

V. OTHER AGENCIES AND ENTITIES

INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE CONTROL COMMISSION

Established by the General Assembly in 1986, the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) works from the principles and objectives spelled out in the Inter-American Program of Action of Rio de Janeiro against the Illicit Use and Production of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and Traffic Therein, as well as the provisions of the Anti-Drug Strategy in the Hemisphere, approved in 1996 by the Commission and in 1997 by the General Assembly. It is a hemispheric forum enabling the member states to evaluate policies and strategies and to exchange ideas on and experiences with the drug problem. Its main objectives are to expand and strengthen the member states' capacity to lower the demand for illegal drugs and prevent their abuse, to combat their illicit production and trafficking, and to promote a suitable inter-American response through more regional activities involving research, training of specialized personnel and reciprocal assistance.

The demand for narcotics and psychotropic substances increased in the Hemisphere in 2001. Recent research found that drug use appears to have increased in the member states and that new combinations of drugs are being used in areas where drugs were never before a problem. CICAD has responded by facilitating and promoting multilateral cooperation to control the use and production of drugs in the Americas and illegal traffic therein.

Through its programs for 2001—the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM), Demand Reduction, Supply Reduction, Alternative Development, Legal Development, Money Laundering, Institution Building, and the Inter-American Observatory on Drugs- CICAD executed the Anti-Drug Strategy in the Hemisphere. The top priority was implementation and completion of the first round of the MEM evaluations.

Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM)

In a show of support for the MEM, the Commission received three new mandates from the Third Summit of the Americas. The Summit called for CICAD and the IDB to step up their joint efforts to raise funds from the international donor community. It recommended the creation of financial intelligence units to make international cooperation against money laundering more effective. It also called for collaboration in the area of alternative development and creation of a mechanism to estimate the social, human and economic costs of drug abuse in the Hemisphere.

In April 2001, the MEM's Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG) examined the evaluation process and came up with new and better indicators for the second round of evaluations. The IWG presented the newly revised indicators and its recommendations to CICAD at its twenty-ninth regular session. The Commission approved the 83 indicators, which cover the full anti-drug campaign. They were then sent out to the capitals for the second round of the evaluation process, which is for 2001-2002.

With culmination of the first round of negotiations, and after publishing the countries' reports and the hemispheric report in January 2001, the MEM entered the second phase of its program with an analysis of the action taken on the first round's recommendations. The Group of Government Experts drafted the reports that the Commission approved at its special meeting in January 2002. The national reports on the progress made to carry out the recommendations were sent to the member states on January 30, 2002 and are available to the public. The results of the MEM show that, by working together, the countries have forged an efficient and effective instrument to take on one of the region's most daunting challenges.

Demand Reduction

The main objective of the Demand Reduction Program is to reduce the demand for illegal drugs and other substances by discouraging and preventing initial consumption of them and by treating the negative effects they have on society and on health. CICAD offered formal and informal training for professionals who operate drug prevention programs and who provide treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration services in the member states.

At its fourth meeting, held in Montego Bay, the Group of Experts in Demand Reduction came up with 18 recommendations drug treatment and rehabilitation services for addicts, with the emphasis on prevention and treatment of alcohol abuse. The Group also underscored how important it was that each country should have minimum standards of care by which to regulate treatment centers.

Some of the activities that continued in 2001 were the projects in demand-reduction training at nursing schools in Latin America; the drug-abuse prevention and treatment program for street children and working children; and the Caribbean drug-abuse prevention and treatment program. The On-line MA in Addictions Studies Program will be conducted in conjunction with three Spanish and five Latin American universities and will begin in mid 2002. With CICAD's technical and financial support, some countries developed minimum standards of care and treatment, with due regard for the patients' human rights.

Supply Reduction

The Supply Reduction Program conducted a number of training programs, among them a seminar in Lima for the "Uniform Chemical Control Software Project," conducted in coordination with the United States Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA); a workshop under the Customs Cooperation project, conducted with France's Centre Interministériel de Formation Anti-Drogue (CIFAD), in Fort-de-France, Martinique; and two seminars on intelligence analysis in counter-narcotics, given by the Andean Community Regional School for Anti-drug Intelligence.

The Caribbean Chemical Control Project, co-financed by the European Commission, held its fifth training seminar in Kingston. The Maritime Cooperation and Port Security Project sponsored conferences in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, and Manta, Ecuador, about the port security programs in those two countries. The Group of Experts on Chemicals (Pharmaceutical) Products identified problems and made recommendations in difficult areas of pharmaceutical control, such as legislation and the timely exchange of information.

New equipment was provided for the Inter-American Drug Control Telecommunications Network (RETCOD), with new agencies being established in countries already participating in the project,

including Argentina and Panama. In December 2001, a study was published on maritime drug trafficking in Colombia, which included a number of recommendations. To promote multinational cooperation, in January 2002 another study was conducted, this one in cooperation with the Government of Chile. Another is already planned in Ecuador.

Alternative Development Program

Under the Alternative Development Program, implementation of the Land-Use Evaluation and Management Program (GLEAM) concluded in Peru when computer, field and training equipment was shipped for the staff of CONTRADROGAS. CICAD expanded GLEAM's use in other countries of the Andean region, mainly in Bolivia.

CICAD included the Caribbean in the product improvement area of this Program, with the launch of the Organic Banana and Comprehensive Pest Control project in Saint Lucia, Jamaica and Dominica. In Bolivia, two activities were set in motion to improve the production and introduction of new varieties of banana and cacao plants. In Colombia, CICAD worked with the indigenous communities of Cofán and the Indigenous Council of the Guamuez Valley and San Miguel. CICAD is also working with Ecuador and Paraguay to prepare their respective consultative groups. Ecuador's Consultative Group held a meeting in October with the international community, which pledged support in the amount US\$266 million for its activities.

Legal Development Program

The Legal Development Program worked on firearms control and control of chemical precursors. It participated as an observer in the Permanent Central American Anti-drug Committee [Comisión Centroamericana Permanente Antidrogas] (CCP), to provide it with legal and technical support to strengthen its structure. At that Committee's request, CICAD also suggested changes to the Committee's Charter. The Legal Development section also helped devise the Regional Plan of Action of its member countries.

The project of the Regional Center for Juridical Development and Cooperation in Central America (CEDEJU), carried out jointly with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), concluded with a roundtable about what the training program for prosecutors and judges from the countries of the region had accomplished. Recommendations were made for a new training project on applying international instruments to drug crimes and related offenses criminalized in the pertinent national laws.

Three seminars were held for the Central American, Caribbean and South American countries. Held in coordination with the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UN-LiREC), the purpose of these seminars was to encourage application of the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials and implementation of CICAD's Model Regulations for Control of the International Movement of Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, in accordance with domestic law.

On the question of chemical substances used in the production of illegal drugs, the laws of eleven Caribbean countries were examined to make certain that their provisions squared with the pertinent international and regional instruments, such as the 1988 United Nations Vienna Convention and CICAD's

Model Regulations for the Control of Chemical Substances. CICAD worked with the UNDCP's Regional Office for the Caribbean in Barbados to put the necessary legislation into effect in the Caribbean member countries.

In January 2002, the unit made an addition to CICAD's web site, introducing a section on firearms and their parts and components. Also included are the international and regional conventions and the domestic laws on arms control and the central contacts in the member countries for purposes of importing and exporting these products. Also, in January 2002, CICAD and UN-LiREC teamed up to launch a pilot project to introduce a computerized version of the Model Regulations for Control of the International Movement of Firearms. In February, it published a handbook for the countries to use to implement those Model Regulations.

Control of Money Laundering

CICAD's Money Laundering Control Unit worked with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) on training projects targeting public and private financial institutions and the court authorities in the member states. It conducted the pilot project that trained bankers and bank regulators from Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Uruguay. CICAD and the IDB supplied the program they developed to Spain's Banco Bilbao Vizcaya Argentaria (BBVA) to train its staff in Latin America and the Caribbean, estimated at some 50,000; in return, the BBVA will give CICAD, for its own training purposes, the BBVA's new, updated program as well as a version in Portuguese, so that the training courses can be conducted in Brazil. Uruguay's Banco Montevideo also received the training materials in exchange for organizing courses for its staff –approximately 500 in number- and for 80 Uruguayan civil servants whose responsibilities lie in the area of money-laundering control.

A training program for judges and prosecutors got underway in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela. The phase of the program wherein needs are evaluated has been completed. To train public officials and strengthen institutions that control money laundering, a program was proposed to the IDB that would target financial intelligence units. The program will materialize in 2002.

At its meeting in Peru, the Group of Experts on Money Laundering agreed that the financial intelligence units needed to be built up in order that they might become effective tools of international cooperation to fight money laundering. They also decided to continue to examine the question of the autonomy of the money laundering offense with a view to enabling the courts to enforce the law more effectively.

Institution-building Program

Strengthening the national institutions coordinating the war on drugs in the member states continues to be the ultimate objective of the activities undertaken under the Institution-building Program. To accomplish this, CICAD worked on technical assistance to create or modernize the national drug strategies and plans, to equip the countries with programming instruments they could draw upon to steer their own anti-drug policies. CICAD was instrumental in preparing the National Plans of the Bahamas, Barbados, Dominica and Venezuela.

CICAD assisted with the establishment of the National Observatories on Drugs, inviting the countries to avail themselves of the proper information, analysis and research tools needed to determine

more accurately the magnitude of the problem and implement effective policies to combat drugs. With funding from Spain's National Drug Plan and the Spanish Cooperation Agency (AECI), CICAD progressed with implementation of the institution-building project for the National Drug Committees of Central America (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama), where National Observatories on Drugs have already been created. The Dominican Republic was added to the project, which entered into its second phase (2001-2003) during which it will focus on the Andean countries (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela). In October, Cartagena de Indias was the site of the Ibero-American Meeting on National Observatories on Drugs, sponsored by CICAD. It was an opportunity to share the most interesting experiences in drug information in Latin America and Europe.

Inter-American Observatory on Drugs

The Inter-American Observatory on Drugs, created in May 2000, provided the member states with financial and technical support to conduct the surveys on drug use using the Inter-American System of Uniform Drug-Use Data (CICDAT), which focused its work on studies of drug use among high school students. The Observatory developed a method by which to estimate the economic and social costs of drugs and published the Statistical Summary on Drugs 2001. The latter is a compilation of data from the member states on the control of the supply of illegal drugs, using the CICDAT data system. It also collaborated with the Statistics section of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) on a review of the *Annual Reports Questionnaire (ARQ)*.

A new topic introduced was research into the phenomenon of displacement in the Hemisphere. The meetings on this issue began in February, May and November. At the first meeting, the CICAD Coordinators Group on Displacement agreed upon a definition of the phenomenon and asked the Executive Secretariat to prepare a research protocol that they could use to study displacement in their own countries. At its second and third meetings, the Group examined the national reports on the subject. It recommended a new "displacement" indicator to the Commission, which it suggested should be included in the MEM's second round. That recommendation was approved.

The Observatory also created a regional web page on drugs, designed jointly by CICAD and the national observatories on drugs. The purpose is to supply information on various aspects of the drug phenomenon. Through workshops and training seminars, the Observatory has sponsored a project to help the member states develop national drug data systems.

INTER-AMERICAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

The Inter-American Telecommunications Commission (CITEL), established by the General Assembly in 1994, has technical autonomy in the performance of its functions, within the limits set by the OAS Charter, the CITEL statutes and the mandates of the General Assembly. Its main objective is to facilitate and promote continuous development of telecommunications in the Hemisphere. It serves as the OAS' principal advisory body in telecommunications-related matters.

The Declaration of Quebec City acknowledged that the Hemisphere's collective efforts would be more effective through innovative uses of information and communications technologies, to connect our governments and our people and to share knowledge and ideas. This Declaration and the Plan of Action of the Summit of the Americas have helped pinpoint what the priorities and goals will be in the years ahead. In CITEL's case, the Summit has called for it to continue to increase the connectivity and information technology in its role as the principal vehicle of communications in the region.

For CITEL, 2001 was a year to prepare, organize and plan many activities, in order to keep pace with the new world of telecommunications. That world is one shaped not only by the rapid development of new technologies and services, establishment of more open markets and independent regulatory agencies, but also by the economic problems in the private telecommunications business sector.

During the period that this report covers, CITEL published the first issue of its official magazine, CITEL XXI. The first issue featured the "Internet in the Americas." CITEL also focused on narrowing the digital divide, developing the telecommunications infrastructure in the region and making certain that its work continues to be relevant both to the governments of the member countries and to its associate members. By the end of 2001, CITEL's associate members numbered over 230. In this connection, CITEL signed cooperative agreements with various institutions in the global telecommunications community (AHCJET, ETSI, ASETA, Committee T1 (USA), TIA (USA)) and is negotiating several others with CEPT, C/LAA, CREAD, IAF, UPAEP, and ALACEL.

To summarize, in 2001 CITEL organized nine meetings, at which 88 resolutions, 9 recommendations and 19 decisions were approved.

Activities of the committees

Steering Committee

CITEL's Steering Committee is the Commission's administrative arm and is composed of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Permanent Executive Committee, the three chairs of the Permanent Consultative Committees, and the Executive Secretary. The latter serves as the Steering Committee's secretary. At the eighth meeting, held in Washington, D.C., August 23 and 24, 2001, the Steering Committee reviewed the Plan of Action from the Third Summit of the Americas and then devised a Connectivity Agenda for the Americas to ensure that CITEL acts on the Summit's mandate. This document will be taken up at CITEL's Third Assembly, which will be held in Buenos Aires in August 2002. If approved, it will become the basis of CITEL's program of activities for the 2002-2006 period.

The Steering Committee examined the draft calendar of meetings, the proposed budget for 2002, the changes proposed to CITEL's statute and regulations. It also issued additional directives concerning

preparations for the CITELE Assembly and for the Forum of High-ranking Telecommunications Authorities that will be held during the Assembly. The Steering Committee also submitted a report to the OAS Permanent Council on CITELE's present and future activities and accomplishments.

Permanent Executive Committee of CITELE (COM/CITELE)

The Permanent Executive Committee is CITELE's executive body and meets once each year. In 2001 (Salinas, Ecuador, December 10 to 14, 2001), a version of the Connectivity Agenda for the Americas was introduced, with preparation beginning in August of this year under the direction of COM/CITELE's Chair. This document contains general guidelines, facilitating the dialogue, design and start-up of the national connectivity agendas. Those national connectivity agendas have to be devised and executed to ensure continuity. Civil society, the private sector, the public sector, and international and regional organizations will all have to participate in the process. The goal is for all the countries of the Americas to have started on their connectivity agendas before the next Summit of the Americas. They are to set realistic dates, objectives and goals. Funding for the national connectivity agenda is to figure in the national development plans of the governments of the region.

This meeting of COM/CITELE examined the market experiences of the countries of the region. COM/CITELE approved a plan whereby CITELE and the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) would organize a meeting in 2002, in conjunction with the Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA).

In 2001, CITELE began to develop a first tele-education course on "Regulation of new services and IP applications", based on materials prepared by Peru's National Telecommunications Research and Training Institute [Instituto Nacional de Investigación y Capacitación de Telecomunicaciones] (INICTEL). After analyzing the countries' needs, COM/CITELE approved the 2002 tele-education courses: "Security in public networks," offered by the ITU's Center of Excellence, and "Interconnecting networks," offered by the Colombian Engineering Association [Asociación Colombiana de Ingenieros] (ACIEM).

As part of the COM/CITELE meeting, the Working Group to prepare CITELE for the Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-02) and the World Telecom Development Conference (WTDC-02), both hosted by the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), held its fourth meeting. There, the Working Group finished putting together the inter-American proposals for PP-02 that would call for changes in the Constitution and Convention of the ITU. The deadline for presenting the proposals expired in January 2002. At this meeting the Working Group discussed the preparations for WTDC-02 whose theme will be "Bridging the Digital Divide".

Permanent Consultative Committee I: Public Telecommunications Services (CCP.I)

The CCP.I is the technical advisory body on matters relating to coordination of standards, planning, financing, construction, operation, maintenance, technical assistance, equipment certification procedures, rates and other matters associated with the use, implementation and operation of the public telecommunications services in the member states. CCP.I had two meetings in 2001: the XIV Meeting, Natal, Brazil, March 26 to 30; and the XV Meeting, Asuncion, Paraguay, October 1 to 5.

On the topic of coordination of standards, the Committee adopted resolutions on the following: intelligent networks (IN), with recommendations for implementing standards to introduce new services

and number portability, a system for tracking serial numbers on mobile terminals reported lost or stolen, and creation of a standardized antifraud system in convergent telecommunications systems (fixed-mobile-IP). It also began examining the inter-operability of various wireless networks, 3G among them, with the wireless and existing cable networks in the Americas, and updating the proposed coordinated standard on the land component of the IMT-2000. Given the rapid pace at which the technologies are changing and the need to get this information to the countries, the decision was to conduct studies that could be made available at CITELE's page on the Internet, so that the governments could research developments in the technologies in various areas, such as Version 6 of the Internet Protocol, third generation wireless systems, broadband and number portability.

The Committee also established the work program of the Inter-American Mutual Recognition Agreement for Conformity Assessment of Telecommunications Equipment. Various countries are adjusting their procedures and domestic laws in order to be able to begin phase 1 (transition phase of mutual recognition of test reports) and phase 2 (operational phase of mutual recognition of certifications) of the Agreement. To expedite the procedures, CITELE will launch a database with the information needed to help put the Mutual Recognition Agreements into practice. It also started work on the first chapters of the "Yellow Book on Telecommunication Equipment Certification Processes in the Americas."

The Working Group on Basic and Universal Services completed preparation of the book on tele-education in the Americas, which recounts the tele-education policies, plans and projects now operable. In 2002, studies and research will get underway to put together a book on tele-medicine in the Americas and manuals on tele-applications. There are also plans to publish a book on Global Information Infrastructure in the Americas, which will look at policies and strategies for planning this type of infrastructure.

Permanent Consultative Committee II: Broadcasting (CCP.II)

The CCP.II is the technical advisory body on matters related to standards, planning, operation and technical assistance for broadcasting in its various modalities. In conjunction with its VIII Meeting (San Salvador, El Salvador, May 7 to 11, 2001), this Committee held a Forum on Broadcasting Policies in the Americas, which consisted of eight sessions and two discussion panels where digital television and audio technologies, satellite broadcasting services and some regulatory issues were examined in depth.

From the conclusions it is apparent that the greatest challenge facing the architects of broadcasting policy is to address and meet society's needs adequately, and take advantage of the new technologies. The chief recommendation is that more studies be done in the field of new technologies, standards and commercial models of broadcasting, in cooperation with the industry, regulators, broadcasters and consumers from the countries of the region.

Permanent Consultative Committee III: Radiocommunications (CCP.III)

The CCP.III acts as a technical advisory body within the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission with respect to standards coordination, planning, and full and efficient use of the radio spectrum and satellite orbits, as well as matters pertaining to the operation of radiocommunication services in the member states. In 2001, the Committee held its XVII Meeting in Panama City, March 5 to 9, its XVIII Meeting in Ottawa, June 11 to 15, and its XIX Meeting in Guatemala City, November 6 to 9.

At the present time, a report is being prepared on the differences and similarities between the procedures to obtain VSAT licenses in the region. The idea is to help the administrations simplify their

procedures. For preparation of the report, the experiences and systems used by the administrations of member countries and other regional organizations were examined.

Inasmuch as the spectrum is a scarce resource and migration of frequency bands of the radiocommunications services is needed to make room for the new services coming up, the CITEL web page features information on the experiences of the countries of the region with this matter. This paper is in preparation for the World Radiocommunications Conference, where the countries decide on spectrum sharing to make way for the launch or growth of the communications services, establish international regulations for the use of frequencies by all the services –from television and radio broadcasting, mobile telephone systems, to maritime and aeronautical navigation, security systems and satellite systems. At the XVIII meeting, the Committee approved the new procedure for submitting inter-American proposals to the World Radiocommunications Conference. It raised to six the number of governments that must support a draft proposal for the latter to become an inter-American proposal, which must not be opposed by more than 50% of the number of votes obtained.

To facilitate the work of the region's regulators and to promote harmonization, guides were approved for high-density implementation of fixed-services earth stations via geostationary satellite, without having to make an individual coordination with the fixed service, and a handbook on low-power devices. Still under study are spectrum positions for IMT-2000 or third-generation mobile services.

INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE AGAINST TERRORISM

Created by the General Assembly [AG/RES. 1650 (XXIX-O/99)], the purpose of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism is to cultivate cooperation to prevent, combat, and eliminate terrorist acts and activities. It is made up of the competent national authorities of all the member states. The Committee conducts its work on the basis of international conventions on this subject, the principles and objectives of the Lima Declaration to Prevent, Combat and Eliminate Terrorism, the Lima Plan of Action on Hemispheric Cooperation to Prevent, Combat, and Eliminate Terrorism and the Mar del Plata Commitment. It is headquartered at the OAS General Secretariat.

On September 21, 2001, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Organization's member states adopted resolution RC.23/RES. 1/01 rev.1, which instructed the Permanent Council to convene a meeting of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism so that it might identify immediate measures aimed at strengthening inter-American cooperation to prevent, combat and eliminate terrorism in the Hemisphere.

In keeping with that mandate, CICTE held its first special meeting on October 15, 2001, at OAS headquarters, to begin implementing the OAS' commitments against terrorism, as agreed upon by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs.

Representatives of the 34 member states, 12 permanent observers, and the organizations of the inter-American system participated in this special meeting. There, a number of delegates reported on the improvements introduced on the domestic legislative front to ensure ratification or application of the twelve United Nations conventions and the Inter-American Convention on terrorism-related issues. Some delegations also said that the obligations contained in United Nations Security Council resolution 1373 had been incorporated into their domestic laws.

In order to implement the provisions adopted and the resolve expressed by all nations of the hemisphere in their effort to combat terrorism, three subcommittees were established within CICTE: a border controls subcommittee, a financial controls subcommittee, and a subcommittee to update the work plan adopted at CICTE's first regular meeting, held in Miami in December 1999.

The subcommittees' proposals were compiled in the report on "Conclusions and Recommendations", which was received and approved at CICTE's second special meeting, held on November 29, 2001. At that meeting a decision was made to present the report to CICTE for formal approval at its second regular session.

CICTE held its second special session at OAS headquarters on January 28 and 29, 2002. In attendance were high-ranking representatives of thirty-three member states, including Ministers of Government in charge of anti-terrorist policy, principal representatives appointed to CICTE and the permanent or acting representatives to the OAS. Also present were representatives of 25 OAS permanent observers. During that session, the member states reported the measures they had taken pursuant to the decisions adopted by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs in the resolution approved at the XXIII Meeting of Consultation. They also approved the work plans that CICTE's three subcommittees had prepared. The third regular session of CICTE was set for January 2003, at a site yet to be determined.

The OAS' action in the international fight against terrorism was especially acknowledged when the Secretary General and the Chairman of CICTE were invited to report to the United Nations Security Council on the efforts undertaken in light of Security Council resolution 1373. The information was well received. Other regional organizations have looked to the OAS as a model for their own anti-terrorist efforts.

In addition to the holding of two special sessions and the second regular session, a small secretariat has been set up for CICTE, partly with General Secretariat resources. That secretariat has undertaken the job of instituting contacts with various multilateral organizations like the United Nations, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and Interpol, all to hone the scope of CICTE's activities and work. Thanks to the support of the member states and permanent observers, CICTE is now in the process of designing training programs and devising an inter-American database of terrorism experts. It will assist CICTE's efforts to induce an exchange of best practices and other information useful to the states of the Hemisphere in their efforts to combat terrorism.

INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON NATURAL DISASTER REDUCTION

The Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction (IACNDR) was created by the General Assembly through resolution AG/RES. 1682 (XXIX-O/99), to deal with natural disaster-related issues and to serve as the OAS' main forum for analyzing this topic, in coordination with the competent national organizations. It is chaired by the OAS Secretary General and composed of the Chairman of the Permanent Council, the Assistant Secretary General, the President of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Director General of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the Secretary General of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), the Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), and the Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI).

The Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction (IACNDR) met twice last year, in response to the earthquakes in El Salvador. Both times, the work focused on orchestrating the responses of the inter-American system's various entities and agencies as they embarked upon their relief and recovery work.

At the meeting the Committee held in January, it examined how it might have responded better to the first series of earthquakes and aftershocks in El Salvador. It was decided that a document should be prepared describing the services that the Committee members offer to respond to disasters and to help rebuild and mitigate the disasters' effects. The OAS General Secretariat prepared this document, using the material supplied by the other members of the IACNDR. That document became part of the Committee's report to the XXXI regular session of the General Assembly in Costa Rica (CP/doc.3460/01). As Committee Chair, the Secretary General plans to enlist the cooperation of the Committee's other members to publish copies of the document on the services that each member can supply.

At the Third Summit of the Americas, the Heads of State and of Government pledged to convoke, within one year, a hemispheric meeting on disaster preparedness and mitigation, with the support of the IACNDR and the involvement of a broad cross-section of government agencies, regional agencies, multilateral development banks, private entities, NGOs and the scientific and technological research community. The meeting would formulate and examine a strategy for implementing the Summit's mandates on disaster management, which were addressed in resolution AG/RES. 1803 (XXXI-O/01). In response to an invitation from the governments of the United States and Costa Rica and with their cooperation, the Secretary General convoked a Hemispheric Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Costa Rica, December 4 to 6, 2001. The Conference brought together the parties that are involved in disaster relief, rebuilding, and mitigation. As members of the IACNDR, the IDB and PAHO also helped organize the Conference.

Finally, it is important to note that the GS/OAS contributed financially to relief efforts in the wake of the earthquake in El Salvador and the hurricanes in Belize and Honduras, in September and October, respectively.

JUSTICE STUDIES CENTER FOR THE AMERICAS

In fulfillment of the mandates set forth in the Plan of Action of the Second Summit of the Americas and the recommendations adopted at the Meetings of the Ministers of Justice or Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas, the Justice Studies Center for the Americas was established by the General Assembly [AG/RES. 1 (XXVI-E/99)] as an intergovernmental entity with technical and operational autonomy. The Center has its own Statute and Rules of Procedure. Its objectives are to help strengthen human resources, facilitate the exchange of information and other forms of technical cooperation, and support reform and modernization of justice systems in the region.

In its first year in operation, the Board of Directors of the Justice Studies Center for the Americas and its professional team succeeded in crafting an institution with a unique, well-defined presence in the region, capable of making a substantial contribution toward improving judicial public policy.

The Center helped enhance the quality of public policy in the justice area by drawing upon the experience and opportunities that regional work affords. Thanks to the Center, more information and knowledge about the justice sector in the countries of the Americas is now available and a regional community interested in these issues has been created. To accomplish this, the Center focused on activities and projects with a high impact on the region. This has meant that in its first year in operation, the Center has taken part in 24 events and made numerous trips to publicize the Center and its purposes.

Projects and activities

Information Center

The Center is developing its Information Center to serve the juridical community in the region as a medium for communication, exchange of ideas, delivery of services and dissemination of information. The Information Center consists of a number of components:

- A web site: www.cejamericas.org

Those who consult this web site can learn about the Center and can access materials, documents, project information, contacts, and links to the most important web sites that the judicial branches of government in the various countries make available. They can also access a number of databases and information for the press. The first virtual forum on judicial reform was held in August-September 2001.

- Databases

Development of databases on legislation, jurisprudence, bibliography and statistics.

- *Nexus* Newsletter

The Center has been publishing monthly issues of the *Nexus Newsletter* since July 2001. The *Newsletter* gives readers a picture of the justice systems today and the reforms underway in the Americas. Subscribers receive the monthly issue of the *Newsletter* by e-mail –in Spanish and English. The *Newsletter* is also available at the web page of the Justice Studies Center and the World Bank.

- Networks

The Center is sponsoring two networks: one consisting of private and academic institutions interested in justice, and another composed of various institutions within the justice sector itself. The network of government institutions has initially been launched with the Public Defenders of America and the Inter-American Association of Attorneys General. The network of civil society organizations will be officially launched in March 2002.

- Judicial Systems Journal

The Center, in partnership with the Institute of Comparative Studies in Criminal and Social Sciences, publishes the *Judicial Systems Journal* every six months. Its purpose is to circulate information on the condition and operation of the systems for administering justice in the countries of the region. The Journal has a board of editors made up of experts on regional legal issues. Two issues (1 and 2) have already been published. Part of this journal can be found on-line at the CEJA web site (www.cejamericas.org) and the INECIP web site (www.inecip.org).

Studies

The Center engages in activities whose purpose is to sharpen the approach taken to judicial reform by incorporating instruments of public policy. In 2001, the following activities were carried out and will continue in 2002:

- Follow-up on procedural reforms in criminal law

This project systematically evaluates recent reforms in the criminal justice systems in the countries of the region, such as Argentina, Costa Rica, Chile and Paraguay. In March and April of 2002, the findings of these reports will be made public and discussed at local and international seminars and meetings, whose reports will be published at the Center's web page. In Mexico, a modified observation group is being used to get information on the operation of the criminal justice system in the Federal District and its results.

- Statistics

One of the objectives of this project is to craft a system for compiling and processing data in order to generate judicial statistics and indicators in Latin America and the Caribbean. Another objective is to devise basic tools for developing effective systems for inter-institutional and international comparison of judicial statistics and data; using these tools for on-site confirmation and to test their efficacy; and preparing a manual on how to compile data on the justice systems, so as to improve the quality of the statistics in the various countries, make them more reliable and more accessible to the various agents of the justice system.

- Role of the NGOs in the democratization of justice

The Center took part in a regional study sponsored by the Ford Foundation to explore possible ways to spur modernization of the judicial systems through a collective, coordinated and permanent effort on the part of the organizations of civil society. The study examines the role that NGOs have played thus

far in developing public policy in this area. The study is regional in scope, covering Argentina, Chile, Colombia and Peru.

Training

The Center initiated development of specific courses and helped local institutions offering judicial training to improve their programs.

- Course on tools for judicial reform

The first time this course was offered was in January 2002. It targets professionals involved in the design and conduct of juridical reform programs in the region. A curriculum was designed that introduced the participants to some of the tools that can be used to better ensure a successful reform process. In attendance were professionals from various sectors of the justice system, governmental and nongovernmental alike.

- Distance education

In February 2002, the Center signed a three-year agreement with the Institute of the World Bank to conduct distance courses on various aspects of judicial reform in Latin America. The first of these courses will be given in five countries simultaneously, and will be on the topic of judicial reform and corruption.

Technical assistance

The Center assisted the countries with all aspects of public policy, including diagnostic studies, normative and technical designs, feasibility studies, economic analyses, implementation, follow-up and evaluation processes. In 2001, CEJA conducted the following activities:

- Observation mission to Peru

At the request of the Ministry of Justice, the Center visited Peru from March 18 to 23, 2001, to observe the justice system in that country. It was part of a team coordinated by the United Nations Development Programme. The Center prepared a report on the visit, containing suggestions for a judicial reforms program in Peru. The report had specific proposals in the area of civil and commercial law.

- Training program in Ecuador

As a result of international competitive bidding, the Esquel Foundation awarded a contract to the Center, the Regional Center for the Promotion of Justice (PROJURIS, Ecuador) and the Universidad de Azuay, for execution of a project to prepare "Proposals for Introducing Instruction in the New Code of Criminal Procedure in the Undergraduate Law Program." CEJA's contribution to the project will be to provide an international expert on the subject.

- Committee to evaluate procedural reforms in criminal justice in Chile

The Ministry of Justice of Chile invited the Center, in the person of its Executive Director, to serve on a committee evaluating the introduction of improvements to the reform of that country's criminal

justice system. The committee was composed of representatives of four institutions associated with judicial reform in Chile. It was responding to public dissatisfaction with certain procedural aspects of the new system, especially those related to the handling of cases involving petty crime and disturbances of peace. The committee visited regions where the new system is in effect, spoke with everyone concerned, and issued a report in which it suggested changes in the law, which were the changes the committee deemed to be most important (basically involving inter-institutional coordination, training and constant evaluation). The executive branch has proposed those changes to the Chilean congress, which as of this writing has the bill under consideration.

ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL

The Administrative Tribunal of the Organization of American States was created on April 22, 1971, by resolution AG/RES. 35 (I-O/71), which the General Assembly adopted at the ninth plenary session of its first regular session. Its function is to settle any disputes that may arise with staff members by reason of administrative decisions, including those relating to the Retirement and Pension Plan of the General Secretariat. It has six members, each of a different nationality and elected by the General Assembly in a personal capacity to a six-year term. Three judges sit at any given session. The Secretary of the Administrative Tribunal heads the Secretariat of the Tribunal, which is part of the Secretariat for Legal Affairs of the General Secretariat. The Secretary provides legal advisory services to the members of the Tribunal, oversees the statutory procedure that cases filed with the Tribunal must follow, and is in charge of the administrative affairs of the Tribunal and its Secretariat. The Secretary of the Tribunal also serves as a legal officer, under the general supervision of the Assistant Secretary for Legal Affairs.

General Assembly mandates and recommendations

At its regular session in San Jose, Costa Rica, the General Assembly elected Mr. Agustín Gordillo of Argentina to the position of Judge of the Administrative Tribunal. His term began on January 1, 2002, and will end December 31, 2007. The term of Dr. Nicholas J.O. Liverpool, from Dominica, ends on December 31, 2002. At its thirty-second regular session, the General Assembly will have to elect a new judge from the candidates nominated. The new judge's term will begin on January 1, 2003, and end on December 31, 2008.

Summary of activities

The Secretariat of the Tribunal prepared the documents produced by the Tribunal and published the bilingual (Spanish and English) versions of the Tribunal's Statute and Rules of Procedure. It also published Tribunal-related administrative and jurisdictional information at the OAS' page on the Internet. From that site readers can access the Tribunal's judgments to date, the OAS Charter, the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat, the Staff Rules, and other basic documents of the Organization.

The Secretariat collaborated with the work done by the Organizing Committee of the Second International Conference of the Canadian Council of Administrative Tribunals (CCAT), held in Quebec in June 2001. At this conference a panel was convened to discuss the topic "Administrative Justice in International Organizations." The President of the Tribunal, José Da Costa e Silva, served as moderator of this Panel, with the Secretariat's assistance.

The Secretariat of the Tribunal maintained contacts and shared information and assistance with the Secretariats of the Administrative Tribunals of other international organizations and with other organs, agencies and persons associated with the business of the Tribunal and its Secretariat.

Meetings held

XLIX Session

The Secretariat of the Tribunal provided the Tribunal with the technical services needed to hold the XLIX regular session in June 2001. These services included all procedural matters associated with the processing of complaints filed with the Tribunal; the search for and classification, preparation and transmittal of information relevant to the cases the Tribunal is hearing; all correspondence between the President, the other members of the Tribunal and other interested parties; arrangements for the Tribunal members' travel and accommodations; and assisting the President with all official business.

During the Tribunal's XLIX session, the presiding judges were the Tribunal's President, José Da Costa e Silva (Brazil), and judges Rosa Montalvo Cabrera (Peru) and Lionel Alain Dupuis (Canada). In Judgment No. 140 the Tribunal decided Complaint No.275, Haran vs. Secretary General. The Tribunal held a public hearing in accordance with its Rules of Procedure and there took statements from the complainant and the witnesses. It also heard the closing arguments of the attorneys for the parties. At the end of the hearing, and in exercise of his authorities under the Tribunal's Statute, the President summoned the parties for a private meeting to try to reach a settlement. Subsequently, during the course of the session, Marta Laura Haran and her attorney came to the offices of the Tribunal Secretariat and presented the original of a "memorandum of understanding" signed by both parties and their attorneys, wherein the complainant asks that her complaint be withdrawn immediately. The Tribunal considered all the background information in the case and decided to endorse the settlement presented. It agreed to the complainant's request that the complaint she filed against the Secretary General be withdrawn. The Secretariat sent each party and the members of the Tribunal a copy of the decisions taken during this session.

At this meeting the Secretariat presented reports to the Tribunal on various regulatory, budgetary and administrative matters pertinent to the Tribunal and its Secretariat.

PAN AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

Established in 1962, the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF) is a private, nonprofit, nongovernmental institution that works exclusively in Latin America and the Caribbean. It coordinates some of its activities with the OAS, under a Cooperation Agreement concluded in 1982 to cooperate in cultural, scientific, educational, economic, and social development and in disaster relief. The Secretary General chairs the Foundation's Board of Trustees. Its Executive Director is John Sanbrailo.

During the period covered in this report the PADF helped the General Secretariat respond to countries hit by natural disasters. In the wake of the events that struck El Salvador, Peru, Honduras and Belize, twelve emergency shipments were sent to assist more than 8,000 victims. Among the items sent were tents, blankets, electric generators, water-purification equipment, building materials and prefabricated houses. In El Salvador, the Foundation helped rebuild the José Martí Educational Complex in Santa Tecla, which accommodates 600 students. The sizeable donations from corporate donors - Citigroup, Texaco, Kraft Foods, Duke Energy, Minera Yanacocha, United Way of Miami and International, Lockheed Corporation, Kodak, and others- brought the total amount sent to over US\$750,000.

The health services and educational tools programs sent donations of over US\$3 million to Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Uruguay and Venezuela. This year, the programs benefited a larger segment of the low-income population, including urban groups in marginal areas. The number of program donors in the United States and contacts with organizations and institutions in the Latin American and Caribbean community increased.

With funds from USAID, the PADF is conducting a program in Colombia to create jobs and income for families uprooted by the violence. Now three years old, in 2001 this program created over 21,000 sustainable jobs in 14 departments and 93 municipalities in the country. One feature of the program is the cooperation provided by the Government of Colombia through the Social Solidarity Network, and the involvement of the private sector, both international (Chevron-Texaco, Occidental Petroleum, Compaq, Citibank, Bank of Boston, British Petroleum) and national (Cerromatoso, Indufrial, Carulla-Vivero, Olímpica, Grupo Bavaria, Fundación Alto Magdalena).

In Honduras (the Río Aguán region) and Nicaragua (Río Coco-Wiwilí), working in cooperation with the Unit for Sustainable Development and Environment of the OAS General Secretariat, the PADF completed the programs for flood vulnerability reduction and a local flood warning system. The program in Honduras was funded by USAID, while the program in Nicaragua was funded through private donations. In the case of Honduras, the work of the program was put to the test during Hurricane Michelle and passed. The activities included appreciable donations that featured rescue equipment like boats for the towns in the Aguán area and equipment for fire stations and the Red Cross in both countries.

With USAID funding, the PADF began to execute its Hillside Farming Program in Haiti. For the next five years, it will promote sustainable production and increase rural incomes by developing marketing channels and transferring technology. With the program, groups of farmers from the community will grow their businesses, improve productivity and gain access to local markets and export systems. The Post-Hurricane George Recovery Program continues to address local economic, agricultural

and environmental needs. A total of 27 schools have been rebuilt, which can now serve as shelters in the event of a natural disaster. In late 2001, the United States Department of Agriculture approved a grain monetization program whose proceeds will be used to rehabilitate rural infrastructure and train communities in disaster mitigation.

In the area of corporate social investment, the donation from Philip Morris International helped fund programs for the elderly, for literacy and for AIDS in Brazil, and to conduct initial research and prepare a proposal on Domestic Violence for the countries of Central and South America. Similarly, thanks to the generosity of Massalin Particulares, job-creation and strategic planning programs were executed in five Argentine provinces.

Exploratory missions to the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Ecuador, and Panama have given the PADF ideas for new projects in those countries, starting in 2002. The Foundation also maintains its contacts with organizations in the Caribbean and Latin American community in the United States, so as to be able to develop programs that strengthen those organizations and the projects they conduct to help their respective countries.

BOARD OF EXTERNAL AUDITORS

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution AG/RES. 123, adopted on April 14, 1973, and Permanent Council resolution 124, of June 10, 1975, the Board is responsible for the external auditing of the General Secretariat's accounts. The Board became operational in March 1976 and adopted detailed rules and procedures for discharging its duties and responsibilities in accordance with the relevant decisions of the General Assembly and the Permanent Council. The Board has three members, elected by the General Assembly.

Pursuant to Article 117 of the General Standards, the Board held its annual meeting, March 26 to 30, 2001, to prepare its report on the external audit of the Organization's accounts and financial statements.

On March 30, 2001, the Board presented its observations in the document *Report to the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States: Audit of Accounts and Financial Statements, December 31, 2000 and 1999* (OEA/Ser.S JAE/doc.31/01). The report includes: a) the Board's observations and recommendations on ways to improve the operating procedures and internal controls of the OAS and its constituent parts; b) an audit of accounts and financial statements of the Regular Fund and specific funds of the OAS for 2000; c) an audit of accounts and financial statements of the Project on Planning for Adaptation to Global Climatic Change for the year 2000 ("Climate Change Program"); d) an audit of the accounts and the financial statements of the Retirement and Pension Fund for the year 2000; e) an audit of the accounts and the financial statements of the Inter-American Defense Board (IADB) for the year 2000; f) an audit of the accounts and financial statements of the Unit for the Promotion of Democracy (OAS/Democ) for the year 2000; g) an audit of the accounts and the financial statements of the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD) for the year 2000; h) an audit of the accounts and financial statements of the Leo S. Rowe Pan American Fund for the year 2000, and i) an audit of the accounts and financial statements of the Foundation for the Americas for 1999.

Based on the assessments issued by Ernst & Young, LLP on the financial statements presented and in accordance with Article 119 of the OAS General Standards, the Board certified that:

- The financial statements of the Regular Fund and the specific funds of the OAS, the Retirement and Pension Fund, the Inter-American Defense Board, the Unit for the Promotion of Democracy, the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development and the Leo S. Rowe Pan American Fund and the financial statement of the Foundation for the Americas for 1999 tally with the respective entity's books, records, documents and vouchers.
- For 2000, the Project on Planning for Adaptation to Global Climate Change engaged the auditing firm of PricewaterhouseCoopers in Barbados to conduct its audit.
- Ernst & Young verified the securities and cash deposits of the above-named entities for the year 2000 and of the Foundation for the Americas for 1999 by certification from the depository and custodian institutions; the cash assets were confirmed by means of a physical count. Ernst & Young considered this measure to be appropriate, based on generally accepted auditing standards in the United States.

The Board's Report also contains various recommendations on ways to improve the OAS operating procedures and internal controls, both at headquarters and at the offices of the OAS General Secretariat in the member states.

INTER-AMERICAN DEFENSE BOARD

Established in 1942 to study and recommend measures for the Hemisphere's defense, the Inter-American Defense Board (IADB) is the world's oldest multilateral military organization. It promotes peace and security in the Hemisphere, while also building confidence among the parties through military cooperative relations and partnership and by strengthening relations between civilians and military. The Board promotes cooperative security interests in the Western Hemisphere. It is active in such areas as mine clearing for humanitarian purposes, and confidence-building measures that are directly supportive of the goals of the OAS and the Ministers of Defense. It oversees an advanced academic program of studies in security and defense, given at the Inter-American Defense College.

The efforts of the Inter-American Defense Board (IADB) during this period were geared toward supporting the OAS. It did this in the form of technical advisory services to the Committee on Hemispheric Security (CSH) and the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE), the Education for Peace Program, prevention and mitigation of natural disasters, the List of Confidence- and Security-Building Measures and the Mine-Clearing Assistance Program in Central America.

The Council of Delegates of the IADB formed a Crisis Action Team in response to the terrorist attacks of September 11. The idea was to be better prepared to respond to whatever the OAS (the Committee on Hemispheric Security and the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism) might need in this connection. A study on the hemispheric security scenarios and new threats was done and distributed to the delegations accredited to the OAS. The Chairman of the Inter-American Defense Board twice attended meetings of the CSH and CICTE to explain the study and answer questions. The IADB also prepared a document titled "*Toward a New Hemispheric Security System*" as one contribution toward efforts to modernize the structure of hemispheric security.

In keeping with the OAS Secretary General's guidelines, efforts were made to increase the presence of civilians and security forces. Representatives of OAS member countries that do not have military representations in Washington were included. Also, representatives of the Hemisphere's security forces now have a heightened presence at the Inter-American Defense College, either taking courses or serving as advisors.

Through observers, the Board remained a constant presence at the working meetings of the Committee on Hemispheric Security and the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism. This has enabled it to follow closely the issues that those bodies are dealing with and to keep itself abreast of what is happening. The study programs at the Inter-American Defense College have undergone substantial revision to modernize them and tailor them to the Hemisphere's academic needs in the area of security and defense.

To enable all the OAS member countries to participate, four one-week seminars have been added to the Inter-American Defense College curriculum. These seminars are on the following topics: 1) the Inter-American System and Transnational Threats (terrorism, drug trafficking, human rights, organized crime, arms trafficking, corruption, etc.); 2) Natural Disasters (prevention and mitigation of their effects); 3) Peacekeeping Operations (in conjunction with Canada's Pearson Centre), and 4) Crisis

Management and Negotiation. By the time the second of these seminars had ended, 28 OAS member countries had participated.

Through its New Initiatives Division, the Defense College expanded its academic ties with centers of advanced military studies and universities throughout the Hemisphere, specialized in security- and defense-related issues. It did this by signing academic cooperation agreements with those institutions. It also developed and introduced a distance-learning course on conflict management and negotiation. Students of this course have hailed from countries within and beyond our Hemisphere. It is also available at the Defense Board's web page, which has been updated. New distance learning courses are in various stages of development. Dealing with terrorism, natural disasters, and human rights, these new distance learning courses are being given in conjunction with international organizations like the OAS and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and with private institutions like American University.

In 2001 the Board advised the OAS on development of the Mine Clearing Assistance Program in Central America (PADCA), while at the same time overseeing operations on all fronts of the Mission of Assistance for the Removal of Land Mines in Central America (MARMINCA). The Board also helped the beneficiary countries with elimination of another 5,000 mines, clearing thousands of square kilometers of land, making them safe again and ready to be worked. It provided technical advisory assistance, planning and supervision services to these multinational programs in Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala and Costa Rica. It also created the Comprehensive Action against Antipersonnel Mines (AICMA), by opening up new mine-clearing areas in Peru and Ecuador. During this period the IADB helped the Committee on Hemispheric Security update the annual inventory of Confidence-building Measures and participated in specialized conferences in El Salvador, Germany and the Hague. The member countries have reported their participation in more than a thousand related activities. Particularly noteworthy during this period has been the ever-increasing number of these measures in all areas of cooperation, especially between neighboring countries. The information received has been compiled into a database and is available at www.jid.org.

Disaster management was the central theme of the Inter-American Defense Board's 2001 Plenary Assembly. Under the direction of the Council of Delegates, it pursued efforts in the areas of education, communications and coordination. The Inter-American Defense Board participated actively in the Inter-American Committee for Natural Disaster Reduction (IACNDR) and the related working groups. Here, through its Staff, the Board worked with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the Office of US Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), the Caribbean Disaster Response Agency (CDRA), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), among others.

INTER-AMERICAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

The Inter-American Court of Human Rights is an autonomous judicial institution of the OAS whose purpose is to apply and interpret the American Convention on Human Rights. The Court has both contentious and advisory jurisdiction. It is made up of seven jurists, elected in a personal capacity by the States Parties to the American Convention, during the General Assembly of the Organization of American States.

During the period spanned by this report, the judges of the Court were, in order of precedence, as follows: Antônio A. Cançado Trindade (Brazil), President; Máximo Pacheco Gómez (Chile), Vice President; Hernán Salgado Pesantes (Ecuador); Oliver Jackman (Barbados); Alirio Abreu Burelli (Venezuela); Sergio García Ramírez (Mexico); and Carlos Vicente de Roux (Colombia). The Secretary of the Court was Manuel Ventura Robles (Costa Rica). Until June the Assistant Secretary of the Court was Renzo Pomi (Uruguay), who was replaced by Pablo Saavedra Alessandri (Chile) as of August 1, 2001.

Business of the Court

Cases, provisional measures and advisory opinions requested of the Court

In 2001, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) submitted the following cases to the Court for its consideration: “19 merchants,” a case against Colombia; Bulacio, a case brought against Argentina; and Juan Sánchez, a case against Honduras. It also sought provisional measures in the case of the newspaper “*La Nación*” involving Costa Rica; and the “Miguel Agustín Pro Juárez Human Rights Center *et al.*” and Gallardo Rodríguez cases, both involving Mexico. The Commission also submitted a request seeking another advisory opinion (OC-17), asking the Tribunal to interpret articles 8 and 25 of the American Convention on Human Rights in order to determine whether those provisions were arbitrary limits or whether the states could exercise their own discretion to order special measures of protection in the case of children, given the provisions of Convention Article 19.

Sessions

In the period that this report covers, the Court held three regular and one special sessions. At the *XXV Special Session*, held March 12 through 16, 2001, the Court delivered its judgment in the Barrios Altos case against Peru, and resolutions on provisional measures in connection with the Constitutional Court and Ivcher Bronstein cases involving Peru. The Court also held public hearings in the case of Villagrán *et al.* v. Guatemala (Reparations), Barrios Altos v. Peru (Merits), Bámaca Velásquez v. Guatemala (Provisional Measures), Carpio Nicolle v. Guatemala (Provisional Measures) and Colotenango v. Guatemala (Provisional Measures). The Tribunal adopted a decision setting out the transitory provisions for application of the Rules of Procedure adopted on November 24, 2000, which entered into force on June 1, 2001.

At its *LI Regular Session*, May 21 to June 2, 2001, the Court delivered judgments in the following cases: Paniagua Morales *et al.* v. Guatemala (Reparations), Cesti Hurtado v. Peru (Reparations), and Villagrán Morales *et al.* v. Guatemala (Reparations). The Court also held public hearings in the cases of Durand and Ugarte v. Peru (Reparations), Cantos v. Argentina (Preliminary Objections), and on the provisional measures in the case of the newspaper “*La Nación*” involving Costa Rica. It studied the reports that the Inter-American Commission and the states submitted on the

provisional measures sought in the Blake case against Guatemala, Alvarez *et al.* (Colombia), Haitians and Dominicans of Haitian origin in the Dominican Republic, and the reports submitted by Peru concerning the progress made in executing the judgments delivered in the following cases: Castillo Páez, Loayza Tamayo, Castillo Petruzzi *et al.*, Ivcher Bronstein and the Constitutional Court.

At its *LII Regular Session*, August 27 to September 7, 2001, the Court delivered judgments in the following cases: the Mayagna (Sumo) Awas Tigni Community v. Nicaragua (Merits and Reparations), Hilaire, Constantine *et al.*, and Benjamin *et al.* against Trinidad and Tobago (Preliminary Objections), Barrios Altos v. Peru (Interpretation of the Judgment on the Merits), Ivcher Bronstein against Peru (Interpretation of the Judgment) and Cantos v. Argentina (Preliminary Objections). It also adopted decisions to lift provisional measures ordered in the cases of Paniagua Morales *et al.* (Guatemala), Loayza Tamayo (Peru) and Digna Ochoa y Plácido (Mexico). In other decisions, it kept in place the provisional measures ordered in the Colotenango, Carpio Nicolle and Bámaca Velásquez cases, all involving Guatemala, and delivered a resolution for adoption of provisional measures in the case of the newspaper “*La Nación*” involving Costa Rica. Finally, the Court held public hearings in the following cases: Trujillo Oroza v. Bolivia (Reparations) and Cantoral Benavides v. Peru (Reparations).

At its *LIII Regular Session*, November 26 to December 7, 2001, the Court delivered judgments in the following cases: Cesti Hurtado v. Peru (Interpretation of the Judgment on Reparations), Cantoral Benavides v. Peru (Reparations), and Las Palmeras v. Colombia (Merits). It adopted two resolutions endorsing settlements reached between the parties in the following cases: Barrios Altos and Durand and Ugarte v. Peru (Reparations). The Court also adopted a decision to join the cases of Hilaire, Constantine and Benjamin *et al.*, all involving Trinidad and Tobago.

The Court adopted decisions on the execution of the judgments in the cases of Caballero Delgado and Santana v. Colombia and Suárez Rosero v. Ecuador. It also passed resolutions on provisional measures sought in the cases of James *et al.* (Trinidad and Tobago), Giraldo Cardona (Colombia), “Miguel Agustín Pro Juárez Human Rights Center *et al.*” (Mexico), and the newspaper “*La Nación*” (Costa Rica). The Court held a public hearing in the case of Bámaca Velásquez v. Guatemala (Reparations). Finally, the Court re-elected Judge Antônio A. Cançado Trindade (Brazil) as its President, and elected Judge Alirio Abreu Burelli (Venezuela) as its new Vice President.

Other activities

The Court welcomed visits from the Honorable Gustavo Noboa Bejarano, President of Ecuador; His Excellency Diego García-Sayán, the Minister of Justice of Peru; the Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic, His Excellency Hugo Tolentino Dipp; the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brazil, His Excellency Celso Lafer; the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay, His Excellency Didier Operti Badán; the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Finland, His Excellency Erkki Tuomioja; President of the Constitutionality Court of Guatemala, the Honorable Rodolfo Rohrmoser; and the Chief Justice of Mexico’s Supreme Court, the Honorable Genaro Góngora Pimentel. The Court also held a meeting with a delegation from the European Court of Human Rights, composed of its Vice President, the Honorable Elizabeth Palm, and the Secretary of the Chamber over which she presides, Michael O’Boyle.