supply chains for agriculture and agri-food products. We resolve to limit any unjustified restrictive measures on agricultural commodities or food supply.

4. To invite member states, permanent observers, and other donors to contribute to the Fund for the Implementation of the Plan of Action of Guatemala 2019 to the extent of their capacities, with the aim of securing resources as soon as possible to finance cooperation and technical assistance for activities in support of the efforts of member states to respond to the serious consequences of hunger and malnutrition in the Americas now being aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

5. To encourage the General Secretariat to support the efforts of small island and low-lying coastal developing states, among others, to request technical and, where appropriate, financial assistance from international financial institutions and development agencies, combined with domestic reforms and policies to facilitate new agricultural and emerging technologies, including climate-smart agriculture and capacity building support. This is in light of the limited areas of arable land and poor water supply in some countries, and the importance of improving the food security and nutrition of small and medium-sized family farms, school farming, subsistence farming and fishing, and farming by women and youth in rural areas.

6. To request the SARE, in coordination with the Inter-American Committee on Social Development and in collaboration with SEDI and other relevant secretariats, to implement this resolution with the purpose of facilitating and strengthening dialogue, cooperation, exchanges of experience, capacity building, and technical assistance for member states in the unprecedented context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

7. To encourage the General Secretariat, through the SARE and in collaboration with SEDI and other relevant secretariats, as well as in coordination with the Joint Summit Working Group, the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute, the United Nations World Food Programme, and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, among others, to develop and strengthen cooperation projects to address the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the issues mentioned in this resolution.

8. To request the General Secretariat, through the SARE and in collaboration with SEDI and other relevant secretariats, to prepare and present at a joint meeting of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development and the Permanent Council a follow-up report on best practices and lessons learned by member states, as well as to recommend lines of action within the remit of this resolution.

FOOTNOTES

1. ... Republic of Venezuela properly notified the Secretary General of its denunciation of the Charter in accordance with Article 143 of the Charter of the Organization of American States, and the Charter ceased to be in force with respect to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, which ceased to belong to the Organization on April 27, 2019.

Antigua and Barbuda did not support resolution CP/RES. 1124 (2217/19) of April 9, 2019, which sought to appoint Mr. Gustavo Tarre as the National Assembly's representative to the OAS, and it did not accept the credentials of the officials intending to represent the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela at the forty-ninth and fiftieth regular sessions of the General Assembly.

Therefore, Antigua and Barbuda notifies all member states and the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States, as it did at the forty-ninth regular session of the General Assembly, that until further notice it will not consider itself bound by any declaration or resolution of the fiftieth regular session of the General Assembly or any future declarations or resolutions of any council or organ of the Organization that includes the participation of any person or entity purporting to speak for or act on behalf of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and in which 18 votes are attained with the participation of a purported representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

3. ...of its withdrawal from the Paris Agreement to the United Nations on November 4, 2019. The withdrawal will take effect one year from the delivery of the notification.

AG/RES. 2957 (L-O/20)

PROGRAM-BUDGET OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR 2021^{1/2/}

(Adopted at the first plenary session, held on October 20, 2020)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

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 the General Assembly, through resolution AG/RES. 1757 (XXX-O/00), adopted at its thirtieth regular session, approved measures to encourage the timely payment of quotas and since, modified those measures by way of resolutions AG/RES. 2157 (XXXV-O/05) and AG/RES. 1 (XLII-E/11) rev. 1;

That the General Assembly, at its thirty-fourth special session, through resolution [AG/RES. 1 \(XXXIV-E/07\)](#) rev. 1, adopted the Methodology for Calculating the Scale of Quota Assessments to Finance the Regular Fund of the Organization;

That through resolution AG/RES. 1 (LIII-E/18), "Program-Budget of the Organization for 2019," the General Assembly adopted resolution [CP/RES. 1103 \(2168/18\)](#) rev. 1, "Amendments to the Methodology for Calculating the Scale of Quota Assessments to Finance the Regular Fund of the OAS 2019-2023," as well as resolution [CP/RES. 1104 \(2168/18\)](#) rev. 1, "Technical Study to Analyze the Methodology for Calculating the Scale of Quota Assessments to Finance the Regular Fund of the OAS";

That, pursuant to the methodology adopted by resolution [CP/RES. 1103 \(2168/18\)](#) rev. 1, the percentage quotas of the member states for 2019-2023 have been assigned;

That by resolution AG/RES. 2940 (XLIX-O/19), "Program-Budget of the Organization for 2020," the General Assembly approved the levels of Regular Fund appropriations, by chapter, and instructed the General Secretariat to submit to the Permanent Council a draft subprogram distribution of resources based on the chapter totals;

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1. Antigua and Barbuda considers that the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is not a member state of the Organization of American States since, on April 27, 2017, the Government of the Bolivarian ...
 2. Mexico reiterates the position articulated in its statement during the report of the Secretary General on Credentials at the plenary session of the fiftieth regular session of the General Assembly.

That the Permanent Council adopted resolution CP/RES. 1138 (2247/19), “Adoption of the Subprogram Distribution of Resources for 2020 pursuant to Resolution AG/RES. 2940 (XLIX-O/19), entitled ‘Program-Budget of the Organization for 2020’”;

That by resolution AG/RES. 2940 (XLIX-O/19) the General Assembly instructed the General Secretariat to submit to the Preparatory Committee of the General Assembly a proposed overall budget level for 2021, as well as the tentative overall budget level for 2022, in accordance with the current rules, including the adjustment for cost of living and inflation, as necessary;

That by resolution AG/RES. 2942 (XLIX-O/19), “Strengthening Ethics, Oversight, and Transparency of the Organization of American States,” the General Assembly adopted measures in relation to ethics, external audits, and transparency, as well as amendments to the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (General Standards); and resolved to commit to continue implementing reform measures adopted to date to strengthen and improve the transparency, efficiency, and effectiveness of the Organization of American States (OAS), and to continue to pursue this and other similar initiatives going forward;

That, based on Article 86 of the 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;

That the revenue to finance the program-budget includes quota income, income from interest and refunds, and other funds, in accordance with Chapter IV of the General Standards;

That, with regard to the Board of External Auditors, Article 141 of the General Standards provides that “the Board shall submit its report to the Permanent Council within the first four months of the year” and that “the Permanent Council shall make such observations and recommendations as it sees fit”; and

That resolution AG/RES. 2942 (XLIX-O/19) calls upon the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs (CAAP), in collaboration with the General Secretariat, to prepare a follow-up report on progress toward implementing the recommendations of the Board of External Auditors, which shall be transmitted to the Permanent Council by November 1, and include current status, measures taken, and next steps, as well as identifying those with lead responsibility;

HAVING SEEN the proposed 2021 program-budget of the Organization ([CP/doc.5633/20](#)) presented by the General Secretariat on September 28, 2020, and the annual report of the Board of External Auditors to the Permanent Council ([CP/doc.5642/20](#)), presented on October 16, 2020;

BEARING IN MIND:

That, the Regular Fund notwithstanding, the specific funds are an important source of supplementary financing for the activities of the Organization and, therefore, should be consistent with the nature, purposes, and principles of the Organization, as envisaged in the Charter of the Organization of American States;

The “Report of the Chair of the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs on the Proposed Program-Budget of the Organization for 2021” (CP/CAAP-3702/20), presented in accordance with Article 60.b of the Charter of the Organization of American States;

That the General Assembly, by resolution [AG/RES. 1 \(LI-E/16\) rev. 1](#), “Comprehensive Strategic Plan of the Organization,” adopted the strategic lines and objectives of the Comprehensive Strategic Plan for each of the Organization’s pillars and for the institutional strengthening and administrative management areas described in Annex I of that resolution, stating that all voluntary contributions should be in accordance with the strategic lines of that Plan;

That the Permanent Council adopted resolution [CP/RES. 1121 \(2209/19\)](#), “Strategic Planning of the Organization,” which, among other things, approved the incorporation of the complementary information ([CP/doc.5469/19](#)) in the Comprehensive Strategic Plan of the Organization. That resolution instructs the General Secretariat to present to the Permanent Council and to CIDI a performance report as of September 30, 2019;

Additionally, based on the relevant provisions stating that prior to September 30, 2020 the General Secretariat would present to the Permanent Council and to CIDI a detailed report on the functioning of and compliance with the Comprehensive Strategic Plan for 2019–2020, which should be submitted to the member states for consideration and possible subsequent referral to the General Assembly, in order to serve as the basis for preparing the Comprehensive Strategic Plan of the Organization for 2021-2024;

Resolution AG/RES. 2923 (XLVIII-O/18), “Progress toward Accountability, Efficiency and Effectiveness, and Results in the OAS General Secretariat”;

That the General Assembly, by resolution [AG/RES. 2892 \(XLVI-O/16\)](#), “Management Modernization,” resolved to continue supporting the implementation of the strategic vision and management modernization initiative as a comprehensive framework;

That, pursuant to the salary policy of parity with the United Nations established in resolution [AG/RES. 1319 \(XXV-O/95\)](#) and Article 40 of the General Standards, in 2020 the Secretary General adjusted the General Secretariat’s basic salary scales and implemented the post adjustments promulgated by the International Civil Service Commission;

That, in accordance with Article 78 (b) of the General Standards, in order to ensure the regular and continuous financial operations of the General Secretariat, the amount of the Reserve Subfund of the Regular Fund shall be 30 percent of the total of the annual quotas of the member states; and

That said fund lacks sufficient resources to fulfill its purpose and that it is advisable, accordingly, that efforts be made to increase such reserves, such as by setting, a priori, Regular Fund spending limits at a level below the gross total of quotas;

RECOGNIZING the financial constraints placed on the Organization and recalling Articles 36 and 37 of the Rules of Procedure of the Permanent Council;

BEARING IN MIND:

That the Permanent Council can continue to examine, through the CAAP, measures to encourage prompt payment of quotas and increase liquidity;

That under the provisions of Articles 120, 123, 128, and 130 of the General Standards, regarding the assignment of tasks of the Inspector General, it should be recalled that those responsibilities include overseeing compliance with the General Standards and, in particular, the establishment of appropriate internal auditing procedures that reflect international best practices as well as presentation of quarterly and annual reports to the Permanent Council and, when necessary, to meet with the CAAP and with the Inter-American Council for Integral Development;

That in accordance with Article 123 of the General Standards, the Office of the Inspector General is the dependency responsible for exercising the functions of financial, administrative, and operational auditing, for the purpose of determining the level to which the General Secretariat achieves the objectives of diverse programs and the efficiency and economy with which resources are used, as well as issuing recommendations to improve management of the General Secretariat; and

That operative paragraph 1.b of resolution AG/RES. 2942 (XLIX-O/19) instructs “the Office of the Inspector General and the Office of the Ombudsperson to provide member states with a report on numbers of annual harassment cases handled, investigation timelines for each case, and actions taken to hold harassers accountable, as well as identify any observed gaps in the harassment policy”;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

The decision adopted by the Permanent Council in document CP/CAAP-3658/20 rev. 1, which notes that the member states decided, by consensus, to halt the real estate project mandated by resolution AG/RES. 2911 (XLVII-O/17), “Progress toward Accountability, Efficiency and Effectiveness, and Results in the OAS General Secretariat,” and resolution CP/RES. 1100 (2160/18), “Special Appropriation for the Technology Fund”;

That resolution AG/RES. 2940 (XLIX-O/19) decided, with reference to the offices of the General Secretariat in the member states: “(a) to recall the presentation by the General Secretariat on the strategy for those offices in the member states on October 16, 2018, which will be the basis for member states to adopt a sustainable comprehensive strategic plan on the subject that must be approved by the Permanent Council through the CAAP, no later than September 2019”; and “(b) to request the Secretary General to instruct the Coordinating Office for the Offices and Units of the General Secretariat in the Member States to continue optimizing and implementing its current strategy until such time as the comprehensive review and the emanating strategic plan is agreed upon for execution”;

That in executing the program-budget, the Secretary General shall ensure that the obligations during the year do not exceed the estimated income from quotas and other revenues and that the expenditures do not exceed the income and other available resources, in keeping with the provisions of Article 105 of the General Standards;

Article 110 of the General Standards governing transfers of Regular Fund resources from one chapter of the program-budget to another; and

That it is important to maintain a culture and practice of austerity, efficacy, accountability, efficiency, transparency, and prudence in the use, execution, and management of the Organization's resources and ensure the allocation of adequate and sustainable financing to perform its work; and

RECOGNIZING the importance of the four pillars of the Organization –democracy, human rights, security, and integral development– considers it necessary that they all be allocated adequate funding to operate properly by providing them an equitable allocation of resources aimed at ensuring strict fulfillment of the mandates agreed upon by the political organs of the Organization,

RESOLVES:

I. FINANCING OF BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS

1. To set the quotas through which the member states will finance the Regular Fund of the Organization for 2021 and the assessments for income tax reimbursements in keeping with the methods adopted in resolutions AG/RES. 1 (XXXIV-E/07) rev. 1, AG/RES. 41 (I-O/71), and CP/RES. 1103 (2168/18) adopted by the Permanent Council and adopted by the General Assembly in resolution AG/RES. 1 (LIII-E/18), using the scale and amounts that appear in Annex I “Regular Fund Quota Assessments for 2021.”

2. To set the overall budget level of the 2021 Regular Fund program-budget, including the cost-of-living and inflation adjustment, at US\$84,968,407, and to finance it as follows:

- a. Net contributions of member states in the form of quota payments to the Regular Fund totaling US\$84,470,107, computed as follows:
 - i. Total gross assessments of US\$84,929,800, apportioned according to the current methodology for calculating the scale of quota assessments;
 - ii. A reduction of US\$459,693 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\$0] 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 86 of the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (General Standards);
- c. Income in the amount of US\$498,300 from interest and refunds and other income, in accordance with Article 78 of the General Standards.

3. To establish the level of expenditure for 2021 at US\$79,000,000.

4. To request the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) to present a semi-annual report on budget execution to the Permanent Council and, in due time, a detailed plan of expenditures corresponding to its budget.

5. To instruct the Secretary General to make such adjustments, reductions, and restructurings as may be needed to comply with the foregoing paragraphs.

6. To authorize the General Secretariat to use in fiscal year 2021 an internal loan of up to the equivalent of 30 percent of the annual quotas (US\$25.4 million) from the Treasury Fund, which will allow it to cash manage the current budgeted expenses of the Regular Fund corresponding to fiscal year 2021. No interest will be generated for the temporary use of these resources. The General Secretariat shall reimburse without delay the balance of the internal loan of the resources used from the Treasury Fund in fiscal year 2021 as soon as the quotas of the member states are received in the Regular Fund. The General Secretariat will notify the Permanent Council in writing whenever resources from the Treasury Fund are used and will submit monthly reports to the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs (CAAP) on the status of that Fund.

7. To set the overall expenditure ceiling for the Indirect Cost Recovery Fund account at US\$7,219,300, in accordance with the General Standards.

8. To set the tentative overall budget level for 2022 at US\$84,968,407.

II. BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS

1. To approve and authorize the program-budget of the Organization for the fiscal year from January 1 to December 31, 2021, financed by funds not to exceed:

| | | |
|----|------------------------------|----------------|
| a. | Regular Fund (RF) | US\$79,000,000 |
| b. | Indirect cost recovery (ICR) | US\$7,219,300 |

2. To approve the levels of Regular Fund appropriations, by chapter, with the recommendations, instructions, or mandates detailed below:

| | | RF | ICR |
|-------------------------------------|--|-----------------|-------|
| | | (in US\$1,000)] | |
| 1. SECRETARY GENERAL | | 2,363.6 | 250.0 |
| 2. ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL | | 11,274.2 | 61.0 |
| 3. PRINCIPAL AND SPECIALIZED ORGANS | | 19,778.7 | 222.2 |
| 34A | Secretariat of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights | 5,024.0 | - |
| 34B | Executive Secretariat of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) | 10,081.9 | - |
| 34C | Executive Secretariat of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) | 1,573.8 | 41.7 |

| | | RF | ICR |
|--|---|-----------------|---------|
| | | (in US\$1,000)] | |
| 34D | Office of the Director General of the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN) | 968.3 | 29.3 |
| 34E | Inter-American Juridical Committee (CJI) | 327.4 | 77.5 |
| 34F | Secretariat of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL) | 593.6 | 25.7 |
| 34G | Meetings of the CITEL Assembly | 49.6 | 0.7 |
| 34H | Inter-American Defense Board (IADB) | 745.4 | 28.3 |
| 34I | Pan American Development Foundation (PADF) | 66.1 | 0.9 |
| 34J | Trust for the Americas | 216.9 | - |
| 34K | IADB – Maintenance of the Casa del Soldado | 131.7 | 18.1 |
| 4. OFFICE OF THE STRATEGIC COUNSEL FOR ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT FOR RESULTS | | 2,423.4 | 695.0 |
| 5. SECRETARIAT FOR ACCESS TO RIGHTS AND EQUITY | | 1,644.5 | 61.0 |
| 6. SECRETARIAT FOR STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY | | 3,383.7 | 780.1 |
| 7. EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT FOR INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT | | 7,534.3 | 297.1 |
| 8. SECRETARIAT FOR MULTIDIMENSIONAL SECURITY | | 3,831.5 | 797.0 |
| 9. SECRETARIAT FOR HEMISPHERIC AFFAIRS | | 2,180.4 | 120.0 |
| 10. SECRETARIAT FOR LEGAL AFFAIRS | | 3,671.4 | 210.6 |
| 11. SECRETARIAT FOR ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE | | 9,210.7 | 1,093.4 |
| 12. BASIC INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMON COSTS | | 10,451.6 | 2,351.4 |
| 13. MONITORING AND OVERSIGHT BODIES | | 1,252.0 | 280.5 |
| 133A | Secretariat of the OAS Administrative Tribunal (TRIBAD) | 209.6 | 26.9 |
| 134B | Office of the Inspector General | 773.4 | 86.0 |
| 134C | Board of External Auditors | 74.8 | 82.1 |
| 134D | Office of the Ombudsperson | 194.2 | 85.5 |
| TOTAL | | 79,000.0 | 7,219.3 |

3. To instruct the General Secretariat to submit to the Permanent Council a draft subprogram distribution of resources based on the chapter totals approved in this resolution no later than November 13, 2020.

4. This subprogram distribution will be considered by the CAAP and submitted to the Permanent Council for approval no later than November 18, 2020. The distribution at the subprogram level should be balanced and reflect the following specific member state priority areas:

- 24F Meetings of the Permanent Council (Chapter 2)
- 44B Department of Planning and Evaluation (Chapter 4)
- 44E Department of External and Institutional Relations (Chapter 4)
- 54B Department of Social Inclusion (Chapter 5)
- 64C Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation (Chapter 6)
- 84G Executive Secretariat of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) (Chapter 8)
- 94E Summits Secretariat (Chapter 9)
- 104F Department of Legal Cooperation (MESICIC) (Chapter 10).

5. To instruct the General Secretariat to ensure that the Organization's resources are used to fulfill the mandates from the political organs, pursuant to Article 107 of the Charter of the Organization of American States.

6. To recall Article 36 of the Rules of Procedure of the Permanent Council, which establishes that regular meetings should be held on the first and third Wednesday of each month, and to urge the Chair of the Permanent Council to rationalize the scheduling of meetings and the preparation of their agendas taking into account the need for strict observance of assigned budgetary allocations.

7. To authorize the General Secretariat to utilize, in addition to the budget allocation for this purpose in the 2021 program-budget, up to US\$174,475 from savings accrued during the 2021 budget execution, in the event that the fifty-first regular session of the General Assembly is held at headquarters, as envisaged at Article 57 of the OAS Charter.

8. Should it be necessary to use those resources, a detailed estimate of the expected expenditures of up to US\$174,475 shall be submitted in advance to the Permanent Council through the CAAP. The General Secretariat shall also provide an accounting of the use made of the resources within 90 days after the fifty-first regular session of the General Assembly, if held at headquarters.

9. To authorize the General Secretariat to utilize up to US\$30,000 from savings accrued during the 2021 budget execution, in the event that a Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs is held at headquarters in 2021.

10. Should it be necessary to use those resources, a detailed estimate of the expected expenditures of up to US\$30,000 shall be submitted in advance to the Permanent Council through the CAAP. The General Secretariat shall also provide an accounting of the use made of the resources within 45 days of the conclusion of the Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs.

11. To instruct the General Secretariat to identify savings in the amount of US\$20,000 during the first semester of 2021 in order to redirect that amount to finance the work of the Working Group to Examine the Periodic Reports of the States Parties to the Protocol of San Salvador, established by resolution AG/RES. 2908 (XLVII-O/17), in Chapter 5, Subprogram 54B; this instruction will be applicable only for fiscal year 2021.

III. ACCOUNTABILITY TO THE MEMBER STATES

1. To instruct the General Secretariat to present to the CAAP no later than 30 days from the adoption of the program-budget of the Organization, a schedule with specific dates for presentation of the reports, strategies, and plans mentioned in this resolution, such that the member states will be able to corroborate in a timely fashion the information provided and provide effective follow-up on fulfillment of mandates, on budget execution of the Regular Fund, and on execution of voluntary, specific, trust, and service funds, including ICR.

IV. PROVISIONS OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY NATURE

1. Program-budget for the 2022 budgetary cycle

- a. To instruct the General Secretariat to submit to the Preparatory Committee of the General Assembly a proposed overall budget level for 2022, as well as the tentative overall budget level for 2023, including the adjustment for cost of living and inflation, as appropriate, in accordance with the current rules.
- b. That total expenditure on personnel (Object 1, Article 91 of the General Standards) should not exceed 64.38 percent of the tentative figure for the overall budget level of the Regular Fund for 2022, including any statutory increases that may be required.
- c. That the Permanent Council shall be authorized as an exception, to proceed to adjust, at its discretion and with due advice from the CAAP, the percentage referred to in the previous paragraph, in response to changes in economic or financial factors that could affect execution of the Regular Fund.
- d. To request the General Secretariat, once the 2022 program-budget has been submitted to the Permanent Council, to disclose in writing to the CAAP the specific transfers that were made between chapters, whether personnel or non-personnel, so that discussions on the program-budget are conducted on the basis of duly updated information, in order to enable and facilitate evidence-based and informed decision making.

2. Semiannual reports on resource management and performance

To request the General Secretariat to continue presenting its resource management and performance reports to the CAAP on a semiannual basis, including an executive summary, in accordance with Annex I of resolution AG/RES. 1 (XLVIII-E/14) rev. 1 and resolution AG/RES. 2940 (XLIX-O/19).

3. External resource mobilization

- a. To instruct the Secretary General to continue efforts toward external resource mobilization for the implementation of the mandates of the General Assembly and to maintain transparency and accountability in the utilization of, and reporting on, those funds in the semiannual resource management and performance reports.
- b. To instruct the General Secretariat, in its pursuit of the mandate on external resource mobilization, to emphasize the equal importance of the four pillars of the Organization –democracy, human rights, integral development, and multidimensional security– and to ensure that advocacy undertaken to fulfill this mandate includes the pursuit of resources governed by the principles of balance, proportionality, and equity of the pillars, and that it reflects the mandates agreed upon by the representative bodies of the Organization.
- c. To instruct the Secretary General to include in the semiannual reports on resource management and performance, under the chapter on projects submitted by the Project Evaluation Committee, additional information on approved and ongoing projects, including on their scope, supporting mandates, periodicity, implementation status, and sources of financing, so as to have a consolidated document on the use of specific fund resources.
- d. To instruct the Secretary General to continue, in consultation with the Permanent Council, with the implementation of 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; and to instruct the General Secretariat to report on the progress of that implementation in the semiannual reports on resource management and performance.
- e. To instruct the General Secretariat, consistent with this resolution and resolution [AG/RES. 2 \(LI-E/16\)](#) rev. 4, to perform an analysis of different additional funding options that ensure the long-term sustainability of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, while seeing to it that section xvi of resolution [AG/RES. 2908 \(XLVII-O/17\)](#) and resolution [AG/RES. 2912 \(XLVII-O/17\)](#) are implemented. That analysis will be presented to the Permanent Council for its consideration no later than March 15, 2021.
- f. To instruct the General Secretariat, in accordance with resolution [AG/RES. 617 \(XII-O/82\)](#):
 - i. In the case of projects not included in the program-budget of the Organization that receive contributions from non-member states that are permanent observers to the Organization, to submit semiannual reports to the appropriate competent organs of the Organization;

- ii. In the case of projects whose external contributions come from non-member states that are not permanent observers to the Organization, to consult first with whichever council is appropriate to the subject matter;
 - iii. In the case of global cooperation agreements with permanent observer countries or with other non-member states, to request prior approval of the Permanent Council.
- g. To inform member states of any agreements, contracts, and/or memoranda of understanding being discussed or agreed for the cases described in item f.(i) of this paragraph, and to submit semiannual reports to the CAAP and the appropriate competent organs of the Organization.

4. Direct and indirect cost recovery

- a. To request the General Secretariat to submit, no later than 90 days from the adoption of this resolution, a methodology for recovery of direct costs associated with the execution of projects financed by specific funds, for consideration by the CAAP. The methodology shall enter into force once adopted by the Permanent Council.
- b. To instruct the Permanent Council to continue, through the CAAP, the analysis of the study on the review of the indirect cost recovery policy in relation to the possibility of reducing the 13 percent rate applicable to all projects and programs financed with specific funds. The Permanent Council is authorized to adopt, taking into account the recommendations of the CAAP, such measures as are necessary, including the possibility of repealing the instruction provided in resolution AG/RES. 2892 (XLVI-O/16) regarding the application of that rate.
- c. To instruct the General Secretariat to consider options to distribute ICR resources in the 2022 budget according to a formula to be determined by member states, to include a percentage to be spent on deferred costs of all the Organization's real estate assets, another to be distributed among the Organization's indirect costs, and another to be distributed to the chapters for indirect costs in proportion to the amount of specific funds contributed.

5. OAS Scholarships and Training Program funds

- a. To reiterate paragraph 22 of resolution AG/RES. 2916 (XLVIII-O/18), which endorses the provisional and comprehensive recommendations that were issued by the Working Group to analyze and assess the functioning of all OAS scholarship and training programs and adopted by the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) ([CIDI/doc.239/17](#) and [CIDI/doc.256/18](#)), and which tasks CIDI with overseeing the implementation of those mandates.

- b. To recognize resolution CIDI/RES. 337 (LXXXVIII-O/19), “Allocation of Resources in 2019 for the OAS Scholarships and Training Programs,” adopted by CIDI on April 9, 2019, endorsing the decision taken by the Management Board of the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD) to facilitate the transition to a more sustainable and cost-effective scholarship program.
- c. To authorize the General Secretariat to use in 2021 up to US\$1,740,000 from the Regular Fund for the OAS Scholarships and Training Programs to finance the activities of the following programs: Partnerships Program for Education and Training (PAEC), Professional Development Scholarships Program (PDSP), and the OAS Academic Programs, in a way to be defined by the Management Board of the IACD.
- d. To instruct the General Secretariat to pursue options for strengthening partnerships, including the incorporation of language training wherever possible.
- e. To instruct the General Secretariat to prepare and/or update a recapitalization and investment plan/policy for the Capital Fund for the OAS Scholarship and Training Programs for consideration by the Management Board of the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development, in order to contribute to the sustainability of the OAS Scholarship and Training Programs by March 15, 2021.
- f. To authorize the General Secretariat to deposit in the Capital Fund for the OAS Scholarship and Training Programs, in accordance with Article 18 of the Statutes of the IACD, any unused or deobligated scholarship funds under Object 3, to the extent permitted under Article 106 of the General Standards. In implementing this mandate, the General Secretariat shall consult with CIDI through the IACD Management Board and obtain approval from the Permanent Council through the CAAP.

6. Foundations supported by the OAS

To request foundations supported by the OAS, the Pan American Development Foundation and the Trust for the Americas, 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.

7. Establishment of a structured budget preparation and presentation process

- a. To instruct the General Secretariat to entrust the Secretariat for Administration and Finance with the analysis and preparation of the program-budget of the Organization, with adequate human resources having relevant budgetary expertise, and in coordination with all areas and organs of the Organization.

- b. 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. 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. The General Secretariat shall also include expenditure forecasts for two additional years in the preparation of each annual proposed program-budget.
- c. To instruct the General Secretariat to continue using the standard template approved by the member states ([CP/CAAP-3664/20 rev. 1](#)) when the secretariats present information to the CAAP about the impact of proposed budgets prepared by the Secretariat for Administration and Finance in their areas. The template completed with information from the secretariats shall be reviewed by the Secretariat for Administration and Finance prior to presentation to the CAAP together with the presentation of the draft program-budget of the Organization. In turn, the Secretariats should be cognizant of the final versions of the templates circulated to the CAAP. The template should include but is not limited to the following:
 - i. A table indicating the previous year's approved budget, the amount allocated, execution level, and the new budget proposal level.
 - ii. ii. Bullet points on the key impacts of the proposed funding level.
- d. To instruct the Permanent Council to continue analyzing, through the CAAP and with support from the General Secretariat, options for establishing a separate and independent budget process for OAS oversight mechanisms, including the Office of the Ombudsperson, the Inspector General, and the Administrative Tribunal (TRIBAD). The Permanent Council is authorized to adopt such measures in this area, taking into account the recommendations of the CAAP.
- e. To instruct the General Secretariat to take into consideration, when the circumstances so allow, the need for equity among the four programmatic pillars in the budget preparation process, with a view to ensuring that the proposed allocations allow the mandates agreed upon by the political organs of the Organization to be fulfilled; and also to instruct the General Secretariat to present to the CAAP, by February 28, 2021, considerations about the feasibility of achieving equity in the allocation of resources between the pillars from the program-budget for 2022.

8. Technical study to analyze the Methodology for Calculating the Scale of Quota Assessments to Finance the Regular Fund of the OAS

To take note of the presentation made by the General Secretariat to the CAAP Working Group on September 28, 2020, regarding progress with the mandate set by resolution CP/RES. 1104 (2168/18) rev. 1, as adopted by the General Assembly in resolution AG/RES. 1 (LIII-E/18), and to instruct the CAAP to consider and coordinate a technical study by an independent group of experts on the Methodology for Calculating the Scale of Quota Assessments to Finance the Regular Fund, with no additional pressures on the Regular Fund, ICR Fund, and their respective reserve subfunds, whose findings it may use to submit to the Permanent Council recommendations and, if appropriate, a proposed Methodology for Calculating the Scale of Quota Assessments to Finance the Organization for consideration and adoption by the General Assembly at a subsequent regular session.

9. Review of the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States

- a. To renew the mandate contained in resolution [AG/RES. 1 \(XLVIII-E/14\) rev. 1](#), which instructed the Permanent Council, through the CAAP, to conduct a comprehensive review of the General Standards, particularly Chapters VII and VIII thereof, and to instruct the CAAP to review those chapters and present the findings of that review and analysis and/or such recommendations as may emanate therefrom to the General Assembly at its fifty-first regular session. Said proposal will contain rules on financial and budgetary stability and discipline for ensuring the Organization's medium- and long-term sustainability.
- b. To instruct the Secretary General to accompany all fund transfer requests that require Permanent Council approval with options, based on program-budget chapter savings and efficiencies, for where the funds can be sourced and a rationale for each option.

10. Official travel

- a. To instruct the Secretary General, the Assistant Secretary General, and the secretaries for all the chapters, including those for the specialized agencies and entities, to submit quarterly to the Permanent Council a detailed report on the activities of their offices away from headquarters, including, *inter alia*, dates of travel, destination, delegation, and purpose of travel, with a mention as to the mandate approved by the member states that justifies the travel.
- b. To instruct the General Secretariat to publish on its website the reports requested in the preceding paragraph.

11. Per diem

To request the General Secretariat to present a proposal for new rules and procedures, including sanctions, for official travel in the OAS, replacing the current system of automatic payments based on

a predetermined scale, with another that includes a pecuniary recognition of the official mission period, and adopts the following criteria:

- a. Presentation of receipt for accommodation expenses; if not available, the maximum amount will be US\$50.
- b. Methodology for reimbursement for local transportation to and from the airport.
- c. In relation to other stipends, as appropriate, based on the schedule established for the official mission.
- d. The reconciliation of the per diem advanced shall be submitted within one (1) month of travel.

12. Human resources

- a. To instruct the General Secretariat to continue developing the Comprehensive Human Resource Strategy for the Organization and to submit to the CAAP, by April 30, 2021, a report on the progress made to date, including its alignment with the current rules and regulations, as well as with the implementation of the new ERP system.
- b. To request the Office of the Inspector General to continue preparing its semiannual reports on actual personnel transfers, internal and external competitions concluded, and reclassifications included in this program-budget, and to ascertain that they are done in strict accordance with the applicable standards.
- c. The General Secretariat will provide a detailed report to the CAAP on the status of all open Regular Fund positions. If an open position has not been publicly announced, the General Secretariat will provide a detailed explanation regarding the reason for the delay, with cash flow not being an appropriate justification. The status report on the Regular Fund recruitment process shall be provided on a monthly basis.
- d. The member states recognize that in order to deal with the significant budget cuts contemplated in this resolution, the secretaries and executive secretaries should provide an accounting and be authorized to make necessary changes: to reorganize, consolidate, and cut. Consequently, in recognition of this principle, the General Secretariat will:
 - i. Allow hiring of needed personnel under reorganization plans and not implement any hiring freezes until that reorganization is complete;
 - ii. Allow reclassification of positions only where budget-driven position abolishment requires reallocation of responsibilities; and
 - iii. Present the report of the Secretary General to the Permanent Council by January 2021 on the reorganization of the General Secretariat, in particular, hiring and reclassification plans.

13. Gender equity and equality policies

To urge the General Secretariat to continue the work of implementing and executing gender equity and equality policies in the workplace and, within a framework of parity, to promote access for women in categories where they are currently underrepresented in the Organization, in addition to ensuring accountability in the implementation of those policies and fulfillment of the provisions set forth in resolution [CP/RES. 1149 \(2278/20\)](#), “Women’s Representation and Participation in the OAS.”

14. Geographical representation

To take note of the Geographic Representation Strategy presented to the Permanent Council on March 13, 2019, and instruct the General Secretariat to set objectives and indicators for that strategy in order to implement the plan of action and achieve equitable geographic representation of staff in accordance with Article 120 of the Charter of the Organization of American States, which should include, in addition, consultants and interns.

15. Honoraria

That the honoraria paid to members of the IACHR, Inter-American Court of Human Rights, TRIBAD, Board of External Auditors, and Inter-American Juridical Committee shall be US\$300 per day, and that the cost of those honoraria shall be covered with the resources allocated in this program-budget.

16. Inter-American Commission on Human Rights

To maintain the budgetary authorization to the IACHR to cover payments to members of the Commission for special services, up to a maximum of US\$4,000 per month per member. This budgetary measure shall be taken without prejudice to the right to the payment of honoraria, as provided by the General Assembly in paragraph IV.15 of this resolution.

17. Inter-American Court of Human Rights

To maintain the budgetary authorization to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights to cover the payment of emoluments to judges of the Court, up to a maximum of US\$4,000 per month per judge. This budgetary measure shall be taken without prejudice to Article 26 of the Statute of the Court and without prejudice to the right to the payment of honoraria, as provided by the General Assembly in paragraph IV.15 of this resolution.

18. Limit on job positions financed by the Regular Fund

- a. The number of job positions financed by the Regular Fund approved for the period from January 1 to December 31, 2021, will not exceed 395. That number may be modified, if deemed necessary by the General Secretariat, provided that it remains in line with the percentage referred to in the following paragraph. The General Secretariat, in its semiannual resource management and performance report to the CAAP, will present the changes in the number of positions that this paragraph establishes.

- b. That total expenditure on personnel (Object 1, Article 91 of the General Standards) should not exceed 64.38 percent of the overall budget level of the 2021 Regular Fund.
- c. That the Permanent Council shall be authorized to adjust, on an exceptional basis, at its discretion and with due advice from the CAAP, the percentage referred to in the previous paragraph, in response to changes in economic or financial factors affecting execution of the Regular Fund.

19. Cost-efficiencies

To instruct the General Secretariat to include in its semiannual resource management and performance report to the CAAP any savings generated as a result of efficiencies in the operations of the General Secretariat, including those related to common costs.

20. Department of Press and Communication

To request the Secretary General to instruct the Department of Press and Communication to submit progress reports on implementation of the Communication Strategy and that they be included in the semiannual resource management and performance report.

21. Trust personnel

- a. To waive the enforcement of Article 21.b.v of the General Standards to authorize the financing of 21 trust positions financed by the Regular Fund in the execution of 2020 program-budget; the trust positions for 2020 shall be those contained in Annex II.
- b. That no trust positions may be financed with resources other than the Regular Fund, with the exception of positions already being financed with resources other than the Regular Fund at the time of this resolution's entry into force.
- c. That personnel hired under a trust appointment shall not be eligible for the payment of accumulated unused annual leave upon their separation from the Organization. This provision shall not apply to Career Service, continuing contract, or Series A and Series B personnel who accepted a trust appointment.

22. Offices of the General Secretariat in member states

To request the Secretary General to instruct the Coordinating Office for the Offices and Units of the General Secretariat in the Member States to continue optimizing and implementing its current strategy until such time as the comprehensive review and the emanating strategic plan is agreed upon for execution.

23. Ethics and integrity

To instruct the Secretary General to update the Statements of Loyalty and of Ethics of Conduct and Conflicts of Interest of the General Secretariat in accordance with Article 120 of the OAS Charter, which requires personnel to be selected for their efficiency, competence, and integrity. The concept of integrity includes, but is not limited to, probity, impartiality, fairness, honesty and truthfulness in all matters affecting their work, status, and engagement with others. The Statements of Loyalty and of Ethics of Conduct and Conflicts of Interest shall be renamed “Statement of Conflict of Interest and Acknowledgement of Acceptable Conduct,” to be signed (physically or electronically) by all personnel by December 1, 2020, and all new personnel prior to employment. Thereafter, the Statement shall be signed by all personnel yearly.

24. Columbus Memorial Library

To request the Columbus Memorial Library to report to the CAAP on the status of its activities on a semiannual basis.

25. 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 once the new Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system has been implemented, and within a reasonable timeframe.

26. Effectiveness and efficiency

- a. To request the General Secretariat to report, within 60 days following 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 align the Organization’s resources and organizational structure with the mandates.

27. Creation of new mandates

- a. To instruct the Permanent Council, through the CAAP, to consider establishing a regulatory framework process and practice for the Permanent Council committees and CIDI to review program-budget implications of new mandates, and for such a framework to be completed by June 2021.
- b. To instruct the General Secretariat to submit to all committees, after consideration of the CAAP and approval by the Permanent Council, a template to accompany any draft resolutions including new mandates to be considered for General Assembly approval. Consultations with relevant departments, and the CAAP may respond to the following:

- (1) How does the mandate fit within the framework of the Comprehensive Strategic Plan of the Organization? What indicators will be used to measure the results?
- (2) What is the expected time frame (approximate start date/end date) for the achievement of the goals and objectives of the new mandate?
- (3) Will the mandate require Regular Fund or personnel resources? If yes:
- (4) What are the estimated budgetary implications of the mandate?
 - What level of support from professionals (staff and/or CPRs) would be needed to achieve the mandate?
 - Would Regular Fund or specific fund resources be needed to achieve the mandate? If so, how much is estimated?
 - If possible, please provide details on the proposed source of funding for the mandate.

28. 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.
 - (2) The operational plans of the organizational units of the General Secretariat established based on the strategic lines and objectives of the Comprehensive Strategic Plan of the Organization adopted in resolution AG/RES. 1 (LI-E/16) rev. 1 and resolution CP/RES. 1121 (2209/19).
 - (3) The results of evaluations, monitoring, and audits of programs and operations.
 - (4) Staffing per organizational unit, also including the salary scale and other benefits, as well as vacant positions.
 - (5) Results-based contracts awarded for both consultants and goods and services, pursuant to applicable regulations.

29. Recommendations of the Board of External Auditors

- a. 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.

- b. 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.

30. Recommendations of the Inspector General

- a. To instruct the Inspector General to continue presenting to the CAAP on a quarterly basis an analysis on the status of implementation of recommendations made.
- b. To instruct the General Secretariat to present for consideration by the CAAP in preparation for the discussions on the 2022 program-budget, an overview of the proposed organizational changes to strengthen the Office of the Inspector General and resource requirements associated with those proposed changes.
- c. To instruct the General Secretariat to develop with the Board of External Auditors options for establishing an Audit Committee, as proposed by the Inspector General, including its structure and associated costs, for consideration by the CAAP in preparation for the discussions on the 2022 program-budget.

31. Ethics/harassment

To instruct the Office of the Inspector General and the Office of the Ombudsperson to present to member states a report detailing the number of cases –including fraud, harassment, and whistleblower cases– handled annually, the time spent in the course of each proceeding in those investigations, the measures generally adopted, as well as identifying potential weaknesses and violations observed in the implementation of the Organization’s policies on fraud, harassment, and whistleblowers and whistleblower protection.

32. Real estate strategy

- a. To confirm the decision made by the Permanent Council at its meeting of May 13, 2020, regarding the suspension of the real estate project mandated by resolution AG/RES. 2911 (XLVII-O/17) for the sale of the General Secretariat Building, located at F Street, NW, Washington, D.C.; the construction of a new building on the lot adjacent to and forming part of the Main Building (17th Street and C Street); and the refurbishing of the Administrative Building located on Constitution Avenue, NW.
- b. To instruct the General Secretariat to explore, in close collaboration with the CAAP and as part of the real estate strategy, alternatives for the optimal use of the Organization’s real estate assets and, to that end, to look into possibilities of obtaining the resources required for their maintenance.

33. Implementation of the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) System

To instruct the General Secretariat to continue with the implementation of the ERP system, pursuant to resolution [CP/RES. 1155 \(2290/20\)](#) and to report on progress to the CAAP on a monthly basis.



TABLE A
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
REGULAR FUND
REGULAR FUND QUOTA ASSESSMENTS FOR 2021

| Member States | Assessed Percentage | Quota Assessment | Tax Reimbursement | (a) Credits | Total |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------|------------|
| Antigua and Barbuda | 0.029% | 24,700 | | | 24,700 |
| Argentina | 3.229% | 2,755,700 | | | 2,755,700 |
| Bahamas | 0.051% | 43,500 | | | 43,500 |
| Barbados | 0.032% | 27,300 | | | 27,300 |
| Belize | 0.029% | 24,700 | | | 24,700 |
| Bolivia | 0.075% | 64,000 | | | 64,000 |
| Brazil | 13.408% | 11,442,500 | | | 11,442,500 |
| Canada | 10.549% | 9,002,600 | | 250,920 | 8,751,680 |
| Chile | 1.523% | 1,299,700 | | 36,225 | 1,263,475 |
| Colombia | 1.763% | 1,504,600 | | | 1,504,600 |
| Costa Rica | 0.276% | 235,500 | | 4,370 | 231,130 |
| Dominica | 0.029% | 24,700 | | | 24,700 |
| Dominican Republic | 0.288% | 245,800 | | | 245,800 |
| Ecuador | 0.433% | 369,500 | | | 369,500 |
| El Salvador | 0.082% | 70,000 | | | 70,000 |
| Grenada | 0.029% | 24,700 | | | 24,700 |
| Guatemala | 0.184% | 157,000 | | | 157,000 |
| Guyana | 0.029% | 24,700 | | | 24,700 |
| Haiti | 0.029% | 24,700 | | | 24,700 |
| Honduras | 0.046% | 39,300 | | | 39,300 |
| Jamaica | 0.057% | 48,600 | | 1,356 | 47,244 |
| Mexico | 6.964% | 5,943,200 | | 165,642 | 5,777,558 |
| Nicaragua | 0.029% | 24,700 | | 382 | 24,318 |
| Panama | 0.206% | 175,800 | | | 175,800 |
| Paraguay | 0.094% | 80,200 | | 798 | 79,402 |
| Peru | 1.082% | 923,400 | | | 923,400 |
| Saint Kitts and Nevis | 0.029% | 24,700 | | | 24,700 |
| Saint Lucia | 0.029% | 24,700 | | | 24,700 |
| Saint Vincent and the Grenadines | 0.029% | 24,700 | | | 24,700 |
| Suriname | 0.029% | 24,700 | | | 24,700 |
| Trinidad and Tobago | 0.139% | 118,600 | | | 118,600 |
| United States | 56.310% | 48,055,600 | 5,300,000 (b) | | 53,355,600 |
| Uruguay | 0.321% | 273,900 | | | 273,900 |
| Venezuela | 2.088% | 1,781,900 | | | 1,781,900 |
| Subtotal | 99.519% | 84,929,900 | 5,300,000 | 459,693 | 89,770,207 |
| Cuba (c) | 0.480% | 409,600 | | | 409,600 |
| TOTAL | 99.999% | 85,339,500 | 5,300,000 | 459,693 | 90,179,807 |

a. Represents 1% of 2020 quota assessment if full payment of 2020 quota was received by March 31, 2020, plus 2% of any payment received before February 28, 2020 and 3% if received by January 31, 2020.

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.

ANNEX II

| POSITIONS | DESCRIPTION | LEVEL | SOURCE OF FUNDING |
|-----------|--|-------|-------------------|
| 1 | Chief of Staff of the Secretary General | D01 | Regular Fund |
| 1 | Chief of Staff of the Assistant Secretary General | D01 | Regular Fund |
| 1 | Office of the Strategic Counsel for Organizational Development and Management for Results | D02 | Regular Fund |
| 7 | Secretaries • Executive Secretary for Integral Development • Secretary for Access to Rights and Equity • Secretary for Strengthening Democracy • Secretary for Multidimensional Security • Secretary for Hemispheric Affairs • Secretary for Legal Affairs • Secretary for Administration and Finance | D02 | Regular Fund |
| | | | Regular Fund |
| | | | Regular Fund |
| | | | Regular Fund |
| | | | Regular Fund |
| | | | Regular Fund |
| | | | Regular Fund |
| 2 | Advisers to the Secretary General | D01 | Regular Fund |
| | | P05 | Regular Fund |
| 1 | Adviser to the Assistant Secretary General | P04 | Regular Fund |
| 1 | Executive Assistant to the Secretary General | G07 | Regular Fund |
| 1 | Junior Adviser to the Assistant Secretary General | P02 | Regular Fund |
| 1 | Office of Protocol | P05 | Regular Fund |
| 1 | Director of CICAD ^{1/} | P05 | Regular Fund |
| 1 | Director of CICTE ^{2/} | P05 | Regular Fund |

ADDITIONAL TRUST POSITIONS

| | | | |
|---|--|-----|--------------|
| 1 | Adviser to the Secretary General | P05 | Regular Fund |
| 2 | Adviser to the Assistant Secretary General | P05 | Regular Fund |

SPECIFIC FUNDS (not included in regulated positions count)

| | | | |
|---|---|-----|----------------|
| 1 | Secretary Treasurer of the Pension Fund | D01 | Specific Funds |
|---|---|-----|----------------|

1. This position will continue to be a trust position until such time as the General Assembly adopts the amendments to the relevant statutes required for the Executive Secretary to be selected ...
2. Idem.

FOOTNOTES

1. ... Republic of Venezuela properly notified the Secretary General of its denunciation of the Charter in accordance with Article 143 of the Charter of the Organization of American States, and the Charter ceased to be in force with respect to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, which ceased to belong to the Organization on April 27, 2019.

Antigua and Barbuda did not support resolution CP/RES. 1124 (2217/19) of April 9, 2019, which sought to appoint Mr. Gustavo Tarre as the National Assembly's representative to the OAS, and it did not accept the credentials of the officials intending to represent the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela at the forty-ninth and fiftieth regular sessions of the General Assembly.

Therefore, Antigua and Barbuda notifies all member states and the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States, as it did at the forty-ninth regular session of the General Assembly, that until further notice it will not consider itself bound by any declaration or resolution of the fiftieth regular session of the General Assembly or any future declarations or resolutions of any council or organ of the Organization that includes the participation of any person or entity purporting to speak for or act on behalf of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and in which 18 votes are attained with the participation of a purported representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

ANNEX II

1. ... through a competition process.

AG/RES. 2958 (L-O/20)

STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY^{1/2/}

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on October 21, 2020)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

REAFFIRMING the norms and general principles of international law and those contained in the Charter of the Organization of American States (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”;

RECALLING resolution AG/RES. 2931 (XLIX-O/19) and all previous resolutions adopted on this subject;

HAVING SEEN the “Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly, July 2019 – October 2020” (AG/doc.5691/20 add. 1), in particular the section on the activities of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP); and

CONSIDERING that the programs, activities, and tasks set out in the resolutions under the purview of the CAJP help further the essential purposes of the Organization enshrined in the Charter of the OAS,

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 Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP), except as stated otherwise in any resolution.

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

-
1. Antigua and Barbuda considers that the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is not a member state of the Organization of American States since, on April 27, 2017, the Government of the Bolivarian ...
 2. Mexico reiterates the position articulated in its statement during the report of the Secretary General on Credentials at the plenary session of the fiftieth regular session of the General Assembly.

i. Public management strengthening and innovation in the Americas

CONSIDERING that democracy is essential for the social, political, and economic development of the peoples of the Americas and that effective public management, promotion of transparency, openness, digital inclusion, and combating corruption are vital components for the full exercise of democracy;

EMPHASIZING the importance of public institutions being transparent and effective and having mechanisms for public participation and accountability;

REAFFIRMING the commitments made in the Lima Commitment adopted by the Heads of State and Government at the Eighth Summit of the Americas,^{3/} held in Lima, Peru, in April 2018, especially those relating to strengthening democratic institutions, promotion of policies on integrity and transparency, open government, e-government, open data, public procurement, gender equity and equality, empowerment of women, and the involvement of various vulnerable groups in the definition of measures to strengthen governance and combat corruption [paragraphs 1, 7, 8, 14, 17, 20, 27, 33, and 50 of the Lima Commitment (CA-VIII.doc.1/18 rev. 1)]; and recognizing the importance of creating synergies involving the various forums that exist for the topic;

RECOGNIZING the importance of pursuing the activities of the Department for Effective Public Management, where appropriate, in coordination with the Inter-American Commission of Women, in light of the promotion and protection of women's rights and gender equity and equality;

REAFFIRMING the importance of transparency in government and of a culture of lawfulness as essential requirements in the fight against corruption, as well as the commitment of member states to continue to promote strengthening them by means of measures and actions to prevent, detect, punish, and eradicate acts of corruption;

AWARE of the adverse effects that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the citizens of our region, especially women and girls; and considering that information and communication technologies are essential tools for governments to respond effectively to the crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, by facilitating care and accessibility for citizens and by enabling public administrations to operate remotely; and

CONSIDERING that the principles of open government –transparency, accountability, collaboration, and participation in the public arena– are fundamental to increasing public trust in government and to strengthening democracy,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge member states to promote codes of conduct with high standards of ethics, probity, transparency, and integrity in the public sector by supporting public awareness and training efforts in these issues and taking as reference the recommendations contained in the “Guidelines for the Management of Policies for Probity in the Public Administrations of the Americas.”

3. The Government of the Republic of Nicaragua advised the Heads of State and Government present at the Eighth Summit of the Americas that Nicaragua did not approve the Lima Commitment ...

2. To instruct the General Secretariat to continue to support the efforts of member states that so request, including through its School of Governance, to strengthen government institutions at the national and local levels, by means of training and education programs geared towards strengthening democratic and inclusive governance, institutional transparency practices, access to justice, public participation, and accountability to citizens.

3. To instruct the General Secretariat, through the Department for Effective Public Management, to continue supporting member states that so request in the implementation of policies for open government, e-government, open data, fiscal transparency, administrative streamlining, open budgets, electronic public procurement and contracting systems, and public registry of state suppliers, taking into account that these issues are critical to COVID-19 pandemic response and recovery and that they require the participation of civil society and other actors.

4. To request the Department for Effective Public Management to continue to support the efforts of member states to strengthen their public management institutions by means of exchanges of experience through the Inter-American Cooperation Mechanism for Effective Public Management (MECIGEP).

5. To request the Department for Effective Public Management, as Technical Secretariat of the MECIGEP, to develop, in coordination with the Technical Secretariat of the MESICIC, in keeping with their respective areas of competence, measures to help identify opportunities and offerings of technical cooperation among the states parties to the MESICIC that so request, by utilizing the MECIGEP's capabilities.

6. To urge member states to enhance their efforts at making their responses to the COVID-19 pandemic more transparent and inclusive by opening up priority disaggregated data, as deemed appropriate by each member state, and involving civil society organizations and other social actors in the design, implementation, and evaluation or assessment of responses to the pandemic.

7. To instruct the General Secretariat, through the Department for Effective Public Management, to continue supporting the efforts of member states that so request to implement the open-government principles of transparency, accountability, collaboration, and citizen participation in the region.

8. To request the General Secretariat, through the Department for Effective Public Management as technical secretariat of the Inter-American Network on Government Procurement, to continue promoting the policies required for establishing public procurement as a strategic area for meeting the Sustainable Development Goals and fulfilling the 2030 Agenda, in the light of national circumstances and capabilities.

9. To instruct the General Secretariat to continue supporting efforts of member states in strengthening the capabilities of public purchasers as key players in the design and implementation of public procurement policies and in the use of technological systems or tools to support public procurement, so as to enable them to perform their functions with greater integrity, transparency, efficiency, and innovation.

10. To recognize that government procurement and contracting are a critical area of support for preventing and combating corruption, and to commit to taking the necessary actions to implement and/or strengthen the use of data analytics and/or new technologies as complementary tools, in order to strengthen the transparency and effectiveness mechanisms in their national public procurement systems.

ii. Strengthening cadastre and property registry in the Americas in the face of COVID-19

CONSIDERING the sections “Strengthening cadastre and property registry in the Americas” in resolutions AG/RES. 2927 (XLVIII-O/18) and AG/RES. 2931 (XLIX-O/19), “Strengthening Democracy,” which recommend that the General Secretariat, through the Department for Effective Public Management, continue supporting efforts by member states that so request to strengthen their cadastre and property registry management and to share experiences and good practices that will advance the regional agenda on this matter;

MINDFUL of the multidimensional effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, including its impacts on diminished local economies, as well as the challenges to be addressed in the provision of public services to citizens, among them cadastre and property registry;

TAKING NOTE of the 2019 activities report of the Inter-American Network on Cadastre and Property Registry (RICRP) delivered at its Fifth Conference and Assembly in Buenos Aires, Argentina on October 9, 2019, and at the meeting of the CAJP in Washington, D.C. on December 5, 2019; and

THANKING the Government of Argentina for holding the Fifth Conference and Assembly of the RICRP, organized in collaboration with the World Bank and the General Secretariat, as well as Peru, as Chair, and Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, and Dominican Republic, as representatives on the Executive Committee of the RICRP for 2020,

RESOLVES:

1. To instruct the General Secretariat that, through the Department for Effective Public Management, it continue its support as Technical Secretariat of the Inter-American Network on Cadastre and Property Registry (RICRP), by promoting activities, programs, and projects to strengthen cadastre and property registry in the Americas in the face of COVID-19 and by generating partnerships and cooperation to implement them, including training for cadastre and property registry agencies in the region and exchanges of experience and knowledge among them, as well as exchanges of experience in remote care for citizens and the virtualization of cadastres and registers.

2. To reaffirm the importance of augmenting efforts for promotion and sharing of experience among national cadastre and registry agencies with a view to advancing cadastre and registry management; together with the effort to improve territorial cadastre-registry databases, to consider the maintenance and constant updating of cadastres and registries in the region; and to urge member states to contribute to the creation of basic regional guidelines to support those agencies in property formalization and urban cadastre, and the Department for Effective Public Management to support the development of those guidelines.

3. To urge cadastre and registry institutions in member states to participate in the development of initiatives to meet the objectives set forth in this resolution, through the sharing of experience to strengthen cadastre and registry management in the face of COVID-19; and to instruct the Department for Effective Public Management to conduct the biannual survey of cadastre and property registry and to report its findings to the CAJP.

4. To renew the invitation for all member states to attend the Sixth Conference and Assembly of the RICRP, which is to be held virtually from December 1 to 4, 2020, with support from the Commission for the Formalization of Informal Properties (COFOPRI) of Peru as RICRP Chair.

iii. Rights of children and adolescents^{4/}

REAFFIRMING that the principles of active participation by children and adolescents, nondiscrimination, their best interests, and their rights to life, survival, and development, as enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, are basic components in building a responsible citizenry; and

NOTING with appreciation the progress made in this regard by the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN), particularly the holding of the III Pan American Forum of Children and Adolescents (Cartagena 2019); and the coordination under way with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) and Inter-American Court of Human Rights aimed at enhancing their communication with children and adolescents,

RESOLVES:

1. To acknowledge the contribution of the work of the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN) in promoting the participation of children and adolescents and the exercise of their freedom to seek, receive, and disseminate information, as well as in maintaining channels for intergenerational dialogue by practicing coexistence based on democratic values that respect diversity of opinions and encourage equality, equity, and non-violence, freedom, justice, and peaceful settlement of disputes.

2. To reaffirm the need to establish an environment of respect, diversity, and inclusion for the ethnic and cultural identity of all children and adolescents that is a prerequisite for the existence and reproduction of a pluralist dimension in democratic society.

3. To welcome the progress made with the mandate to expand and consolidate bodies within the OAS in which children and adolescents participate, and to encourage further efforts in that regard.

iv. Meeting of Ministers of Justice or Other Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas

BEARING IN MIND that cooperation among authorities with responsibilities in the area of justice is one of the priority areas of the OAS and that the Meeting of Ministers of Justice or Other Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA) has consolidated itself as the hemispheric

4. The United States protects and promotes the rights of the child. However, the United States notes that countries have a wide array of policies and actions that may be appropriate in promoting the ...

political and technical forum in the areas of justice and international legal cooperation, which are 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;

NOTING WITH SATISFACTION the “Conclusions and Recommendations of REMJA X” adopted by consensus during the plenary session held on October 16, 2015, in the framework of the last Meeting of Ministers of Justice or other Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA X) held in Bogotá, Colombia, on October 15 and 16, 2015; and

RECALLING that REMJA X agreed to amend provision 5 of the “Document of Washington” to provide that, “barring exceptional circumstances, the REMJA shall be held every two years,”

RESOLVES:

1. To express its satisfaction at the progress made, with support from the Department of Legal Cooperation of the Secretariat for Legal Affairs, in its capacity as Technical Secretariat to the Meeting of Ministers of Justice or Other Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA), in the implementation of the mandates contained in the Conclusions and Recommendations of REMJA X (REMJA-X/doc.2/15 rev. 2), including the organization of regional training workshops on cybercrime for judges and public prosecutors.

2. To instruct, bearing in mind that REMJA X was held five years ago, and that REMJA XI has not been held due to exceptional circumstances, as envisaged in provision 5 of the “Document of Washington,” that REMJA XI be convened in a timely fashion, subject to the availability of financial resources in the Organization’s program-budget and other resources and to the circumstances stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic.

3. To urge the REMJA Chair, with the support of the Technical Secretariat and in accordance with provisions 6, 7.c, and 8 of the “Document of Washington,” which governs the REMJA process, to convene the first preparatory meeting of REMJA XI well in advance, so that experts from the ministries of justice or other ministries or offices of attorneys general of the Americas can make recommendations to strengthen the REMJA process and identify possible justice-related issues of hemispheric importance for discussion at REMJA XI.

4. 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 consider discharging the other functions assigned to it in the “Document of Washington.”

v. Follow-up on the Inter-American Democratic Charter

SHARING the conviction that democracy is one of our region's most valued accomplishments and that the peaceful transfer of power through constitutional means and in strict compliance with the constitutional rules of each of our states is the product of a continuous and irreversible process in which the region admits no interruptions or steps backward;

BEARING IN MIND that the Charter of the OAS establishes that "representative democracy is an indispensable condition for the stability, peace and development of the region," and that one of the purposes of the OAS is to "promote and consolidate representative democracy, with due respect for the principle of nonintervention";

REAFFIRMING that "essential elements of representative democracy include, *inter alia*, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, access to and the exercise of power in accordance with the rule of law, the holding of periodic, free, and fair elections based on secret balloting and universal suffrage as an expression of the sovereignty of the people, the pluralistic system of political parties and organizations, and the separation of powers and independence of the branches of government";

RECOGNIZING that democracy, constitutional order, and the rule of law are necessary conditions for ensuring unrestricted respect for fundamental freedoms and full observance of human rights during the emergency caused by the novel coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2, and that strengthening democratic institutions is key to providing an effective and timely response to citizens during the COVID-19 pandemic;

CONVINCED that a comprehensive response to the enormous challenges posed to our States by the COVID-19 pandemic should, perforce, be implemented in strict compliance with the democratic commitments and principles enshrined in the Inter-American Democratic Charter including the full and equitable participation of women in the political structures of their countries;

TAKING NOTE of the document "The Inter-American Democratic Charter: A Guide to Political Action to Address the COVID-19 Pandemic," published by the General Secretariat;

EMPHASIZING that 2021 marks the twentieth anniversary of the adoption by acclamation of the Inter-American Democratic Charter at the special session of the OAS General Assembly held on September 11, 2001; 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 reaffirm the obligation of the member states to promote and defend democracy in the region as essential for the social, political, and economic development of the peoples of the Americas.

2. To continue to promote strengthening of democratic institutions, values, practices, and governance, the fight against corruption, the consolidation of the rule of law, the achievement of the full enjoyment and effective exercise of human rights, and the reduction of poverty, inequality, and social exclusion, through cooperation measures in these fields among member states.

3. To request the General Secretariat to continue implementing training programs to promote the principles, values, and practices of a democratic culture, on the basis of Articles 26 and 27 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, and to improve awareness and promote the application of this inter-American instrument in the countries of the Hemisphere that so request.

4. To reaffirm the validity of the Inter-American Democratic Charter as an instrument for promoting and defending the values and principles of representative democracy in the region; and to instruct the Permanent Council to promote the holding of a special preparatory meeting for the commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, with an emphasis on reflection on this instrument in the face of new challenges, and to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-first regular session on the results of that special meeting.

5. To request that the CAJP, in coordination with the Summits Secretariat, collaborate with the Committee on Inter-American Summits Management and Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities in organizing a special joint meeting in the first quarter of 2021 on “Democratic Resiliency, the Role of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, and the Summits Process,” with a view to sharing possible recommendations for consideration with the Summit Implementation Review Group in advance of the Ninth Summit of the Americas.

6. To promote women’s political participation, including as elected leaders, technical experts in elections, engaged civil society leaders, and informed voters.

vi. Follow-up on the Inter-American Convention against Corruption and on the Inter-American Program for Cooperation in the Fight against Corruption

BEARING IN MIND the commitment of the member states to prevent and combat corruption, as set forth in the Comprehensive Strategic Plan of the Organization and in the mandates of the Summits of the Americas, especially those contained in the Lima Commitment: “Democratic Governance against Corruption,”⁵ adopted in Lima, Peru, in April 2018, related to the Inter-American Convention against Corruption and its Follow-Up Mechanism (MESICIC), as well as the Inter-American Program for Cooperation in the Fight against Corruption [AG/RES. 2275 (XXXVII-O/07)]; and the “Recommendations of the Fourth Meeting of the Conference of States Parties of the MESICIC” (MESICIC/CEP-IV/doc.2/15 rev. 1),

RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm the commitment of member states to resolutely prevent and combat corruption, further transparency in public management and in public-private relations, promote accountability, and continue effectively implementing the recommendations of the Follow-up Mechanism for the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (MESICIC).

5. See footnote 2.

2. To express satisfaction at the successful outcome of the Fifth Round of Review of the Committee of Experts of the MESICIC at its thirty-fourth meeting, held at OAS headquarters in Washington, D.C. in March of this year, as well as its adoption at said meeting of the Hemispheric Report of the Fifth Round of Review of the MESICIC Committee of Experts and the decisions required to initiate the Sixth Round of Review.

3. To instruct the Department of Legal Cooperation of the Secretariat for Legal Affairs, in its capacity as Technical Secretariat of the MESICIC, to continue implementing the mandates contained in the “Recommendations of the Fourth Meeting of the Conference of States Parties to the MESICIC,” in accordance with the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

4. To instruct the Technical Secretariat of the MESICIC to continue, within the sphere of its competence, among other activities, providing technical support and legal advice to the Conference of States Parties and the Committee of Experts of the MESICIC and facilitating the sharing of best practices and cooperation, with a view to meeting the objectives of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption and to continue providing technical support, as necessary, to the Inter-American Program of Cooperation to Fight Corruption, maintaining the Anticorruption Portal of the Americas and pursuing efforts to raise funds to finance regional cooperation activities, including legal cooperation, in the fight against corruption.

5. To urge the Technical Secretariat of the MESICIC to continue strengthening its coordination and collaboration with the secretariats of other international cooperation agencies, entities, and mechanisms active in that area; promoting synergies and 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.

6. To request the Technical Secretariat of the MESICIC to take steps, in coordination with the Department for Effective Public Management, within the spheres of their respective competence, to continue developing measures to facilitate the identification of opportunities and the offering of technical cooperation to the States Parties that so request, through the use of the capacities of the MECIGEP.

7. To take note of the contributions made by the Technical Secretariat of the MESICIC, in coordination with the Department for Effective Public Management, which serves as Technical Secretariat of the MECIGEP, in identifying opportunities to offer technical cooperation to states parties to the MESICIC on matters of transparency in public procurement, as well as training programs on preventing and fighting corruption.

8. To request that the MESICIC, within the sphere of its competence and in accordance with the resources assigned in the Organization’s program-budget and other resources, continue implementing the mandates assigned to it by the Lima Commitment: “Democratic Governance against Corruption,”^{6/} adopted at the Eighth Summit of the Americas held in April 2018 in Lima, Peru, and, through the Chair of the Committee of Experts, present a report to the Permanent Council on the progress made with that implementation, before the fifty-first regular session of the General Assembly.

6. See footnote 2.

9. To recognize the progress made by the MESICIC in implementing the mandates mentioned in paragraph 8, in particular the consideration of proposed indicators to stamp out impunity for acts of corruption and the increase in activities to promote synergies with other international anti-corruption mechanisms, such as those of the United Nations, the Group of States against Corruption of the Council of Europe, the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group, and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

10. To urge member states to take effective measures to recover stolen assets, combat tax avoidance and evasion, counter money laundering and illicit financial flows from corruption, and identify beneficial owners.

11. To encourage member states and permanent observers to cooperate and support the funding of the MESICIC in order to ensure that it meets its objectives, recognizing the difficulties that an OAS budget shortfall can entail for the work of MESICIC.

vii. International Commission against Impunity in El Salvador (CICIES)

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the significant contribution made by different OAS special missions deployed in various member states, especially during the pandemic;

RECALLING the importance of the fight against corruption in the Hemisphere and the various efforts that countries are making to eradicate this scourge from our societies;

CONSIDERING that Article II.1 of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption, establishes that one of the purposes of that Convention is “to promote and strengthen the development by each of the States Parties of the mechanisms needed to prevent, detect, punish, and eradicate corruption”;

HIGHLIGHTING the creation of the International Commission against Impunity in El Salvador (CICIES) as a result of the agreement signed by the Government of the Republic of El Salvador and the General Secretariat on September 20, 2019; and

CONSIDERING the need to guarantee the full and proper functioning of CICIES in an autonomous, independent, neutral, and transparent way in order to achieve the objectives of working with and strengthening the capabilities of the Government of El Salvador and its institutions in their fight against corruption,

RESOLVES:

1. To recognize the endeavors of the various OAS special missions and the decisive role that they have played in helping to bring about stability, peace, security, dialogue, and development for the peoples of the Americas.

2. To support and promote the work that the International Commission against Impunity in El Salvador (CICIES) has been doing to provide technical support to the Salvadoran Government and its institutions in their efforts to fight corruption in the country.

3. To invite member states and permanent observers to render financial support for the work of CICIES, ensuring funding to enable it to meet its goals and objectives.

4. To instruct the General Secretariat to continue supporting the work of CICIES until the goals set out in the agreement with the Republic of El Salvador are achieved.

viii. Open and transparent digital government

ACKNOWLEDGING the Buenos Aires Commitment adopted by the Thirteenth Annual Meeting of the Network of e-Government Leaders of Latin America and the Caribbean (GEALC Network) –recognized as the Inter-American Network on Digital Government by resolution AG/RES. 2931 (XLIX-O/19)– held in Buenos Aires, Argentina on October 30, 2019, particularly with regard to fostering the participation of all member states in the GEALC Network;

BEARING IN MIND that strengthening democracy is an ongoing task that States are committed to fulfilling every day and that open data are a fundamental tool for promoting transparency and combating corruption from the standpoint of the right of access to information and accountability and for helping citizens to have more information about public affairs, which will enable them to participate in a more informed way in the design, development, and implementation of public policies, and that resolution AG/RES. 2931 (XLIX-O/19) adopted the Inter-American Open Data Program to combat corruption;^{7/}

ACKNOWLEDGING that the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted many of the certainties previously felt in our societies and accepting that all crises give rise to exceptional measures that are designed to restore order to ensure public safety, responses, and care for citizens, presenting both risks and opportunities for democracies; and recognizing that preventing and addressing COVID-19 demands comprehensive responses from States that embody transparency, cooperation, and accountability in a context of expedited digital governance;

AFFIRMING that in times of crisis, transparency and accountability are fundamental principles for generating trust and that access to information, openness of public data on procedures and policies for addressing the pandemic, numbers of cases and tests carried out, budgets, procurement, and hiring are key for building trust and State-citizen relations, combating corruption, and producing evidence, resulting in more-effective government interventions for achieving a comprehensive recovery;

CONVINCED that the digitization and simplification of procedures and services directly or indirectly related to the pandemic are now essential for making the most of the tools available to States, promoting management innovation and facilitating multisectoral cooperation, all with a view to ensuring effective services through safe and transparent procedures that guarantee the exercise of citizens' rights; and

BEARING IN MIND that the pandemic facing the world in 2020 not only unleashed a health crisis with severe economic, social, and cultural impacts, but also prompted a reassessment of the role of the State as a whole in democratic societies and gave rise to a new opportunity: to turn open

7. The United States notes that international human rights law does not provide a right of access to information. The right to freedom of expression includes freedom to seek, receive, ...

government and digital government into tools for achieving true inclusion and strengthening democracy,

RESOLVES:

1. To invite member states to participate in the Network of e-Government Leaders of Latin America and the Caribbean (GEALC Network) as the Inter-American Network on Digital Government.

2. To instruct the General Secretariat, through the Department for Effective Public Management, to strengthen the GEALC Network as a mechanism for systematic horizontal technical cooperation that serves to promote, multiply, bolster, and drive exchanges to develop, disseminate, and implement e-government best practices in the Americas and to promote policies and the use of digital technologies to advance transparency, participation and accountability, accessibility, citizen-focused digital services, less bureaucracy, and procedural simplification.

3. To request the General Secretariat to promote, through the Department for Effective Public Management, training and regional exchanges on open government, digital government, and innovation in public management, among other initiatives, and provide technical support to countries so requesting with a view to implementing citizen digital participation – e-participation – solutions that will lead to more transparent, effective, creative, innovative, and responsible governance, catering to the needs of society.

4. To urge the General Secretariat to provide, through the Department for Effective Public Management, advisory services, mentoring, technical support, and, as appropriate, earmarked fund management to countries that so request for the gradual implementation of the Inter-American Open Data Program to combat corruption, as adopted by resolution AG/RES. 2931 (XLIX-O/19), the aim of which is to strengthen open data policies and boost the capacity of governments and citizens to prevent and combat corruption through open data.

5. To strengthen the Department for Effective Public Management within the framework of the Organization of American States and to encourage other initiatives in the same area –such as the Open Government Partnership (OGP)– that offer valuable opportunities for regional dialogue and coordination on open government, in order to identify future opportunities for cooperation on projects for strengthening democracy.

6. To urge the General Secretariat, through the Department for Effective Public Management, as Technical Secretariat of the GEALC Network, to foster actions to promote access to public information, digital transformation, and citizen's digital participation (e-participation) in member states to address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

7. To call upon member states to work towards a regional standard for data on the various dimensions of public policy directly or indirectly affected by the pandemic in order to generate public evidence that can be systematized and used to draw comparisons among countries in the region in support of national development and inter-State cooperation projects, keeping in mind the different legal frameworks in the participating countries; and to continue to create opportunities for dialogue and exchanges of best practices and experience, including those that include a gender perspective and

require equal participation by women in decision-making processes, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and making full use of the principles of open government.^{8/}

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

CONSIDERING that the judicial facilitator services fostered by the Inter-American Program of Judicial Facilitators (IPJF) are citizen participation mechanisms for conflict prevention and resolution that increase access to justice for vulnerable populations in Argentina, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, and Paraguay, even in exceptional crisis situations; and

RECALLING resolution AG/RES. 2931 (XLIX-O/19), which acknowledges the important role played by the IPJF in increasing access to justice for the most vulnerable populations in the Americas,

RESOLVES:

1. To recognize the work done by judicial facilitators who, during the COVID-19 pandemic, have continued their facilitation activities and efforts to reduce conflicts within their communities, as well as the work of the Inter-American Program of Judicial Facilitators (IPJF) to promote at both the national and regional level the role of judicial facilitators in empowering, informing, and supporting members of their communities during states of emergency.

2. To take note of the commitments entered into in the Declaration of San José, signed on September 24, 2019, by Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Panama during the first Inter-American Meeting of National Judicial Facilitator Services.

3. To strengthen the IPJF with a view to finding mechanisms to ensure the institutionalization of the role of the judicial facilitator in the relevant countries and its sustainability, including through the establishment of strategic partnerships with, among others, academia and both national and local entities in order to build capacity and strengthen the skills of judicial facilitators in beneficiary States.

4. To urge the General Secretariat to continue supporting member states that benefit from the IPJF in strengthening the provision of judicial facilitator services during and after the COVID-19 pandemic, and that it continue to support member states that request the establishment of such a service and training for operators through the IPJF, seeking specific funds and assisting efforts to raise voluntary contributions to consolidate and expand the services of the IPJF.

x. Technical cooperation and electoral observation missions

EMPHASIZING the fundamental contribution of the OAS in the strengthening and development of electoral processes and systems in member states through OAS electoral observation missions and technical cooperation in electoral matters, when so requested by member states and

8. The United States believes that different States have different means of promoting women's full and meaningful participation in decision-making processes, and the United States does so by ...

consistent with the Inter-American Democratic Charter, the Declaration of Principles for International Observation of Elections, and the Code of Conduct for International Election Observers;

EXPRESSING RECOGNITION for the staff of the Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation, whose professionalism and dedication have enabled the OAS to maintain the deployment of electoral observation missions during the COVID-19 pandemic;

TAKING NOTE of the “Guide to Organizing Elections during a Pandemic,” published by the General Secretariat;

RECALLING resolution AG/RES. 2905 (XLVII-O/17), “Strengthening Democracy,” which lifts the restrictions that prevent the Regular Fund of the Organization from being used to cover costs related to electoral observation missions; and

REAFFIRMING all the mandates contained in section xi “Technical Cooperation and Electoral Observation Missions” of resolution AG/RES. 2931 (XLIX-O/19), “Strengthening Democracy,”

RESOLVES:

1. To request the General Secretariat to continue disseminating the measures contained in the “Guide to Organizing Elections during a Pandemic” to member states that so request.

2. To invite donors to continue providing support to enable the deployment of electoral observation missions and for the implementation of the recommendations contained in the reports of said missions.

3. To instruct the General Secretariat to continue its efforts to raise funds to ensure the financial sustainability of the electoral observation missions, and to continue strengthening, in that context, the principles of rationality, transparency, austerity, and accountability.

xi. Access to public information and protection of personal data

RECALLING the mandates from previous OAS General Assembly resolutions on access to public information and protection of personal data, in particular those contained in resolution AG/RES. 2905 (XLVII-O/17), “Strengthening Democracy”;

CONSIDERING that the Assembly of the Transparency and Access to Information Network (RTA), gathered at its XVIII meeting in Mexico City on November 12, 2019, declared that guaranteeing access to public information is a fundamental issue in a democratic state, conducive to social control, responsible accountability, and promotion of citizen participation for the exercise of good governance, and that, in view of the foregoing, it emphasized that States need institutions in place to ensure access to public information and to promote transparency and that those institutions should be independent and provided with resources to facilitate openness in public management in order to strengthen public trust in institutions;

CONSIDERING that in 2017, the General Assembly, in resolution AG/RES. 2905 (XLVII-O/17), requested the Department of International Law, in consultation with the focal points for the

Inter-American Program on Access to Public Information in the member states 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 (CJI) to develop; and

BEARING IN MIND that the Department of International Law, having conducted said consultations, prepared and submitted to the CJI a preliminary draft Model Law 2.0; and that the CJI, after considering said preliminary draft, decided by resolution CJI/RES. 255 (XCVI-O/20) of March 6, 2020, to approve the “Proposal on an Inter-American Model Law 2.0 on Access to Public Information” (CJI/doc.607/20) and to refer it “to the General Assembly for its due knowledge, consideration and approval,”

RESOLVES:

1. To urge the governments of the region to support the agencies that specialize in access to information and transparency and to consolidate public policies that foster participatory democracy through the effective exercise of this citizen right.
2. To urge the national governments of the region to work together with local governments to ensure that the basic principles that give substance to the right of access to public information are uniform nationwide, regardless of where that right is exercised, without impinging on autonomy at the local level (provincial, state, or municipal), given that access to public information is a human right, as established by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.
3. To urge the governments of the region, notwithstanding the need to take steps to contain the current health emergency, to keep in mind that access to public information is a human right and, therefore, to avoid the implementation of measures that in practice absolutely nullify the exercise of this right, but rather, in the public interest and in the interests of law and order, to promote measures for transparency in the area of access to public information during the health emergency, in particular those related to the pandemic caused by the SARS-CoV2 virus (COVID-19), and for the protection of other rights, such as those related to health, work, and education, among others.
4. To adopt the Inter-American Model Law 2.0 on Access to Public Information and to request the Inter-American Juridical Committee and the Department of International Law –the latter in its capacity as Technical Secretariat of said Committee– to disseminate the Model Law 2.0 as widely as possible among the various stakeholders and, when so requested, to continue supporting the efforts of member states to enact or amend legislation, as appropriate, in order to ensure access to public information, using Model Law 2.0 as reference.^{9/}

9. The United States recalls that transparency is critical for effective governance and democracy, and that laws ensuring appropriate public access to government information are an essential element of ...

II. FOLLOW-UP AND REPORTING

RESOLVES:

1. 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 2020–2021 plan of activities for consultations or proper oversight by member states.

2. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-first 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. ... Republic of Venezuela properly notified the Secretary General of its denunciation of the Charter in accordance with Article 143 of the Charter of the Organization of American States, and the Charter ceased to be in force with respect to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, which ceased to belong to the Organization on April 27, 2019.

Antigua and Barbuda did not support resolution CP/RES. 1124 (2217/19) of April 9, 2019, which sought to appoint Mr. Gustavo Tarre as the National Assembly's representative to the OAS, and it did not accept the credentials of the officials intending to represent the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela at the forty-ninth and fiftieth regular sessions of the General Assembly.

Therefore, Antigua and Barbuda notifies all member states and the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States, as it did at the forty-ninth regular session of the General Assembly, that until further notice it will not consider itself bound by any declaration or resolution of the fiftieth regular session of the General Assembly or any future declarations or resolutions of any council or organ of the Organization that includes the participation of any person or entity purporting to speak for or act on behalf of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and in which 18 votes are attained with the participation of a purported representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

3. ... "Democratic Governance against Corruption" or any other documents, declarations, communiqués, or resolutions issued by said Summit because it was not involved in their negotiation.

4. ... progressive realization of economic, social, and cultural rights. In addition, the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) does not create the "right to survival and development" but rather an obligation that "States Parties ensure to the maximum extent possible the survival and development of the child.

7. ... and impart information.

8. ... promoting equal opportunity for all.

9. ... transparency whose importance cannot be overstated. However, there is no right of access to information under international human rights law. Moreover, the United States has some concerns about the details of Model Law 2.0 on Access to Public Information, including that it appears to significantly underestimate the practical burdens involved in implementing an information-access program, in ways that could so overburden administrative systems that it would undermine the goal of advancing transparency; that the rather vague provisions proposing application of the model law not only to governmental but also to private entities, including political parties, unions, and NGOs, at least to the extent that they receive public funds, give significant pause in a region where there are a number of countries with a challenging record with respect to the operating space of civil society, and where implementation would raise concerns about privacy and freedom of expression, among other issues; and that various adjustments may be warranted on other aspects of the Model Law 2.0, such as regarding the scope of authorities of the Guarantor Body, and regarding what can be exempted from release, to strike the right balance between transparency and protecting the legitimate interests of the government and of third parties.

AG/RES. 2959 (L-O/20)

INTERNATIONAL LAW^{1/2/}

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on October 21, 2020)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING resolution AG/RES. 2930 (XLIX-O/19) and all previous resolutions adopted on this topic; and

HAVING SEEN the “Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly, July 2019 – October 2020, July 2019 – October 2020” (AG/doc.5691/20 add. 1), in particular the section on the activities of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP),

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 Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP), except as stated otherwise in any resolution.

2. To urge member states to continue contributing to the attainment of the objectives established in said resolutions and to instruct the General Secretariat to provide the necessary support to those ends.

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

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the report that the Department of International Law of the Secretariat for Legal Affairs, within 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 of January 30, 2020, on activities carried out for the promotion and dissemination of international law among member states in collaboration with agencies and organizations engaged in this area; and

REAFFIRMING the applicability of international law to cyberspace and the importance of implementing voluntary, non-binding norms for responsible State behavior in cyberspace, as set forth in the consensus reports of the United Nations Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security,

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1. Antigua and Barbuda considers that the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is not a member state of the Organization of American States since, on April 27, 2017, the Government of the Bolivarian ...
 2. Mexico reiterates the position articulated in its statement during the report of the Secretary General on Credentials at the plenary session of the fiftieth regular session of the General Assembly.

RESOLVES:

1. To express its appreciation for the work of the Department of International Law in the promotion, study, and dissemination of legal tools, and to request that it continue to implement the actions contained in the Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law and to submit a biennial report thereon to the CAJP.

2. To instruct the Department of International Law to explore, together with member states, technical means to advance the harmonization of rules in the private international law sphere, taking into account the activities envisaged in the Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law and, in so doing, to enlist the cooperation of other actors interested in promoting and applying private international law as a cooperation tool to reactivate the economy, strengthen small businesses, resolve conflicts between individuals, and provide legal certainty to private cross-border activities of all persons in the Hemisphere.

3. To request the Permanent Council to hold a special meeting in Washington, D.C. on a date to be determined in due course, to promote the study of private international law in the Americas, possibly with the participation of organizations specializing in that field to be invited by agreement among the member states.

4. To request the Department of International Law to promote technical training, cooperation, and exchange of knowledge with the ministries of foreign affairs and international development of member states, where appropriate by remote means, based on international good practices at the behest of the interested member state.

5. To instruct the CAJP to hold, prior to the fifty-second regular session of the General Assembly, a meeting to reflect collectively on the principles of international law on which the inter-American System is founded, as the normative framework that governs the work of the OAS and relations between member states, and to instruct the Department of International Law subsequently to prepare a report on the main outcomes of that meeting to be presented to the Inter-American Juridical Committee (CJI).

6. To instruct the CAJP to hold, prior to the fifty-second regular session of the General Assembly, a meeting to reflect collectively on strengthening the accountability regime in the use of information and communication technologies, and to instruct the Department of International Law to later prepare a report on its main outcomes and present it to the CJI.

7. To instruct the CAJP to hold, prior to the fifty-first regular session of the General Assembly, a meeting to reflect collectively on exceptionality in the use of force in the inter-American context, and to instruct the Department of International Law to prepare a report on the main outcomes of that meeting and to present it to the CJI.

8. To instruct the CAJP to hold, prior to the fifty-first regular session of the General Assembly, a meeting to reflect collectively on the inviolability of diplomatic premises as a principle of international relations and its relationship to the concept of diplomatic asylum, and to instruct the

Department of International Law to later prepare a report on its main outcomes and present it to the CJI.^{3/}

9. To encourage member states and permanent observers to mark, in 2021, the sixtieth anniversary of the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.

ii. Inter-American Juridical Committee

CONSIDERING the observations and recommendations of the member states on the “Annual Report of the Inter-American Juridical Committee (CJI) to the General Assembly at its Fiftieth Regular Session” (CP/doc.5600/20); and

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that, at its ninety-seventh regular session in August 2020, the Inter-American Juridical Committee adopted its “Guidelines on Binding and Non-binding Agreements” (CJI/doc.614/20 rev. 1 corr. 1) and transmitted them to the General Assembly for its due knowledge and consideration, along with the report “Improving Transparency: International Law and State Cyber Operations – Fifth Report” (CJI/doc.615/20), recommending that the General Assembly adopt the declaration contained in resolution CJI/RES. 260 (XCVII-O/20), “International Law and State Cyber Operations,”

RESOLVES:

1. To welcome the dissemination by the Technical Secretariat of the Inter-American Juridical Committee (CJI) of the Guide to the Law Applicable to International Commercial Contracts in the Americas among the member states and to urge the Technical Secretariat of the CJI to keep its contents current, in order to consolidate it as a tool at the service of member states.

2. To take note of the “Guidelines on Binding and Non-binding Agreements,” to request the Department of International Law to compile views from member states for dissemination with those Guidelines, to take note of the CJI report “Improving Transparency: International Law and State Cyber Operations,” and to request the Department of International Law, as its Technical Secretariat, to disseminate it as widely as possible.^{4/}

3. To reiterate the request to the CJI to continue moving forward with its agenda, as envisaged in resolution CJI/RES. 257 (XCVII/O/20).

4. To renew the invitation to member states to comment in a timely manner on requests for information from the CJI in order to facilitate the preparation of reports on issues within the Committee’s remit.

5. To recognize the need to move forward with the administrative and budgetary strengthening of the CJI to ensure that its objectives are met, in particular in its consultative role, as well as in its academic role through the Course on International Law organized annually in Rio de

3. The United States is not a party to the 1954 OAS Convention on Diplomatic Asylum and does not recognize the practice of diplomatic asylum as a matter of international law ...

4. The United States recalls that a document adopted by the CJI as its own product, such as the Guidelines on Binding and Non-Binding Agreements, does not necessarily represent the views of ...

Janeiro. Accordingly, to reiterate to the General Secretariat, subject to available resources, the need for a study, to be circulated as soon as possible to the member states on the possible restoration of the position of executive secretary, the creation of an equivalent position, or alternative ways of bolstering the CJI administratively and financially.

6. To request the CJI to consolidate its collaboration with the United Nations International Law Commission, diplomatic academies and legal counsel offices of the ministries of foreign affairs of member states, academia, and civil society organizations, in order to enable it to fulfill its purposes, bearing in mind the limited financial resources of States and the material challenges facing them in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic; and to highlight the importance of enhancing CJI collaboration with the offices of legal affairs, legal advisers' offices, and legal counsel offices of the ministries of foreign affairs of member states, including with respect to seeking member state views on CJI outputs.

7. To encourage communication between the Permanent Council and the CJI so that the latter may perform its consultative function, with full respect for its autonomy and its technical dimension, thus contributing to the Organization's decisions and promoting the harmonious exercise of competencies among the organs of the inter-American system.

8. To request the CJI to promote and study those areas of juridical science that facilitate international cooperation in the inter-American system for the benefit of the societies of the Hemisphere.

9. To request the CJI to study the inter-American juridical framework the application of which could, along with domestic laws, strengthen the social and economic resilience of our countries in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath, in order to be able to have its considerations, ideally before the fifty-first regular session of the General Assembly in 2021.

iii. Promotion of and respect for international humanitarian law

RECOGNIZING that many states may have robust programs for the effective implementation of international humanitarian law by their armed forces;

DISMAYED that in various parts of the world violations of international humanitarian law persist, causing suffering to victims of armed conflict, particularly the civilian population, as well as by the challenges posed by current humanitarian consequences in the context of armed conflicts;

UNDERSCORING that 2019 marked the seventieth anniversary of the adoption of the 1949 Geneva Conventions, welcoming their universal ratification, and inviting states to consider ratifying relevant treaties on international humanitarian law;

RECALLING that the obligation, under any circumstances, to respect and ensure respect for international humanitarian law, whether treaty-based or arising from customary international law, applies to all states parties to the four universally recognized Geneva Conventions of 1949 and to the states parties to one or more of the three protocols additional thereto;^{5/}

5. The United States' position is that neither customary international law nor the Geneva Convention of 1949 and the Additional Protocols thereto imposes an obligation on states to respect and ensure ...

REAFFIRMING, to that end, the need to strengthen international humanitarian law by promoting its universal acceptance, its broadest possible dissemination, and the adoption of national measures for its effective application, including through adjustments to domestic law and, as appropriate, the imposition of penalties on those who commit gross violations of international humanitarian law; and

EMPHASIZING the mandate and role of the International Committee of the Red Cross as a neutral, impartial, and independent institution working to protect and assist victims of armed conflicts and other situations of violence, as well as in promoting respect for international humanitarian law, as conferred by the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 and by the Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement,

RESOLVES:

1. To call on member states and the parties engaged in armed conflict to honor and fulfill their obligations under international humanitarian law.

2. To invite member states to consider ratifying or acceding to the treaties on international humanitarian law, including those on prohibition or restriction of the use of certain weapons, and, as applicable, take the legislative steps needed to prevent conduct prohibited under those and other treaties, especially as regards the destruction of weapons, clean-up of areas contaminated with explosive remnants of war, proper care for victims, and control over the arms trade, and the ban on nuclear weapons.^{6/7/}

3. To exhort member states to consider integrating international humanitarian law into the doctrine, procedures, training, equipment, control mechanisms, and education of their armed and security forces.

4. To urge member states to contribute actively to follow-up on the resolutions adopted at the 33rd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, held in Geneva, Switzerland, from December 9 to 12, 2019, and, in particular, the resolution “Bringing IHL home: A road map for better national implementation of international humanitarian law,” which recommends measures for more effective implementation of international humanitarian law at the national level and of voluntary pledges, for those States that have made them in the framework of that international forum.

5. To invite member states to continue to support the work of national committees, commissions, or other institutional mechanisms responsible for the dissemination and implementation of international humanitarian law and related agencies that advise and assist national authorities in the implementation, development, and dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law; and to encourage member states that have not yet done so to consider establishing such an entity and to promote its cooperation with related agencies at the international, regional, and transregional levels, in particular by exchanging information and good practices.

6. Canada is committed to realizing a world without nuclear weapons and to working constructively towards this goal. To this end, Canada implements its obligations as a State Party to the NPT and ...

7. The United States does not support and will not sign the “Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons” (TPNW) and does not consider it to be an “effective measure” ...

6. To encourage member states to follow up on the Continental Conference of National Committees for the Implementation of International Humanitarian Law of the Americas to be held in Quito in the first half of 2021, sponsored by Ecuador.

7. To invite member states to consider accepting the competence of the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission to inquire into allegations, as authorized by Article 90 of Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts.

8. To express satisfaction with the cooperation between the OAS and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in promoting respect for international humanitarian law and the principles that govern that law, to urge the General Secretariat to continue to strengthen such cooperation, and to instruct the Permanent Council to hold a special meeting in the first half of 2021 on topics of current interest in international humanitarian law, including the applicability of this regulation to the issue of lethal autonomous weapons.^{8/}

9. To request that the General Secretariat, through the Department of International Law and in coordination with the ICRC, organize within the framework of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs a course for member states, staff of the Organization, and the general public, in order to promote knowledge of and respect for international humanitarian law and related regional instruments, including measures for their effective implementation.

II. FOLLOW-UP AND REPORTING

RESOLVES:

1. 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 2020–2021 plan of activities for consultations for proper oversight by member states.

2. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-first 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.

8. The United States opposes the proposed discussion of lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS) in this forum. The Group of Governmental Experts on Emerging Technologies in the Area of Lethal ...

FOOTNOTES

1. ... Republic of Venezuela properly notified the Secretary General of its denunciation of the Charter in accordance with Article 143 of the Charter of the Organization of American States, and the Charter ceased to be in force with respect to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, which ceased to belong to the Organization on April 27, 2019.

Antigua and Barbuda did not support resolution CP/RES. 1124 (2217/19) of April 9, 2019, which sought to appoint Mr. Gustavo Tarre as the National Assembly's representative to the OAS, and it did not accept the credentials of the officials intending to represent the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela at the forty-ninth and fiftieth regular sessions of the General Assembly.

Therefore, Antigua and Barbuda notifies all member states and the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States, as it did at the forty-ninth regular session of the General Assembly, that until further notice it will not consider itself bound by any declaration or resolution of the fiftieth regular session of the General Assembly or any future declarations or resolutions of any council or organ of the Organization that includes the participation of any person or entity purporting to speak for or act on behalf of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and in which 18 votes are attained with the participation of a purported representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

3. ... In rare, exceptional circumstances, the United States has extended temporary refuge or protection in its diplomatic missions to persons who face serious, imminent danger. The granting of asylum is not recognized as a diplomatic function under the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations (VCDR) or customary international law. To use embassies as havens for asylum of nationals of the host country might invite charges of violating provisions of the VCDR that prohibit diplomatic personnel from interfering in the internal affairs of the host country and from using embassy premises in any way incompatible with the functions of the embassy.

4. ... member states or of the Organization more generally. The United States further notes with disappointment that the Guidelines on Binding and Non-Binding Agreements were produced by the CJI without an adequate opportunity for member state input. It is important that the CJI's requests for information from member states provide member states adequate time to consider and respond, especially on a project such as the Guidelines involving issues on which state views and state practice are of central importance.

5. ... respect for all of international humanitarian law in all circumstances, but rather that states parties to the Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocols have an obligation to respect and ensure respect for those Conventions and the Additional Protocols to which they are party.

6. ... continues to support the Treaty as the cornerstone of the global nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament regime, including by calling for further concrete progress to be made towards nuclear disarmament. Canada remains concerned that the TPNW could erode the primacy of the NPT and its review process, and undermine efforts toward the NPT's universalization. Canada is also a State Party to the Biological Weapons Convention and to the Chemical Weapons Convention, and implements and fully supports, *inter alia*, UNSC Resolution 1540.

7. ... relating to nuclear disarmament under Article VI of the NPT. No state possessing nuclear weapons or which depends upon such weapons for its security supports this treaty. And this treaty will not result in the elimination of a single nuclear weapon, enhance the security of any state, or contribute in any tangible way to peace and security in the geopolitical reality of the 21st century. Rather, it will detract from legitimate efforts to advance the cause of nuclear disarmament. It ignores the current security challenges that make nuclear deterrence necessary, and risks undermining existing efforts to address global proliferation and security

challenges. We share the desire to achieve a security environment that would make such progress possible and to make more and faster progress on nuclear disarmament, but the TPNW is not the answer. Effective, verifiable arms control and disarmament measures have proven to be the appropriate tools for limiting nuclear risks and preventing nuclear war. The TPNW cannot replace the NPT as the global gold standard for nuclear non-proliferation, nuclear disarmament, and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. We reiterate our continued commitment to the better approach reflected in the NPT, including its disarmament provisions, and reaffirm our determination to safeguard and further promote its authority, universality, and effectiveness. The United States invites all states to support U.S. pursuit of a “new era of arms control” as we seek to engage Russia and China to limit all nuclear warheads and strengthen verification, and to participate in other dialogues that will facilitate progress on nuclear disarmament. In this regard, we welcome the participation of regional states in the initiative on Creating the Environment for Nuclear Disarmament (CEND).

8. ... Autonomous Weapons Systems, convened by the High Contracting Parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, offers an appropriate framework for dealing with the issue of emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapons systems within the context of the objectives and purposes of the Convention, which seeks to strike a balance between military necessity and humanitarian considerations.

AG/RES. 2960 (L-O/20)

STRENGTHENING THE PARTICIPATION OF PERMANENT OBSERVERS
IN THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES^{1/2/}

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on October 21, 2020)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

CONSIDERING the increase in the number of countries that have been granted permanent observer status since its resolution AG/RES. 50 (I-0/71), adopted at its first regular session in April 1971;

RECALLING Permanent Council resolutions CP/RES. 52 (61/72), CP/RES. 407 (573/84), and CP/RES. 619 (978/94), which established, revised and retained respectively, the criteria and procedures for granting permanent observer status for a non-OAS country, and CP/RES. 68 (69/72), which provided for the presence and participation of permanent observers at the meetings of the Permanent Council and its committees;

WELCOMING the adoption on September 27, 2018, of resolution CP/RES. 1112 (2184/18), which sought to strengthen dialogue on cooperation between member states and permanent observers at the Permanent Council, as well as to promote relations with permanent observers as strategic partners of the OAS;

TAKING NOTE of the growing interest and participation of permanent observers in the activities of the Organization, as informed by the Department of External and Institutional Relations of the General Secretariat, and the report “Partnering to Strengthen Hemispheric Multilateralism: Report to Permanent Observers 2018–2019,” which recognized permanent observers as strategic and vital partners, particularly since 2005, for the project financing that they provide, the sharing of expertise, and the exchange of information and best practices;

MINDFUL of the call made by the Secretary General in the report “Partnering to Strengthen Hemispheric Multilateralism: Report to Permanent Observers 2018-2019,” to intensify cooperation and communication, not just within our own region, but across all the regions of the world;

CONVINCED of the necessity to strengthen cooperation and collaboration with permanent observers across the four pillars of the Organization in facing the challenges of COVID-19 in the Hemisphere to address vulnerabilities and build resilience in such times of crisis; and

COMMITTED to further strengthening at this fiftieth regular session the participation of permanent observers in the activities of the OAS,

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1. Antigua and Barbuda considers that the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is not a member state of the Organization of American States since, on April 27, 2017, the Government of the Bolivarian ...
 2. Mexico reiterates the position articulated in its statement during the report of the Secretary General on Credentials at the plenary session of the fiftieth regular session of the General Assembly.

RESOLVES:

1. To thank the permanent observers as recognized strategic partners of the OAS for their continued contributions of specific funds and technical expertise, as well as for their exchanges of information and best practices to strengthen the Organization's programs across the pillars of democracy, human rights, integral development, and multidimensional security.

2. To reiterate its appreciation to permanent observers for the assistance provided to member states in facing the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

3. To strengthen the Dialogue of the Heads of Delegation, the Secretary General, and the Assistant Secretary General with the Heads of Delegation of Permanent Observers starting from the fifty-first regular session to be held in 2021.

4. To instruct the General Secretariat to take the necessary administrative measures to include the Dialogue of the Heads of Delegation, the Secretary General, and the Assistant Secretary General with the Heads of Delegation of the Permanent Observers in the draft schedule as an activity prior to the start of the regular session of the General Assembly, commencing in 2021, and to report to member states on technical and financial support provided to the OAS by permanent observers.

FOOTNOTE

1. ... Republic of Venezuela properly notified the Secretary General of its denunciation of the Charter in accordance with Article 143 of the Charter of the Organization of American States, and the Charter ceased to be in force with respect to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, which ceased to belong to the Organization on April 27, 2019.

Antigua and Barbuda did not support resolution CP/RES. 1124 (2217/19) of April 9, 2019, which sought to appoint Mr. Gustavo Tarre as the National Assembly's representative to the OAS, and it did not accept the credentials of the officials intending to represent the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela at the forty-ninth and fiftieth regular sessions of the General Assembly.

Therefore, Antigua and Barbuda notifies all member states and the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States, as it did at the forty-ninth regular session of the General Assembly, that until further notice it will not consider itself bound by any declaration or resolution of the fiftieth regular session of the General Assembly or any future declarations or resolutions of any council or organ of the Organization that includes the participation of any person or entity purporting to speak for or act on behalf of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and in which 18 votes are attained with the participation of a purported representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

AG/RES. 2961 (L-O/20)

PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS^{1/2/3/}

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on October 21, 2020)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

REAFFIRMING the norms and general principles of international law and those contained in the Charter of the Organization of American States (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, as pertinent, and other binding inter-American instruments on the subject, and the important role played by the organs of the inter-American human rights system in promoting and protecting human rights in the Americas;

RECALLING declarations AG/DEC. 71 (XLIII-O/13) and AG/DEC. 89 (XLVI-O/16), as well as resolution AG/RES. 2941 (XLIX-O/19) and all previous declarations and resolutions adopted on this topic;

HAVING SEEN the “Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly, July 2019 – October 2020” (AG/doc.5691/20 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 under the purview of the CAJP help further the essential purposes of the Organization enshrined in the Charter of the OAS;

i. Protecting human rights in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic^{4/}

RECOGNIZING resolutions 1/2020 and 4/2020 of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), concerning standards and recommendations to guide states on measures for handling and containing the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the guidelines on the human rights of persons with COVID-19 and resolution CP/RES. 1151 (2280/20) of the Permanent Council;

UNDERSCORING the challenges that the States of the Americas encounter in implementing urgent and necessary measures to deal with the emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, renewing their conviction about the need to adjust such measures, in particular those that entail

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1. The Government of Saint Lucia supports all efforts aimed at the promotion and protecting of the rights of all citizens and remains committed to its obligations under the Universal Declaration of Human ...
 2. Antigua and Barbuda considers that the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is not a member state of the Organization of American States since, on April 27, 2017, the Government of the Bolivarian ...
 3. Mexico reiterates the position articulated in its statement during the report of the Secretary General on Credentials at the plenary session of the fiftieth regular session of the General Assembly.
 4. The United States notes that this resolution references “rights” that do not exist in customary international law or in any treaties to which the United States is party - for example, the “right to the ...

restrictions on rights or guarantees, on the principles of legality, necessity, proportionality, and temporality, in accordance with their applicable international human rights law obligations;

CONSIDERING that the pandemic has differentiated and intersectional impacts on the fulfillment of economic, social, cultural, and environmental rights (ESCERs) for all sectors of the population, in particular for people and members of populations in situations of special vulnerability and/or historically subjected to discrimination, including women and girls;

STRESSING that health is a public good which ought to be protected by all States and that human rights related to health should include the importance of timely and proper health services, as well as the essential, interrelated elements of availability, accessibility, acceptability, and quality of health care services, products, and facilities, including medicines and the benefits of scientific progress in this area, on an equal footing and without discrimination; and

UNDERSCORING that every individual with COVID-19 has a right to the highest attainable standard of health and may experience adverse effects and limitations on other ESCERs, and that, against such a backdrop, negative impacts or restrictions on their ESCERs must be avoided at all costs, taking into account that certain vulnerable groups are exposed to a differentiated impact on them as a result of COVID-19,

RESOLVES:

1. To include in measures to promote the enjoyment of rights and the preservation of health, a human-rights focus and a gender perspective to tackle the pandemic and its consequences, with a differentiated focus on people and members of populations in situations of special vulnerability and/or historically subjected to discrimination.

2. To promote and protect the enjoyment and exercise of human rights, including the right to health for persons with COVID-19, consistent with the principles of equality and nondiscrimination.

3. To promote regional technical and cooperation exchanges that include good practices by States as regards measures adopted in the context of the pandemic with a human-rights focus and a gender perspective in order to effectively and humanely improve epidemiological responses, including to seek and promote accessibility and affordability –in a participatory, transparent, non-discriminatory way and with the widest possible geographical coverage– of medicines, treatments, vaccines, quality goods, services, information, and technological-scientific knowledge or applications developed for preventive, curative, palliative, or rehabilitative care of people with COVID-19.

ii. Gender parity in the composition of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights

BEARING IN MIND the section on “Gender equity and balanced geographic and legal-system representation” in resolution AG/RES. 2941 (XLIX-O/19), “Promotion and Protection of Human Rights,” adopted on June 28, 2019, as well as Permanent Council resolution CP/RES. 1149 (2278/20), “Women’s Representation and Participation in the OAS,” of March 12, 2020; and

ACKNOWLEDGING that, since its installation in 1979, of the 39 judges to have sat on the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, only five have been women and, in its current make-up, only one woman is serving on the Court,

RESOLVES:

To urge member states, when selecting and nominating judges for the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, to strive for parity in the composition of the Court by ensuring that more female candidates are nominated, and also to consolidate regional geographic representation and an appropriate balance of the legal systems of the Hemisphere, while guaranteeing that the requirements of independence, impartiality, and recognized competence in the field of human rights are met.

iii. Eradication of statelessness in the Americas

RECALLING the importance of the right of all persons of the Americas 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, and that statelessness is a serious humanitarian problem that must be eradicated;

CONSIDERING the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development relevant to the right to nationality and the prevention and eradication of statelessness, such as Goal 16 to promote just, peaceful, and inclusive societies, which includes target 16.9: “by 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration”; Goal 5 to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, which includes target 5.1: “end all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere”; and Goal 10 to reduce inequality within and among countries, which includes target 10.3: “ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices”; and

HIGHLIGHTING the validity of the Global Action Plan to End Statelessness: 2014-2024, 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” [Brazil Plan of Action (2014)], and the valuable commitments made by member states at the High-Level Segment on Statelessness, held in Geneva, Switzerland in October 2019, to assess the achievements of the global #Ibelong Campaign and to identify challenges and measures for the fulfilment of its goals five years after its adoption,

RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm the commitment of member states to preventing and eradicating statelessness in the Americas and to invite member states to continue implementing the actions proposed in the Global Action Plan to End Statelessness: 2014-2024 and in the Brazil Plan of Action (2014) and supporting the global #Ibelong Campaign to eliminate statelessness by 2024, led by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), as well as the commitments and initiatives adopted in the context of the High-Level Segment on Statelessness in 2019.

2. To invite member states that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the international conventions on statelessness, as appropriate, and to adopt or amend their internal

legislation, as required, to establish fair and efficient procedures to determine statelessness and grant facilities for the naturalization of stateless persons in accordance with the domestic law of each country and with international law.

3. To urge member states that have not yet done so to eliminate gender-based discrimination from the legal framework pertaining to nationality; to develop appropriate safeguards to prevent cases of statelessness, in particular in cases of children, adolescents, and groups in a vulnerable situation; to promote the universal registration of births and increase efforts, as necessary, to register births that occur or have occurred in border zones, indigenous territories, and remote rural areas; and to resolve existing cases of statelessness in accordance with their respective international rights commitments and obligations, especially in situations resulting from arbitrary denial and deprivation of nationality.

iv. Universal civil registry and the right to identity^{5/}

CONSIDERING that the recognition of people's identity facilitates the exercise of the right to a name, to nationality, to civil registration, to family relations life, and to legal juridical personality, together with other rights enshrined in such international instruments as the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man and the American Convention on Human Rights, and understanding that the exercise of those rights is essential for the consolidation of any democratic society;

CONSIDERING ALSO that in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Goal 16 (to "promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies") envisages a specific target (16.9) concerning birth registration: "By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration";

RECOGNIZING the work carried out by the Universal Civil Identity Program in the Americas (PUICA) to support member states in their efforts to reduce under-registration of births in the region and full recognition of the right to identity; and

REAFFIRMING the efforts and commitment of member states to strengthen their civil registration systems and ensure a legal identity for all, as well as the commitments and initiatives adopted in the framework of the High-Level Segment on Statelessness in 2019, including the commitments presented by the Latin American and Caribbean Council for Civil Registration, Identity, and Vital Statistics (CLARCIEV) in that Segment and in the 2019 Santiago Declaration on Innovation and Cooperation to Close Gaps in Civil Identity,

RESOLVES:

1. To instruct the General Secretariat, through its Universal Civil Identity Program in the Americas (PUICA) and the Latin American and Caribbean Council for Civil Registration, Identity, and Vital Statistics (CLARCIEV) to continue providing assistance to those member states that so request for strengthening their civil registration systems in order to promote the protection and upholding of the right to identity, the universal registration of births, deaths, and other changes in civil status, and of interconnections between registration systems and national identity systems in order to ensure a legal identity for everyone and thereby strengthen protection for all human rights, particularly those of

5. The United States notes that the first preambular paragraph of this section references several "rights" that do not exist in customary international law or in any treaties to which the United States is party. ...

populations that are vulnerable, displaced, and/or historically subject to discrimination, as well as to prevent and eradicate statelessness and allow universal and equitable access to essential public services.

2. To urge all member states, in accordance with their domestic law, to promote access for all persons to identity documents by implementing effective and interoperable civil registration and vital statistics systems, including simplified, free, and nondiscriminatory procedures that respect cultural diversity, taking particular care with the protection of personal information and adopting a holistic and differentiating approach that takes account of gender, age, and rights.

v. Human rights defenders

CONSIDERING the member states' longstanding concern over situations that prevent or impede the work of human rights defenders at the national and regional levels in the Americas; [AG/RES. 1671 (XXIX-O/99)] and the duty of States to respect, protect, and guarantee the human rights of all persons, including the right to defend and promote human rights; the important and legitimate work carried out by all those individuals, groups, and communities that engage in non-violent protest, express their opinion, publicly denounce abuses and violations of human rights, provide rights education, seek justice, truth, accountability, reparation, and non-recurrence in response to human rights violations, or exercise other activities to promote human rights, [AG/RES. 2908 (XLVII-O/17)],

RESOLVES:

1. To recognize the work being carried out locally, nationally, and regionally by human rights defenders and their invaluable contribution to the promotion, observance, and protection of human rights.

2. To urge member states to incorporate and apply comprehensive protection measures, including differentiated and collective protections and a gender perspective, into plans, programs, and policies on protection and prevention of violence against human rights defenders, including journalists and environmentalists, as well as their relatives, consistent with the new reality brought about by the pandemic, to enable such persons to carry out their activities in defense of human rights with the proper safety, particularly to ensure effective protection for women human rights defenders in the Americas.

3. To condemn multiple forms of violence and discrimination, including acts of reprisal, that human rights defenders in the Americas suffer, as well as acts that impede or prevent, either directly or indirectly, human rights defenders from safely performing their activities, including during the COVID-19 pandemic.

vi. Rights of children and adolescents

CONSIDERING the focus on children and adolescents by the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN) as regards their situation in the region and the impact that the recent pandemic has had on their living conditions and access to rights, especially for the most vulnerable groups and populations;

REITERATING the need to incorporate a comprehensive protection and gender perspective into all programs and policies concerning children and adolescents, with a view to guaranteeing and protecting their rights without distinction on the basis of race, color, sex, disability, national or social origin, or any other condition of the child, their parents, or their legal representatives; and

REAFFIRMING the commitment of the member states of the OAS to preventing, punishing, and eradicating all forms of abuse and violence against children and adolescents in all areas of their lives as a hemispheric priority which, given its importance, should be the focus of a regional analysis geared towards further action, including exploring the necessity and importance of a possible inter-American instrument,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge member states, in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, to strengthen the measures necessary to guarantee children and adolescents their rights to life, education, food, housing, and health, including mental health, and to make every effort to take specific actions to protect their personal integrity, while also considering the phenomenon of sexual violence and abuse against girls and providing families in poverty with the necessary means to enjoy their right to a decent and adequate standard of living.^{6/}

2. To urge member states to continue strengthening their institutions and public policies for the promotion, protection, and restitution of the rights of children and adolescents within the framework of comprehensive protection systems based on intersectoral coordination, and to work to channel as much of their available resources as possible toward the realization of those rights.

3. To welcome the work that the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN) does as an OAS specialized agency and to recognize its role in providing member states with technical assistance to develop and implement public policies, plans, and programs for the promotion, protection, and effectively exercise of the human rights of children and adolescents.

4. To urge member states to strengthen and adopt immediate measures necessary to prevent, punish, and eradicate violence against children and adolescents.

5. To instruct the General Secretariat, in consultation with the member states and with the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN) and other OAS relevant bodies, to conduct a hemispheric analysis on prevention, eradication, and punishment of abuse and all forms of violence against children and adolescents with a view, among other things, to considering the necessity and importance of crafting a specific inter-American instrument on the subject using existing resources. Said study will be referred to the General Assembly at its fifty-first regular session, through the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP).

6. To urge member states to strengthen cooperation for protecting children and adolescents, as well as for promoting and guaranteeing their rights, especially in crises and humanitarian emergencies that could exacerbate their vulnerable situation.

6. The United States protects and promotes the rights of the child. However, the United States notes that countries have a wide array of policies and actions that may be appropriate in promoting the ...

vii. Persons who have disappeared and assistance to members of their family^{7/}

REAFFIRMING the responsibility of member states to continue making the necessary efforts to alleviate the suffering, anxiety, and uncertainty experienced by relatives of persons reported missing in connection with, *inter alia*, armed conflicts, situations of armed violence, migration, or natural disasters, in order to address their various needs and to satisfy their right to the truth, justice and, as appropriate, reparation for the harm caused,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge member states, in accordance with their obligations in the area of international humanitarian law and international human rights law, and taking into account existing jurisprudence on the subject, to continue progressively to adopt measures, including laws, protocols, guidelines, and other national provisions of a legal and institutional nature, in order to:

- a. Prevent the disappearance of persons, with particular attention to members of vulnerable groups, in that context, including unaccompanied children and adolescents and women and girls;
- b. Take up cases of missing migrants and of children and adolescents presumed missing, with a view to searching for them, locating them, and, if possible, reuniting them with their families or, in the event that they are deceased, identifying them and returning their remains to their families, where possible, and promoting national coordination and regional cooperation on technical, judicial, and consular assistance;
- c. Clarify the whereabouts and fate of missing persons to ensure a prompt response to family members, and consider the possibility of setting up mechanisms or entities, primarily with a humanitarian nature and vocation, to allow for a comprehensive, wide-scale investigation and, in the case of death, to give priority to the humanitarian objectives of recovery, identification, return, and dignified disposal of human remains, while at the same time complying with the obligations to investigate, prosecute, and punish the parties responsible for the disappearances;
- d. Meet the needs of family members as regards access to information about possible causes of the disappearance of their loved ones, including knowing the truth about what happened to them; conducting a search, recovering the remains in the event of death, and returning them; and resolving legal and administrative problems through comprehensive and affordable domestic legal processes that recognize the legal status of missing persons;
- e. Adopt the necessary measures to preserve the traceability and ensure the dignified treatment of the human remains of deceased persons, whether identified or unidentified, or as yet unclaimed, as well as post-mortem

7. The United States is not party to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance or to the Inter-American Convention on Forced Disappearance of Persons. ...

information on them, in order to preserve the possibility of identifying them and delivering the human remains to their respective families at a later date;

- f. Adopt the necessary measures to locate, respect and protect places where human remains of persons presumed missing may be found, with a view to their identification, recovery, and dignified return;
- g. Guarantee the participation and representation of victims and their family members at the relevant proceedings, as well as their access to justice and to mechanisms that ensure them full, fair, prompt, and effective reparations. Ensure arrangements for the protection of victims and witnesses in criminal courts and in other justice mechanisms, when their safety and well-being are in danger as a result of their reporting the crime of forced disappearance and other offenses that result in the disappearance of persons;
- h. Strengthen technical skills involved in the search, recovery, and analysis of human remains and associated evidence, as well as the use of various forensic sciences;
- i. Strengthen forensic agencies and disappeared persons search offices with the necessary resources (infrastructure, equipment, trained specialists) to implement standards and protocols for the recovery, custody, and identification of the human remains of deceased persons;
- j. Promote training and capacity building for actors that provide psychosocial support and psychological care during the process of searching for persons who have disappeared and assistance to their family members;
- k. Guarantee appropriate management of information, including information related to the personal data of missing persons and their families, by establishing information management systems to gather, protect, and manage data in keeping with national and international legal standards and provisions, in order to support the search for and identification of persons who have disappeared; and
- l. Promote, as necessary, within the organizational structure of forensic agencies and disappeared persons search offices, procedures to manage the records of unidentified and unclaimed deceased persons, compare information on missing persons with that of deceased persons, and produce a scientific identification report for the authorities and family members.

2. To urge member states to ensure the implementation of applicable law in this area, with a humanitarian approach.

3. To encourage member states to ratify or accede to the Inter-American Convention on Forced Disappearance of Persons and the International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance and implement them in domestic system of laws; recognize the

competence of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances; share experience and best practices; strengthen international cooperation and exchanges of information; and support the participation and technical assistance of international and national institutions with recognized experience in the search for disappeared persons; in addition, to invite member states to continue their cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross, facilitating its work and taking up its technical recommendations, with a view to consolidating measures adopted by member states to search for disappeared persons, treat human remains in a dignified way, and assist their family members.

4. To encourage member states to promote national adoption of measures related to the provisions of resolution AG/RES. 2134 (XXXV-O/05), “Persons Who Have Disappeared and Assistance to Members of their Family,” and subsequent resolutions on the subject adopted by the General Assembly, and to provide information in that regard; and to instruct the CAJP to ensure that information is circulated prior to the fifty-second regular session of the General Assembly.

viii. Strengthening the follow-up mechanism for implementation of the Protocol of San Salvador

HIGHLIGHTING that, to date, only 16 member states 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 undertake to submit periodic national reports on the progressive measures they have taken to ensure the full exercise and due respect for the rights set forth in that instrument;

EMPHASIZING that, in accordance with the principles set forth in the update of the appendix “Composition and Functioning of the Working Group to Examine the National Reports Envisioned in the Protocol of San Salvador,” pursuant to resolution AG/RES. 2908 (XLVII-O/17), since August 2019 that Working Group has a majority of women members;

CONCERNED by the serious crisis associated with the COVID-19 pandemic that has created obstacles to the exercise of the rights set forth in the Protocol of San Salvador, such as the rights to health, education, adequate nutrition, social security, and work, among others, and has widened the gaps that historically discriminated and vulnerable groups face in the exercise of their rights, and recognizing in this regard the efforts made by the Working Group to support member states in responding to the pandemic through various activities; and

RECOGNIZING the contribution of the Office of the Special Rapporteur on Economic, Social, Cultural, and Environmental Rights, on behalf of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, to the Working Group to Examine the Periodic Reports of the States Parties to the Protocol of San Salvador, and taking note of its reports,

RESOLVES:

1. To commend the commitment and efforts of the States Parties that met the deadlines for the presentation of national reports, especially those that submitted their integrated national report; and, in that regard, to remind and to request the States Parties that have not yet done so to submit promptly the pending national reports.

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); to appeal to member states, permanent observers, and individuals and public and private institutions, whether national or international, 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, as defined in Article 80 of the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat and other provisions of the Organization; to call on States Parties to consider hosting meetings of the WGPSS in their countries as a way of supporting and disseminating its work; and to encourage member states to consider allocating existing funds from the Regular Fund to this mechanism.

3. To urge the WGPSS to strengthen support in the area of training and technical assistance for member states, when so requested and subject to the availability of resources, during and after the COVID-19 pandemic, taking into account the consequences that the pandemic will have on the enjoyment of economic, social, cultural, and environmental rights,^{8/} in particular for historically discriminated and vulnerable groups, as well as, when so requested, in the process of preparing national reports and in following up on the observations of the WGPSS.

4. To request that the General Secretariat support the full functioning of the WGPSS by allocating it funds to perform its activities and that it disseminate as widely as possible the progress made by the system of national reports.

ix. Promotion of the Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination, and Related Forms of Intolerance and the fight against all forms of discrimination

RECOGNIZING the importance of ratifying the Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination, and Related Forms of Intolerance,

RESOLVES:

1. To request the CAJP to organize a meeting with the purpose of gathering input from member states for countering intolerance and discrimination in the region.

2. To invite member states to consider signing, ratifying, or acceding to, as appropriate, both the Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination, and Related Forms of Intolerance and the Inter-American Convention against All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance, bearing in mind that the two instruments promote coexistence in diversity, which is understood as one of the bulwarks of democratic societies in the Hemisphere.

x. The power of inclusion and the benefits of diversity

GIVEN THAT the emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic prevented the holding in 2020 of a special meeting of the CAJP on the topic “The Power of Inclusion and the Benefits of Diversity” as mandated by section xi of resolution AG/RES. 2941 (XLIX-O/19),

8. Brazil joins the consensus, on the understanding that the expression “environmental rights,” despite not being present in the Protocol of San Salvador, refers to the obligations of states regarding the ...

RESOLVES:

1. To extend this mandate so that the above special meeting is held prior to the fifty-first regular session of the General Assembly.

2. To recommend that in addition to taking its lead from section xi of resolution AG/RES. 2941 (XLIX-O/19), the proposed special meeting also take into account the growing appreciation of the importance and complexity of inclusion, especially with regard to the COVID-19 impacts and responses and the troubling problems of racial discrimination.

xi. Right to freedom of conscience and religion or belief

RECALLING Section xviii of resolution AG/RES. 2941 (XLIX-O/19) adopted by consensus during the forty-ninth regular session of the General Assembly in June 2019;

REITERATING that, despite the challenges imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, States must respect human rights, including the right to freely exercise freedom of religion or the beliefs of all people, including religious minorities or those who profess no faith, in pursuit of equality and non-discrimination for all, and that States must respect the plurality of religions and the right of all persons to profess different religious beliefs in accordance with Article 12 of the American Convention on Human Rights or Article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, as applicable;

WELCOMING the special meeting of the CAJP of February 20, 2020, in which member states shared lessons learned and exchanged good practices to advance the goals of resolution AG/RES. 2941 (XLIX-O/19);

NOTING WITH CONCERN that in all regions around the world there continue to be acts of intolerance and violence against individuals and communities, including religious minorities, for exercising their right to freedom of conscience and religion;

NOTING that Article 12 of the American Convention on Human Rights states: “Everyone has the right to freedom of conscience and of religion. This right includes freedom to maintain or to change one’s religion or beliefs, and freedom to profess or disseminate one’s religion or beliefs, either individually or together with others, in public or in private”;

RECOGNIZING the right of persons—acting either individually or in community with others—to profess a religion or beliefs, including the possibility of freely choosing the religious leaders, clerics, and teachers they may call on to serve or to teach on their behalf, observing the principles of equality and nondiscrimination; the right or freedom of parents to have their children receive a moral and religious education in line with their beliefs, in pursuit of the best interests of children; and the duty of States to respect and allow individuals to exercise their right of freedom of conscience or religion by adopting such legislative or other measures as may be necessary to uphold those freedoms, in keeping

with Article 12 of the American Convention on Human Rights or Article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, as applicable;^{9/10/} and

RECALLING that all human rights are universal, interdependent and indivisible,

RESOLVES:

1. To protect the right of everyone to freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief, which includes the freedom to have or not to have, to change, or to adopt a religion or belief of one's choice, as well as the freedom, whether individually or in community with others, in public or in private, to profess a religion or belief through worship, observance, practice, or teaching.

2. To emphasize that freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief, and freedom of expression are interrelated and mutually reinforcing and, moreover, to stress the role that these rights can play in the fight against all forms of intolerance, violence, and discrimination of any kind, including, *inter alia*, when aimed at religious believers for their faith, in accordance with the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man and, as applicable, the American Convention on Human Rights.

3. To call upon States to protect the ability to worship, as well as all places of worship, so as to allow individuals peacefully and safely to practice their faith individually or in community with others, including within the context of limitations posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, in accordance with necessary and proportionate health measures, in keeping with Article 12 of the American Convention on Human Rights, as appropriate, and Article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

4. To encourage the technical and autonomous bodies of the OAS to conduct a study on the implementation of Article 12 of the American Convention on Human Rights, and also to encourage the Permanent Council to hold a special meeting in order to share the results of that study with member states, so that, in the context of the proposed special meeting, States may exchange opinions on the study, with a focus on the promotion of freedom of religion and conscience without any distinction.

5. To request that the General Secretariat follow up on the mandates contained in resolution AG/RES. 2941 (XLIX-O/19) by organizing a regional dialogue on the right to freedom of conscience and religion or belief, ideally as a follow-up to International Religious Freedom Day on October 27, with input from member states, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, and other religious and civil society actors in order to discuss best practices, including protecting places of worship; and to request the CAJP to organize, within existing resources, a second special meeting where member states may continue to discuss lessons learned and exchange good practices, and to present the results of that meeting to the Permanent Council prior to the next regular session of the General Assembly.

9. Costa Rica places on record its position with respect to the sixth preambular paragraph of this section. In Costa Rica, freedom of worship is guaranteed in Article 75 of the Political Constitution and in ...

10. The delegation of Bolivia joins the consensus on the resolution, noting that it views this as an appropriate reflection of international human rights law, without involving these rights being ...

xii. Situation of Afro-descendent populations in the Hemisphere and racism^{11/}

RECOGNIZING the important contributions of Afro-descendent persons and communities – particularly those of Afro-descendent women– to the history, cultures, and development of the peoples of the Americas; the prevailing need to eliminate the historical discrimination and intolerance that they have suffered as a result of the scourges of racism and xenophobia, and of the lingering traces of slavery, which manifest themselves in a differentiated manner for women, increasing poverty, violence, and the deterioration of their living standards; as well as the importance of eliminating structural barriers to economic and social development for people of African descent and of having data disaggregated by ethnicity;

TAKING NOTE of the entry into force of the Inter-American Convention against All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance on February 20, 2020;

TAKING NOTE also of the “San José Commitment,” adopted on October 18, 2019, in San José, Costa Rica, by which a group of States of the Hemisphere defined priority actions aimed at eliminating inequality gaps and attending to the problems of education, health, employment, and development that affect people of African descent; and

OBSERVING WITH CONCERN that, as pointed out by the Inter-American Network of High Authorities on Policies for Afro-descendant Populations (RIAFRO) and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the COVID-19 pandemic crisis could have a disproportionate impact on the Afro-descendent population in the region, due to situations of greater vulnerability than the general population, given the obstacles they face in accessing public health services, the greater prevalence of chronic medical conditions, less access to State social safety nets, and the high rate of labor informality, among other factors,

RESOLVES:

1. To condemn all forms of racism and discrimination against people of African descent in the Hemisphere, while recognizing that this continues to be a reality that limits their economic and social well-being, and that States should unite efforts to combat and eradicate it.^{12/}

2. To urge member states to guarantee, in their responses to the health emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic crisis, the availability, accessibility, acceptability, and quality of health services to people and communities of African descent in conditions of dignity, equality and nondiscrimination.

3. To urge member states to advance in their fulfillment of the targets and commitments of the Plan of Action for the Decade for People of African Descent in the Americas (2016–2025) and the International Decade for People of African Descent (2015-2024), as well as to invite them to improve their collection and processing of disaggregated data –taking into account gender perspective and the dimension of intersectionality– when designing and implementing public policies to address

11. The State of Guatemala declares that it promotes and defends the human rights recognized in international treaties for all of its citizens, in accordance with the provisions of the ...

12. The United States understands that efforts to eradicate racism and discrimination should be consistent with States’ international human rights obligations and commitments, including with respect to ...

the challenges faced by people of African descent, particularly women, with respect to employment and access to health, housing, and education, with the goal of eliminating the inequalities that they suffer and to address the serious social and economic consequences expected in the wake of the pandemic.

4. To instruct the Department of Social Inclusion of the Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity of the General Secretariat, in the framework of its function of monitoring and implementation of the Plan of Action for the Decade for People of African Descent in the Americas (2016–2025), to prepare a regional report on the situation of people of African descent and on progress in the implementation of the Plan of Action, which will be presented at a special meeting of the Permanent Council of the OAS in the context of the IV Inter-American Week for People of African Descent in the Americas in 2021.

5. To invite member states that are not parties to the Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination and Related Intolerance or the Inter-American Convention against All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance to consider the possibility of ratifying those instruments.

6. To invite member states to consider the possibility of joining the Inter-American Network of High Authorities on Policies for Afro-descendant Populations (RIAFRO).

xiii. Autonomous official public defenders as a safeguard for the human rights of all, without discrimination, especially indigenous peoples

RECALLING 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), and the “Practical Guide to Inclusive Rights-Focused Responses to COVID-19 in the Americas,” published by the Organization on April 7, 2020, in particular its Chapter VIII titled “The protection of persons deprived of liberty during the COVID-19 pandemic”; and

TAKING NOTE of the Brasilia Regulations regarding Access to Justice for Vulnerable People, which urge that indigenous individuals and peoples be able to fully exercise their rights before the justice system without any discrimination based on their indigenous origins or identity, or their economic status; and of Articles XXII (3) and XXIII of the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,

RESOLVES:

1. To affirm the fundamental importance of cost-free legal defense services provided by official public defender institutions in the Americas, in terms of promoting and protecting the right of access to justice for all, particularly those in a vulnerable situation, which is an essential aspect of the consolidation of democracy; and to highlight the work of official public defenders in the Americas in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, especially with regard to persons deprived of liberty, in order, *inter alia*, to guarantee hygienic conditions and effective access to health care for this vulnerable group.^{13/}

13. In the United States, defendants charged with felonies or misdemeanors that could result in imprisonment and juvenile defendants have a right to appointed counsel at government expense if ...

2. To encourage member states, in accordance with their national laws and policies and in particular official public defender institutions, to guarantee access to justice with an intercultural perspective for the effective enjoyment of all human rights of indigenous peoples, especially their economic, social, cultural, and environmental rights.

xiv. Human rights and the environment^{14/}

CONSIDERING that the global health emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic has prevented the Permanent Council from including the topic of access to information, public participation, and access to justice in environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean at one of its regular meetings, in fulfillment of the mandate established in section vii of resolution AG/RES. 2941 (XLIX-O/19),

RESOLVES:

1. To renew the mandate requesting the Permanent Council to include the topic “Access to Information, Public Participation, and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean” at one of its regular meetings and to invite the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) and the Working Group to Examine the Periodic Reports of the States Parties to the Protocol of San Salvador to provide a report on the situation in Latin American and the Caribbean in that regard.

2. To recommend that the Permanent Council, when addressing this topic at one of its meetings, in addition to the provisions of section vii of resolution AG/RES. 2941 (XLIX-O/19), ponder including consideration of the impact of environmental issues, including climate change, on poverty and the enjoyment of human rights, and on the life of all species on the planet, including human beings, taking into account post-pandemic economic reconstruction plans.

3. To urge once again the member states of Latin America and the Caribbean to consider signing, ratifying, or acceding to, as appropriate, the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazú Agreement), which was opened for signature in New York City on September 27, 2018.

xv. Human rights of older persons

RECOGNIZING the contributions of older persons to the development of the nations of the Hemisphere, as well as the obligation to ensure the full enjoyment of all their rights, in particular their right to physical and mental health, so that they can lead a full, independent and autonomous life, free of violence and all discrimination, with security, integration, and active participation in the economic, social, cultural, and political spheres;

TAKING NOTE of the entry into force in 2017 of the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons, the only legally binding international instrument that addresses the rights of older persons, as well as the recent creation by the IACHR of the Office of the Rapporteur on the Rights of Older Persons;

14. With respect to operative paragraph No. 3 of this section, by virtue of the reasons set out before the National Congress and the Chilean public opinion, the Republic of Chile has not signed the ...

RECOGNIZING that the COVID-19 pandemic disproportionately affects people in vulnerable situations, in particular the more than 85 million older persons living in the region, as they are at greater risk for poverty, disability, discrimination, and isolation;

NOTING WITH DEEP CONCERN the increase in violence, abandonment, and non-respect for autonomy and will; the persistence of prejudice and stereotypes with regard to old age and ageing; age discrimination amid the urgent attention given to other priority groups; an insufficient number of health professionals (geriatricians) and specialized social services (gerontologists), adversely affecting adequate quality of care; as well as social gaps accentuated by mitigation measures, including the gap in access to technology;

BEARING IN MIND that gender-based discrimination, together with certain other conditions of vulnerability, exacerbates the impact of the current pandemic and thus negatively affects the lives of older women, increases the risks of exclusion, and exposes them to greater risk of infection with COVID-19 as a result of caregiving and other work traditionally done by women;

CONSIDERING the importance of incorporating older people in the implementation and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals, given the demographic change trends in the region; and

CONDEMNING all forms of violence and discrimination against older persons, including those involving abandonment, non-respect for their autonomy, gender-based violence and abuse, and, in particular, those situations that undermine their dignity or limit the exercise of their rights on an equal basis with other generational groups in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic,

RESOLVES:

1. To encourage member states that have not done so to consider, as appropriate, ratifying or acceding to the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons.

2. To urge member states to take into account the situation and needs of older persons when designing and implementing intersectoral public policies on comprehensive care, including health promotion, prevention and care of illness at all stages, dignified conditions of care, rehabilitation and palliative care, while ensuring their autonomy and physical, economic, and social security, as well as programs aimed at reducing the digital divide, thereby facilitating their access to public and private services, in order to promote the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical, mental, and social well-being, without discrimination.

3. To encourage member states to ensure preferential care and universal, equitable, and timely access to quality comprehensive health services, especially those that provide care for older persons in vulnerable situations, and to strengthen the capacities of health, social, and socio-health service workers and specialized academic, professional, and technical training in geriatrics, gerontology, and palliative care, among others, taking into account human rights.

4. To request the IACHR, subject to its available resources, to prepare a report on the situation of human rights of older persons in the Hemisphere.

5. To instruct the Permanent Council to mark World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on June 15 every year.

xvi. Program of Action for the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities 2016–2026 and support for the Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities

BEARING IN MIND the obligations and commitments assumed by the member states in relation to the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities in the Americas, reflected in the Inter-American Convention for 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 2016-2026 (PAD);

RECOGNIZING that persons with disabilities are among the groups most disproportionately affected by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in terms of health, economic situation, education, and social protection, among other areas, aggravating pre-existing barriers as regards accessibility and adaptability of essential public services, employment, and education;

CELEBRATING the creation of the OAS Group of Friends of Persons with Disabilities in December 2019, to promote the rights and empowerment of persons with disabilities with the support of their families, raising awareness about their life situation and recognizing disability as part of human diversity, and disseminate their achievements and contributions to the development of their communities, among other objectives; and

RECALLING the commemoration of International Day of Persons with Disabilities at the meeting of the Permanent Council of December 11, 2019, in which the human rights of persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities were considered,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge member states to consider the situation of structural discrimination, as well as physical and attitudinal barriers faced by persons with disabilities in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, and to include their specific needs in a comprehensive manner in responses during and after the pandemic, so that they can exercise their rights on an equal basis with others and without discrimination, in line with the objectives set out in the Convention for 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 2016-2026 (PAD), among other international instruments on the subject.

2. To urge member states to take steps to ensure that persons with disabilities enjoy access to telework on an equal footing with other workers, so that they can continue to meet their economic needs, like their peers, and, to that end, to urge member states and employers to provide conditions enabling access to telework for persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others.

3. To urge member states to adopt all necessary measures, without any type of discrimination, to help ensure safety and protection for persons with disabilities in situations of risk or emergency.

4. To invite member states to establish, promote, and implement policies for the provision of timely care, equal opportunities, and inclusion of persons with disabilities through plans, programs, projects, and actions aimed at the fulfillment and exercise of their rights.

5. To encourage OAS member states that are not party to CIADDIS to consider signing, ratifying, or acceding to, as applicable, said Convention, in order to intensify regional efforts on the inclusion of and non-discrimination against persons with disabilities; and 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 in order to supplement financing 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, by sphere of activity, of national reports on implementation of the CIADDIS for the States Parties to the Convention and the PAD.

6. To recognize and strengthen the work of the Department of Social Inclusion and instruct it, in its capacity as Technical Secretariat of CEDDIS and the area promoting programs, projects, and initiatives for social inclusion of persons with disabilities, to continue, in coordination with member states, disseminating and promoting the rights of this group, nondiscrimination, and their full participation in all areas of society; and to reiterate the request to the General Secretariat to implement the broadest efforts to mainstream and intersectoralize the perspective of inclusion of persons with disabilities in the Organization from a rights-based perspective.

7. To encourage member states and permanent observers to contribute to the specific fund of voluntary contributions to support the implementation of the PAD and the management of the Joint Working Group to follow up on the implementation of said instrument.

8. To invite member states and the General Secretariat to mark International Day of Persons with Disabilities, which falls annually on December 3, through actions that contribute to the full recognition, visibility, exercise and enjoyment of the rights of persons with disabilities, at the national and international levels for the achievement of common objectives, and, with regard to activities promoted by the Organization, that they be carried out subject to the availability of financial resources in its program-budget and other resources.

xvii. Protection of asylum seekers and refugees in the Americas

HIGHLIGHTING the importance of the Brazil Plan of Action adopted on December 3, 2014, as the strategic framework for protection of refugees, asylum seekers, displaced and stateless persons in the region;

HIGHLIGHTING ALSO the importance of the Global Compact on Refugees, the launching of the Asylum Capacity Support Group, and the presentation of commitments by a number of member states of the Organization at the first Global Refugee Forum, held in Geneva in December 2019,

particularly as regards strengthening asylum and protection capacities, shared responsibilities, and lasting solutions;

RECALLING resolutions AG/RES. 2928 (XLVIII-O/18) and AG/RES 2941 (XLIX-O/19), which refer to the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS), which now comprises Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, and Panama and is regarded in the 100 Points of Brasilia as a pioneering and dynamic subregional initiative, a practical application of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework, and a contribution to the Global Compact on Refugees; and taking note of the Mexico City Declaration on International Protection, Shared Responsibility and Regional Solidarity Actions in MIRPS Countries, adopted at the Second Annual Meeting of the MIRPS on November 8, 2019; as well as the presentation of the “II Annual Report of the Regional Comprehensive Protection & Solutions Framework (MIRPS) 2019” at the first Global Refugee Forum; and

UNDERSCORING that the region is facing unprecedented humanitarian situations and that at the end of 2019 more than 1.9 million people were seeking asylum,^{15/} making it urgent to craft innovative and pragmatic solutions for determining refugee status in a manner consistent with States’ obligations under international refugee law and to strengthen national systems for determining refugee status, all under conditions exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge member states to continue implementing the programs and thematic focuses of the Brazil Plan of Action and, with the support of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Asylum Capacity Support Group, to continue increasing, as applicable, their national asylum capacities, so as to enhance their response to the large-scale influx of persons needing international protection, within available resources; and to invite the member states concerned to fulfill the commitments made at the first Global Refugee Forum.

2. To recommend to interested member states that they develop best practices for determining refugee status, based on optimization of the mechanisms for identifying international protection needs in keeping with each person’s profile, risks, and vulnerabilities; strengthening of systems for case referral, biometric registration, and digital processing of applications; establishment of triage systems and expedited, simplified, merged, and special procedures for determining refugee status, or procedures based on the presumption of inclusion or group determination, as appropriate; and promotion of digital identity.

3. To call upon UNHCR and the international community, in light of the current overburdening of refugee status determination systems, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, to support the design, financing, and implementation of national projects aimed at achieving more robust national asylum systems in the States concerned, along with regional initiatives to foster training and exchanges of best practices among national committees for refugees (CONAREs), identification of at-risk-person profiles using country-of-origin information, sharing of best practices via a regional digital platform, and dissemination of a regional model for determining refugee status.

15. Report on Global Trends in Forced Displacement in 2019, p. 75, UNHCR Available at: <https://www.unhcr.org/globaltrends2019/>

4. To encourage, where appropriate, the updating of national rules and regulations, taking into account member states' experiences and best preventive and protection practices and lasting solutions for persons needing international protection, such as the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS), with the support and technical cooperation of the General Secretariat and UNHCR; as well as joint work on developing international solidarity, regional cooperation, and shared responsibility mechanisms with the participation of all pertinent actors; and to instruct the CAJP to follow up on this resolution and to report each year on its implementation.

5. To underscore the adoption of resolution CP/RES. 1154 (2286/20), establishing the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework Fund (MIRPS Fund), and to urge member states, permanent observers, and other donors to make voluntary contributions to that Fund, in order to support the objectives of the MIRPS aimed at increasing and reinforcing its activities, as well as regional cooperation mechanisms to support implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees.

6. To acknowledge the establishment of the MIRPS Support Platform and, in particular, Spain's commitment to chair it and spearhead efforts to mobilize financial and technical assistance and political backing, aimed at fostering the continuity, predictability, and sustainability of support for the national and regional objectives of the countries participating in the MIRPS.

7. To acknowledge that States have adopted policies and measures to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic and to consider that this context poses an even more daunting challenge for member states of the MIRPS and other States in the region, given that it may seriously impair full observance of the human rights of asylum-seekers, refugees, persons returned to their countries of origin who need protection, and displaced persons. It is likewise vital to find mechanisms for implementing measures aimed at preventing and combating xenophobia and the stigmatization of members of that vulnerable population and to include them in policies and actions for providing care and humanitarian assistance during the pandemic.^{16/}

8. To invite member states to provide humanitarian assistance and to seek and adopt protection measures and lasting solutions to the multiple problems besetting persons with international protection needs, which have been exacerbated by COVID-19, rendering them even more vulnerable.

xviii. Follow-up on recommendations of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that on June 10, 2020, in cooperation with Paraguay, the IACHR made available to the general public the Inter-American Recommendations Monitoring System (Inter-American SIMORE), an online application that collects the recommendations formulated by the IACHR through different mechanisms and thus establishes a channel for exchanging and receiving information on follow-up on recommendations in member states,

RESOLVES:

To take note of the importance of the Inter-American Recommendations Monitoring System (Inter-American SIMORE) of the IACHR for strengthening follow-up on recommendations to promote

16. The United States recalls that such measures should be consistent with States' human rights obligations and commitments, including with respect to freedom of expression.

human rights throughout the region, and to encourage all interested stakeholders to make use of this important tool.

xix. Human rights and prevention of discrimination and violence against LGBTI persons ^{17/18/19/}
^{20/21/22/23/24/25/}

RECOGNIZING the efforts made by member states in the fight against violence and discrimination against all groups in vulnerable situations, in accordance with their international human rights obligations and within the framework of development plans and public policies of each State;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that despite such efforts, lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex (LGBTI) persons continue to be subjected to violence and discrimination based on their sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, and sexual characteristics;

RECOGNIZING that trans persons, especially trans women, are in a situation of particular vulnerability as a result of the combination of various factors such as prejudice, exclusion, discrimination, and violence in public and private spheres;

CONSIDERING with special concern that violence against girls, boys, and adolescents manifests itself in both public and private contexts for various reasons, including as a consequence of discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity or expression;

TAKING NOTE that the specific human rights violations and abuses commonly suffered by intersex persons may involve, *inter alia*, irreversible sex assignment and genital modification surgeries without informed consent; non-consensual sterilization; excessive and/or coercive submission to medical examinations, photographs, and exposure of genitalia; lack of access to medical information and medical histories; delays in birth registration; and denial of services or health insurance;

TAKING NOTE ALSO of the work and contributions of the Office of the Rapporteur for the Rights of LGBTI Persons of the IACHR and, in particular, its reports “Violence against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Persons in the Americas” of November 2015 and “Advances and

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17. The Government of Jamaica reiterates its commitment to respecting and promoting human rights, and to protecting and upholding the human rights of all its citizens, including from any form of ...
 18. Trinidad and Tobago is unable to join the consensus on this section due to a conflict with existing domestic legislation. The Government of Trinidad and Tobago remains firmly committed to ...
 19. The Republic of Paraguay reiterates its commitment to the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the international conventions it has signed on the subject, and it reaffirms the ...
 20. The Government of Saint Lucia remains committed to its obligations under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and related international conventions to which Saint Lucia is signatory. ...
 21. See footnote 10.
 22. The Republic of Honduras declares its commitment to human rights and international conventions and, with respect to the provisions contained in this resolution, expresses its reservations regarding those ...
 23. The Government of Suriname remains committed to promote and defend the human rights and fundamental freedoms for all. In conformity with relevant stipulations of our Constitution and ...
 24. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is unable to join consensus on the approval of this section of the resolution. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines promotes and defends human rights and reaffirms the ...
 25. The Government of Barbados states that this section of the resolution contains a number of issues and terms which are neither reflected in its national laws nor the subject of national consensus ...

Challenges towards the Recognition of the Rights of LGBTI Persons in the Americas” of December 2018, as well as those of the Working Group to Examine the Periodic Reports of the States Parties to the Protocol of San Salvador (WGPSS) and of the Department of Social Inclusion of the Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity; and

REAFFIRMING the authority of member states to implement their national policies in accordance with the principles defined by their respective national constitutions in accordance with universally recognized international human rights law,

RESOLVES:

1. To condemn violations and abuses of human rights that involve discrimination, speech and manifestations of hatred, incitement and acts of violence motivated by prejudice against persons by reason of their sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or sexual characteristics that occur in the Hemisphere, in accordance with relevant international law, including, as applicable, the American Convention on Human Rights.

2. To urge member states to continue strengthening their institutions and public policies to eliminate the barriers faced by lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex (LGBTI) persons in the enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as to adopt measures focused on preventing, investigating, and punishing acts of violence and discrimination against persons based on their sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or sexual characteristics; and to ensure that victims of violence and discrimination have access to justice under conditions of equality.

3. To urge member states to take urgent measures to promote the full enjoyment of all the rights of LGBTI persons, including equality before the law, as well as to generate institutional mechanisms to support their families.

4. To urge member states to adopt measures that ensure effective protection for intersex persons and to implement policies and procedures, as appropriate, that guarantee that medical practices with respect to intersex persons respect human rights.

5. To instruct the Permanent Council to organize, with existing resources and in coordination with the Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity, a special meeting on “Human rights and prevention of discrimination and violence against LGBTI persons in the Americas,” with special attention to the situation of trans persons.

6. To request from the IACHR a follow-up report on “Violence against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Persons in the Americas” (2015) and that, in collaboration with other bodies and agencies, such as the Pan American Health Organization, it report on the situation of degrading medical practices, especially in relation to intersex people.

- xx. Strengthening of the Inter-American Commission of Women for the promotion of gender equity and equality and the human rights of women ^{26/27/28/}

RECALLING section xvi of resolution AG/RES. 2941 (XLIX-O/19), “Promotion and Protection of Human Rights,” the Declaration of Santo Domingo on Equality and Autonomy in the Exercise of Women’s Political Rights for the Strengthening of Democracy, the Declaration of Lima on Equality and Autonomy in the Exercise of Women’s Economic Rights, and resolution CP/RES. 1149/20 (2278/20), “Women’s Representation and Participation in the OAS”,

RESOLVES:

1. To support the efforts of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) to meet its objectives and discharge the functions described in its Strategic Plan and Triennial Program of Work by working to address topics of particular concern, especially: (i) promotion of greater representation of women in all their diversity, in accordance with national laws, in positions of leadership and decision-making processes, and in all spheres of life, especially political and economic life, including within the OAS; (ii) advancement and protection of the economic autonomy of all women, adolescents, and girls, particularly the formulation of recommendations and crafting of tools to address the global care emergency, which affects them disproportionately, and to achieve social co-responsibility in families, communities, business, and the State; (iii) design of comprehensive policies for prevention, assistance, and eradication of gender-based violence; (iv) strengthening of National Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women; (v) highlighting of vulnerability and empowerment of specific groups of women who face gender-based discrimination along with interconnected social, economic, and other conditions, including those that may result in vulnerability; and (vi) follow-up on the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women’s Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality (IAP), particularly with respect to gender mainstreaming in all OAS activities, as well as the work done by the Universal Civil Identity Program in the Americas (PUICA).

2. To request the CIM to continue advancing its efforts to analyze and address the disparate impacts on all women, adolescents, and girls who face gender-based discrimination along with interconnected social, economic, and other conditions, including those that may result in vulnerability, with a gender and human-rights perspective, and to generate knowledge, build capacities, and create opportunities for dialogue and the sharing of information and experience among States and other relevant actors, with a view to strengthening the response to the pandemic.

3. To reaffirm the importance of providing the CIM with economic resources, within the funds available in the Organization, to enable it to fulfill its mandates and to encourage member states, permanent observers, and other entities to make voluntary and specific contributions.

26. The Government of the Republic of Paraguay does not endorse the “Declaration of Santo Domingo on Equality and Autonomy in the Exercise of Women’s Political Rights for the Strengthening of ...

27. See footnote 10.

28. The Government of Saint Lucia supports all efforts aimed at the promotion of gender equity and equality, and the human rights of all women and girls, as well as the elimination of discrimination of ...

xxi. Strengthening the Mechanism to Follow Up on Implementation of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women (MESECVI) ^{29/30/31/32/}

RECALLING section xiv of resolution AG/RES. 2941 (XLIX-O/19), “Promotion and Protection of Human Rights”; the obligations under the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belém do Pará); the agreements resulting from the Conference of States Parties and the recommendations of the Committee of Experts, as organs of the Follow-up Mechanism to that Convention (MESECVI); the 2018-2023 Strategic Plan of the MESECVI, and other pertinent documents and mandates,

RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm its commitment to strengthening the Mechanism to Follow up on Implementation of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, “Convention of Belém do Pará” (MESECVI) and supporting the efforts of its Committee of Experts to follow up on the full implementation of the Convention of Belém do Pará by the States Parties; to facilitate the creation of tools and to bolster training processes and technical support to the States Parties and civil society, taking into account policies that offer the highest levels of protection for the human rights of women in all their diversity, consistent with national laws, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and its specific consequences for women, particularly those in situations of vulnerability.

2. To continue promoting, in the final phase of the MESECVI Third Multilateral Evaluation Round, the implementation of the relevant recommendations contained in national and hemispheric reports, taking note of the general declarations and recommendations of the MESECVI, as well as to continue compiling data; adapting national legal systems and public policies, taking model laws into account when deemed pertinent, for prevention and eradication of violence and all the multiple forms of gender-based discrimination against all women, along with interconnected social, economic, and other conditions, including those that may result in vulnerability; and seeking the allocation of adequate budgets for their implementation, taking available resources into account.

3. To provide care and ensure access to justice for women victims of violence, along with reparation of their rights, as appropriate, with particular attention to the diversity of women in the region, in keeping with national laws, with a gender-equality and human-rights approach.

4. To take note of the document “Violence against Women and the Measures to Contain the Spread of COVID-19” published by the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) and the MESECVI in July 2020 with a focus on Latin America and aimed at identifying the new challenges arising from the pandemic that have a differential impact on women and girls, new patterns of violence that have emerged, and States’ efforts to combat them; and to urge States to prioritize prevention and

29. The United States cannot associate itself with this section of the resolution because the United States is not a party to the Convention of Belém do Pará. Nevertheless, the United States remains strongly ...

30. See footnote 25.

31. See footnote 10.

32. The Government of Saint Lucia supports all efforts aimed at the prevention, punishment and eradication of violence against women. Saint Lucia is committed to its obligations to the ...

the response to gender-based violence, as well as equal participation for women in decision-making on all COVID-19-related actions, particularly in the post-pandemic context.

5. To instruct the CIM and the MESECVI to continue analyzing the specific impacts that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on women and girls; that is, to identify the new challenges arising from the pandemic that have a differential impact on women and girls, new patterns of violence that have emerged, member states' efforts to combat them, and participation for women in decision-making on all COVID-19-related actions, with a specific focus on Caribbean member states.

6. To encourage member states, permanent observers, and other entities to make voluntary and specific contributions, as established by the States Parties in the MESECVI Statute; and to reiterate the importance of ensuring that the Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI has sufficient human, technical, and financial resources, within the funds available in the Organization, to function optimally in pursuit of the permanent mandates of the MESECVI.

xxii. Follow-up on the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and on the Plan of Action on the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2017–2021)

BEARING IN MIND the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Plan of Action on the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2017–2021); resolution AG/RES. 2898 (XLVII-O/17), “2019, International Year of Indigenous Languages”; and resolution AG/RES. 2934 (XLIX-O/19), “Effective Participation of Indigenous Peoples and People of African Descent in Organization of American States Activities”;

HIGHLIGHTING resolution 74/135 adopted on December 18, 2019, by the United Nations General Assembly, which proclaims the period 2022-2032 as the International Decade of Indigenous Languages, to draw attention to the critical loss of indigenous languages and the urgent need to preserve, revitalize, and promote indigenous languages and to take urgent steps at the national and international levels, and invites the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to serve as the lead agency for the International Decade, in collaboration with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the UN Secretariat, and other relevant agencies, within existing resources, for which purpose the High-Level Event “Making a decade of action for indigenous languages” was held in Mexico City on February 27 and 28, 2020, with the participation of, *inter alia*, indigenous representatives from various parts of the world, the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, and UNESCO, and which issued the Los Pinos Declaration [Chapoltepek] – Making a Decade of Action for Indigenous Languages, which includes the key principles, strategic directions, thematic considerations, and implementation guidelines;

APPLAUDING the holding of the Second and Third Inter-American Weeks for Indigenous Peoples in the Americas and of a joint special meeting of the Permanent Council and the Inter-American Council for Integral Development to commemorate the International Year of Indigenous Languages further to resolution AG/RES. 2898 (XLVII-O/17), “2019, International Year of Indigenous Languages” and the Plan of Action on the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2017–2021); and

APPLAUDING ALSO the holding of the Regional Congress on Indigenous Languages for Latin America and the Caribbean in Cusco, Peru, from September 25 to 27, 2019,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge member states, the General Secretariat, and the institutions of the OAS to take all necessary steps to implement the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Plan of Action on the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2017-2021).

2. To urge member states and permanent observers to contribute to the Voluntary Contributions Specific Fund to support implementation of the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Plan of Action on the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2017-2021)

3. To continue to entrust the General Secretariat with organizing a meeting of high-level authorities of member states responsible for policies on indigenous peoples, with broad and effective participation by representatives of the indigenous peoples of the Americas and other international and regional agencies; to promote opportunities for dialogue on challenges in connection with the rights of indigenous peoples; and to consider options for the mandate, format, and costs of the potential mechanism for institutional follow-up on the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, as envisaged in its Plan of Action (2017-2021).

4. To reiterate the importance of coordination and cooperation among member states in order to continue supporting the holding of activities to mark Inter-American Week for Indigenous Peoples in the Americas.

5. To promote the highest possible level of protection for the rights of indigenous peoples in the region, including the individual and collective right to the enjoyment of physical and mental health, as well as to ensure access, without discrimination, to all services, including health care. Likewise, to promote actions so that inclusive rights-focused responses to COVID-19 respect and protect the rights of indigenous peoples.

6. To promote and protect, within the framework of member states' international human rights obligations, the rights of indigenous peoples against organized-crime actions that could worsen their vulnerability, particularly in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.^{33/34/35/}

xxiii. Observations and recommendations on the 2019 annual reports of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and Inter-American Court of Human Rights^{36/}

RECOGNIZING the work of the IACHR and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in fulfilling their functions in response to alleged human rights violations,

33. Mexico, as the proponent of the section "Follow-up on the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and on the Plan of Action of the American Declaration on the Rights of ...

34. El Salvador as a country has been characterized by its steadfast commitment to human rights and other basic principles for global coexistence, as set forth in the United Nations Charter and a variety of ...

35. The United States recalls the distinction between human rights, the beneficiaries of which are individuals, and collective rights, the beneficiaries of which are peoples. The United States further ...

36. Reservation of Nicaragua regarding IACHR Annual Report, Chapter IV.B. "Nicaragua has been internationally recognized for its vocation for peace and for being the safest country in the region, ...

RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm the commitment of the member states to the inter-American human rights system.
2. To encourage those member states that have not yet done so to consider signing, ratifying, or acceding to all the inter-American human rights instruments, particularly the American Convention on Human Rights.
3. To reaffirm the importance that the IACHR and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights have sufficient economic resources, taking into account available OAS resources, to carry out their mandates.

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, the plan of activities that it will carry out in the 2020-2021 period, for consultation or proper oversight by member states.
2. To request the Permanent Council to instruct the CAJP to include in its agenda the following matter covered by this resolution, prior to the fifty-first regular session of the General Assembly, with a view to promoting exchanges of experience and best practices:

“Autonomous official public defenders as a safeguard for the human rights of all, without discrimination, especially indigenous peoples.” The holding in the first quarter of 2021, of a ninth special meeting of the CAJP on good practices employed by each official public defender institution in the region for ensuring access to justice for indigenous peoples in defense of human rights, to be attended by the member states and their respective official public defender institutions that provide legal assistance, members of the Inter-American Association of Public Defender Offices (AIDEF), and experts from the academic community, civil society, and international organizations. Attendance by members of the AIDEF will be guaranteed by that organization.
3. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-first 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. ... Rights and related international conventions to which Saint Lucia is a signatory. Moreover, the Government of Saint Lucia is guided by the provisions of its Constitution, which promotes and protects the human rights, non-discrimination, and fundamental freedoms of all persons, and the preservation of the rule of law. All persons are provided the same level of protection in accordance with the constitution of Saint Lucia.

The Government of Saint Lucia places reservations on all provisions of this resolution that are contrary to its domestic law and those that its domestic laws do not address and will not be bound by any provisions within said provisions.

2. ... Republic of Venezuela properly notified the Secretary General of its denunciation of the Charter in accordance with Article 143 of the Charter of the Organization of American States, and the Charter ceased to be in force with respect to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, which ceased to belong to the Organization on April 27, 2019.

Antigua and Barbuda did not support resolution CP/RES. 1124 (2217/19) of April 9, 2019, which sought to appoint Mr. Gustavo Tarre as the National Assembly's representative to the OAS, and it did not accept the credentials of the officials intending to represent the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela at the forty-ninth and fiftieth regular sessions of the General Assembly.

Therefore, Antigua and Barbuda notifies all member states and the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States, as it did at the forty-ninth regular session of the General Assembly, that until further notice it will not consider itself bound by any declaration or resolution of the fiftieth regular session of the General Assembly or any future declarations or resolutions of any council or organ of the Organization that includes the participation of any person or entity purporting to speak for or act on behalf of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and in which 18 votes are attained with the participation of a purported representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

4. ... highest level of health," the "rights and preservation of health," and "the right to health." The United States further understands that OAS General Assembly resolutions do not change the current state of conventional or customary international law. In that respect, the United States notes that international human rights law sets forth the conditions for permissible restrictions on certain human rights, including conformity with law and necessity in a democratic society for, *inter alia*, the protection of public health.

5. ... To the extent that such rights can be found in the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man and/or the American Convention on Human Rights, the United States notes that the American Declaration is a non-binding instrument, and that the United States is not party to the American Convention. The United States further understands that OAS General Assembly resolutions do not change the current state of conventional or customary international law.

6. ... progressive realization of economic, social, and cultural rights. Moreover, the United States does not believe that a State's obligation to respect the right to life by law would extend to addressing general conditions in society or nature that may eventually threaten life or prevent individuals from enjoying the highest attainable standard of health. Further, the United States does not recognize a free-standing "right to food," or "right to housing." As set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, food and housing are components of the right to an adequate standard of living. Moreover, as noted in the Constitution of the World Health Organization, there is a "right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health," but not simply a "right to health."

7. ... The United States notes that the obligations articulated in this section apply only to States that have undertaken these obligations as parties to either convention, and that this resolution does not create any new rights or obligations.

8. ... right to a healthy environment, as provided in Article 11 of that treaty.

9. ... the American Convention on Human Rights.

Article 75 of the Political Constitution of Costa Rica recognizes the duty of the State to allow every person to exercise the religion of their choice but does not say that the State must provide religious education to all students; nor does this obligation derive from the provisions of international conventions. To be sure, international conventions recognize the right of parents or guardians to have their children or the persons under their guardianship receive a religious or moral education in accordance with their own convictions. However, those conventions do not give rise to a right vis-à-vis the State that would require it to provide all students with a religious education or, more precisely, an education in the religion of their choice. Currently the Ministry of Public Education of Costa Rica provides religious education in schools, but with the adoption of this resolution it would not consider itself obligated to provide a religious education –in accordance with the faith concerned– to all students who profess a religion.

10. ... categorically subordinated to the principle of non-discrimination or to the best interests of the child, as applicable.

11. ... Political Constitution of the Republic, and that it does not discriminate for any reason. It also believes that the legal non-recognition of same-sex unions or the reasoned refusal to modify the institution of marriage in its legislation do not constitute an illicitly discriminatory practice.

Likewise, we recognize the right of all persons to enjoy fundamental liberties, without requiring any alteration to the anthropological bases that are the foundation for our legal system as a whole. Accordingly, Guatemala disassociates itself from all those incompatible parts that contravene its domestic law and reserves the right to interpret the terms contained in sections xii, xix, xx, and xxi.

12. ... freedom of expression.

13. ... they cannot afford one. Appointed counsel may be part of a public defender organization or, in some cases, may be private counsel.

14. ... Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazú Agreement), which was opened for signature in New York City on September 27, 2018.

17. ... violence, in accordance with the Jamaican Constitution. Jamaica expresses its reservation regarding certain terms used in the resolution including “gender identity” and “gender expression” which are not defined in Jamaican law.

18. ... the promotion and 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.

19. ... provisions of Title II, “Rights, Duties and Guarantees,” Chapter III, “Equality,” and Chapter IV, “The Rights of the Family,” of its Constitution and related provisions. It therefore expresses its reservation regarding the text of section xix, “Human rights and prevention of discrimination and violence against LGBTI persons.” Similarly, the reference to “gender identity or expression” contained in the paragraphs of this resolution shall be interpreted in accordance with its domestic law.

20. ... The Government is guided by the provision of its Constitution which promotes and protects the human rights, non-discrimination, and fundamental freedoms of all persons.

Saint Lucia maintains that each and every citizen is entitled to protection against violence and arbitrary discrimination equally in keeping with our belief in the intrinsic dignity of the human person. We will continue to apply these principles in the application of all laws and policies. Saint Lucia is committed to the protection of the family, as a fundamental cell unit of society and in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Promotion of gender equity and equality, and the human rights of women and girls, as well as the elimination of discrimination of all forms of violence against them remains our priority.

Saint Lucia's reservation on this section is therefore premised on the understanding that our national laws will continue to be applied to protect the rights and freedoms of all citizens to the extent that each is equally entitled. The Government of Saint Lucia will as a result not be bound by any provisions within said section.

22. ... articles that are contrary to the Constitution of the Republic of Honduras.

23. ... national laws and based on the principle of equality, all who are within the territory of Suriname have an equal claim to protection of person and property and does not discriminate on the grounds of birth, sex, race, language, religious origin, political beliefs, economic position or any other status.

In light of the characteristics of our multi-cultural society and to ensuring our exemplary social cohesion, some aspects pertaining to sexual orientation and gender identity require further consultations at the national level, involving all sectors of our society, including the civil society. While significant progress has been recorded and since a broad-based consensus has not been reached on the many principles expressed in Section xix of this Resolution, the national process of consultations is still an ongoing one at the national level.

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 the inter-governmentally agreed human rights and fundamental freedoms, as enshrined in the various international and regional human rights instruments.

24. ... 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 or 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.

25. ... 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.

26. ... Democracy" adopted at the thirty-eighth Assembly of Delegates of the Inter-American Commission of Women on May 8, 2019, because it does not align with the provisions of its Constitution and other concordant provisions of law. Paraguay will implement this section and section xxi in accordance with its current law, rejecting those definitions or terms that are in conflict with its legislation.

28. ... all forms of violence against them.

The term “women in all their diversity”, as used in the context of Section xx, is not in keeping with the laws of Saint Lucia. We also note that while the justification for its use in this year’s resolution is claimed to be due to its reference in the resolution - Promotion and Protection of Human Rights of 2019, this terminology does not appear in the English versions of the 2019 resolution and there are questions about the exact language negotiated in 2019. The Government of Saint Lucia is extremely concerned about the variations of terminology found in the different languages of the resolution of 2019, which may or may not reflect the negotiated agreement.

For the reasons presented above, the Government of Saint Lucia enters its reservation on this section. Furthermore, the Government of Saint Lucia insists that any work undertaken by the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) acknowledges and reflects the national laws of respective member states.

The Government of Saint Lucia will continue to work tirelessly to promote gender equality and empowerment of women and girls, as defined by its national laws.

29. ... committed to preventing, punishing and eradicating violence against women and in particular prosecuting its perpetrators. Moreover, the United States believes the term “sexual and reproductive health” is open to many interpretations and therefore the United States does not associate itself with this section. The United States supports policies that promote respect for the human rights of all persons, without discrimination.

32. ... Convention of Convention of Belém do Pará and supports efforts undertaken by the Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI) for its implementation.

However, the term “women in all their diversity”, as used in the context of Section xxi, is not in keeping with the laws of Saint Lucia and is beyond the scope of the Convention of Belém do Pará. We reject any efforts to ascribe intent to the convention. We also note that while the justification for its use in this year’s resolution is claimed to be due to its reference in the resolution - Promotion and Protection of Human Rights of 2019, this terminology does not appear in the English versions of the 2019 resolution and there are questions about the exact language negotiated in 2019. The Government of Saint Lucia is extremely concerned about the variations of terminology found in the different languages of the resolution of 2019, which may or may not reflect the negotiated agreement.

For the reasons presented above, the Government of Saint Lucia enters its reservation on this section and will continue to work tirelessly to meet its obligations to the referenced Convention. Furthermore, the Government of Saint Lucia insists that any work undertaken by the CIM and MESECVI acknowledges and reflects the national laws of respective member states.

33. ... Indigenous Peoples (2017-2021),” reiterates its commitment to promotion and protection of the collective and individual human rights of indigenous peoples based on a relationship of respect and interculturalism while recognizing that indigenous peoples have the right to self-determination and that, by virtue of that right, they have the freedom to determine their political status and to pursue their economic, social and cultural development, as established in the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and other international instruments in that regard. Mexico dissociates itself from this paragraph because it considers that it contains elements that are alien to the section under consideration, namely, follow-up on the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and its Plan of Action (adopted in 2017 by resolution AG/RES. 2913 (XLVII-O/17), which have their own specific space in which to be addressed in this Organization.

34. ... international instruments to which it is a state party – principles that reflect a commitment to eradicating situations of exclusion and social disadvantage that population groups, including indigenous peoples, have suffered throughout the course of history. Based on the framework for follow-up to the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Plan of Action on the American Declaration on the Rights of

Indigenous Peoples (2017-2021), El Salvador is of the view that issues related to crime should not be included among the contents of this resolution and that due to their complexity, these issues should be addressed in other, more appropriate forums within the OAS, for which reason El Salvador dissociates itself from this paragraph.

35. ... recalls that, with limited exceptions not relevant here, the international human rights obligations of States do not extend to the conduct of private actors. The United States underscores our persistent objections to the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples initially placed 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, the United States reiterates its 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.

36. ... the one that has most rapidly reduced poverty and inequality, the one with the greatest access to health and quality education, the one with the highest average multi-year growth, and one of the five countries with the highest gender parity in the world.

With regard to gender equality, the UN Women Report of October 4, 2019, published a list of the 10 countries with the best gender balance in the world, on which Nicaragua ranked third.

In 2007, Nicaragua ranked 90th in the gender gap index. In 2018 and 2019, it ranked fifth in the world after the Nordic countries in the same index.

With those results, Nicaragua is ahead of all European, developed, Central American, and Caribbean countries, with the exception of the Nordic countries.

Nicaragua is a country that loves peace and security and respects the principles of international law and the right of every nation to resolve its internal affairs without external interference of any kind.

With regard to the annual report of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, it insists on maintaining double standards in its treatment of human rights in the region, which undermines its impartiality and credibility.

In relation to Nicaragua, its approach continues to be far removed from reality, with a one-sided and biased vision, inasmuch as it minimizes the criminal actions of the terrorist groups that sow fear in the civilian population, whose actions, which the IACHR describes as supposed “peaceful protests,” were aimed at breaking the constitutional order.

They repeat without verification fake news against the State of Nicaragua, making irresponsible and careless accusations without any evidence, despite the objective clarification reports that the State has consistently provided to the IACHR.

AG/RES. 2962 (L-O/20)

RESTORING DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN
NICARAGUA THROUGH FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS^{1/2/3/4/5/}

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on October 21, 2020)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING resolution AG/RES. 2943 (XLIX-O/19), “The Situation in Nicaragua,” of the OAS General Assembly in which member states reiterated “the concern of the inter-American community over the deterioration of democratic institutions and human rights in Nicaragua and [their] support for a peaceful solution to the political crisis that has been affecting this country for more than a year”;

REAFFIRMING Article 1 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, according to which “the peoples of the Americas have a right to democracy and their governments have an obligation to promote and defend it”;

RECALLING that Article 2 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter states: “The effective exercise of representative democracy is the basis for the rule of law and of the constitutional regimes of the member states of the Organization of American States”;

CONSIDERING Articles 3 to 6 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, which name essential elements of representative democracy that States commit to promote and defend, including respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, access to and the exercise of power in accordance with the rule of law, the holding of periodic, free and fair elections based on secret balloting and universal suffrage as an expression of the sovereignty of the people, the pluralistic system of political parties and organizations, the separation of powers and independence of the branches of government, and which reflect that freedom of expression and of the press is an essential component of the exercise of democracy;

REITERATING WITH CONCERN that the Government of Nicaragua has not implemented a series of agreed-upon measures, such as the duly monitored and verified release of all political prisoners; it has not allowed the effective work of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights

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1. The delegation of the Government of Reconciliation and National Unity wishes to reiterate the terms articulated in its footnote reflected in Chapter III of the Agenda for the Fiftieth Regular Session of ...
 2. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is unable to join with the majority on the approval of this resolution. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines adheres to the fundamental principles of respect for the ...
 3. Antigua and Barbuda considers that the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is not a member state of the Organization of American States since, on April 27, 2017, the Government of the Bolivarian ...
 4. The Government of The Commonwealth of Dominica reiterates its reservation placed on record during the Forty-Ninth Regular Session of the General Assembly and renews those reservations to be ...
 5. Mexico reiterates the position articulated in its statement during the report of the Secretary General on Credentials at the plenary session of the fiftieth regular session of the General Assembly.

(IACHR) and its mechanisms in Nicaragua, including the MESENI; and it has not guaranteed freedom of expression, including for the press, or the exercise of the right to peaceful assembly;

EXPRESSING GRAVE CONCERN that arbitrary detention has not ceased; that auxiliary police forces and armed militia of the ruling party, which have continued their abuses and illegal actions, have not been dismantled, as called for by the IACHR; that the independent work of human rights organizations and defenders has not been protected; and that the safe return and permanence of all persons who were forced to leave Nicaragua has not been permitted;

NOTING WITH ALARM the worrisome trend of utilizing legislation to intimidate and/or threaten members of pro-democracy groups and independent media in Nicaragua, such as the introduction of the “foreign agents law,” another proposing life sentences for broadly defined “hate crimes,” and a third punishing the spread of so-called fake news on social media with up to four years in prison. These bills, according to the IACHR, undermine the exercise of social protest and freedom of expression, as well as the right to participate in public affairs and the right of association;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that resolution CJI/RES. 159 (LXXV-O/09) of the Inter-American Juridical Committee stated that “democracy does not consist only in electoral processes, but also in the legitimate exercise of power, within the framework of the rule of law, which includes respect for the essential elements, components and attributes of democracy”;

WELCOMING the efforts of the Permanent Council Working Group on Nicaragua and of the OAS High-Level Commission on Nicaragua, and expressing concern at the refusal of the Government of Nicaragua to engage with those mechanisms; and

TAKING NOTE of the conclusions of the report presented by the OAS Secretary General to the Permanent Council on June 24, 2020 (CP/INF.8682/20),

RESOLVES:

1. To reiterate the concern of the inter-American community over the deterioration of democratic institutions, and to urge the Government of Nicaragua to respect fully the constitutional order, human rights, and fundamental freedoms, and to hold free and fair national, presidential, and legislative elections in Nicaragua, in fulfillment of its fundamental commitments and duties as articulated in the Inter-American Democratic Charter.

2. To urge the Government of Nicaragua to accept the broad and effective deployment of electoral observation missions comprising independent, accredited international observers in the Nicaraguan electoral process.

3. To request the General Secretariat to support inclusive and timely negotiations between the Government of Nicaragua and national actors representing the Nicaraguan opposition on meaningful electoral reform measures consistent with applicable international standards, and that it provide technical assistance in their implementation, so as to promote free and fair elections. It is essential/critical that these measures include, among others:

- a. modernization and restructuring of the Supreme Electoral Council to ensure it operates in a fully independent, transparent, and accountable fashion;
- b. a pluralistic political process leading to the effective exercise of civil and political rights, including the rights of peaceful assembly and freedom of expression, and open registration of new political parties;
- c. independent technical review and updating of voting registries and independent audit of voter rolls;
- d. independent, credible, and accredited international electoral observation;
- e. transparent and effective voter registration, ID card distribution, and voting center management;
- f. transparent counting and consolidation of results, and real-time publishing of results; and
- g. adequate procedures for lodging complaints about election conduct and results, and procedures for resolving them.

4. To urge that concrete electoral reform commitments, in particular modernization and restructuring of the Supreme Electoral Council, be in place before the State convokes general elections, or no later than May 2021.

5. To request the General Secretariat to report, on a regular basis, on the state of agreements and timetables for the implementation of electoral reforms, leading to free, fair, competitive, observed, and legitimate elections.

FOOTNOTES

1. ... the General Assembly and rejects both the convocation of the item on Nicaragua and the resolution that has been presented, which the Government of Nicaragua neither requested nor authorized.

We declare this interventionist resolution by this body as lacking the approval of the sovereign Government of Nicaragua and as unacceptable and inadmissible and we therefore reject it.

It has no binding effect on the Government of Nicaragua; but to the contrary, it violates the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, the essential foundations and the Nature and Purposes of the OAS Charter, and the principles of international law relating to the sovereign equality of states, noninterference in matters that are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of states, and the right to self-determination.

We must remember that the Inter-American Democratic Charter is a lower-level instrument that is subject to the provisions of the OAS Charter and hence does not repeal or replace this Organization's founding principles; neither is it a *carte blanche* to promote interference in the internal and external affairs of states, much less license to violate states' sovereignty and independence and flagrantly violate the inter-American legal order and undermine regional peace and security. Any such exercise is an absolutely illegal move, which Nicaragua rejects because it is unacceptable.

The OAS Charter is itself subject to the United Nations Charter, which is the founding charter of the international legal system. Besides, the UN Charter is based on unconditional respect for the sovereignty, independence, and self-determination of peoples and on the principle of non-intervention as well.

Under the regional Organization's Charter, as well as under the UN Charter and based on the fundamental principles of international law, the OAS General Assembly must reject this outrageous proposed resolution, which Nicaragua will not accept under any circumstances because, if adopted, it would constitute an international illegal act, and states that vote in favor would be engaging in that international illicit act and, therefore, also bear international liability.

As stipulated in the OAS Charter, no state or group of states has a right to intervene, directly or indirectly, for any reason whatever, in the internal or external affairs of any other state. The foregoing principle prohibits not only armed force but also any other form of interference or attempted threat against the personality of the state or against its political, economic, and cultural elements.

Nicaragua is nobody's colony and therefore takes dictates neither from imperialist governments nor from organizations subordinated to them, regarding its internal affairs, which are the exclusive prerogative of Nicaraguan citizens and the political parties that enjoy legal personality and representation in the National Assembly.

This new aggression through diplomatic lynching is a violation of national sovereignty and an assault on its institutions, the Constitution of the Republic, its laws, democratic governance, peace, security, and stability of the Nicaraguan nation.

Nicaragua is a sovereign Republic that boasts a representative and participatory democracy far exceeding the conventional standards of the classic concept of democracy.

We reaffirm the principle that no state may apply or encourage coercive measures of an economic and political nature to force the sovereign will of another state and obtain benefits of any kind from that state.

Nicaragua insists on and demands respect for its sovereignty from the interfering nations that are members of this Permanent Council and are subordinates of the Government of the United States. Their actions are a plot to destabilize and attack Nicaragua.

They use arguments to continue promoting meetings within the OAS, in order to discredit the Government of Nicaragua, its institutions, authorities, and its social projects in national and international public opinion. The people of Nicaragua are already well aware of what countries these are; they already know who the traitors, the Judases, and the Cains are, who threaten peace and security in our country; and they know what interests they are serving, who is financing them, and what objectives they are pursuing.

The Nicaraguan people and the international community know this fact and will not be fooled by these people.

We declare as totally unacceptable – and condemn – the unfriendly action by a group of member states of this Organization that, for reasons of political survival, endorse the State Department’s guidelines and end up aligning themselves with the policy of aggression and blackmail that the US administration is unleashing against the Nicaraguan, Venezuelan, and Cuban peoples.

The erosion of the Organization of American States’ institutional framework and autonomy is more than evident and will further aggravate the contagion of division that American power is promoting among sister nations in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The systematic fragmenting of this Organization – which is being destroyed by its single-issue agenda – will continue as long as the US administration and its allies continue their relentless aggression to keep interfering in the internal affairs of Nicaragua and Venezuela; trampling on their sovereignty; applying so-called unilateral sanctions that are nothing but aggressions; imposing coercive measures; the economic blockade; sabotage of the economies of our countries; and as long as they keep applying double standards in dealing with human rights, all because these countries have not surrendered to the Washington Consensus.

Global and regional multilateralism is under attack and faces huge existential challenges, threats, and pitfalls. Dialogue, negotiation, good offices, and the peaceful resolution of international disputes are being trampled upon and called into question in international organizations and the OAS alike, and have been replaced by coercion, threats of the use of force, blackmail, intransigence, political revenge, arbitrary and non-transparent actions, wars of aggression, and destabilization targeting certain states, which are the victims of a media war of disinformation and distortion of the reality they are experiencing as nations.

Nicaragua expresses its solidarity with the CARICOM member states, which are also being attacked and are victims of unilateral, arbitrary, and non-transparent European Union strategies to blacklist them.

Attempting to use small countries like Nicaragua, to divert the focus of pressure, because of their citizens’ complaints about the health, economic, political, and social disaster to which they are subjected by the countries that co-sponsor this illegal proposition, is immoral, vindictive, and Machiavellian; and only reflects their lack of human feelings.

We insist that instead of promoting aggressive actions and measures that threaten peace, sovereignty, and the right of the governments of Nicaragua and Venezuela to self-determination, the deliberations at the fiftieth regular session of the OAS General Assembly should be focused primarily on sharing experiences and best practices in health security; promoting solidarity among the states of the region to tackle this global pandemic; and concerns over food security, employment, containment of the economic downturn in our countries, fighting poverty, climate change, and the consequences of natural disasters.

The delegation of the Government of Reconciliation and National Unity once again respectfully calls on the member states of the OAS to refrain from their attacks on national sovereignty and to stop meddling in the internal affairs of the Nicaraguan nation and not to incite violence or violation of the Constitution and the Laws; and to respect the will of the Nicaraguan people, who demand to be left to live in peace, security, and harmony so they can press on with renewed energy to work hard toward progress, well-being, health, and socio-economic development for their country.

2. ... sovereignty of states, the non-intervention in the internal affairs of states and the peaceful settlement of disputes as provided for in the Charter of the Organization of American States in Article 1, which states, ‘the Organization of American States has no powers other than those expressly conferred upon it by this Charter, none of whose provisions authorizes it to intervene in matters that are within the internal jurisdiction of the member states,’ and in the Charter of the United Nations. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines notes the local political dynamics and other ongoing processes in Nicaragua and does not support the intervention of the Organization of American States in matters which are ‘within the domestic jurisdiction’ of the Republic of Nicaragua.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines reminds that the facilitative role of the OAS must be premised on recognition of the above principles in order for peace, stability and the overall well-being of all Nicaraguans to be assured. Current actions by the OAS run counter to the above principles.

3. ... Republic of Venezuela properly notified the Secretary General of its denunciation of the Charter in accordance with Article 143 of the Charter of the Organization of American States, and the Charter ceased to be in force with respect to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, which ceased to belong to the Organization on April 27, 2019.

Antigua and Barbuda did not support resolution CP/RES. 1124 (2217/19) of April 9, 2019, which sought to appoint Mr. Gustavo Tarre as the National Assembly’s representative to the OAS, and it did not accept the credentials of the officials intending to represent the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela at the forty-ninth and fiftieth regular sessions of the General Assembly.

Therefore, Antigua and Barbuda notifies all member states and the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States, as it did at the forty-ninth regular session of the General Assembly, that until further notice it will not consider itself bound by any declaration or resolution of the fiftieth regular session of the General Assembly or any future declarations or resolutions of any council or organ of the Organization that includes the participation of any person or entity purporting to speak for or act on behalf of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and in which 18 votes are attained with the participation of a purported representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

4. ... placed on record regarding the participation and voting by the purported representative(s) of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on any resolutions, declarations, elections considered by the Fiftieth Regular Session of the General Assembly and any other body of the Organization of American States (OAS).

The Government of The Commonwealth of Dominica also renews its position to be placed on record that in keeping with Article 143 of the Charter of the OAS which provides, *inter alia*, that the denunciation by a Member State shall come into effect two (2) years from the date on which the General Secretariat receives a notice of denunciation, the present Charter shall cease to be in force with respect to the denouncing State, which shall cease to belong to the Organization; that the denouncing State shall be without rights and duties and shall be unattached from all actions and decisions of the Organization; that Venezuela is no longer a Member State of the OAS and therefore not entitled to have a seat at the OAS. The Government of The Commonwealth of Dominica therefore does not recognize any person who occupies the seat of Venezuela who is not a person duly appointed by the Government of the State of Venezuela.

The Government of The Commonwealth of Dominica reserves its full rights to recognize the resolutions and declarations adopted by the Fiftieth Regular Session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States and any resolution and declaration approved thereafter with participation by the purported representatives of Venezuela.

AG/RES. 2963 (L-O/20)

THE LACK OF MINIMUM DEMOCRATIC CONDITIONS TO GUARANTEE FREE, FAIR,
AND TRANSPARENT ELECTIONS IN THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA^{1/2/3/4/5/}

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on October 21, 2020)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING the Inter-American Democratic Charter, resolution AG/RES. 2944 (XLIX-O/19), and Permanent Council resolutions CP/RES. 1156 (2291/20), CP/RES. 1143 (2269/20), and CP/RES. 1117 (2200/19);

HIGHLIGHTING the continuing deterioration of political, social, economic, and humanitarian conditions in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, exacerbated by the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic;

AFFIRMING its profound concern at and rejection of the maneuvers to secure control by the illegitimate regime of Nicolás Maduro, which has captured essential democratic institutions, undermining the separation of powers and independence of the branches of government, in gross violation of the Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the Inter-American Democratic Charter;

BEARING IN MIND that the National Assembly of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela continues to be the only legitimate and democratically elected institution in Venezuela; and,

EXPRESSING, with grave concern, that the actions carried out by Nicolás Maduro's illegitimate regime violate national laws, undermining the electoral process and threatening to eliminate the legitimate National Assembly, the last democratic and institutional venue through which the demands of Venezuelan society can be channeled and find a voice,

RESOLVES:

1. To condemn, in the strongest possible terms, the actions of the illegitimate regime of Nicolás Maduro that undermine the democratic system and the separation of powers through the control of the Supreme Court of Justice and by usurping the constitutional functions of the National Assembly

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1. Antigua and Barbuda considers that the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is not a member state of the Organization of American States since, on April 27, 2017, the Government of the Bolivarian ...
 2. The Government of The Commonwealth of Dominica reiterates its reservation placed on record during the Forty-Ninth Regular Session of the General Assembly and renews those reservations to be ...
 3. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is unable to join with the majority on the approval of this resolution and places on record its reservation. In 2017, the duly elected Government of the Bolivarian ...
 4. The Government of the Republic of Nicaragua rejects and condemns the inclusion of the item "The situation in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela" in Section III of the Agenda of the General ...
 5. Mexico reiterates the position articulated in its statement during the report of the Secretary General on Credentials at the plenary session of the fiftieth regular session of the General Assembly.

to, *inter alia*, legislate on electoral matters and appoint the members of the National Electoral Council. This clearly compromises the minimum conditions for guaranteeing the organization of democratic electoral processes in keeping with international standards.

2. To declare that its recognition of the elections to the National Assembly of Venezuela will depend on the existence of the necessary conditions of freedom, justice, impartiality, and transparency, with guarantees for the participation of all political actors and citizens and the release of political prisoners, under reasonable deadlines for their organization, and with independent and credible international electoral observation.

3. To welcome the publication, on September 16, 2020, of the report of the United Nations Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, and to reaffirm the importance of the immediate and complete implementation of the recommendations contained therein, including the investigation of human rights violations and the cessation of the use of excessive force, extrajudicial executions, forced disappearances, arbitrary detention, and torture.

4. To make an unhesitating call for the members of the legitimate National Assembly to receive protection, and to demand the prompt release of all political prisoners and the closure of their judicial processes, an end to arbitrary arrests, detentions, and harassment of citizens, and that permission be given for the safe return of those members of the opposition who are in exile.

5. To demand full and unhindered access to allow the delivery of humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable and crisis-affected populations in Venezuela, in accordance with established humanitarian principles.

6. To reject interference in the functioning of political parties by the illegitimate Maduro regime, which seeks to undermine the independence and plurality of political parties and organizations, which are essential elements of representative democracy, as established by Article 3 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter.

7. To urge the calling, as promptly as possible, of free, fair, transparent, and legitimate presidential elections, with independent and credible international observers, to lead to the appointment of a democratically elected government in accordance with the will of the Venezuelan people.

8. To reaffirm the legitimacy of the democratically elected National Assembly, as well as to strengthen support for democratic actors in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in their efforts toward the peaceful restoration of democracy, in accordance with the Constitution of Venezuela.

9. To request that the Secretary General present periodic reports on the situation in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and on compliance with this resolution and other resolutions on the subject to the Permanent Council, with the pertinent recommendations.

10. To request the good offices of the Secretary General in coordinating with the relevant international organizations in order to formulate recommendations for member states on possible actions and initiatives in support of the efforts of the Venezuelan people toward the restoration of democracy in Venezuela.

11. To reiterate the member states' acceptance of the Permanent Representative to the Organization of American States appointed by the Venezuelan National Assembly, until the holding of new free and fair presidential elections that lead to the appointment of a democratically elected government, as established in resolution AG/RES. 2944 (XLIX-O/19).^{6/}

6. The Dominican Republic does not support the consensus on operative paragraph 11 of this resolution, owing to reservations about its application over time.

FOOTNOTES

1. ... Republic of Venezuela properly notified the Secretary General of its denunciation of the Charter in accordance with Article 143 of the Charter of the Organization of American States, and the Charter ceased to be in force with respect to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, which ceased to belong to the Organization on April 27, 2019.

Antigua and Barbuda did not support resolution CP/RES. 1124 (2217/19) of April 9, 2019, which sought to appoint Mr. Gustavo Tarre as the National Assembly's representative to the OAS, and it did not accept the credentials of the officials intending to represent the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela at the forty-ninth and fiftieth regular sessions of the General Assembly.

Therefore, Antigua and Barbuda notifies all member states and the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States, as it did at the forty-ninth regular session of the General Assembly, that until further notice it will not consider itself bound by any declaration or resolution of the fiftieth regular session of the General Assembly or any future declarations or resolutions of any council or organ of the Organization that includes the participation of any person or entity purporting to speak for or act on behalf of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and in which 18 votes are attained with the participation of a purported representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

2. ... placed on record regarding the participation and voting by the purported representative(s) of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on any resolutions, declarations, elections considered by the Fiftieth Regular Session of the General Assembly and any other body of the Organization of American States (OAS).

The Government of The Commonwealth of Dominica also renews its position to be placed on record that in keeping with Article 143 of the Charter of the OAS which provides, *inter alia*, that the denunciation by a Member State shall come into effect two (2) years from the date on which the General Secretariat receives a notice of denunciation, the present Charter shall cease to be in force with respect to the denouncing State, which shall cease to belong to the Organization; that the denouncing State shall be without rights and duties and shall be unattached from all actions and decisions of the Organization; that Venezuela is no longer a Member State of the OAS and therefore not entitled to have a seat at the OAS. The Government of The Commonwealth of Dominica therefore does not recognize any person who occupies the seat of Venezuela who is not a person duly appointed by the Government of the State of Venezuela.

The Government of The Commonwealth of Dominica reserves its full rights to recognize the resolutions and declarations adopted by the Fiftieth Regular Session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States and any resolution and declaration approved thereafter with participation by the purported representatives of Venezuela.

3. ... Republic of Venezuela made a sovereign decision to withdraw from the membership of the OAS. This denunciation of the OAS was to have come into effect on April 27, 2019. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines did not support resolution CP/RES. 1124 (2217/19) of April 9, 2019, which sought to appoint Mr. Gustavo Tarre as the National Assembly's representative to the OAS. We, therefore, do not accept the credentials of any persons here today purporting to represent the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela at the fiftieth regular session of the General Assembly.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines therefore notifies all member states and the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States that until further notice it is not bound by any declaration or resolution emanating from this fiftieth regular session of the General Assembly or any future declarations or resolutions of any council or organ of the Organization when these include the participation of any person or entity purporting to speak for or act on behalf of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

The presentation of this new resolution, like the version adopted at the forty-ninth regular session of the OAS General Assembly, is in fact a clear breach of the principles and tenets of international law.

4. ... Assembly and the resolution submitted on a country that is not a member of this Organization and has no legal representation in it, nor in any other organ of the inter-American system.

The action in question is clearly a violation of the nature and purposes of the OAS Charter and the purposes for which this organization was designed and created, and has resulted in its lack of credibility, its institutional decline, its persistent fragmentation, polarization, and divisiveness among the nations of Latin America and the Caribbean – all brought about by the current US administration's aggressive interventionist policy toward the sovereign nations of Venezuela, Cuba, and Nicaragua, rendering the OAS' Inter-American Agenda a single-issue agenda that is of little relevance or importance to the citizens of the Americas.

This Organization keeps violating the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, and the principles of international law – non-interference in the internal affairs of states and the right to self-determination among such principles; and seeks to become a supranational body to be able to have guardianship over Venezuela, monitor and disregard its institutions, its democracy and its authorities, and seek to nullify its national sovereignty in order to continue unleashing the aggressive policy of blockades, undermining of social programs, and economic suffocation by plundering this country's natural resources and applying so-called sanctions that are nothing but aggressions directed, sponsored, and promoted by the US administration and its allies against this sister nation, for the purpose of punishing the Venezuelan People for supporting the government, and thus undermining the Constitutional and Sovereign Model of Popular Democracy that this country has been pursuing.

Nicaragua denounces and condemns this new interventionist, destabilizing move by a group of countries intent on undermining the sovereignty, peace, security, electoral process, and self-determination of the legitimate government of Venezuela, presided over by President Nicolás Maduro; and rejects as unacceptable, illegal, and inappropriate the resolution introduced, as it has turned this Forum into a center of conspiracy and destabilization against the sovereign and democratic nations of Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Government of Reconciliation and National Unity reaffirms its unequivocal and steadfast solidarity with the People and with the Government that was legitimately elected by the Venezuelan People and led by Constitutional President Nicolás Maduro Moros, who exemplifies the decorum and national dignity of the valiant, noble People of Bolívar and of Commander Hugo Rafael Chávez Frías.

In a strong civilian-military unity, President Nicolás Maduro and the Venezuelan people continue defending, against aggressors, the right of Venezuelan families to security, stability, work, economic and social development, and peace.

AG/RES. 2964 (L-O/20)

PLACE AND DATE OF THE FIFTY-FIRST
REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY^{1/2/}

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on October 21, 2020)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT Articles 43 and 44 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly relating to the holding of regular sessions of the General Assembly and the determination of the date and place for those sessions; and

CONSIDERING:

That the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) shall hold a regular session each year, preferably during the second quarter; and

That the Government of Guatemala, through its Minister of Foreign Affairs, offered on October 21, 2020, in the framework of the fiftieth regular session of the General Assembly, held virtually in Washington, D.C., United States of America, to host the fifty-first regular session of the General Assembly of the Organization, which is to be held in June 2021, as a reaffirmation of its commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the OAS and as a demonstration of its firm resolve to continue participating actively in strengthening the Organization,

RESOLVES:

1. To determine that the fifty-first regular session of the General Assembly be held in Guatemala on a date to be determined later within the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States.
2. To thank the Government of Guatemala for its generous offer to host the fifty-first regular session of the General Assembly.

1. Antigua and Barbuda considers that the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is not a member state of the Organization of American States since, on April 27, 2017, the Government of the Bolivarian ...
2. Mexico reiterates the position articulated in its statement during the report of the Secretary General on Credentials at the plenary session of the fiftieth regular session of the General Assembly.

FOOTNOTE

1. ... Republic of Venezuela properly notified the Secretary General of its denunciation of the Charter in accordance with Article 143 of the Charter of the Organization of American States, and the Charter ceased to be in force with respect to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, which ceased to belong to the Organization on April 27, 2019.

Antigua and Barbuda did not support resolution CP/RES. 1124 (2217/19) of April 9, 2019, which sought to appoint Mr. Gustavo Tarre as the National Assembly's representative to the OAS, and it did not accept the credentials of the officials intending to represent the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela at the forty-ninth and fiftieth regular sessions of the General Assembly.

Therefore, Antigua and Barbuda notifies all member states and the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States, as it did at the forty-ninth regular session of the General Assembly, that until further notice it will not consider itself bound by any declaration or resolution of the fiftieth regular session of the General Assembly or any future declarations or resolutions of any council or organ of the Organization that includes the participation of any person or entity purporting to speak for or act on behalf of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and in which 18 votes are attained with the participation of a purported representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.