



**OAS** | More rights  
for more people

GUARANTEEING

**“MORE RIGHTS FOR MORE PEOPLE”**

IN THE AMERICAS

**2016 MANAGEMENT REPORT**

SECRETARIAT FOR ACCESS  
TO RIGHTS AND EQUITY

**(SARE)**



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GUARANTEEING

“MORE RIGHTS FOR MORE PEOPLE”

IN THE AMERICAS



OAS

More rights  
for more people

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# 1

## “MORE RIGHTS FOR MORE PEOPLE”: EQUITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION AS WAYS TO ACHIEVE IT

“For our citizens to enjoy full citizenship, we must continue the tireless task of promoting progress in the fulfillment of social rights, and we at the OAS General Secretariat have the commitment to continue promoting this agenda and achieving the goal of **“more rights for more people”**”

Luis Almagro,  
Secretary General of the Organization of  
American States (OAS, 2015)<sup>1</sup>

**E**quity and social inclusion are today more than ever within the central objectives of public policy in the countries of the region, and the OAS has not lagged behind, emphasizing its approach from a political dialogue as well as a practical standpoint. At the OAS, inequality is understood not only as an unequal distribution of income and wealth, but also related to gaps in opportunities throughout the entire life cycle of a person, and in the access and quality of goods and services. It also adopts a rights-based approach, considering other types of inequality resulting from situations of discrimination and social exclusion (for reasons of age, gender, race, ethnicity, among others) that end up preventing, nullifying, or reducing the full enjoyment of the rights of these people <sup>2</sup>.



Luis Almagro  
OAS Secretary General

- 1 In “Progress Indicators for the Measurement of the Rights Contemplated in the Protocol of San Salvador,” OAS: Washington, DC. Available in: [http://www.redproteccionsocial.org/sites/default/files/desc\\_indicadores.pdf](http://www.redproteccionsocial.org/sites/default/files/desc_indicadores.pdf).
- 2 For a substantive discussion of these concepts, see Muñoz-Pogossian, Betilde & A. Barrantes. 2016. Inequality and Social Inclusion: Overcoming Inequalities towards More Inclusive Societies. OAS: Washington, DC.

In this context, addressing the structural factors that condition economic and social inequalities, exclusion, poverty and extreme poverty in the Americas is one of the most important challenges that OAS Member States face in order to achieve more democratic, just and equitable societies, where all the inhabitants can access and fully exercise the human rights enshrined in different inter-American and international instruments. Addressing and overcoming inequalities is also another way to advance the inter-American process of regional integration.

Faced with this challenge, the OAS General Secretariat provided support to member states to advance both in the implementation of political dialogue processes and in the follow-up of regional and international instruments and mechanisms that, in addition to reflecting important consensus on the impulse and strengthening of public policies to produce greater integration, cohesion and social equity, contributed to the promotion of greater cooperation and regional solidarity between countries.

This support was reflected with the creation of the Department of Social Inclusion (DIS) on January 1, 2015. Later, and more recently, under the vision of “More rights for more people”, support was consolidated through the creation of the Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity-SARE,<sup>3</sup> raising the agenda of social inclusion and development to the highest level within the OAS Agenda.

“By 2020, at the end of my mandate, the OAS should be recognized as the hemispheric political forum that, with equal participation of all countries of the Americas, works in a climate of peace to strengthen democracy, promote and protect human rights, to promote integral development and multidimensional security in order to support prosperity with opportunities for progress for all.”

Luis Almagro, Secretary General

Within this framework, and considering the important achievements, knowledge and experiences accumulated by the Member States and the OAS in this area, SARE was established with the function of supporting the efforts of the countries in the formulation and implementation of public policies that, from a human rights perspective, promote development with equity and social inclusion with an inter-sectorial and inter-institutional approach.

3 According to Executive Order 08-01 Rev. 9 approved by the OAS Secretary General, in follow up to Resolution of the OAS Permanent Council, entitled “Structure of the General Secretariat,” CP / RES. 1055 (2036/15), available at:  
<http://www.oas.org/legal/spanish/gensec/cp34980s04.pdf>



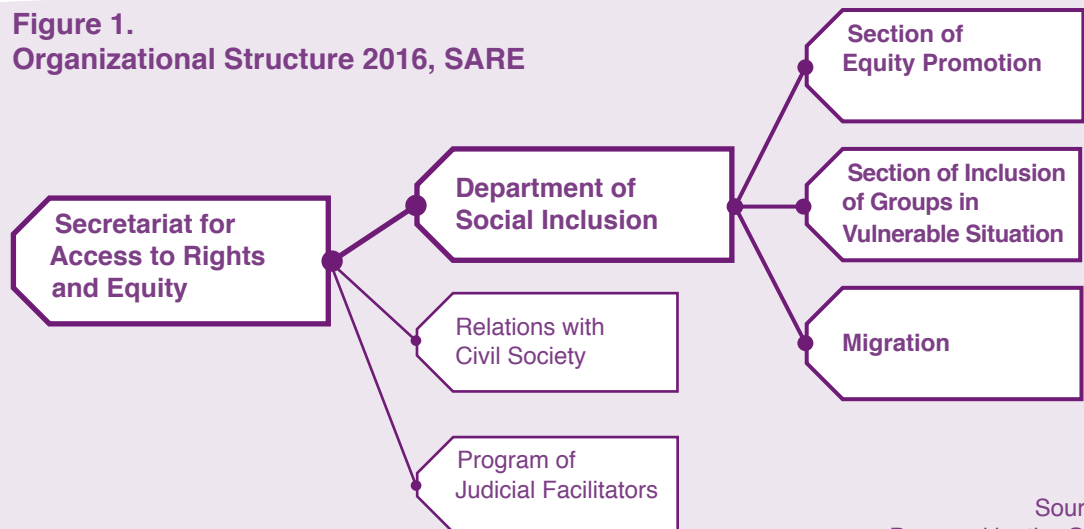
# 2

## SARE: STRUCTURE AND STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

The creation within the OAS of this new Secretariat reaffirmed the commitment of the Member States, and the General Secretariat, to continue working together to close the gaps that still exist between the rights enshrined in the interamerican legal instruments, binding commitments of States, and the full, real, and daily enjoyment of these rights by all the inhabitants of the Americas. SARE plays a fundamental role in supporting countries in following the political commitments and hemispheric regulatory frameworks adopted, also considering their alignment with the commitments assumed in regional frameworks – such as the Social Charter of the Americas, its Plan of Action and the Protocol of San Salvador, among others - and international commitments- such as the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

Its mission is “to promote the equity agenda in the region and support Member States in their efforts to follow up regional regulatory frameworks that enshrine rights, implement public policies and programs that contribute to ensuring the effective enjoyment of these rights, as well as greater social inclusion and equity.”

In order to carry out its work, SARE has the following structure:



Source:  
Prepared by the OAS  
for this document.



The SARE carried out its work in 2016, through its Department of Social Inclusion (DIS), its Civil Society Relations Section (SRSC), and its Interamerican Judicial Facilitators Program (PIFJ). Its thematic areas include migration from a human rights perspective, and from the contribution of migration to economic, social and cultural development with equity, development and social inclusion, including policies, programs and tools to reduce poverty and promote equity, Inclusion of persons with disabilities, young people, afrodescendants and indigenous people, and older adults, monitoring and promoting compliance with the hemispheric instruments on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCRs), consumer rights, access to justice, and finally, civil society participation in OAS activities.

### **Strategic Objectives:**

In order to carry out its work, SARE set out the following four strategic objectives (2015-2020):

- 1) To promote political dialogue for the construction of consensus, the definition of hemispheric priorities and for the exchange of experiences.
- 2) Strengthen capacities in national agencies through the management of programs, cooperation networks and information systems.
- 3) Contribute to the promotion and follow-up of hemispheric normative frameworks.
- 4) Promote the participation of civil society and other social actors in OAS activities.

The present document presents a Management Report of the work carried out by SARE during the year 2016 to fulfill each of these four strategic objectives, and to carry out its mission.



## A NOTE ON THE 2030 AGENDA AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs): CONTRIBUTIONS FROM SARE

The 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) establish a common and universal commitment and an intersectoral approach to face the challenges associated with the development of the countries of the world. In addition to ending poverty in the world, the SDGs set targets and indicators of compliance to eradicate hunger and achieve food security, ensure a healthy life and quality education, achieve gender equality, reduce inequality within and between countries, ensure access to water and energy, facilitate access to justice, among others, all of which set the goal of achieving strategic alliances to obtain them. In support to the work led by Office of the Secretary General, the Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity has led the effort to build interagency partnerships to support countries in the region in the fulfillment of the Sustainable Development Goals, establishing specific work agendas and with deliverables in pursuit of specific SDGs.

### Main achievements:

- ✓ Establishment of an Interagency Alliance of the OAS with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) on August 19, 2016, establishing areas of joint work, mainly in equity, social inclusion and social determinants of health in which both organizations have incidence in the region.
- ✓ Establishment of an Interagency Alliance of the OAS with the United Nations Population Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNFPA) on October 13, 2016, to advance the SDGs linked to quality health services; improving the well-being of women, children and adolescents in the Americas.
- ✓ Incorporation of the OAS into the Regional Technical Group (GTR for its Spanish acronym) for Reducing Maternal Mortality.
- ✓ Establishment of an alliance with the UNESCO Latin American and Caribbean Regional Office (UNESCO-OREALC) to collaborate around the goals of inequality and education.

# STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

3



## **STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1: PROMOTION OF POLITICAL DIALOGUE FOR THE CONSOLIDATION OF HEMISPHERIC CONSENSUS**

SARE provides technical cooperation to a number of high-level political forums in order to foster the exchange of experiences, consensus building, the definition of priorities, and actions to be taken at the hemispheric level in the areas of inclusion and social development, migration and inclusion of groups in situations of vulnerability, among others. In this effort, it produces inputs for the planning, programming and development of these forums, and provides technical support in the identification, design and implementation of actions and programs to strengthen the work of governments in these areas. Likewise, and in the understanding that the approach of inclusion is transversal to the work of the OAS, SARE is committed to ensuring the incorporation of this approach in the political dialogue forums of the General Secretariat of the OAS, and transversally in its work throughout the region.

SARE, through its Department of Social Inclusion, is Technical Secretariat of the following forums and spaces for political dialogue:

- The **Meeting of Ministers and High-level Authorities of Social Development (REMDES for its Spanish acronym)**, and its Inter-American Committee on Social Development (CIDES).
- The **Committee on Migration Issues (CAM)** of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI).
- The **Plenary of the Consumer Safety and Health Network (CSHN)**.

### **❖ III Meeting of Ministers and High-level Authorities of Social Development**

The **Ministerial Meetings of Social Development** bring together Ministers and High-level Authorities of Social Development in the region to discuss the progress and challenges surrounding the implementation of policies aimed at overcoming poverty and inequality. The main objective of these forums is to strengthen the capacity of OAS Member States to design and implement social policies, social protection and economic inclusion programs and initiatives to overcome poverty and inequality. The Ministerial

Meetings are a key space where the governments of the region make commitments to advance the objectives set forth in the Plan of Action of the Social Charter of the Americas, Protocol of San Salvador and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) included in 2030 Agenda.

On July 13 and 14, 2016, the Third Meeting of Ministers and High-level Authorities of Social Development, organized by the Secretariat of Social Action of Paraguay and the OAS, was held after a six-year hiatus. The meeting was attended by representatives of 22 Member States who deliberated and exchanged experiences on the theme “Equity and Social Inclusion: Overcoming inequalities towards more inclusive societies”<sup>4</sup>.

### Main achievements:

- ✓ After 6 years since the last ministerial process, the OAS General Secretariat and its Member States have regained regional leadership in finding solutions to the challenges posed by poverty and inequality.
- ✓ Adoption of a document of 21 agreements reflecting the hemispheric consensus on the priorities of governments to promote social development in the region.
- ✓ Continuation of the political dialogue process and follow-up to the agreements reached during the III REMDES, through the offer of the Government of Guatemala to host the IV REMDES in 2018, and the implementation of actions directed from the SARE in relation to the 21 agreements.
- ✓ Organization of the first side event of the Inter-American Non-communicable Diseases (NCDs) Task Force on “Social Inclusion and Health in All Policies”, held during the Ministerial meeting, which made it possible to raise awareness on the impact of social determinants on health amongst key actors participating in the meeting. More than 100 representatives of Member States and key players participated.
- ✓ Participation of more than 100 key stakeholders in the side event “Gender equality, social inclusion and care: in search of a balance,” organized by the Inter-American Commission of Women, UN Women and the Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity of the OAS on the margins of the ministerial meeting.

**Participating countries:** Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Guyana, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Surinam, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America and Uruguay.

### ❖ Committee on Migration Issues (CAM)

The Committee on Migration Issues (CAM) is the organ of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development, CIDI, which serves as the main forum of the Organization in charge of migration issues. Its main objective is to promote dialogue, cooperation and exchange of experiences, lessons learned and best practices in the field of migration,

<sup>4</sup> For more information, visit <http://www.redproteccionsocial.org/etiquetas/keywords/proceso-ministerial-de-desarrollo-social-oea>



Forum “Migration and Development in the Americas: Towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda”, with the participation of the Vice President and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Panama, Isabel de Saint Malo de Alvarado.

within a framework of respect for human rights, promoting the recognition of the important contribution of migrants to the development of the Hemisphere.

The Department of Social Inclusion in its capacity as Technical Secretariat accompanied the work of this Committee during 2016 through technical advice and preparation of inputs for its authorities<sup>5</sup>, among other supports.

During this period the following activities were carried out:

- ▶ Organization of the Forum “Migration and Development in the Americas: towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda” on May 6, 2016, inaugurated by the Vice President and Foreign Minister of Panama, Isabel de Saint Malo de Alvarado, Secretary General of the OAS, Luis Almagro, the Executive Director of YABT, Valerie Lorena and the President of CAM, Daniel Cámara. The Foreign Ministers of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras also participated, as well as Laura Thompson, Deputy Director of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and Antonio Prado, Deputy Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).
- ▶ Organization of the thematic session “Migration and Health” on November 3, 2016, with the participation of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the International Organization of Migration (IOM) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

### Main achievements:

- ✓ Dialogue between the various international organizations, government and civil society actors involved in migration issues facilitated.
- ✓ Provision of accompaniment and advice to members of the Commission for the updating and approval by the OAS General Assembly (June 2016) of the Inter-American Program for the Promotion and Protection of the Human Rights of Migrants, including Migrant Workers and their Families.

5 For more information, see Report of the Chair of the Committee on Migration Issues, Period 2015-2016. OAS / Ser.W, CIDI / CAM / 31/16, May 27, 2016.

### ❖ III Annual Ordinary Plenary Meeting of the Consumer Safety and Health Network.

The **Consumer Safety and Health Network (CSHN)** is a mechanism of interamerican cooperation created by OAS Member States in 2010, whose objective is to promote, at the national and hemispheric levels, the protection of the rights of consumers by monitoring the safety of consumer products and prevention of their impact on their health and well-being. Its objective is to strengthen national and regional cooperation capacities to contribute to the early detection of dangerous consumer products and the adoption of coordinated actions among the competent bodies to combat their circulation in markets. In this way, the CSHN seeks to promote the well-being of consumers in the Americas. The CSHN brings together the national authorities in the field of consumer rights protection and product safety.

The III Annual Ordinary Plenary Meeting of the Consumer Safety and Health Network took place in October 26, 2016 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The meeting was attended by representatives of government consumer protection agencies from 17 Member States of the CSHN, as well as the Pan American Health Organization and Consumers International.

#### ❖ Main achievements:

- ✓ Formulation of a 2016-2017 work agenda, which includes the implementation of activities such as: Second International Workshop on Consumer Accidents, Online Seminars for the training of governmental consumer institutions, a Regional Workshop for Central America and the Caribbean, a Regional Workshop for the Andean Community, and a Workshop to Strengthen Participation of Civil Society in the RCSS (in partnership with *Consumers International*).
- ✓ Consensus on a fundraising strategy for the sustainability of the CSHN-OAS, its tools and activities.
- ✓ Increase from 12 to 19 in the number of countries participating in CSHN plenary sessions. Bolivia, Ecuador, and Trinidad and Tobago participated for the first time.
- ✓ Training of 80 to 100 key actors in the use of the Inter-American Rapid Alert System (SIAR for its Spanish acronym) platform, through the Workshop “The Safety of Products in the Markets of the Americas: Conformity Assessment and Consumer Health Protection”, in collaboration with the National Department of Consumer Defense of the Ministry of Production of Argentina.

**Participating countries:** Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Brazil, Barbados, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, United States, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Surinam, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America and Uruguay.



## ▶ STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2: STRENGTHENING CAPACITIES THROUGH PROGRAMS, COOPERATION NETWORKS AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS

The SARE implements programs, operates and monitors cooperation networks, coordinates information systems, and facilitates spaces for training and cooperation among Member States with the objective of strengthening the institutional capacities of national agencies with responsibilities for inclusion and social development, access to justice, migration and attention to groups in vulnerable situations. In this effort, it facilitates the exchange of information and good practices, identifies successful experiences and provides training to ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of policies, programs and projects in these areas. Some of the programs implemented by SARE include the Inter-American Program of Judicial Facilitators (PIFJ) and the Continuous Reporting System on International Migration in the Americas (SICREMI)<sup>6</sup>. The cooperation networks include the Inter-American Social Protection Network (IASPN), and the Consumer Safety and Health Network (CSHN).

### ❖ The Inter-American Program of Judicial Facilitators (PIFJ/OAS)

The fundamental objective of the OAS/PIFJ is to increase access to justice for populations in vulnerable condition in the Americas. In accordance with the mandates of the General Assembly, the OAS/PIFJ provides technical assistance to the judiciary for the establishment of the National Service of Judicial Facilitators (SNFJ) in countries that so request it, train justice operators and other professionals and execute diverse actions to facilitate access to justice. Judicial facilitators are natural community leaders, with a vocation for service, social and human sensitivity. They are selected by their community to actively collaborate with the Judiciary by providing support services to justice operators, serving as a communication channel between the community and judicial authorities.

As of December 31, 2016, judicial facilitators amount to 12,433, 41% of whom are women, who support justice authorities and serve as counselors, advisers or conciliators and contribute to the creation of a legal civic culture in the hemisphere. Currently, the Program has trained facilitators in Argentina, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama and Paraguay. During 2016, 3,233 facilitators were accredited as mediators by the respective national body. Facilitators have facilitated the access to justice for an estimate of 6.3 million people living in conditions of vulnerability.

In addition to its permanent functions, during this period the Program organized the following activities:

<sup>6</sup> Having previously developed other programs such as Diplomas in Social Protection, the Online Course on Inclusion of people with disabilities, and the Diploma in Consumer Protection.



Inter-American  
Program of Judicial  
Facilitators, 2016



- ▶ The OAS/PIFJ and its counterpart institutions participated in the meeting of the PARLATINO Security Commission in El Salvador (August 2016) and in the Forum on Access to Justice in the Americas (indigenous populations) in the Justice Commission of PARLATINO with participants from Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Peru (Panama, September 2016).
- ▶ In November 2016, the OAS/PIFJ reported the Program's progress to the Government and People of the Kingdom of the Netherlands with an event held at the headquarters of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights with the participation of the Ministry of Cooperation of that country and representatives of the Central American Integration System.
- ▶ The Chancellor of the Kingdom of the Netherlands conducted a field tour visiting the communities where the OAS/PIFJ is implemented in Guatemala.
- ▶ The 46th General Assembly of the OAS had the participation of judicial facilitators and the President of the Supreme Court of Honduras, as Secretary of the Central American Judicial Council.

**Participating Countries:** Argentina, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama and Paraguay.

#### **Main achievements:**

- ✓ 444,000 services provided through the program that benefited at least 1.5 million people by providing legal and administrative advice to community members, accompanying them to process their paperwork and performing mediations in the areas allowed by the law.
- ✓ Participation of an estimate of 668,000 people in more than 43,000 lectures given on various topics: the service of facilitators, the constitution, gender violence, family law, identity legislation, migration, rights of people with disabilities, among others.
- ✓ 73,063 mediation activities carried out, which prevented the arrival of 87,000 cases to the courts, allowing the judiciary to focus their work on causes of greater legal relevance. This number surpasses the number of cases resolved by all the courts of peace of a Central American country during a year.
- ✓ Implementation of preventive citizen security policies by transforming the culture of violence and impunity into a culture of alternative dispute resolution and legality through the work of judicial facilitators.
- ✓ Resolution of 107,000 procedures that were entrusted to judicial facilitators by the judicial authorities.
- ✓ Significant decrease in the burden of cases of less legal complexity, which allowed the judicial system greater efficiency in resolving cases with serious implications for victims such as those related to domestic violence and gender.

- ✓ With a 9% penetration among the general public in Central America (CID-Gallup survey), the services of judicial facilitators and impact in different areas have achieved recognition in national and regional institutional policies. For example, the Central American Parliament and the Central American and Caribbean Judicial Council declared these services “regional judicial policy”.
- ✓ Approval of a Law of Judicial Facilitators with the support of all political parties and approved without opposition in the Congress of the Republic of Guatemala.
- ✓ An Economic Impact Study on the victims showed that those who go to an OAS judicial facilitator solve the problem without cost the same day (60%); for the same type of case, those who go to trial take more than a year (50%) and spend an average of eight months of family income, which they finance by selling assets and by engaging in personal loans.<sup>7</sup>.
- ✓ Re-evaluation in the judiciary of the role of prevention, alternative resolution of conflicts and the contribution of judges of peace and community judges as active agents of justice within the community.
- ✓ Increased confidence in institutions of justice and strengthening of the Rule of Law as a result of the work of judicial facilitators. This in turn increases the possibilities of investment and inclusive development in the countries.
- ✓ 241 people from seven countries trained through 12 international exchanges of experience and dozens of national meetings.
- ✓ Training of justice operators and other professionals through courses, a Postgraduate program in Management of the National Service of Judicial Facilitators and a Master’s degree in Access to Justice.
- ✓ Alliances established with 14 national universities, public and private, police institutes and other vocational training centers using a methodology of distance learning through a virtual platform and training in 261 centers.

### Main achievements:

- ✓ Between 2015 and 2016, 1,684 judicial operators graduated from the postgraduate program with degrees awarded by various universities.
- ✓ 266 police officers from Costa Rica, El Salvador and Panama graduated from a special edition of the training program focused on prevention, community work and facilitator management.
- ✓ 43 Guatemalan prosecutors graduated in mediation and restorative justice.
- ✓ 443 professionals approved the course as virtual tutors in their various specialties.
- ✓ 120 students in three countries (Guatemala, Nicaragua and Panama) graduated from the Master’s Degree in Access to Justice.

7 “Study of the economic impact of victims in conflict resolution: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama.” January 2016, available at: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0ByriO10W14rBQXFUenh3RUI1MWc/view>

- ✓ To date, more than 9,000 graduates in the various academic programs promoted by the OAS/PIFJ in alliance with national universities and other education centers.
- ✓ Recognition of the OAS/PIFJ academic programs as a “regional career program” by the Council of Universities of Central America (CSUCA), organ of the Central American Integration System (SICA) for higher education.

❖ **Program for the Strengthening of Competencies of Justice Operators and Government Authorities on Legal Capacity and Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities.**

The Program for the Strengthening of Competencies of Justice Operators and Government Authorities on Legal Capacity and Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities has as its main objective to contribute to promoting legal reforms, political and/or programmatic initiatives in relation to the provisions of the international human rights treaties of persons with disabilities. This with the purpose of guaranteeing the full exercise of legal capacity and access to justice of people with disabilities, without any restriction in all areas of life.

**Beneficiary Countries:** Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru and the Dominican Republic.

In the 2016 period, the following activities were carried out:

- ▶ Seminar on Legal Capacity and Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities aimed at Judicial Operators, legislators and other government actors celebrated in Lima, Peru, October 17 to 18, 2016.
- ▶ Seminar on Legal Capacity and Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities aimed at Civil Society Organizations of Persons with Disabilities celebrated in Lima, Peru, on October 19, 2016.
- ▶ International Forum on the “International Decade of Persons with Disabilities”, co-organized with the Commission on Social Inclusion of the Congress of the Republic of Peru, celebrated on October 19, 2016.
- ▶ Dialogue on the Legal Capacity of Persons with Disabilities in Latin America, with representatives of OAS permanent missions and with the participation of the President of the United Nations International Committee of Experts on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the President of the Inter-American Committee on Disability, held in Washington, DC on December 5, 2016.
- ▶ Training Session on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities addressed to Justice Operators and Officials of the Supreme Court of Justice of Chile, on November 3, with the participation of 50 judicial operators of the Supreme Court.



Seventh  
CEDDIS  
meeting.  
Guatemala  
City, May 2016

- ▶ Virtual Seminar on Legal Capacity and Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities aimed at Judicial Operators, legislators and other government actors in El Salvador, co-organized with the National Council for the Integration of Persons with Disabilities in El Salvador, CONAIPD, held on December 19, 2016.
- ▶ Design and formulation of an effective and replicable regional training curriculum, both face-to-face and virtual, to strengthen theoretical and practical skills on the subject.

### Main achievements:

- ✓ Promotion of the implementation of Articles 12 and 13 of the UN-CRPD and of the OAS-CIADDIS, among justice operators, legislators, lawyers, judicial facilitators and other actors involved in the issue.
- ✓ 380 judicial facilitators, judicial operators and actors of the Legislative Branch of two countries of the region, were trained in person.
- ✓ 40 judicial facilitators, judicial operators and actors of the Legislative Branch of El Salvador were trained virtually.
- ✓ 60 leaders of civil society organizations with disabilities in Peru were trained in person.
- ✓ 52 leaders of civil society in El Salvador were trained virtually.
- ✓ 65 key actors from international organizations and diplomatic missions in Washington, DC were trained in the subject and technical collaboration networks were articulated with the SARE on the subject.

- ✓ A Diploma on Disability and Inclusive Education was designed with the University of Chile.
- ✓ A Specific Agreement with the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) was signed to implement a Diploma on Legal Capacity of Persons with Disabilities at the regional level during 2017.
- ✓ Request from the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru for joint work on the implementation of a regional Diploma in the subject during 2017.
- ✓ Request from the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights of Peru for training on the rights of persons with disabilities.
- ✓ Request from the Supreme Court of Chile for a professional exchange with the OAS and training from a human rights perspective on the inclusion and access to justice of persons with disabilities.

### ❖ **Continuous Reporting System on International Migration in the Americas (SICREMI) and its Network of National Correspondents**

The SICREMI brings together information on immigration to the Americas and migration from the Americas to OECD countries, providing general trends in migration flows. It also presents key information on policy frameworks, policies and programs on international migration. Based on the Continuous Reporting System on Migration (SOPEMI) of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), SICREMI is the only information mechanism the region has on migration flows to and from the Americas for periods in-between censuses. The main output of SICREMI is the bi-annual preparation of the report on International Migration in the Americas (SICREMI)<sup>8</sup>. Between each publication, an advance of data is prepared between each publication on the evolution of migration flows in the continent. The work of SICREMI is supported by the contributions of a Network of National Correspondents designated by the participating OAS Member States.

**Participating Countries:** Argentina, Barbados, Belize, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Plurinational State of Bolivia, United States of America and Uruguay.

In the 2016 period, the following activities were carried out:

- ▶ Organization of the “IV Technical Workshop of National SICREMI Correspondents,” which took place in Panama City, Panama, on June 21-22, 2016 with the assistance of 33 experts in international migration. The main topics covered in the Workshop included: Methodology for the collection of internationally comparable statistical data on migration; Methodology for the investigation and analysis of migration regularization processes in the Americas 2000-2015, as well as exchange of experiences among participating countries; Evaluation of the SICREMI 2015 edition; and preparation of the work plan for the 2017 edition.

<sup>8</sup> The next edition will be in 2017.





MIGRACIÓN INTERNACIONAL  
EN LAS AMÉRICAS

SICREMI

- ▶ Presentation of the analysis “Panorama of International Migration in the Americas” before PARLATINO, in Panama City, Panama, on April 8-9, 2016.
- ▶ Publication of the Study entitled “Why is migration increasing in the Americas?”<sup>9</sup>. The study gives an account of recent international migration flows in the Americas and discusses their trends. In this edition, the focus was specifically on the analysis of the migration of skilled workers from the Caribbean to the OECD countries.
- ▶ Contributions to the Study of the World Food Program (WFP) on Migration and Food Security in the Dry Corridor of the Northern Triangle of Central America. Its objective is to identify the main causes and reasons for the emigration of Dry Corridor communities and to weigh the influence of food insecurity as one of the motivating factors. The study also examines the possible effects of violence on both food insecurity and emigration, and provides some recommendations on the elements of protection. *Participating Countries: El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras.*
- ▶ Presentation of the results of the report on International Migration in the Americas: 2015 SICREMI at the Seminar on Migration Policies and Practices in the Americas organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands. The aim of the seminar was to increase awareness of migration policy in the Americas among Dutch and European policymakers and to identify good practices and lessons learned that can be translated into the European context. The approximately 100 participants included migration experts, politicians, Dutch diplomats in the Americas and diplomats from the Americas in the Netherlands and other key stakeholders.



[www.migracionoea.org](http://www.migracionoea.org)

### Main achievements:

- ✓ Recognition of SICREMI as a process of regional integration for the generation of migration information directed to the formulation of public policies, through the facilitation of dialogue, cooperation, institutional strengthening and access to information.
- ✓ Contribution of SICREMI to target 17.18 of SDG 17, through the systematization and compilation of statistics on the migrants of the Americas.
- ✓ Jamaica, Panama and Peru incorporated procedures and methodologies for migration data collection developed in the framework of SICREMI.
- ✓ Expansion of SICREMI with the incorporation of 2 new countries: Haiti and Honduras.

9 Available at: <https://www.oecd.org/els/mig/migration-policy-debates-11.pdf>

### ❖ Inter-American Social Protection Network (IASPN)

The Inter-American Social Protection Network (IASPN) - <http://www.socialprotectionet.org/> is a virtual platform of national development and social inclusion ministries and agencies, in collaboration with international organizations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and academia, to promote the exchange and transfer of experiences and knowledge on social protection.

During this period, the following activities were carried out:

- ▶ Five Inter-American Social Protection Dialogues (DIPS, for its Spanish acronym) on key issues in development and social inclusion:
  - a. DIPS 13- The Gender, Equity and Social Inclusion Agenda, March 4, 2016.
  - b. DIPS 14- Fiscal policy as a mechanism to combat inequality: Analysis in Brazil and Guatemala, April 16, 2016.
  - c. DIPS 15- Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction for People with Disabilities, May 25, 2016.
  - d. DIPS 16- Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in the Americas: A Review of Results, June 21, 2016.
  - e. DIPS 17- Experiences in the evaluation of social programs in Latin America, September 14, 2016.
- ▶ Signing of an agreement between the GS/OAS and The Commitment for Equity (CEQ) of the University of Tulane, with the purpose of supporting the III Meeting of Ministers of Social Development in Asunción, Paraguay, January 26, 2016.
- ▶ Preparation and Presentation of the Working Document entitled “Linking the Economic Empowerment and Political Empowerment of Women in Latin America and the Caribbean: The OAS Social Inclusion and Equity Agenda” prepared for the Inter-regional Workshop of Regional Organisms and the Promotion of Gender Equality and the Political Empowerment of Women, International IDEA, March 16-17, 2016.
- ▶ Participation in the 4th High Level Meeting of the Multidimensional Poverty Network (MPN) with the purpose of exchanging experiences regarding the use of multidimensional poverty measurement for the design of more effective



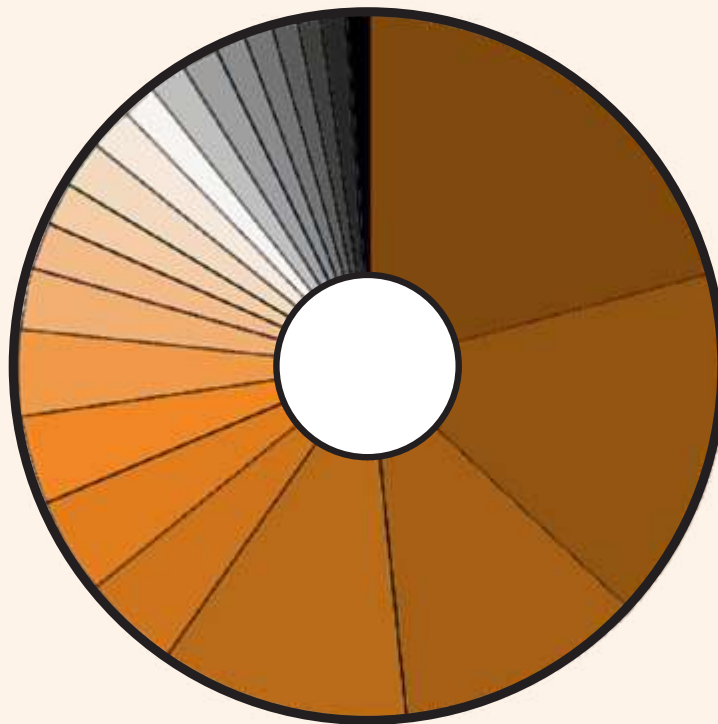


public policies to combat it. Organized by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) of the University of Oxford, the Ministry of Social Development of Mexico (SEDESOL), and the National Council for Evaluation of Social Development Policy (CONEVAL). The MPN met in Acapulco, Guerrero, November 7-9, 2016.

### Main achievements:

- ✓ Increased by 20% the number of registered users in the IASPN platform. By 2016, the Network reached 5,000 members working from different sectors on issues related to social development and social inclusion in the region.
- ✓ 1,150 people trained through the Inter-American Social Protection Dialogues virtual seminars and 400 professionals from 23 countries trained through workshops and diplomas of the Network.
- ✓ Strengthening collaboration with new strategic partners of regional and global relevance, among which are highlighted the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI), the Commitment for Equality (CEQ) and the Consultative Group to Assist the Poor (CGAP).
- ✓ Broad dissemination and scope of the Network reflected in 200,000 user visits to the virtual platforms of the IASPN in the period 2015-2016 (<http://www.redproteccionsocial.org/> and <http://www.socialprotectionet.org/>).
- ✓ Recognized by the Ministers and High-level Authorities of Social Development in the Declaration “Equity and Social Inclusion: Overcoming Inequalities for more Inclusive Societies”, adopted in the framework of the III Ministerial Meeting, as a mechanism to promote hemispheric cooperation in the fight against poverty and inequity, the exchange of knowledge and experiences and capacity building of social development institutions in the region.
- ✓ Twitter followers registered an 85% increase in 2016: @IASPN\_RIPSO.
- ✓ Increased number of active users from Latin American countries in the IASPN platform.
- ✓ Greater geographic diversity of active users accessing the IASPN platform.
- ✓ Expanded access and use of the platform in the region achieving access and use of the platform by active users in 18 countries in the region.

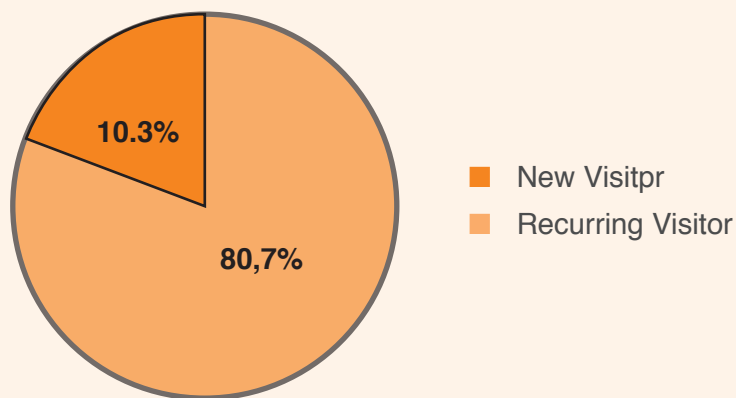
**Figure 1.**  
Number of sessions by country, IASPN 2016



- United States
- Colombia
- Mexico
- Bolivia
- Peru
- Chile
- Argentina
- Spain
- United Kingdom
- Brazil
- Ecuador
- Russia
- Guatemala
- India
- Barbados
- France
- Venezuela
- Honduras
- Uruguay
- Panama
- Costa Rica
- Canada

Source: Prepared by the OAS for this report, based on Google Analytics data.

**Figure 2.**  
Sessions in the IASPN virtual community



Source: Prepared by the OAS for this report, based on Google Analytics data.

## ❖ The Consumer Safety and Health Network (CSHN) and its Inter-American Rapid Alerts System (SIAR)

In addition to its plenary meetings of national authorities, through the CSHN, the SARE supports a number of capacity-building activities in product safety and consumer protection, and also manages the SIAR, the first integrated hemispheric system for the generation, management and rapid and secure exchange of information on consumer product alerts, based on shared criteria on principles, general concepts and terminologies relevant to regional alerts. Its implementation is possible through a virtual platform –<https://www.sites.oas.org/rcss/ES/Paginas/alerts/default.aspx>- which has information, resources, news and practices that support the surveillance of the safety of consumer products.

**Participating Countries:** Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Surinam, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America and Uruguay.

During this period, the following activities were carried out:

- ▶ OAS-PAHO Seminar (*webinar*) “Strengthening Civil Society Participation in the OAS Consumer Safety and Health Network (CSHN)”. Through this event, the Technical Secretariat of the OAS CSHN presented the functioning and benefits of participating in the network and the SIAR for civil society organizations and consumers. The session was attended by 44 people, including representatives of consumer protection agencies and civil society. This took place on August 25, 2016.
- ▶ Workshop “Product Safety in the Markets of the Americas: Conformity Assessment and Consumer Health Protection”, held in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Its objective was to exchange information on toy safety, the problem of children’s furniture, consumer accidents, electrical safety, recalls procedure (early warning) and vehicle safety. About 100 people participated, including representatives of the region’s government consumer protection agencies, PAHO, OAS, civil society and academia, October 27-28, 2016.
- ▶ International Symposium on Consumer Product Health and Safety Organization (ICPHSO) “The Challenge of Change: Collaborate Today for a Safer Tomorrow“, carried out in Washington D.C. The OAS Consumer Safety and Health Network<sup>10</sup> presented the progress of this initiative and also participated in bilateral meetings, February 29 to March 3, 2016.
- ▶ “First International Congress of Consumers: State, Progress and New Challenges”, held in Lima, Peru, from July 6 to 7, 2016. The Technical Secretariat of the



10 Through the Superintendency of Industry and Commerce of Colombia, Health Canada, PROFECO-Mexico, PAHO, and the Technical Secretariat of the CSHN-OAS

OAS-CSHN announced the functioning and benefits of the SIAR for consumer protection agencies and consumers.

- ▶ “VI International Consumer Protection Forum: New Markets, New Challenges”. The Forum took place from September 12 to 13, 2016 and was organized by the Directorate of Consumer Support of the Ministry of Economy, Industry and Commerce (MEIC) of Costa Rica, the Program COMPAL-UNCTAD and sponsored by the Swiss Confederation in Costa Rica. The Technical Secretariat of the OAS-CSHN announced the functioning and benefits of the SIAR for consumer protection agencies and consumers.
- ▶ “X Meeting of The Ibero-American Forum of Government Consumer Protection Agencies (FIAGC)”, organized by the Ibero-American Forum of Government Agencies for Consumer Protection (FIAGC). The meeting took place from September 14 to 15, 2016 in the city of Liberia, Costa Rica. During this meeting, the Technical Secretariat of the OAS-CSHN announced the operation and benefits of the OAS-CSHN and the SIAR for national consumer protection agencies and consumers, as well as their progress and challenges.

### Main achievements:

- ✓ The OAS-CSHN and the SIAR have become a reference point in the surveillance of the safety of products and the protection of consumers.
- ✓ The OAS-CSHN was admitted with the status of “Observer” of the Ibero-American Forum of Government Agencies for Consumer Protection (FIAGC), and its work supported by the Declaration adopted at its most recent Meeting in 2016.
- ✓ New alliances were made with strategic partners in the region and the OAS-CSHN was invited to sign cooperation agreements with regional strategic actors, such as CARICOM, *Consumers International*, PROFECO-México, INDECOPI-Perú, among others.
- ✓ Two new countries joined the Consumer and Health Consumer Network (OAS-CSHN): Bolivia and Ecuador.
- ✓ 1,200 people were trained on the functioning and benefits of OAS-CSHN and SIAR.
- ✓ 20 representatives of civil society organizations trained in the surveillance of unsafe products and in strategies for advocacy in the activities of the OAS-CSHN and the SIAR.
- ✓ More than 18,000 alerts were published on the SIAR Platform and 5 withdrawals of hemispheric products took place as a result of the tasks performed by the OAS-CSHN and the SIAR: Takata Airbags, Apple Beats, Samsung Galaxy Note 7 and Hoverboards.



### **STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3: PROMOTION AND FOLLOW-UP OF HEMISPHERIC NORMATIVE FRAMEWORKS**

The SARE supports the promotion of, and the fulfillment of hemispheric normative frameworks in terms of social development and social inclusion and non-discrimination of groups in vulnerable situations. Its purpose is to contribute to the achievement of the effective protection of the rights of all, including economic, social and cultural rights, through legal instruments such as the Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, i.e. “Protocol of San Salvador”, the Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities, the Program of Action for the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities, The Social Charter of the Americas and its Plan of Action, and the Inter-American Convention on the Human Rights of Older Persons, among other instruments.

#### **❖ Working Group for the analysis of the National Reports provided for in the Protocol of San Salvador.**

The Inter-American system of human rights has a unique legally binding instrument for the defense of economic, social, and cultural rights (ESCRs): the Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the area of ESCRs known as the “Protocol of San Salvador” (PSS). At present, 19 countries have signed this instrument and 16 have ratified it: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname and Uruguay.

Through its Department of Social Inclusion, SARE serves as Technical Secretariat of the Working Group of the PSS. Its main functions are to provide inputs to promote the region’s equity agenda as well as to support state parties to ensure the exercise of economic, social and cultural rights by all citizens and to provide concrete tools for monitoring and improving public policies in this area.

During 2016, the following activities were carried out:

- ▶ Provision of support for the analysis of seven (7) national reports, preparation of preliminary findings for Member States, holding of hearings with States parties that submitted reports, permanent technical cooperation provided to clarify questions about the indicators, as well as for the review of complementary reports<sup>11</sup>.

11 The National Progress Reports by state parties regarding the First Grouping of Rights (Health, Education and Social Security) are available at: <http://www.oas.org/es/sadye/inclusion-social/protocolo-ssv/informes.asp>. The WGPSS’s Final Observations on National Reports are available at: <http://www.oas.org/es/sadye/inclusion-social/protocolo-ssv/informes.asp>. The WGPSS Summary Report with civil society data is available at: <http://www.oas.org/es/sadye/inclusion-social/protocolo-ssv/docs/documentacion-sociedad-civil-pss.pdf>.



- ▶ Celebration of the Third Plenary Session of the PSS Working Group on May 3-6, 2016 for the evaluation of national reports of the States Parties corresponding to the first grouping of rights (health, education, social security). The period included working meetings with OAS authorities as well as delegates representing the States parties and civil society.
- ▶ Presentation by the WGPSS to the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP) to report on the progress of the process of review of national reports of the States Parties and the completion of the entire process for the first round of review corresponding to the first grouping of rights.
- ▶ Celebration on 5 May, 2016 of the Round Table “From exclusion to equality in Latin America? More rights for more people with citizen participation”, organized by SARE and the Secretariat of Hemispheric Affairs of the OAS.
- ▶ Technical cooperation sessions with States parties to the Protocol through *virtual seminars*.
- ▶ Publication of the pocket edition of the Protocol of San Salvador, and infographics with key information on the rights contemplated in the PSS.

**Participating Countries:** Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Surinam and Uruguay.

### Main achievements:

- ✓ The monitoring system regarding the rights enshrined in the PSS was activated, for the first time ever, with the reporting process for the first grouping of rights (health, education and social security) by 7 States Parties.
- ✓ Recommendations were produced and shared with State Parties to advance the realization of the rights contemplated in the PSS in each country by the Working Group of the Protocol of San Salvador.
- ✓ More than 40 officials from 23 state institutions in El Salvador (including foreign ministry, social protection, health, migration, culture, education, among others) were trained in the use of the system of progress indicators of the PSS, and for the preparation of the National Report of El Salvador.



## ❖ **Monitoring Committee for the Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities and Program of Action for the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities (PAD 2016-2026)**

The Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (CIADDIS) was adopted on June 7, 1999 by the OAS General Assembly through resolution AG/RES. 1608 (XXIX-O/99), within the framework of its twenty-ninth regular session in Guatemala. The objectives of the Convention are the prevention and elimination of all forms of discrimination against persons with disabilities and the promotion of their full integration in all areas of society through legislation, social initiatives and educational programs developed in each State Party. The Convention entered into force on September 14, 2001 and has 21 signatures, 18 ratifications and 1 accession by OAS Member States.

In order to monitor the commitments made through the CIADDIS, Article VI of the Convention provided for the establishment of the Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (CEDDIS), which serves as the forum to review progress in the implementation of the Convention and to exchange experiences among States Parties. SARE, through its Department of Social Inclusion, serves as the Technical Secretariat of said Committee.

The Program of Action for the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities (PAD) was adopted seven years later in resolution AG/RES. 2339 (XXXVII-O / 07). The PAD is an operative instrument that seeks to mobilize the design and implementation of public policies for the inclusion of persons with disabilities. It contains a total of 91 actions, distributed in 9 sectoral areas such as education, health, work, employment, awareness of society, political participation, among others, with the purpose of serving as a guide to Member States on what steps to take to achieve substantive progress in building inclusive societies during the 2006-2106 decade. With the adoption of the PAD, OAS member states agreed to adopt gradually, and within a reasonable time, the administrative, legislative and judicial measures, as well as the public policies necessary to place persons with disabilities on an equal footing with others.

The authorities responsible for monitoring the implementation of the PAD are the Directors and formulators of public policies for persons with disabilities who are usually part of the National Councils or Secretariats in Disability (CONADIS, SENADIS or related) to which the majority of the Governments of the Member States delegate the planning and direction of the national policy of social inclusion and to whom the Department of Social Inclusion also serves as Technical Secretariat.

During the reporting period, the following activities were carried out:

- ▶ Presentation by the Department of Social Inclusion to the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP) in order to report to the Council on the progress of the process of reviewing national reports of States Parties and the activities carried out by the CEDDIS.



- ▶ *In-situ* organization and facilitation of two CEDDIS Ordinary Plenary Meetings in Guatemala in May 2016 and in Chile in October 2016, where the analysis of 9 national reports was completed and the revision of another 3 was started.
- ▶ Coordination of face-to-face and virtual meetings of the CEDDIS Working Group responsible for the elaboration of an Instruction Manual on Support and Safeguards for the Exercise of the Legal Capacity of Persons with Disabilities.
- ▶ Creation of the Regional Catalogue of Good Practices for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities, a catalogue of successful and innovative experiences created in coordination with SENADIS, Chile, to foster international cooperation among States.
- ▶ Organization of the first CEDDIS side event at the 9th Conference of States Parties to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The side event was entitled “Inclusive Initiatives for Persons with Disabilities in the Americas within the framework of CIADDIS”, and took place on June 15, 2016.
- ▶ Organization of the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Informal Meeting of the CEDDIS in the Permanent Mission of Colombia to the UN within the framework of the Conference of State Parties to the UN Disability Convention, June 15, 2016.
- ▶ Participation in the side event entitled “Intersections between the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and their Family and the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities” at the 9th Conference of States Parties to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, June, 2016.
- ▶ Organization of the Round Table “Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the Americas: Advances, Challenges and Perspectives”, in coordination with the Washington College of Law at American University to disseminate and discuss the challenges for inclusion of people with disabilities at the regional and universal levels, December 2016.

**Participating Countries:** Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Dominican Republic, Uruguay and Venezuela.

#### **Main achievements:**

- ✓ 60% of the national reports presented by the States Parties to the CIADDIS were evaluated by the CEDDIS Committee (Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Costa Rica, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Paraguay and Peru), with observations and recommendations to States by thematic area. These reports will feed into the Regional Observatory on Disability, currently under construction by CEDDIS and the Department of Social Inclusion.
- ✓ Receipt and processing of information of 169 questionnaires received from public sector entities and civil society organizations on the mechanisms of

support and safeguards to facilitate the exercise of the legal capacity of persons with disabilities in 11 participating countries (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Panama, Peru and the Dominican Republic).

- ✓ Adoption of Resolution AG/DEC. 89 (XLVI-O / 16) authorizing the extension, until 2026, of the Decade of the Americas for Persons with Disabilities (now 2016-2026) and the Program of Action for the Decade of the Americas For the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities.
- ✓ Organization of the first-ever OAS side event during the 9th Conference of States Parties to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- ✓ Official launching of the Regional Catalogue of Good Practices for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities, and preparation of the selection criteria of successful and innovative practices of social inclusion of persons with disabilities.

### ❖ **Inter-American Convention on the Human Rights of Older Persons**

In June 2015, after three years of negotiation, the OAS General Assembly adopted the Inter-American Convention on the Protection of the Rights of Older Persons. This convention is the first legally binding instrument in the world on the subject and aims to promote, protect and ensure the recognition and full enjoyment and exercise, on an equal basis, of all human rights and fundamental freedoms of the elderly, in order to contribute to their full inclusion, integration and participation in society.

During this period, SADYE carried out the following activities:

- ▶ National Conference on the Human Rights of Older Persons: Towards the Ratification of the Inter-American Convention on the Protection of the Human Rights of Older Persons, held on October 24, 2016 in the city of Buenos Aires, Argentina, in collaboration with the Institute of Social Services for Retirees and Pensioners in Argentina (PAMI) and the Argentine Foreign Ministry.
- ▶ Second Meeting of Experts for the Follow-up to the San José Charter on the Rights of Older Persons, held from November 17 to 18, 2016, in the city of Santiago de Chile, Chile.

### **Main achievements:**

- ✓ Strategic Alliance with the Institute of Social Services for Retirees and Pensioners of Argentina - PAMI.
- ✓ 250 key government and civil society actors trained on the Inter-American Convention on the Protection of the Human Rights of Older Persons.
- ✓ Strategic alliances established to promote the protection of older people with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Institute of Social Services for Retired Persons and Pensioners of Argentina - PAMI.

❖ **The Afro-descendant and LGTBI Agenda: Promotion of the International Decade for Afro-descendants, 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.**

Afro-descendants are among the most vulnerable groups in the Hemisphere as a result of poverty, underdevelopment, social exclusion, economic inequalities, which are closely linked to racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related practices of intolerance. In this context, various international and regional organizations have expressed their concern about the situation of vulnerability of Afro-descendants in the region. At the same time, lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex (LGBTI) people have also historically been subject to discrimination, intolerance, violence and persecution for their sexual orientation, identity and gender expression. Discrimination and, in some cases, religious motivations have fostered a discourse of hatred towards such persons, which has been reflected in the debates on the laws of civil union in some countries of the region. In 2016, the governments of Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, the United States, Chile, Mexico and Uruguay agreed to establish the LGBTI Group in the framework of the OAS. This Group aims to strengthen collaboration on OAS issues that impact LGBTI people, so as to improve dialogue, cooperation, and exchange of good experiences at the regional and multilateral levels.

During 2016, SARE worked to promote the rights of Afro-descendant and LGTBI people. Activities undertaken during this period include:

- ▶ Participation at the International Conference “Digital Racist Discourse in Latin America: Narratives and Counter Narratives”, organized by Harvard University from 27 to 29 April 2016, in the city of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- ▶ Launching of the Plan of Action for the Decade of Afro-Descendants of the Americas (2016-2025) on July 7, 2016, in Lima, Peru.
- ▶ Seminar on Equality and Non-Discrimination on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity for Parliamentarians of Latin America and the Caribbean, on July 11, 2016, in the city of Montevideo, Uruguay.
- ▶ Seminar “Strengthening National Institutions for Equality and Human Rights in Central America and the Caribbean to Implement the Program of Activities of the International Decade for Afro-Descendants”, from 19 to 20 July 2016, in Panama City, Panama.
- ▶ Launching of the Plan of Action for the Decade of Afro-Descendants of the Americas (2016-2025) in Washington, D.C., on July 26, in Washington D.C., United States of America.
- ▶ Dialogue between Parliamentarians and Afro-Descendant Leaders, on August 28, in the city of San José, Costa Rica.

- ▶ V Meeting of Parliamentarians and Political Leaders of African Descent of the Americas and the Caribbean, from August 29 to 31, 2016, in the city of San José, Costa Rica.
- ▶ Dialogue “Inter-American Convention against Racism and its Impact on a Society Free of Racial Discrimination”, on October 19, 2016, in the city of Lima, Peru.
- ▶ Dialogue “Afro-descendants in the Agenda of the Organization of American States (OAS)” on October 25, 2016, in the city of Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- ▶ Dialogue on “International Decade of Afro-descendants” on October 28, 2016, in the city of San Miguel de Tucumán, Argentina.
- ▶ Historical Recognition of the Contribution of the Afro-descendant Community to the Independence Process in the Bicentennial Celebration of the Argentinian Independence, October 28, 2016, in the city of San Miguel de Tucumán, Argentina.
- ▶ Dialogue on the Plan of Action of the Decade of Afro-Descendants of the Americas (2016-2025) in Panama on November 19, 2016, in Panama City, Panama.
- ▶ First International Conference of the LGBTIQ International Youth Network, from November 26 to December 1, 2016, in the Province of Jujuy, Argentina.
- ▶ Symposium “After Santiago 2000: the Afro-descendent Movement and Afro-Latin American Studies”, from 9 to 10 December 2016, in the city of Cartagena de Indias, Colombia.
- ▶ First Workshop of the Afro-descendent Youth Digital Initiative, December 12 to 14, 2016, in the city of Santiago de Cali, Colombia.
- ▶ Round Table entitled “LGBTI Youth in the Americas: Moving Forward in the Commitment to support Victims of trafficking in persons”, in coordination with the OAS LGTBI Core Group, on December 12, 2016, Washington D.C., United States of America.

**Participating Countries:** Argentina, Barbados, Belize, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haití, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Paraguay, Panama, Peru, Unites States of America and Uruguay.

### **Main achievements:**

- ▶ Technical Secretariat services provided to the Working Group in charge of the preparation and negotiation of the Plan of Action of Afro- descendants of the Americas (2016-2025).
- ▶ Support provided for the adoption in June 2016 by the General Assembly of the Plan of Action through resolution AG/RES. 2891 (XLVI-O/16) entitled “Plan of Action Plan for the Decade of Afro-descendants of the Americas (2016-2025)”.



- ▶ 1,800 people trained on Afro-descendant issues, particularly on the Plan of Action for the Decade of Afro-descendants of the Americas (2016-2025).
- ▶ Strategic alliance with the Anti-Discrimination Section of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.
- ▶ Strategic alliances developed with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the Panamanian Ombudsman's Office, the Ministry of Culture of Peru.
- ▶ Promotion of the discussion of the LGTBI people's rights agenda for the first time within the General Secretariat for the OAS.





## **STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4: PROMOTION OF THE PARTICIPATION OF CIVIL SOCIETY AND OTHER SOCIAL ACTORS IN THE ACTIVITIES OF THE OAS.**

The participation of civil society, including local organizations and networks of NGOs and social actors, has contributed to the achievement of hemispheric goals in strengthening democracy, protecting human rights, promoting integral development and multidimensional security, as well as other ongoing initiatives within the OAS, which are part of the inter-American agenda. Mutual trust and understanding between civil society organizations (CSOs) and the OAS have increased significantly in recent years, which has been reflected in an increase in the number and level of CSO involvement in initiatives, projects and activities carried out by the institution. To date, 502 CSOs have registered with the OAS and almost 600 cooperation agreements have been established between the various organizations. SARE's work in this area focused on four areas, namely, to ensure conditions for the participation of civil society in the 46th regular session of the OAS General Assembly; serve as technical secretariat to the Committee on Inter-American Summits Management and Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities (CISC), to manage the registry of civil society organizations accredited to the OAS, and finally, facilitating more participation of civil society in OAS activities.

During this reporting period, the following activities were carried out in each of the areas:

❖ **Civil society participation in the 46th Regular Session of the OAS General Assembly.** SARE facilitated the participation of 492 representatives of 310 civil society organizations at the 46th OAS General Assembly. By comparison, at the 45th General Assembly in 2015, 245 representatives of civil society participated.

### **Main achievements:**

- ▶ A clear methodology and procedures and conduct rules were designed to facilitate dialogue during the General Assembly.
- ▶ From 2015 to 2016, the number of civil society organizations participating in the General Assemblies of the OAS doubled (from 245 to 492).
- ▶ At the coordination meeting on June 12, 2016, CSO representatives were organized in 8 working groups. 95 observations and recommendations were agreed on the central theme of the General Assembly "Institutional Strengthening for Sustainable Development in the Americas". For the first time organizations were assigned to working groups based on the objectives of the organizations.
- ▶ Dialogue of the Secretary General and Deputy Secretary General with Civil Society and Social Actors took place on June 12, 2016. The working groups of the Coordination Meeting were asked to formulate questions in advance. In the dialogue, the spokespersons of the different groups were given the opportunity to present the questions of their respective groups. Given the high number of participants, this methodology allowed ensuring the representativeness and inclusion of all positions and themes.

► Dialogue of Member States and the Secretary General with Civil Society, Workers, Private Sector and Other Social Actors took place on June 13, 2016. The spokespersons for the working groups of civil society organizations, workers' representatives, the private sector and youth presented their recommendations to Member States. Member States also had the opportunity to take the floor to address the central theme of the General Assembly or other issues.

❖ **Committee on Inter-American Summits Management and Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities (CISC).** The SARE provided technical support to two meetings of the CISC of the Permanent Council, regarding various issues related to the participation of civil society in OAS activities, including regarding the presentation and review of accreditation requests by CSOs to become part of the OAS civil society registry.

❖ **Registration of civil society organizations (CSOs) in the OAS civil society registry.** During 2016, SARE received and prepared the analysis on 14 applications for the OAS civil society registry; applications that were submitted to the CISC for its consideration, pursuant to resolution CP/RES. 759 (1217/99) "Guidelines for the Participation of Civil Society in OAS Activities". To date, the Registry has 502 registered CSOs. The applications came from the following countries:

- 2 from Argentina
- 3 from Colombia
- 1 from Guatemala
- 6 from United States
- 1 from Panama
- 1 from the United Kingdom





46<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the OAS General Assembly in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 2016.

❖ **Expansion of the participation of civil society organizations in OAS activities.** Pursuant to Resolution CP/RES. 840 (1361/03) “Strategies for Increasing and Strengthening the Participation of Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities”, SARE implemented the following activities:

- Twitter registration campaign- SARE organized a twitter campaign to invite CSOs to apply to the OAS registry. As a result of the campaign, there was a marked increase in registration requests. Whereas in the past the average number of applications per year had been 15, in 2016 SARE received over 35 requests after the twitter campaign concluded.
- Campaigns at the national level: in 2016, SARE organized a series of presentations on the registration process. In 2017, activities will be carried out at the national level with the collaboration of GS/OAS offices in Member States to expand the number of organizations in the OAS civil society registry.
- Campaign for the English-speaking Caribbean: SARE prepared a database of CSOs from English-speaking Caribbean countries and launched a campaign aimed at these organizations in early 2017, with the aim of leveling the current imbalance between representative countries in the OAS civil society registry. To date, CSOs in the English-speaking Caribbean represent only 2.5% of the Register.
- Two virtual consultations with civil society carried out for the definition of the Plan of Action Plan for the Decade of Afro-Descendants of the Americas.

# 4

## OTHER STRATEGIC ACTIVITIES

### ❖ **Inter-American Prize for Innovation on Effective Public Management 2016. Social Inclusion Category.**

The “Inter-American Prize for Innovation on Effective Public Management <sup>12</sup>” (PIGEP for its Spanish acronym) is an initiative of the OAS Department for Effective Public Management (DEPM), whose main objective is to recognize, encourage, systematize and promote the innovations in public management that are being carried out in the region. This is with the purpose of supporting public institutions of the Americas become increasingly transparent, effective and develop mechanisms for citizen participation.

In the 2016 edition, the Department of Social Inclusion joined this Prize for the first time ever with a new category on “Social Inclusion”. The call was launched on May 2, 2016 and closed on July 1, 2016. As a result, the category of Social Inclusion of the PIGEP Prize was the 3rd of 7 to obtain more nominations, representing 22% of the total number of applications.

Applications in this category were obtained from 8 public administrations and government agencies at the national and municipal level in 8 countries of the region: Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama and Peru, on issues such as social inclusion and rights of persons with disabilities, social inclusion and rights of indigenous people, social inclusion and rights of young people in situations of vulnerability, care of the population living in poverty situation, job opportunities and educational inclusion of at-risk youth as well as care and restitution of rights to victims and displaced persons of armed conflict.

The SARE participated actively in the pre-selection of applications submitted as well as in putting together the Special Jury in charge of the analysis and evaluation of the applications. The Special Jury in charge of the evaluation of applications was composed of Dr. Diana Villiers Negrofonte, Member of the Advisory Board of the Wilson International Center, Dr. Kevin Casas-Zamora, Director of the “Peter D. Bell Rule” of Law Program at the Inter-American Dialogue, Dr. Zakiya Carr Johnson, Director of the United States Department of State’s Social Inclusion, Ethnicity and Race Unit, and Mrs. Luz Patricia Mejía, Technical Secretary of the Follow-Up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI) of the Inter-American Commission of Women, who at the beginning of October 2016 deliberated on the evaluation of the applications received.

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12 For more information, please visit <http://www.oas.org/es/sap/dgpe/innovacion/2016/>

In the Social Inclusion category, the application of the Municipality of El Carmen de Viboral from Antioquia, Colombia was the winner. The initiative aims at facilitating the reintegration of displaced families, victims of the armed conflict in this locality<sup>13</sup>.

### ❖ Television Campaign “More Rights for More People”.

Although there are several inter-American legal instruments that recognize that a full citizenship requires the enjoyment of rights in all spheres - political, civil, economic, social and cultural - much work remains to be done. Within the framework of an agreement between the OAS and the International Teletón Organization (ORITEL), TELEvisa and Fundación Teletón- Mexico, The SARE designed the contents of the hemispheric campaign of television spots “*More Rights for More People*”. The television campaign seeks to make visible the reality of three underrepresented or marginalized groups in our societies: women, people with disabilities and Afro-descendant people.<sup>14</sup>



13 <http://www.oas.org/es/sap/dgpe/Innovacion/2016/docs/ACTA-FINAL-RESULTADOS-PREMIO-2016.pdf>

14 For more information, please visit <http://www.oas.org/es/sadye/spots-tv-oea-oti.asp>

### ❖ Interagency Initiative on Education Inequality.

In the last decades, OAS member states have made important advances in their educational development through the establishment of global and regional political commitments, the increase in public investment and the implementation of public policies aimed at realizing the right of all inhabitants to access quality and inclusive education with equity. However, there are still many challenges ahead, including continuing to develop policies that promote greater equity and inclusion in education. Other challenges include facilitating access to children and youth to the different educational levels, increasing the educational completion rates, increasing the relevancy and pertinence of the contents, and improving teaching and learning processes in contexts of diversity, conflict and social fragmentation, among others. All this with the purpose of making education a force to build more democratic, inclusive societies with social justice.

In this context, the proposal to create an Inter-American Education System came as a result of the signing of a letter of intent between the CAF Bank of Latin America, the Inter-American Development Bank, the World Bank, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Organization of American States, which spells out the commitment of these institutions to work more closely and avoid duplication of efforts being made to support Member States in improving the quality of education. For its recognized leadership and experience in promoting political dialogue and hemispheric cooperation, the OAS was charged with the formulation of a proposal for the development of a mechanism to promote research, identification and systematization of good practices.

During 2016, efforts were made to initiate coordination of actions among the signatory institutions, and facilitate access to tools to review, strengthen and/or develop public educational policies, with a particular focus on tackling educational inequalities affecting low-income populations and those in vulnerable situation.

#### **Main achievements:**

- ▶ Establishment of alliances with key sectoral organizations in the region, such as the UNESCO Regional Office in Latin America (OREALC/UNESCO in Santiago) and the Ibero-American Organization for Education, Science and Technology (OEI).
- ▶ Identification of resources for the financing of planned activities.
- ▶ Formal request for technical cooperation by the Government of Guatemala for the development of pilot projects, and preparation of project proposals for the identification of financing.
- ▶ Presentation and analysis of the substantive documents in different academic, governmental and political forums.

### ❖ High-Level Roundtable “Call to Action: Protection Needs in the Northern Triangle of Central America,” held in San José, Costa Rica on July 6-7, 2016.

Human displacement in the Northern Triangle of Central America is multifaceted and has multiple causes, in particular socio-economic factors, but also violence and insecurity generated by organized crime, which forces people to move. The circle of violence, poverty and lack of opportunities may result in youth being at risk of being exploited by gangs and criminal organizations, and there is an urgent need to strengthen international institutions and mechanisms that can offer alternatives to this population. There is also concern about the significant protection risks faced by people with certain profiles, particularly women, children and youth, family groups, LGTBI people, indigenous and Afro-descendant communities, persons with disabilities. With the goal of generating an active dialogue, and commitments to implement a shared responsibility approach to this phenomenon, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) invited the OAS to join forces.

During this period, the OAS organized, in cooperation with UNHCR, the Central American Regional Integration System (SICA), and the Government of Costa Rica, the High Level Roundtable “Call to Action: Protection Needs in the Northern Triangle of Central America”, held in San José, Costa Rica on July 6 and 7, 2016.

#### **Main achievements:**

- ▶ Approval of the “San Jose Declaration.” With this declaration, the governments of the region and international agencies agreed on a joint work plan for the protection of refugees and migrants from the North Triangle of Central America.
- ▶ OAS and UNHCR were assigned the responsibility to follow up on the commitments made during the Round Table.
- ▶ OAS consolidated its role as an *honest broker* in the sub-regional discussion on the subject.



# 5

## PARTICIPATION IN REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

During this period, SARE participated in the following events:

- ▶ Presentation of the Documentation System for Cases of Violations of the Rights of Trans Persons, organized by REDLAC Trans, January 27, 2016, Washington, DC.
- ▶ International Round Table on the Status of Access to Justice in the Americas, organized by the GIZ-German International Cooperation Agency in coordination with the United Nations University for Peace, held on January 29, 2016 in Panama, Panama.
- ▶ I Follow-up Meeting on the Regional Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Higher Education Degrees in Latin America and the Caribbean, organized by UNESCO on February 17- 18, 2016 in Havana, Cuba.
- ▶ International Forum for Education, Innovation and Inclusion, organized by PARLATINO, held February 7-9, 2016 in Panama City, Panama.
- ▶ Forum “The Zika Virus Epidemic: Challenges and the Way Forward,” Meeting of the National Institutes of Health and international organizations involved in the issue of the ZIKA epidemic, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on April 13-14, 2016.
- ▶ International Conference on Adult Education (CONFINTEA), organized by UNESCO, and held in Brasilia, Brazil from April 25-27, 2016.
- ▶ National Conferences of Persons with Disabilities, Adults, LGBTI, Children and Adolescents, organized by the Government of Brazil and Civil Society, held April 25-27, 2016 in Brasilia, Brazil.
- ▶ XII National Conference on Human Rights, organized by the Government of Brazil and Civil Society, in Brasilia, Brazil on April 28-29, 2016.
- ▶ Presentation of the Initiative “More Life and More Health for Women and Children” before the Assembly of Delegates of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), on April 24 and 25, 2016 in Lima, Peru.

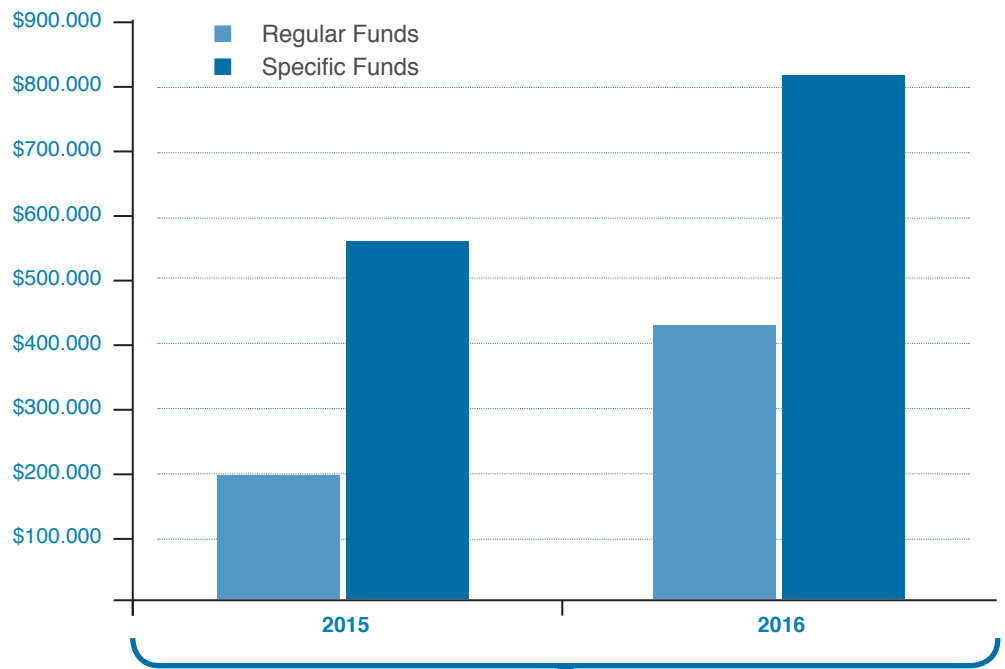


- ▶ International Forum “Inclusive State and Gender Equality: Public Policies in the New Framework of the Sustainable Development Goals,” organized by the National Institute of Women (INMUJERES) of Uruguay, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AECID), May 19-20, 2016, Montevideo, Uruguay.
- ▶ Technical Seminar on Public Institutions and Aging, June 30, 2016, organized by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Santiago, Chile.
- ▶ Meeting of Regional Bodies and International Financial Institutions, organized by the OAS in cooperation with ALADI, SIECA, CARICOM, OECS, ACS, ECLAC, CAF, IDB, CBD, CABI and the World Bank, held on September 9, 2016, Washington, DC.
- ▶ Latin American Democracy Forum “Civic education, political culture and citizen ethics: challenges for democratic strengthening”, held October 5-7, 2016 and organized by the National Electoral Institute of Mexico and the OAS, Mexico City, Mexico.
- ▶ Regional Meeting of Experts on the Situation of Women and Girls with Disabilities, held November 15-17, 2016 in Santiago, Chile, organized by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), with the objective of making recommendations aimed at amplifying the voices of women with disabilities and promoting their inclusive development with gender equality, within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 2030 Agenda.
- ▶ III Accessible Latin America Forum: Information and Communication for All, organized by ITU/ UN and IFT-Federal Institute of Telecommunications, held in Mexico City, Mexico November 28-30, 2016.

# 6

## FINANCIAL BALANCE 2016

During the reporting period, the Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity (SARE) consolidated its fundraising efforts. According to the budget modified and implemented in 2016, SARE received 5% (or \$ 1,808m) of the total budget of the Organization, representing one of the Secretariats with less regular funds allocated, as well as fewer staff. In light of this situation, SARE coordinated efforts to obtain financial support to run the work of the Secretariat. In this regard, for every dollar (\$) received from the Regular Fund, during 2016 SARE managed to raise more than double (\$ 2.25).



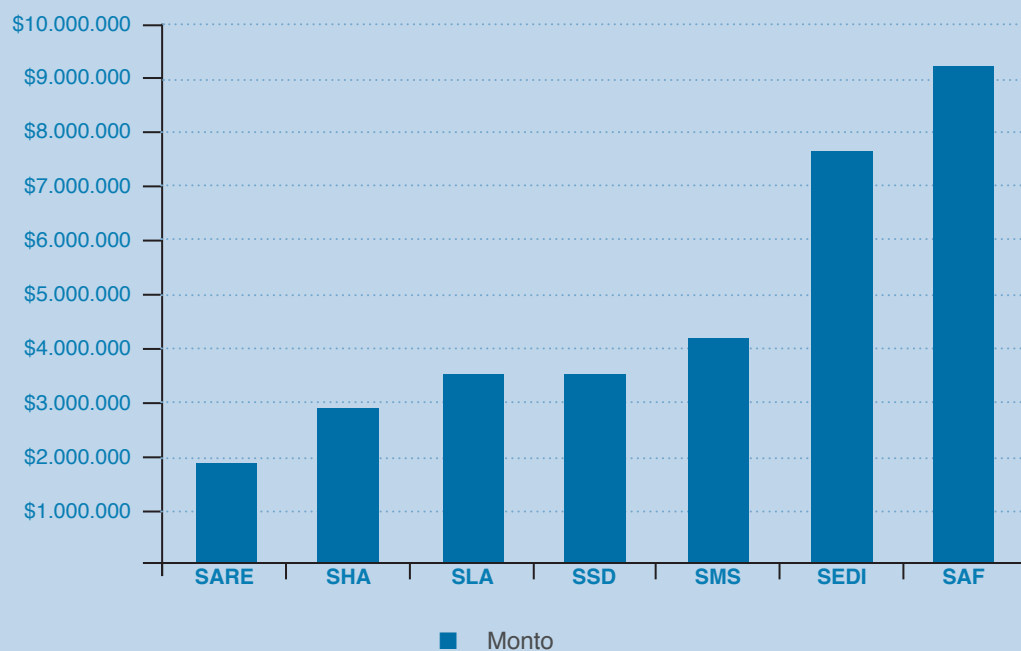
For \$ **1** received from the Regular Fund ▶ SARE raised \$ **2.25** from specific funds

TOTAL	
\$616.260 Regular fund	\$1.383.710 Specific funds

Source: Prepared by OAS for this report.

Some additional data include:

- Of the \$19 million total of Specific Funds from Permanent Observers received by the GS/OAS during 2016, SARE received 26%. The second largest distribution among all areas of the Organization.
- About 90-94% of the SARE funds come from Permanent Observers. This represents the largest percentage among all Secretariats when we compare donors by Member States, Permanent Observers and other institutions.
- Comparing specific funds and regular funds, almost 25% of SARE's funds come from the Regular Fund and the remaining 75% come from Specific Funds.



Fuente: Prepared by OAS based on the document CAAP/GT/RTPP/140/17 of the Working Group of the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs.

## STRATEGIC PARTNERS



Pan American Health Organization



World Health Organization

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE Americas



UNITED NATIONS enable



DEVELOPMENT BANK OF LATIN AMERICA



SICA

Sistema de la Integración Centroamericana

COMUNIDAD ANDINA



THE WORLD BANK  
IBRD • IDA | WORLD BANK GROUP



Inter-American Development Bank

IACHR

Inter-American Commission on Human Rights



Confederación Interamericana de Seguridad Social



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Asociación Interamericana de Organizaciones de Defensa del Consumidor (iDi)



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Panama  
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Peru  
Saint Kitts and Nevis  
Saint Lucia  
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines  
Suriname  
Trinidad and Tobago  
Uruguay  
United States  
Venezuela

<sup>1</sup> On June 3, 2009, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Americas adopted Resolution AG/RES.2438 (XXXIX-0/09) which resolves that the 1962 Resolution that excluded the Government of Cuba from its participation in the Inter-American system, ceases to have effect in the Organization of American States (OAS). The 2009 resolution states that the participation of the Republic of Cuba in the OAS will be the result of a process of dialogue initiated at the request of the Government of Cuba, and in accordance with the practices, purposes, and principles of the OAS.



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