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DRAFT DECLARATION

SIXTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CREATION AND INSTALLATION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, FIFTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ADOPTION OF THE AMERICAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS (PACT OF SAN JOSÉ, COSTA RICA), AND FORTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS^{1/}

(Agreed on by the General Committee during its second session held on June 27, 2024, submitted for the consideration of the Plenary)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

UNDERSCORING that the Charter of the Organization of American States proclaims the rights of the individual as one of the Organization's principles and declares that the principal function of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) is to promote the observance and protection of human rights in the Hemisphere and to serve as the Organization's consultative organ in those matters, a function that is also assigned to the Commission by the American Convention on Human Rights (Pact of San José, Costa Rica), 1969;

UNDERSCORING ALSO that the American Convention on Human Rights, 1969, created the Inter-American Court of Human Rights as the sole regional human rights court, charged with enforcing and interpreting the American Convention and other instruments of the Inter-American system;

BEARING IN MIND that the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, 1948, and the American Convention on Human Rights, 1969, are essential instruments in the protection of human rights in the Hemisphere;

RECALLING the Special Meeting of the Permanent Council, held on December 5, 2023, which adopted the declaration: "Upholding Human Rights for Future Generations: 75 Years of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the American Declaration on the Rights and Duties of Man," and the resulting installation on April 15, 2024 of a commemorative plaque to commemorate the birthplace of the American Declaration and the Charter of the Organization of American States at the Gimnasio Moderno, Bogota, where final negotiations occurred

CONSIDERING that 2024 marks the sixty-fifth anniversary of the creation and installation of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the fifty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the American Convention on Human Rights, and the forty-fifth anniversary of the installation of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in San José, Costa Rica;

1. The Delegation of Trinidad and Tobago will submit a footnote on the entire draft resolution.

RECOGNIZING that the work of the organs of the Inter-American System charged with promoting and protecting human rights furthers the strengthening of democratic systems, the rule of law, and the effective enjoyment of human rights in the Americas;

BEARING IN MIND that the American states are committed to the ongoing strengthening of an Inter-American System for the protection of human rights;

HIGHLIGHTING the contributions made by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights to the promotion and protection of human rights in the Hemisphere and to strengthening and improving democratic systems in the Hemisphere;

RECOGNIZING those states of the Hemisphere that in recent years have invited the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights to hold periods of sessions in their countries and facilitate the accomplishment of their respective mandates; and

TAKING NOTE that, as stated in the Declaration of Santiago, adopted to commemorate 50 years of work by the IACHR, having democracy effectively in force, under the terms defined by the Inter-American Democratic Charter, is a condition for the full enjoyment of the human rights of all people of the Americas, without any discrimination whatsoever, and that the experience of decades of working to promote and protect human rights through petitions, individual cases, general situations, and thematic approaches demonstrates the importance of strengthening the bodies of the Inter-American system and of generating a true culture of human rights in the societies of the Hemisphere,

DECLARES:

1. To officially commemorate, in the second half of 2024, the sixty-fifth anniversary of the creation and installation of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), the fifty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the American Convention on Human Rights (Pact of San José, Costa Rica), and the forty-fifth anniversary of the installation of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in San José, Costa Rica.

2. To hold a special meeting of the Permanent Council in the second half of 2024 to commemorate the anniversaries identified in the preceding paragraph.

3. To acknowledge the contributions of the IACHR and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights to the promotion and protection of human rights and to strengthening democratic systems in the Hemisphere.

4. To reaffirm the importance of the American Convention on Human Rights (Pact of San José, Costa Rica) as a source of International Law for states parties and one of the main legal instruments for the promotion and protection of human rights in the region.

5. To urge states parties to persevere with their efforts to ensure the effective enforcement of the American Convention on Human Rights (Pact of San José, Costa Rica) by adopting and intensifying measures for its compliance, and to encourage those states that have not yet done so to consider signing, ratifying, or acceding the Convention.

6. To reiterate its respect for the independence of the organs of the Inter-American Human Rights System and the importance of their interactions with other regional human rights protection and promotion mechanisms and with those of the universal system

7. To recognize that ratification of the American Convention on Human Rights is a step toward the full protection of human rights in the Hemisphere, that must be accompanied with appropriate actions by States; supported by human rights education, and civil society participation and other non-state actors.

8. To recognize that the strategic planning carried out by the IACHR contributes to the effectiveness of the Inter-American Human Rights System, as a pillar and shared commitment of the Americas; its recognition of the work carried out by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in strengthening justice and the protection of human rights.

9. To express its appreciation to the Republic of Paraguay for holding the event to commemorate the sixty-fifth anniversary of the IACHR within the framework of the fifty-fourth regular session of the General Assembly and to encourage the other member states to celebrate those anniversaries.

10. To invite states to guarantee the IACHR the conditions necessary for it to conduct working visits and outreach and educational activities; in order to publicize the Inter-Americana principles and all instruments of the Inter-American Human Rights.

11. 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.

12. To invite States, the General Secretariat, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, and other organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization, within their respective spheres of competence, together with the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights, to continue to conduct activities for the broad dissemination of the mechanisms of the American Convention on Human Rights and of the Inter-American human rights promotion and protection system and to strengthen ties between the oversight agencies and the national authorities charged with ensuring and upholding human rights.