

AG/RES. 2167 (XXXVI-O/06)

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMMITTEE PROVIDED FOR IN THE
INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS
OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

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

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING its resolution AG/RES. 1608 (XXIX-O/99), in which the General Assembly adopted the Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities;

CONSIDERING:

That the Heads of State and Government, gathered at the First Summit of the Americas (Miami, 1994), the Second Summit of the Americas (Santiago, 1998), and the Third Summit of the Americas (Quebec City, 2001) reaffirmed their commitment to protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all, including those in situations of vulnerability or marginalization and, among them, persons with disabilities and others needing special protection, and undertook to eradicate all forms of discrimination and to achieve the full participation of all individuals in the political, economic, social, and cultural life of the countries of the region;

That in the Declaration of Florida: Delivering the Benefits of Democracy, adopted by the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth regular session, the governments reaffirmed the commitment to eliminate all forms of discrimination and intolerance, particularly those based on gender, ethnic origin, race, religion, and disability, as a fundamental element in strengthening democracy;

That in the Plan of Action of the Fourth Summit of the Americas, held in Mar del Plata, Argentina, in November 2005, the governments undertook to develop and strengthen policies to increase opportunities for decent, dignified, and productive work for senior citizens and persons with disabilities, and ensure compliance with national labor laws in this area, including eliminating discrimination against them in the workplace, and to consider a declaration on the decade of the Americas for persons with disabilities (2006-2016), together with a program of action;

That the Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities entered into force on September 14, 2001;

That Article VI of the aforementioned Convention provides for the establishment of a Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities, composed of one representative appointed by each state party, to follow up on the commitments undertaken in the Convention. It also provided that the Committee would hold its first meeting within the 90 days following the deposit of the 11th instrument of ratification, which occurred when Nicaragua ratified the Convention on November 25, 2002; and

That the aforementioned article also stated that the first meeting of the Committee should be convened by the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States; and

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION that in order to ensure effective compliance with the obligations taken on by the states parties it is necessary and advisable to activate the Committee provided for in the Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities as soon as possible,

RESOLVES:

1. To request the Secretary General to convene, in accordance with Article VI of the Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities, the first meeting of the Committee during the second half of 2006.

2. To request that the Secretary General, taking into account the contributions of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and of the civil society organizations that specialize in disability issues, present to the member states, through the Permanent Council, a proposal on the documents needed in order to activate the mechanism contemplated in Article VI of the aforementioned Convention.

3. To instruct the Permanent Council to follow up on this resolution, which will be implemented within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources, and to present a report on its implementation to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session.