

## **I. GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND COUNCILS**



## GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly, whose duties and responsibilities are set forth in Chapter IX of the Charter, is the supreme organ of the Organization of American States. It meets each year, at the time stipulated in its Rules of Procedure. Under special circumstances and with the approval of two thirds of the member states, the Permanent Council may convoke a special session of the General Assembly. All member states have the right to be represented in the General Assembly and each is entitled to one vote.

### **Thirty-third regular session**

The thirty-third regular session was held in Santiago, Chile, June 8 through 10, 2003. Presiding was Her Excellency Mrs. Maria Soledad Alvear, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Chile. The certified text of the declarations and resolutions appears in Volume I of Proceedings and Documents for this session (OEA/Ser.P.XXXII-O.2).

#### *Declarations*

*Declaration of Santiago on Democracy and Public Trust: A New Commitment to Good Governance for the Americas* [AG/DEC. 31 (XXXIII-O/03)]. The General Assembly declared that the Inter-American Democratic Charter constitutes the principal hemispheric benchmark for the promotion and defense of shared democratic principles and values; the need to define an agenda for good governance for the Hemisphere; strengthening political parties as intermediaries for citizen demands; the firm intention to promote full participation by citizens in the political system; democratic governance calls for reinforced state modernization processes; corruption and impunity weaken public and private institutions, distort economies, and undermine people's social values; strengthening democratic governance calls for the elimination of poverty and social exclusion and the promotion of equitable economic growth with equal opportunity, education, health, and full employment; the commitment to democracy, the strengthening of the rule of law, and access to effective justice, respect for human rights, the promotion of shared national basic values, and integral development are the foundations of progress, stability, and peace for the peoples of the Americas and are essential to democratic governance.

*Declaration on the Question of the Malvinas Islands* [AG/DEC. 32 (XXXIII-O/03)]. The General Assembly welcomed the reaffirmation of the will of the Argentine Government to continue exploring all possible avenues for peaceful settlement of the controversy and its constructive approach towards the inhabitants of the Malvinas Islands; reaffirmed the need to begin, as soon as possible, negotiations on the sovereignty dispute, in order to find a peaceful solution to this protracted controversy; and consequently decided to continue to examine the question at its subsequent sessions.

*Support for Peru in Its Fight against Corruption and Impunity* [AG/DEC. 33 (XXXIII-O/03)]. The General Assembly declared its support for the Peruvian State in the effort being made by her people and the state to fight corruption and impunity.

*Declaration on the Situation in Colombia* [AG/DEC. 34 (XXXIII-O/03)]. The General Assembly expressed its support for the Declaration of the Rio Group on the situation in Colombia, issued on May 24, 2003, in Cuzco, Peru, by the Heads of State and Government of the Rio Group.

*Support for Ecuador in Its Fight against Corruption* [AG/DEC. 35 (XXXIII-O/03)]. The General Assembly expressed its support for the Ecuadorian State in its fight against corruption and impunity.

### *Resolutions*

- Democracy

The General Assembly reaffirmed that everyone has the freedom to seek, receive, access, and impart information and that access to public information is a requisite for the very exercise of democracy, and that states are obliged to respect and promote respect for that freedom. It instructed the Permanent Council to promote seminars and forums designed to foster, disseminate, and exchange experiences and knowledge about access to public information. It instructed the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, through the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, to continue including in its annual report a report on access to public information in the region. [AG/RES. 1932 (XXXIII-O/03)]

The General Assembly reaffirmed the commitment of the OAS member states to the full exercise and application of democratic principles and values. It urged member states to promote and publicize the Inter-American Democratic Charter. It instructed the Permanent Council to organize a special meeting on the topic "Promotion of Democratic Culture through Education" and to hold a meeting each year to review activities undertaken by the Organization in the preceding calendar year to promote and strengthen democracy, and to determine possible additional activities; to study the possibility of holding a special meeting with a view to fostering an exchange of views on the challenges to democratic governance in the Hemisphere. It requested the General Secretariat to coordinate the activities and programs of the various units and offices relating to the promotion of representative democracy, and to develop strategies to strengthen democratic culture in the Hemisphere and promote democratic principles and practices; to prepare a yearly inventory as a working document, for consideration by the Permanent Council at the meeting each year at which it reviews activities of the Organization to promote, defend, and consolidate democracy in the Hemisphere; to take into account the role of the media as instruments of special importance in promoting democracy and disseminating democratic principles and values; to support efforts by the member states to modernize the state and to promote access to information, transparency, accountability, and responsibility in public administration; to continue its efforts to strengthen political parties and other political organizations, and to present a proposal to the Permanent Council on the organization of a possible special meeting with political parties of the Americas. [AG/RES. 1957 (XXXIII-O/03)]

The General Assembly endorsed the Permanent Council's resolution on "Support for Strengthening Democracy in Haiti," and urged all parties to urgently implement or continue implementing their obligations. It reiterated its support for the Special Mission for Strengthening Democracy in Haiti. It thanked the High-Level OAS/CARICOM Delegation to Haiti for its efforts to advance compliance with resolution CP/RES. 822. It urged the Government of Haiti to complete its obligations under resolution CP/RES. 822 and all the points drawn from that resolution and presented to it by the High-

Level OAS/CARICOM Delegation on March 20, 2003, including steps to professionalize the Haitian National Police. It urged civil society and the Convergence Démocratique to respond constructively to recent steps taken by the Government of Haiti to comply with these points drawn from resolutions CP/RES. 806 and CP/RES. 822. It urged all parties to participate in the formation of a credible, neutral, and independent Provisional Electoral Council (CEP). It requested the Secretary General to explore ways to promote increased dialogue between the Government of Haiti and civil society and the Convergence Démocratique. It also requested the Secretary General to remain engaged and active in the process of reinforcing democracy in Haiti and to provide an assessment of the ability of the Mission to fulfill its mandates under resolution CP/RES. 822, so that the Permanent Council might make appropriate adjustments to the Mission's mandates. It requested the Permanent Council to continue to monitor developments in Haiti, including the work of the Mission. [AG/RES. 1959 (XXXIII-O/03)]

- Human Rights

The General Assembly reaffirmed the essential value of the work carried out with full autonomy by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. It asked the Commission to continue to strengthen existing rapporteurships and operational units; to continue to dialogue with member states within the framework of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs; and to continue to take into account the observations and recommendations of the member states on its annual report and that it adopt such measures as it considers pertinent based on those observations and recommendations. [AG/RES. 1917 (XXXIII-O/03)]

The General Assembly reaffirmed the essential value of the work of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in enhancing the promotion and defense of human rights in the Hemisphere. It reiterated that the judgments of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights are final and may not be appealed. It instructed the Permanent Council to continue its consideration of the issue of "access of victims to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (*ius standi*) and its application in practice." [AG/RES. 1918 (XXXIII-O/03)]

The General Assembly reiterated its support for the work carried out by human rights defenders; and to recognize their valuable contribution to the promotion, observance, and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. It condemned actions that directly or indirectly prevent or hamper their work. [AG/RES. 1920 (XXXIII-O/03)]

The General Assembly reaffirmed the commitment to continue strengthening and improving the inter-American human rights system. It reaffirmed the intent of the OAS to continue taking concrete measures aimed at implementing the mandates of the Heads of State and Government on the strengthening and improvement of the inter-American human rights system, as set forth in the Plan of Action of the Third Summit of the Americas. [AG/RES. 1925 (XXXIII-O/03)]

The General Assembly decided to continue to promote institutional cooperation in the field of human rights and the environment. It instructed the Secretary General to continue the dialogue with member states and civil society organizations and the implementation of activities in the field of human rights and the environment. It instructed the Permanent Council to hold a meeting of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs on this topic. [AG/RES. 1926 (XXXIII-O/03)]

The General Assembly instructed the Permanent Council to continue to study the question of the rights and the care of persons under any form of detention or imprisonment. It requested the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to report on the situation. It reiterated to the Permanent Council that it should consider the advisability of preparing, in due course, an inter-American declaration on the rights and the care of persons under any form of detention or imprisonment. [AG/RES. 1927 (XXXIII-O/03)].

The General Assembly reaffirmed that the principles and standards set forth in the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man and in the American Convention on Human Rights take on special importance with respect to protection of the rights of migrant workers and their families. It took note of the entry into force of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families, and urged member states to consider the signature and ratification of that instrument. It instructed the Permanent Council to convene a special meeting of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs for this year, at which the Committee will begin, without delay, to prepare an Inter-American Program for the Promotion and Protection of the Human Rights of Migrants. It requested the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD) to follow up in particular on IACD partnership-for-development activities, under the Strategic Plan for Partnership for Development 2002-2005, related to the situation of migrant workers and members of their families. It recommended to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights that it consider the advisability of participating in joint cooperation projects conducted by the IACD in this area; that it provide the Special Rapporteur for Migrant Workers and Their Families in the Hemisphere with the necessary and appropriate means to perform his or her duties; and that it present to the Permanent Council a report on the status of the rights of all migrant workers and their families. [AG/RES. 1928 (XXXIII-O/03)]

The General Assembly reaffirmed that the fight against terrorism must be pursued with full respect for the law, human rights, and democratic institutions, so as to preserve the rule of law and democratic freedoms and values in the Hemisphere. It requested the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to continue to promote respect for and the defense of human rights in this area, and to report to the Permanent Council on the advisability of conducting a follow-up study. [AG/RES. 1931 (XXXIII-O/03)].

The General Assembly urged states parties to implement their obligations under the 1951 Convention on the Status of Refugees and/or its Protocol of 1967 in a full and effective manner, consistent with the objective and purposes of those instruments. [AG/RES. 1971 (XXXIII-O/03)]

- Juridical development

The General Assembly requested the Inter-American Juridical Committee to continue to assist with the preparatory work for the Seventh Inter-American Specialized Conference on Private International Law (CIDIP-VII), and to add to its work agenda the pertinent recommendations of the Meetings of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA). It reaffirmed the need to maintain close contact between the Inter-American Juridical Committee and the political organs of the Organization, and to continue to focus its efforts on the issues indicated to it as being of priority concern to the Organization; and finally, it asked the Inter-American Juridical Committee to continue preparations to commemorate its centennial. [AG/RES. 1916 (XXXIII-O/03)]

The General Assembly reaffirmed the importance of the Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law, the Workshops on International Law, the Course on International Law, and the subregional courses on developments in specific subject areas in the OAS framework. [AG/RES. 1921 (XXXIII-O/03)].

The General Assembly instructed the General Secretariat to facilitate consultations with groups of experts and develop mechanisms and strategies for follow-up on the promotion, adoption, and implementation of documents approved at CIDIP-VI. It also instructed the General Secretariat to provide assistance to member states that are engaged in enacting legislation consistent with the Model Inter-American Law on Secured Transactions and/or encouraging the use of the Negotiable and Non-Negotiable Uniform Through Bills of Lading for the International Carriage of Goods by Road. It asked the Permanent Council to coordinate and cooperate with UNIDROIT on the joint promotion and implementation of the Cape Town Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment and the protocols thereto, on the one hand, and the OAS Model Inter-American Law on Secured Transactions, on the other, and to explore joint efforts with other international organizations engaged in drafting related instruments. [AG/RES. 1922 (XXXIII-O/03)]

The General Assembly decided to convene the Seventh Inter-American Specialized Conference on Private International Law (CIDIP-VII) and instructed the Permanent Council to conduct preliminary consultations concerning the dates and possible venue, and to establish mechanisms to facilitate consultations on the proposed agenda and draft rules of procedure. It requested the General Secretariat to begin the necessary preparatory work for CIDIP-VII. [AG/RES. 1923 (XXXIII-O/03)].

The General Assembly decided to convene the Fifth Meeting of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA-V), to be held during the first half of 2004. [AG/RES. 1924 (XXXIII-O/03)]

The General Assembly urged those member states of the Organization that have not already done so to consider ratifying or acceding, as the case may be, to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. It also urged all member states of the Organization to continue to participate constructively, even as observer states, in the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court in order to ensure the best possible operating environment for the Court. It requested the Permanent Council to include the topic of the International Criminal Court on the agenda of a meeting of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs. [AG/RES. 1929 (XXXIII-O/03)]

The General Assembly requested the Justice Studies Center of the Americas (JSCA) to conduct a study of the experiences of member states in, and methods for, handling cases of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and intolerance considered by their justice administration systems, and to forward this study to the Inter-American Juridical Committee for its consideration. It requested the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to conduct a study of the laws of member states of the Organization of American States dealing with the adoption of policies to promote equality or affirmative action. It requested the Permanent Council to continue to address this issue and to consider areas for international cooperation, including, *inter alia*, the possibility of an Inter-American Convention against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance. [AG/RES. 1930 (XXXIII-O/03)]

The General Assembly urged those member states of the OAS that have not yet done so to consider signing and ratifying, ratifying, or acceding to, as the case may be, the Inter-American Convention against Corruption and to participate in the Follow-up Mechanism for its implementation. It invited the Conference of States Parties to the Follow-up Mechanism for the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption to consider, at its second meeting, the progress made by the Follow-up Mechanism as well as issues regarding the funding thereof. It instructed the Permanent Council to continue to foster the exchange of experiences and information among the OAS, multilateral organizations, and international financial institutions. It requested the General Secretariat to continue carrying out technical cooperation activities, in the execution of the Inter-American Program for Cooperation in the Fight against Corruption. [AG/RES. 1943 (XXXIII-O/03)]

The General Assembly urged member states and all parties to an armed conflict to respect their obligations under international humanitarian law. It urged member states to adopt the necessary measures to implement the provisions contained in the instruments of international humanitarian law to which they are parties, and to bring about the widest possible dissemination of international humanitarian law throughout the population, particularly among the armed forces and security forces. It urged member states to continue to support the work of national advisory committees or commissions or similar bodies for the dissemination and implementation of international humanitarian law where they already exist, and to consider the advisability of establishing such bodies where this is not already the case, with support from the ICRC. It called upon the parties to an armed conflict to take immediate measures to determine the identity and status of persons reported as missing. It urged member states to apply the necessary measures to protect cultural property from the effects of armed conflicts. It urged states to pay special attention both in times of peace and in times of armed conflict to the obligation, in the study, development, acquisition, or adoption of a new weapon or means or method of warfare, to determine whether its employment would be contrary to international humanitarian law. It invited the states parties to the Rome Statute to define in their criminal legislation, in addition to crimes that must be repressed by other international humanitarian law treaties, those set forth in the Statute, and to adopt all measures necessary to cooperate effectively with the International Criminal Court. It invited member states to contribute to the quest for a solution to the problem of explosive remnants of war. It instructed the Permanent Council, with support from the General Secretariat and in cooperation with the ICRC, to continue to organize special meetings on topical issues in the area of international humanitarian law. [AG/RES. 1944 (XXXIII-O/03)]

The General Assembly congratulated the organizers, sponsors, and participants on the success of the “Americas Conference on Corporate Social Responsibility, Alliances for Development.” It welcomed the sponsorship by the Government of Panama of the “Conference on Corporate Social Responsibility in the Americas, as a Tool for Competitiveness.” It requested the Permanent Council and the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CEPCIDI) to ensure that proper follow-up is given to the abovementioned conferences and to convene a joint meeting to discuss the complementarities between corporate social responsibility and economic development. [AG/RES. 1953 (XXXIII-O/03)]

The General Assembly renewed the mandate issued in resolution AG/RES. 1891 (XXXII-O/02); and requested the Director General of the Inter-American Children’s Institute (IACI) to prepare a preliminary Draft Inter-American Program of Cooperation to Prevent and Remedy Cases of International Abduction of Minors by One of Their Parents, for consideration and approval by the

IACI Directing Council. It requested the Permanent Council to examine the draft inter-American program approved by the IACI Directing Council and to present it to the General Assembly. [AG/RES. 1958 (XXXIII-O/03)]

- Hemispheric security

The General Assembly urged those states of the region that have not yet done so to sign or ratify the amendments to the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco). It called upon states to negotiate and implement agreements with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). It reaffirmed its commitment to continue striving for a nonproliferation regime that is universal, genuine, and nondiscriminatory in every aspect. It entrusted the Permanent Council with holding a meeting on consolidation of the regime established in the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean. It recognized the work of OPANAL in ensuring compliance with the obligations undertaken in the Treaty of Tlatelolco. [AG/RES. 1937 (XXXIII-O/03)]

The General Assembly urged all states of the Hemisphere to participate in the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). It urged states of the Hemisphere, in particular the states listed in Annex 2 to the Treaty, to sign or ratify the CTBT. It urged the states of the Hemisphere to refrain, until the Treaty comes into force, from contravening the spirit of the obligations set forth therein. It entrusted the Permanent Council with holding a special meeting, in 2004, on a worldwide comprehensive nuclear test ban. [AG/RES. 1938 (XXXIII-O/03)]

The General Assembly directed that the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE), the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL), and the Group of Governmental Experts on Cyber-Crime of the Meeting of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA) ensure that the OAS cybersecurity conference begin work on the development of a draft integral OAS strategy that addresses the multidimensional and multidisciplinary aspect of cybersecurity, and that they report on the results of the meeting, along with any follow-up work deemed appropriate, to the Committee on Hemispheric Security. It instructed the Permanent Council to develop a draft cybersecurity strategy for member states. [AG/RES. 1939 (XXXIII-O/03)]

The General Assembly decided that the Special Conference on Security will be held in Mexico City, Mexico, on October 27 and 28, 2003. It requested that the Permanent Council, through the Committee on Hemispheric Security in its capacity as preparatory body of the Special Conference on Security, continue and finalize the pending preparatory work for the Conference. [AG/RES. 1940 (XXXIII-O/03)]

The General Assembly resolved to promote in the Hemisphere an environment conducive to arms control, the limitation of conventional weapons, and the nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction. It instructed the Permanent Council to continue considering the topic of limitation of military expenditures and the promotion of greater transparency in the acquisition of arms. It requested member states to provide to the Permanent Council their comments on the topic "Dividends for Peace." [AG/RES. 1963 (XXXIII-O/03)]

The General Assembly expressed the goal of making the Americas a biological- and chemical-weapons-free region. It reaffirmed the commitment to the principles of the Convention on the

Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction; the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction; and the 1925 Geneva Protocol to the 1907 Hague Convention. It requested the Secretary General to compile a report on the measures adopted by other international organizations on matters dealing with the proliferation of biological and chemical weapons and to present it to the Permanent Council. [AG/RES. 1966 (XXXIII-O/03)]

The General Assembly requested the Permanent Council to periodically constitute the Committee on Hemispheric Security as the Forum for Confidence- and Security-Building Measures, in order to review and evaluate existing CSBMs and to discuss, consider, and propose new CSBMs. It requested the competent OAS bodies to elaborate specific confidence-enhancing measures identified in the Illustrative List of Confidence- and Security-Building Measures of the Miami Meeting of Experts on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures. It requested the Inter-American Defense College to provide, when asked to do so, technical advice to the Committee on Hemispheric Security and member states on preparing defense policy and doctrine papers. It decided to maintain as a goal the universal participation in the United Nations (UN) Register of Conventional Arms and the UN Standardized International Reporting of Military Expenditures. It requested the General Secretariat and the Inter-American Defense Board to update the inventory of CSBMs based on reports presented by member states; and asked that the Board also update its inventory of CSBMs in other regions. It instructed the General Secretariat to make operational the Organization of American States Information System (OASIS). It instructed the Permanent Council to continue to encourage the exchange of experiences in the area of confidence- and security-building measures with other regions, and to hold the next round of OAS-OSCE consultations and OAS-ARF consultations. It asked the Secretary General to update each year the Roster of Experts on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures, and to circulate it to the member states each year by July 1. [AG/RES. 1967 (XXXIII-O/03)]

The General Assembly requested the Permanent Council to hold an annual meeting on small arms and light weapons, which would review the status of implementation of national, regional, and global elements of the UN Programme of Action. It requested that the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) continue its training programs. It requested CICAD, the Consultative Committee of CIFTA, and the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism to continue to deepen their cooperation and strengthen coordination of their activities, as appropriate. It requested the General Secretariat to make arrangements, in coordination with the Inter-American Defense College, for a seminar on identification, collection, stockpile management, and destruction of small arms and light weapons. [AG/RES. 1968 (XXXIII-O/03)]

The General Assembly welcomed and emphasized as an important achievement for hemispheric security the declaration of the South American presidents, adopted at their second meeting, held in Guayaquil, Ecuador, on July 27, 2002, establishing the region as a South American Zone of Peace and Cooperation. It expressed the commitment of the Organization of American States to contribute effectively to initiatives carried out at the regional and subregional levels to strengthen peace and security. [AG/RES. 1969 (XXXIII-O/03)]

The General Assembly resolved to strengthen and enhance the agenda of the OAS and the inter-American security system by addressing hemispheric security issues. It endorsed the recommendations of the Second High-Level Meeting on the Special Security Concerns of Small Island States. It instructed the Permanent Council to hold a meeting on this topic and to evaluate the results of the study coordinated by the Office of the Secretary General on “Defense and Security Planning for Small Island States to Adequately Respond to an Incident or a Terrorist Attack on Nuclear Waste-bearing Ships Crossing the Caribbean Sea.” It instructed the organs, agencies, and entities of the inter-American system to support the efforts of the small island states in addressing their security concerns and to provide technical assistance for the development and adoption of an implementation plan for the “Security Management Model on Special Threats, Concerns and Challenges of Small Island States.” [AG/RES. 1970 (XXXIII-O/03)]

The General Assembly urged all OAS member states to give prompt consideration to signing and ratifying, or ratifying, the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (CIFTA). It took note of the Work Program adopted by the CIFTA Consultative Committee and expressed its support for the work of the Secretariat *pro tempore*. It supported the convocation of the Conference of States Parties to the CIFTA to review the functioning and application of the Convention. [AG/RES. 1972 (XXXIII-O/03)]

- Inter-American summits management

The General Assembly renewed the mandate of the Permanent Council to coordinate the activities assigned to the OAS in connection with the Summits of the Americas. It instructed the organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization to continue to give the highest priority to carrying out the initiatives assigned to them by the General Assembly and to report regularly on these activities to the Permanent Council. It requested the General Secretariat to continue to serve as the technical secretariat and institutional memory of the Summit process, in keeping with the Plan of Action of the Third Summit of the Americas. It instructed the Permanent Council to continue to support and facilitate civil society participation in the Summits of the Americas process. It requested that the General Secretariat present an annual report to the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG) on the support provided to member states in pursuing Summit mandates; to continue to promote the mandates of the Summits in all agencies and to foster collaboration among them; and to hold at least one meeting of agency heads each year, to review progress made and plan joint activities, as a complement to the regular interagency meetings. [AG/RES. 1965 (XXXIII-O/03)]

- Terrorism

The General Assembly reaffirmed that all member states have the duty to ensure that all measures adopted to combat terrorism are taken in keeping with their obligations under international law. It urged member states to consider signing and ratifying, or acceding to, the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism. It instructed the Permanent Council to convene a meeting to continue studying the Report on Terrorism and Human Rights prepared by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to convene a meeting of government experts. [AG/RES. 1931 (XXXIII-O/03)]

The General Assembly reaffirmed its commitment to continue strengthening hemispheric cooperation and implementing specific measures to prevent, combat, and eliminate international terrorism. It endorsed the Declaration of San Salvador on Strengthening Cooperation in the Fight against Terrorism. It urged CICTE to facilitate ongoing dialogue among member states with a view to undertaking preventive measures that anticipate and address emerging terrorist threats such as the activities of international terrorist groups and threats to cybersecurity. It reiterated the importance of strengthening collaboration, coordination, and information exchange on counter-terrorism programs and activities between CICTE and the appropriate inter-American committees and mechanisms, with the aim of combating the links that often exist between terrorism and illicit trafficking in drugs, illicit trafficking in arms, and other forms of transnational organized crime. It instructed the General Secretariat to continue providing administrative support for the CICTE Secretariat. [AG/RES. 1964 (XXXIII-O/03)]

- Civil society

The General Assembly endorsed the Strategies for Increasing and Strengthening Participation by Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities, approved by the Permanent Council, and instructed the Permanent Council, the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI), and the General Secretariat, in coordination with all organs, agencies, and entities of the OAS, to facilitate their implementation. It decided to include on the draft schedule for regular sessions of the OAS General Assembly before the inaugural session, as a regular activity, the informal dialogue that has been taking place thus far between heads of delegation and representatives of civil society organizations. It recommended to the Permanent Council the creation of a specific fund for voluntary contributions, the “Fund for Civil Society Participation,” to support the participation of civil society organizations in OAS activities. [AG/RES. 1915 (XXXIII-O/03)]

- Antipersonnel mine removal

The General Assembly reiterated its appeal for providing support and cooperation to the Mine-Clearing Assistance Program in Central America (PADCA) and to the other programs for Integral Action against Antipersonnel Mines in Central America. It requested the Secretary General to continue efforts to identify the financial resources needed to ensure the integrity and sustainability of PADCA. It instructed the General Secretariat to continue to provide to the Central American countries the support necessary to continue the mine-clearing programs, as well as those aimed at mine-awareness education in the civilian population, rehabilitation of victims and their families, and the socioeconomic reclamation of demined areas. It requested the Inter-American Defense Board to continue to provide technical assistance. [AG/RES. 1934 (XXXIII-O/03)]

The General Assembly acknowledged the work accomplished by the Governments of Ecuador and Peru in destroying their stockpiles and in mine-clearing on the common borders and in other areas of their respective territories. It instructed the General Secretariat to continue to offer its full cooperation to the assistance programs. It instructed the General Secretariat to continue to work on identifying and raising voluntary contributions to the Specific Fund. It instructed the Permanent Council to continue to consider this topic with a view to pursuing its work toward the objective of making the Western Hemisphere an antipersonnel-land-mine-free zone. [AG/RES. 1935 (XXXIII-O/03)]

The General Assembly reaffirmed the goals of the global elimination of antipersonnel land mines and the conversion of the Americas into an antipersonnel-land-mine-free zone. It urged member states to ratify or consider acceding to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and On Their Destruction (Ottawa Convention). It called upon member states to become parties to the 1980 United Nations Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects and the four protocols thereto, and to inform the Secretary General when they have done so. It requested the Secretary General to consider the possibility of developing new mine action programs in the Americas. It reiterated the importance of participation by all member states in the OAS Register of Antipersonnel Land Mines. [AG/RES. 1936 (XXXIII-O/03)]

- Natural disasters

The General Assembly thanked the Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction (IACNDR) for the preparation and submission of the Inter-American Strategic Plan for Policy on Vulnerability Reduction, Risk Management and Disaster Response (IASP). It requested the Permanent Council to examine the measures proposed in the IASP. It requested the IACNDR to continue to stimulate the active participation of the relevant inter-American agencies and subregional programs and to report periodically to the Permanent Council on its compliance with this and previous resolutions and on the progress of its work. [AG/RES. 1955 (XXXIII-O/03)]

- Trade

The General Assembly took note of the report by the Permanent Council and CEPCIDI on “Trade and Integration in the Americas.” It instructed the General Secretariat to continue to provide analytical support and technical assistance and to conduct related studies as part of the Tripartite Committee or as requested by the respective bodies established in the Ministerial Declarations of San José, Toronto, Buenos Aires, and Quito under the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) process; to continue to provide technical assistance to member states on FTAA issues and domestic efforts at mainstreaming trade into national plans for economic development and strategies for poverty reduction, as called for in the “New Strategy for WTO Technical Cooperation: Technical Cooperation for Capacity Building, Growth and Integration;” to continue to provide semiannual written progress reports on the activities of the Trade Unit to the Permanent Council and CEPCIDI for their review; to continue its work in providing trade and trade-related information to the Hemisphere through its Web page; to continue its work in support of the FTAA process by maintaining, as a member of the Tripartite Committee, the official FTAA Web site; and to maintain, as a member of the Tripartite Committee, on an ongoing

basis, a calendar of deadlines established by the negotiating groups for the presentation of observations by delegations; and to manage the system for distribution of the FTAA documents. [AG/RES. 1973 (XXXIII-O/03)]

- Relations with other organizations, organs, agencies, and entities

The General Assembly urged member to sign the Protocol of Washington and the Protocol of Managua, and to extend the validity of its resolution AG/RES. 2 (XXII-E/96), “Participation of Member States That Have Not Ratified the Protocol of Managua in the Inter-American Council for Integral Development When Said Protocol Enters into Force” until the next regular session, which will review the situation. [AG/RES. 1910 (XXXIII-O/03)]

The General Assembly noted with satisfaction the actions and measures taken by the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CEPCIDI), in the context of the Working Group to Identify a Strategy for Follow-up to the Monterrey Conference on Financing for Development, and instructed the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) to continue evaluating the appropriate mechanisms by which the OAS may help member states link up with the instruments and mechanisms for development financing identified by the Monterrey Conference, and to continue the process of consultations with inter-American institutions, other multilateral entities, permanent observers, and other donors. [AG/RES. 1911 (XXXIII-O/03)]

The General Assembly decided to create the Inter-American Committee on Culture (CIC) as a committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI), for the purpose of coordinating implementation of the inter-American ministerial dialogue on culture, providing follow-up to the mandates from the Summits of the Americas and the decisions taken in the sectoral meetings, and serving as a forum for inter-American cooperation in the area of culture. [AG/RES. 1912 (XXXIII-O/03)]

The General Assembly restated the commitment to partnership for development, which entails the full participation of all member states in designing and executing horizontal and multilateral partnership-for-development activities in support of the steps taken by countries to attain integral development and, in particular, to fight poverty, and instructed CIDI to conduct a review of its structure and mechanisms and to conduct a comprehensive study of the functioning, operations, and financing of the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD). [AG/RES. 1913 (XXXIII-O/03)]

The General Assembly recognized the efforts of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL) in facilitating and promoting the ongoing development of telecommunications in the Hemisphere, and took note of the important activities undertaken and accomplished by CITEL in 2002. [AG/RES. 1945 (XXXIII-O/03)]

The General Assembly approved the amendments to the Statute of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission. [AG/RES. 1946 (XXXIII-O/03)]

The General Assembly approved the Protocol to the Inter-American Convention on an International Amateur Radio Permit. [AG/RES. 1947 (XXXIII-O/03)]

The General Assembly recognized the important role that the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD). It urged member states to incorporate into their respective national law the provisions of the CICAD Model Regulations concerning Laundering Offenses Connected to Illicit Drug Trafficking and Other Serious Offenses. It urged states to strengthen the mechanism for pre-export notification of chemical substances used in the production of organic and synthetic drugs. It invited member states to incorporate into their national law the provisions of the CICAD Model Regulations for the Control of the International Movement of Firearms, Their Parts and Components, and Ammunition, and urged CICAD to consider the draft Model Regulations on Arms Brokering. It instructed the Executive Secretariat of CICAD to step up efforts to assist member states, among other ways, through the Inter-American Observatory on Drugs, and through its programs to prevent drug abuse and addiction; to continue to provide technical and financial assistance for implementation of alternative development projects; and to give priority to providing technical assistance to member states to help them strengthen their national drug control commissions and other national entities involved in combating the drug problem in all of its manifestations. [AG/RES. 1949 (XXXIII-O/03)]

The General Assembly noted the hemispheric report and the 34 national reports resulting on the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM), approved by the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) and endorsed the recommendations contained in those reports. It instructed CICAD to continue fulfilling the mandates given by the Third Summit of the Americas, and to focus resources on those areas identified by the MEM as priorities. [AG/RES. 1950 (XXXIII-O/03)]

The General Assembly took note of the observations and recommendations of the Permanent Council on the annual reports and decided to transmit them to the organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization. It recognized in particular the important activities carried out by the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) and its subsidiary bodies. It underscored the important activities conducted by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) in fulfillment of its purposes and objectives. It commended the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) for its 75 years of service in promoting women's rights in the Americas. It renewed its recognition of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and encouraged it to continue its efforts to support the member states in their quest for progress and prosperity in the Hemisphere. It renewed its recognition of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL) for its important activities in pursuit of its purposes and objectives and in fulfillment of the Summits of the Americas mandates. It commended the Inter-American Children's Institute (IACI) for its projects now in execution under the Strategic Plan 2000-2004. It recognized the work of the Inter-American Indian Institute (IIC) and expressed the support of the member states for its restructuring process. It underscored the efforts of the Justice Studies Center of the Americas (JSCA) to generate and disseminate instruments to improve awareness of justice in the Americas; and expressed its satisfaction with the measures taken to increase cooperation and the exchange of experiences among key actors in the justice sector at the regional level. It recognized the important activities carried out by the Administrative Tribunal of the OAS. [AG/RES. 1952 (XXXIII-O/03)]

The General Assembly took note of the report of the Secretary General on the implementation of the cooperation agreements between the General Secretariat of the OAS and the secretariats of the United Nations, the Central American Integration System (SICA), and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). It requested the General Secretariat to implement the recommendations of the October 2002 general meeting and of previous general meetings and to consider the possibility of holding, in 2004, such meetings with the United Nations, with SICA, and with CARICOM in an effort to define

new and updated modalities for cooperation. It requested the Secretary General to facilitate increased intersectoral contacts with the heads of the technical areas of the three organizations mentioned above. [AG/RES. 1956 (XXXIII-O/03)]

The General Assembly reiterated that the fight against poverty is a priority and a constant concern of the member states and that the OAS should support their efforts to reduce poverty levels in the Hemisphere. It noted the decision of the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CEPCIDI) that the High-Level Meeting on Poverty, Equity, and Social Inclusion would be held in Porlamar, Isla Margarita, Venezuela, from October 8 to 10, 2003, and instructed the General Secretariat to provide technical and secretariat support for that meeting. [AG/RES. 1962 (XXXIII-O/03)]

- Topics relating to women

The General Assembly reaffirmed its support for the work of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM). It requested the Permanent Council to integrate a gender perspective into its resolutions, activities, and initiatives, and to consider convening a special meeting in order to move forward with the implementation of the Inter-American Program in the member states. It requested the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI), through its Permanent Executive Committee, to follow up on the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Partnership for Development 2002-2005. It requested the Secretary General to convene the Second Meeting of Ministers or of the Highest-Ranking Authorities Responsible for the Advancement of Women in the Member States, for April 2004, to continue to integrate a gender perspective into all programs and policies of the Organization, and to reiterate the request to the organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization to include in their annual reports to the General Assembly information on their efforts to integrate a gender perspective into their policies, programs, projects, and activities; and to support the activities marking the 75th anniversary of the CIM. [AG/RES. 1941 (XXXIII-O/03)]

The General Assembly took note of the Third Biennial Report of the Permanent Secretariat of the Inter-American Commission of Women on fulfillment of the resolution on "Promotion of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, 'Convention of Belém do Para,'" and expressed concern regarding its conclusions. It expressed its support for the work of the Inter-American Commission of Women and the member states in promoting the Convention. It asked the Secretary General to convene a conference of states parties to the Convention of Belém do Pará to decide on the most appropriate way to follow up on the Convention. It requested the Rapporteur on the Rights of Women of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to bear in mind the recommendations contained in the Third Biennial Report of the Permanent Secretariat of the Inter-American Commission of Women on fulfillment of the resolution on "Promotion of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, 'Convention of Belém do Pará'" as well as those issued by the subregional meetings on Violence in the Americas held in the framework of the CIM. [AG/RES. 1942 (XXXIII-O/03)]

The General Assembly urged member states to adopt the measures necessary to implement the recommendations of the resolution on "Fighting the Crime of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women, Adolescents, and Children," and to consider the establishment of a national coordination mechanism to prevent and combat the crime of trafficking in persons and to protect victims. It also

requested the Permanent Secretariat of the CIM to facilitate the exchange of information and best practices among member states with a view to fighting the crime of trafficking in persons and expanding its research to include other member states; and to present to the Permanent Council a report on this topic. It instructed the Secretary General to appoint an "OAS Coordinator on the Issue of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women, Adolescents, and Children," to be housed in the Permanent Secretariat of the CIM. [AG/RES. 1948 (XXXIII-O/03)]

- Topics relating to children

The General Assembly reaffirmed the fundamental importance of the promotion and protection of the human rights of children for the future of the Hemisphere, and its support for the work of the Inter-American Children's Institute. It requested the Special Rapporteur on Children of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to continue to pay special attention to the protection and promotion of the human rights of children in the Hemisphere. It urged member states to consider ratifying or acceding to international or regional treaties that protect the human rights of children, to develop national laws, policies, and practices that give effect to their international legal obligations, and to be guided by international standards in adopting pertinent national measures. It urged member states to ensure that the human rights of children are included on the working agendas of the specialized organizations and conferences and the organs and entities of the Organization so as to meet the specific needs of children; and requested the Secretary General to support these efforts. It urged the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development to strengthen communication and coordination with the Inter-American Children's Institute. [AG/RES. 1951 (XXXIII-O/03)]

The General Assembly declared the Nineteenth Pan American Child Congress an inter-American specialized conference. [AG/RES. 1961 (XXXIII-O/03)]

- Topics relating to indigenous peoples

The General Assembly reaffirmed as a priority of the OAS the adoption of the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. It renewed the mandate of the Working Group in order to begin the final phase of negotiations on the Draft Declaration. [AG/RES. 1919 (XXXIII-O/03)]

The General Assembly recognized the work of the Inter-American Indian Institute and encouraged its Governing Board to continue its restructuring process, to give fresh impetus to fulfilling its objectives and functions. [AG/RES. 1933 (XXXIII-O/03)]

- Administration of the General Secretariat

The General Assembly urged the Secretary General to redouble efforts to achieve the goal that, by the year 2005, women should occupy 50% of posts at each grade level within the OAS organs, agencies, and entities; to continue to make gender equity and equality one of the priorities in his efforts to establish a new institutional culture in the Organization; to appoint qualified women as representatives and special envoys to represent the Secretary General in matters relating to all areas and sectors; and to take into account the objective of gender balance and the criterion of geographic representation when filling vacancies in the OAS. It requested the Permanent Council to take this resolution into account when making decisions on the personnel structure of the General Secretariat. It urged all member states to support the efforts of the Secretary General and of the President of the CIM by identifying and, through their permanent missions to the OAS, regularly submitting the candidacies of the most highly-qualified women to occupy positions of trust within the OAS. It called on the organs, agencies, and entities of the OAS to meet the goal of 2005. [AG/RES. 1954 (XXXIII-O/03)]

The General Assembly approved and authorized the Program-Budget of the Organization for the fiscal year running from January 1 to December 31, 2003. [AG/RES. 1974 (XXXIII-O/03)]

## **PERMANENT COUNCIL**

The Permanent Council, one of the organs by means of which the Organization accomplishes its purposes (Article 53 of the Charter), is directly answerable to the General Assembly. The Council is composed of one representative of each member state, especially appointed by the respective government with the rank of ambassador. Chapter XII of the Charter stipulates the functions and responsibilities of the Permanent Council, which takes up any matter entrusted to it by the General Assembly or the Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs. It serves provisionally as the Organ of Consultation, in accordance with the provisions of the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance (TIAR). The Permanent Council sees to the maintenance of friendly relations among the member states and assists them in the peaceful settlement of their differences. It acts as Preparatory Committee of the General Assembly, unless the latter decides otherwise.

### **Chair and Vice Chair**

During the period covered in this report, the following ambassadors, permanent representatives chaired the Permanent Council: Raymond Valcin (Haiti), Salvador E. Rodezno Fuentes (Honduras), and Paul D. Durand (Canada). Serving as Vice Chair of the Permanent Council were ambassadors Horacio Serpa Uribe (Colombia), Esteban Tomic Errazuriz (Chile), and Valter Pecly Moreira (Brazil).

### **Addresses by the Secretary General**

The Secretary General addressed the Permanent Council on several occasions in connection with the facilitation efforts in Bolivia, Haiti, and Venezuela. He also addressed the Council to report on the Cooperation Agreement between the General Secretariat and the Government of Colombia in support of the peace process in that country, and to mark the anniversary of the Discovery of the Americas: Encounter of Two Worlds.

### **Presentations by the Assistant Secretary General**

The Assistant Secretary General presented reports and on a number of occasions made observations about topics on the Permanent Council's agenda: the facilitation efforts in Haiti; the financing of Permanent Council meetings and its working groups. He also spoke on the occasion of protocol visits by the Presidents of Paraguay and Italy.

### **Visits to the Permanent Council**

The Council welcomed the following presidents and officials: President of the Republic of Paraguay, Nicanor Duarte Frutos; President of Italy, Carlo Azeglio Ciampi; Vice President of Bolivia, Carlos Mesa Gisbert; Minister of Foreign Relations of Uruguay, Didier Operti Badan; Minister of Foreign Relations of Guatemala, Edgar Gutiérrez Girón; Minister of Foreign Relations of Nicaragua, Norman Caldera Cardenal; Minister of Foreign Relations, Foreign Trade and Civil Aviation of Saint Lucia and President of the 58th regular session of the United Nations General Assembly, Julian Hunte; Minister of Education, Culture and Sports of Venezuela, Aristóbulo Istúriz; Secretary of Public Education of

Mexico, Reyes Tamez Guerra; Minister of the Interior of Chile, José Miguel Insulza; Vice Minister of Foreign Relations of Nicaragua, Salvador Stadthagen Icaza.

The resolutions approved during the period covered by this report concerned the following: amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States; vote of thanks to the people and Government of Chile; support for the Constitutional Government of the Republic of Bolivia; granting of the status of Permanent Observer to the Organization for the Republic of Slovenia, the Republic of Nigeria, and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg; centenary of the independence of the Republic of Panama; amendments to the General Standards; bicentenary of the independence of the Republic of Haiti; date of the Fifth Meeting of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas; convening of the Meeting of Government Experts on “Best Practices and National Experience in the Adoption of Measures against Terrorism, from the Human Rights Perspective”; support for the peace process in Colombia; support for the Constitutional Government of the Republic of Peru; support for public order and the strengthening of democracy in Haiti, and the situation in Haiti.

## INTER-AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT

The Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) is an organ of the Organization of American States and is directly answerable to the General Assembly. It has decision-making authority in matters related to partnership for development and was established when the Protocol of Managua entered into force on January 29, 1996 (Chapter XIII). CIDI comprises all the member states of the Organization, which designate one principal representative each, of ministerial or equivalent rank, whom the respective government appoints. It may create such subsidiary bodies and organs as it deems necessary to perform its functions properly. Its purpose is to promote cooperation among the American states to achieve their integral development and, in particular, to help eliminate extreme poverty, pursuant to the provisions of the Charter, especially those set forth in Chapter VII with respect to the economic, social, educational, cultural, scientific, and technological fields. CIDI holds at least one meeting each year at the ministerial or equivalent level, and may convene such others as it deems pertinent in its area of competence. Execution and coordination of the respective activities are the responsibility of the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development. CIDI has the following subsidiary bodies: the Permanent Executive Committee (CEPCIDI), the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD), the nonpermanent specialized committees (CENPES), and the inter-American committees.

### **Eighth regular meeting of CIDI**

CIDI held its eighth regular meeting at Organization headquarters on May 25, 2003. All the member states were represented at the meeting, which was chaired by Ambassador Ramón Quiñones, Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic. The Vice Chair was Ambassador Denis Antoine, Permanent Representative of Grenada.

CIDI elected four members of the Management Board of the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development. The delegations of Argentina, Barbados, and Saint Lucia were elected by acclamation. The delegation of Peru was reelected to the Board, also by acclamation. These delegations will serve two-year terms.

As provided in Article 31.c of CIDI's Statutes, the Council received offers of voluntary contributions to the Special Multilateral Fund of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (FEMCIDI) from the delegations of Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Canada, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Venezuela.

During the eighth meeting, *inter alia*, CIDI took note of the actions and activities undertaken by CEPCIDI in the framework of its "Working Group to identify a follow-up strategy of the Monterrey Conference on Development Financing" designed to strengthen cooperation for development in the Organization based on the results of the above-mentioned conference. Of particular significance was the adoption of the Group work plan, which contains an array of important measures and activities to enhance the comparative advantage of the OAS as a forum for political dialogue.

CEPCIDI continued its evaluation of the mechanisms through which the OAS could support efforts by member states to gain access to the development financing instruments cited by the Monterrey Conference.

Bearing in mind that cooperation for development occurs both at the political level to strengthen institutional dialogue, agreements and mechanisms, and at the technical cooperation level in the implementation of policy decisions through cooperation activities, projects and programs, and that effectively tackling the priority areas identified by the Summits of the Americas, by the General Assembly, and in the Strategic Plan for Cooperation for Development, requires coordination of technical cooperation activities by the General Secretariat, particularly in the areas of project development and implementation and of mobilization, CIDI instructed CEPCIDI to carry out a review of its structure and mechanisms. It also ordered a thorough examination of the workings of the operations and financing of the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD).

Bearing in mind the need to update the procedures of Fellowships and Training Programs of the Organization, CIDI adopted resolution CIDI/RES. 134 (VIII-O/03), "Manual of Procedures for OAS Fellowships and Training Programs." This new Manual includes mechanisms to improve administration of fellowships programs, mobilization of external resources, expansion of undergraduate and postgraduate programs, professional development training, and technical studies.

Recognizing the importance that the member states accord to access for their citizens to further education, technical training, and professional development, CIDI adopted the Statutes of the Capital Fund for OAS Fellowships and Training Programs with a view to establishing rules of procedure for that Fund, which was created in order to form and maintain capital that would serve for the expansion of the Program. Under the Statutes adopted, the fund is to be managed by a committee supervised by CEPCIDI. The committee is composed of Costa Rica, United States, Mexico, and Saint Kitts and Nevis, elected by CEPCIDI in December 2003.

CIDI took note of the decision of CEPCIDI to hold a High Level Meeting on Poverty, Equity, and Social Inclusion in Caracas, Venezuela before the Special Summit of the Americas in 2003, so that the highest authorities responsible for combating poverty in the Hemisphere might analyze, together with experts in the area, diverse aspects of this problem and suggest lines of action for the inter-American system.

Among other measures, CIDI convened the following ministerial meetings to be held in 2004: I Meeting of the Inter-American Social Development Committee; the IX Regular Meeting of CIDI, the IV Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Science and Technology; II Meeting of Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities; II Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Education; and I Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities on Science and Technology.

### **High-Level Meeting on Poverty, Equity, and Social Inclusion**

The High Level Meeting on Poverty, Equity, and Social Inclusion was held on Isla Margarita, Venezuela, from October 8 to 10, 2003. Participants included directors of Social Investment Funds and regional and international agencies and organs.

The participants referred to the strategies pursued by international organizations to address poverty-related problems, particularly with respect to compliance with the Millennium Goals and those of the Third Summit of the Americas. They pondered the current social situation in the Americas; reviewed the Summits mandates and the Millennium Goals, and reflected on the ongoing relevance and importance of the Inter-American Program to Combat Poverty.

Reports on the current situation in the Hemisphere were produced, based on subregional and national experiences. They also examined the challenges involved in measuring poverty and inequality. Experts in this field analyzed the methodological challenges presented by varying definitions and ways of measuring poverty and their impact on the formulation of public policies for overcoming it. Special attention was paid to national efforts to gauge poverty. Participants also heard a description of the work carried out by the Social Network and they discussed corruption as a major obstacle to social development.

The Meeting adopted the “Declaration of Margarita,” which proposes guidelines for the Permanent Council and CEPCIDI to enable them, jointly and based on the results of the high level meeting, to decide on new actions for strengthening existing cooperation mechanisms aimed at supporting member states’ efforts to combat poverty. Both OAS organs are continuing their consideration of possible actions designed to implement and follow up on the aforementioned Meeting.

### **Sectoral meetings at the ministerial level**

#### *The XVIII Inter-American Travel Congress*

The XVIII Inter-American Travel Congress was held in Guatemala City from June 18 to 20, 2003, attended by member states and permanent observers of the Organization and representatives of the private sector. Mr. Luis Felipe Miranda Trejo, Director of the Tourism Institute of Guatemala (INGUAT), was elected President of the Congress. The Vice President was Ms. Leda Sánchez de Parrales, Minister of Tourism of Nicaragua.

The Congress began with a presentation by the representative of Costa Rica, in his capacity as the outgoing Chair, on the activities carried out by the Permanent Executive Committee of the Congress, and a presentation by the Director of the Inter-Sectoral Unit for Tourism on progress made in implementing the resolutions of the XVII Travel Congress, held in 1997, and of the Technical Symposium held in 2000.

The sectoral authorities examined the situation of the tourism industry and its ability to recover following various global setbacks, as well as the impact of terrorism on economies that depend on tourism, and their implications for medium and long-term growth and development.

The meeting discussed tourism as state policy in pursuit of national social and economic development objectives and reviewed a number of suggestions in that area, including the development of a self-assessment guide incorporating best practices on an array of border issues; initiatives to improve air and seaport security; implementation of efficient and harmonized measures for air and sea transport; and the improvement of hotel and tour operator services.

One session provided an assessment of the cost and benefits of cruise tourism. It also reviewed recent health issues affecting international travel, in particular outbreaks of illness on cruise ships.

The Congress also looked into some of the critical factors influencing business viability in the tourism and hospitality sectors; diversification of the tourism product; and promotion of eco and nature tourism and community tourism.

Participants in the Congress reviewed the institutional alternatives for the operation and structure of the Inter-American Travel Congresses and studied the advisability of converting them into

CIDI Ministerial Meetings and the possibility of establishing an Inter-American Committee on Sustainable Tourism Development. It was agreed to leave consideration of this topic to CEPCIDI at some later date.

The Congress received the new “Inter-American Program for Sustainable Tourism Development” and adopted the “Declaration of Guatemala” and the “Plan of Action for Sustainable Tourism Development in Collaboration with the Private Sector.” The report on the Congress and the decisions adopted can be found in document TURISMO/doc.15/03.

### *Third Meeting of Ministers of Education*

The Third Meeting of Ministers of Education in the framework of CIDI was held in Mexico City from August 11 to 13, 2003. Mr. Reyes Tamez Guerra, Secretary of Public Education of the United Mexican States, was elected Chair. The Hon. Hazel Manning, Senator and Minister of Education of Trinidad and Tobago, was elected Vice Chair.

Participants reviewed progress on follow-up to the education mandates of the Summit of the Americas since the Second Meeting of Ministers of Education and activities carried out to prepare for the Third Meeting, aimed at consolidating and furthering the dialogue on hemispheric and subregional challenges and strategies.

The ministers considered the state of education in the Americas: the challenges posed, from a sub-regional perspective, by the demographic, social, and economic context; access, participation and progress in the educational systems; human and economic resources invested on education; quality of education; and the social impact of education. Reference was made to the need to update the national statistics database and align them to PRIE indicators; and to respond to a highly socio-economic and cultural heterogeneous context, with strong education contrasts. Commenting on the complexity of the situation, the Secretary of Public Education of Mexico addressed the importance of achieving consensus to face common challenges in the region.

The dialogue continued with the presentation of educational challenges facing each subregion in the Hemisphere, particularly the challenges of access, staying in the school system, dropout, and successful graduation, as well as challenges in respect of teacher training and quality and of bridging the gaps between urban and rural and indigenous schools through distance learning programs. Also analyzed were the challenges posed by globalization, the incorporation of information and communication technologies, the situation of single-parent families, the rise in drug use, and increased AIDS infection, and other factors.

In their presentations, the ministers emphasized the importance of analyzing the possibility of swapping debt service for education and the linkage between economic growth, the development model, and progress in education. They also added the need for countries of the Hemisphere to participate in international examinations such PISA, the pledge to use Information and Communication Technologies adequately, and the urgency of tackling the lag in teacher training and the participation of young people.

The United States delegation made a presentation on the Act referred to as “No Child Left Behind: Achieving Quality Education for All Children,” passed by U.S. Congress in 2001. The Act is aimed at improving the academic achievement of children and fostering education with democratic values. For this purpose, the U.S. delegation emphasized the importance of having the methodologies of teachers focus on the needs of the children.

The Ministers and Heads of Delegation highlighted the value of education as a social investment and the need for strategies to focus on the most vulnerable groups. Regarding this, they emphasized the importance of learning about the programs that have been successfully implemented in order to evaluate them and disseminate them throughout the region. Comments were made about the transformations of the curriculums that were made to tackle multicultural contexts, the insertion into a globalized world, and the incorporation of new technologies. Pending challenges regarding the supply of infrastructure and teacher training were mentioned, as well as the need to define priority areas, in a context where budget resources allocated to the education sector are insufficient in most countries.

A dialogue was also conducted with senior staff at the Inter-American Development Bank, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), and the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) regarding the challenges involved in financing education, in order to review the availability of resources to fund cooperation in education and strengthen regional mechanisms to support multilateral cooperation.

The meeting moved on to the presentation of the following hemispheric project profiles: The “Hemispheric Project on Equity and Quality,” aimed at tackling the challenges of repetition, overage students, graduation, and educational achievements in basic education; the “Hemispheric Project on Secondary Education,” which proposes the creation of a common framework to allow students to pass from secondary to vocational education and promotion of the universalization of the basic and compulsory phase of secondary school; and the “Hemispheric Project on Teacher Training,” whose general objective is to strengthen teacher training in the region so that it can meet the demand for quality, equity, and relevance by tackling the challenge of improving the quality of initial training, professional development, and teacher evaluation systems in the countries of the Hemisphere.

The Ministers of Education completed their analysis of the points on the agenda and decided to adopt the “Declaration of Mexico,” the text of which is appended to the report on the meeting in document CIDI/RME/doc.13/03.

It is also worth noting that at a special ceremony, attended by all the delegations and high-ranking officials of the Mexican Government, Mr. Reyes Tamez Guerra, Secretary of Public Education of Mexico, and Mr. César Gaviria, Secretary General of the OAS, signed the Accord for the free use of the Educational Television Satellite System (EDUSAT), which will be broadcasting educational programs for benefit of the 34 member countries of the OAS. At the signing, the Secretariat of Public Education of Mexico gave antennas as a gift to all the delegations. On August 12, the Educational Channel of the Americas (CEA), integrated into the EDUSAT Network, was launched in real time. It is aimed at joining the efforts of different Latin American education models, with responsibility for programming in all OAS member countries. Channel 27 will have differentiated programs and will provide access to all the training materials of the countries. Its objectives are: contributing to education at all levels; building up international ties and using satellite television through the EDUSAT Network to expand service coverage quantitatively and qualitatively.

### *XIII Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor*

The XIII Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor was held in Salvador de Bahía, Brazil from September 24 to 26, 2003. It was chaired by Mr. Jacques Wagner, Minister of Labor and Employment of Brazil. Pursuant to Article 11 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, the heads of the other delegations were declared vice chairs.

Participating in the Conference were representatives of all the member states of the Organization and representatives of the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Economic Commission for Latin American and the Caribbean (ECLAC), and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), together with members of the Permanent Technical Committee in Labor Matters (COTPAL), the Permanent Executive Committee of the Trade Union Technical Advisory Council (COSATE), and the Executive Committee of the Business Technical Advisory Committee on Labor Matters (CEATAL).

The Conference began its work with a review of activities carried out since the previous Conference, held in Canada, in 2001. It heard reports by the advisory bodies for workers and employers, respectively. The presentations highlighted the need for more collaboration with the public sector in overcoming the challenges posed by globalization, especially through partnerships between governments, workers, and employers. They agree on the need to focus on developing human capital as a key means of ensuring that both workers and enterprises stay competitive in integration processes.

The participants pointed out that much had been done to strengthen labor administration, promote tripartite dialogue, combat child labor, improve labor laws, and incorporate a gender perspective in labor policies. The Conference also surveyed workers' health and safety issues and their inter-relationship with economic development, democracy, equity, and human rights.

The Conference proceeded to hear presentations on current labor challenges in each of the five sub-regions of the Hemisphere, followed by a review of the relationship between economic and labor policies, and corporate social responsibility. Finally, the ministers adopted the Declaration and Plan of Action of Salvador, the text of which can be found in document TRABAJO/doc.14/03.

## **Inter-American Committees within the framework of CIDI (CIE)**

### *First Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Education (CIE)*

The first meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Education, in the framework of CIDI, was held on August 13, 2003 in Mexico City, during the Third Meeting of Ministers of Education. It was held for the purpose of formally installing the Committee, pursuant to Article 24 of CIDI's Statutes, and electing its officers.

Mexico was elected chair of CIE. The delegations of Trinidad and Tobago and El Salvador were elected as first and second vice chair, respectively. It was agreed to hold the second meeting of CIE in September 2004.

### *First Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Culture*

The first meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Culture (CIC) was held on September 4 and 5, 2003, in Mexico City. CIC is a committee within the framework of CIDI, established to coordinate implementation of the dialogue among ministers of culture and to follow up on the mandates of the Summits of the Americas. CIC was installed pursuant to Article 24 of the Statutes of CIDI. It is composed of one representative for each member state of the Organization and it is chaired by Mr. Jaime Nualart, head of the delegation of Mexico. Mr. Denny Gélinas, head of the delegation of Canada, was elected First Vice Chair, and Mrs. Pilar Entrala, head of the delegation of Chile, was elected Second Vice Chair.

At the start of the meeting the OAS Secretariat gave a presentation on the role of culture in the Summits of the Americas process and on the importance of CIC in that context. The presentation also described cultural diversity as a factor cutting across all facets of reality and noted the intrinsic relationship between culture and development and the huge challenges facing CIC. The topics reviewed included follow-up to the Plan of Action of Cartagena de Indias, adopted in 2002, the extent to which the commitments undertaken have been met, outcomes, and future actions with respect to horizontal cooperation in connection with consolidated programs and the Inter-American Cultural Policy Observatory.

The Secretariat presented the Permanent Portfolio of Consolidated Cultural Programs, which contains 29 programs in 11 countries: an important component of cooperation strategy. CIC also proceeded to conduct a dialogue on project financing mechanisms.

Participants then heard a presentation of the feasibility study for the Inter-American Cultural Policies Observatory, the purpose of which would be to serve as the information wing of the CIC, establish links between initiatives and institutional resources, guarantee participation by nongovernmental players, develop an information network in each country, and generate first line and interactive information capacities.

The CIC agreed to draft a business plan that would ponder the conclusions of the Observatory feasibility study and address issues such as its financing, location, and modus operandi. The business plan will be drawn up by the CIC Technical Secretariat and submitted for consideration by member states through the virtual forum.

The CIC's work also included consideration of its work plan in connection with preservation of the cultural heritage; partnerships for development to consolidate alliances among international organizations and strengthen ties between member states of the OAS and civil society; cultural

policies and cultural and economic development; and culture and sports. The activities the CIC decided to embark upon in order to pursue the aforementioned topics are to be found in its work plan, in document CIDI/CIC/doc.10/03.

Before calling the meeting to a close, CIC considered the preliminary agenda for the Second Meeting of the Ministers and Highest Appropriate Authorities of Culture, to be held in Mexico in 2004.

### *Third Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Ports*

The Third Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Ports (CIP) was held in Mérida, Yucatán, Mexico, from September 9 to 12, 2003. It was attended by the highest-level governmental port authorities of the countries of the Hemisphere, as well as experts and executives from member states of the Organization, representatives of permanent observer countries, and international organizations.

The Committee proceeded to elect the Executive Board of the CIP for 2003-2007: Mexico was elected Chair and the United States, Uruguay, El Salvador, and Barbados were elected as the four vice chairs. The other members of the Executive Board are Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Jamaica, Peru, and Venezuela.

One outcome of the meeting was adoption of the Plan of Action for 2004-2007. The Plan includes priority areas for action, such as reforms to port systems, port security, environmental protection, development of ports for cruise tourism, excellence in port management, the development of human potential, port facilitation, and others.

The CIP proceeded to establish the following Executive Board subcommittees, to achieve the Plan's objectives: The Subcommittee on Policy and Coordination (chaired by Mexico); the Subcommittee on Planning and Port Management (Chile); the Subcommittee on Statistics, Costs, and Fees (Peru); the Subcommittee on Port Development for Cruise Tourism; the Subcommittee on River and Lake Port Development (Brazil); and the Subcommittee on Training (United States).

The CIP agreed to hold a Hemispheric Conference on Port Security in Miami from February 25 to 27, 2004, for the purpose of assessing the status of port security in the Americas with respect to the IMO's ISPS Code. It also decided to hold a fourth meeting in Venezuela in 2005.

### *Nonpermanent Specialized Committees (CENPES)*

The nonpermanent specialized committees are technical bodies which support CIDI in dealing with specialized matters or in developing specific aspects of inter-American cooperation in the priority areas established in the Strategic Plan.

The seventh meeting of the CENPES, convened by CEPCIDI, was held on October 28 and 29, 2003 at OAS headquarters. Thirty experts chosen by CIDI formed eight committees, one for each priority area of the Strategic Plan: Education, Economic Diversification, Trade Liberalization and Market Access, Social Development and Creation of Productive Employment, Scientific Development and Exchange and Transfer of Technology, Strengthening of Democratic Institutions, Sustainable Development and Environment, and Sustainable Development of Tourism.

The sectoral CENPES carried out the technical evaluation and rating of the partnership for

development projects listed in the programming proposal prepared by the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development for financing by the Special Multilateral Fund of CIDI (FEMCIDI) 2003. The CENPES analyzed and evaluated 112 projects presented by thirty-one (31) member states.

The programming proposal for FEMCIDI 2003 technical cooperation activities to be executed in 2004 was approved by the Management Board of the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development in November 2002 and comprises ninety-nine (99) projects for a total of US\$9,226,346.

The distribution of FEMCIDI 2003 resources by sector is as follows: 27 projects in education, costing US\$3,026,117; four projects in culture (US\$131,843); 10 projects in trade (US\$798,602); 13 projects in social development (US\$937,289); 22 projects in science and technology (US\$2,047,984); six projects in democracy (US\$382,569); 10 projects in environment (US\$1,012,842); six projects in tourism (US\$761,406); and one project in integral development (US\$127,694).

The distribution of FEMCIDI 2003 resources by geographical area is as follows: 39.55% for the English-speaking Caribbean, Belize, Guyana, and Suriname; 23.30% for Central America and Panama; 29.87% for the Spanish-speaking countries of South America and Brazil; and 7.28% for countries in North America.

#### *Permanent Executive Committee of CIDI (CEPCIDI)*

In the period covered by this report, CEPCIDI held 13 meetings. At the eighth regular meeting of CIDI, Ambassador Jorge Valero Briceño, Permanent Representative of Venezuela, and Ambassador Ricardo González de Mena, Alternate Representative of Panama, were elected Chair and Vice Chair of CEPCIDI, respectively, for the 2003-2004 period.

In the performance of its duties, CEPCIDI was assisted by the Subcommittee on Partnership for Development Policies, the Subcommittee on Program, Budget, and Evaluation, the Working Group in charge of organizing the XVIII Inter-American Travel Congress, and the Working Group to Identify a Strategy for Follow-up to the Monterrey Conference on Financing for Development.

One of the tasks CEPCIDI accomplished, through its Working Group, was to prepare for the XVIII Inter-American Travel Congress, held in Guatemala, in June 2003. For its part, the Subcommittee on Partnership for Development Policies worked on preparations for the XIII Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor, held in Brazil in September 2003.

CEPCIDI also took part in activities leading up to ministerial-level and inter-American committee meetings in the education, labor, culture, and ports sectors. It was also responsible for preparations for the eighth regular meeting of CIDI. CEPCIDI reviewed the draft agenda and schedule for the meeting, analyzed the supporting documentation and reports on each item on the agenda, and prepared the draft resolutions that were approved by CIDI and those submitted for consideration by the General Assembly at its thirty-third regular session.

In the Subcommittee on Program, Budget, and Evaluation, CEPCIDI followed up on implementation of the mandate assigned by resolution CP/RES. 831 (1342/02) on Use of Excess Resources of the Reserve Subfund of the Regular Fund of the OAS. That resolution appropriated US\$4,000,000 to CIDI for the implementation of Summit of the Americas mandates, US\$2,000,000 of which was to be spent on education initiatives.

Based on a recommendation of the Subcommittee on Program, Budget, and Evaluation, CEPCIDI decided to allocate US\$855,000 to the “Proposal to Enhance Trade-related Capacity Building and Preparedness for the Free Trade Area of the Americas Process, 2003-2005,” an initiative being coordinated by the Trade Unit of the General Secretariat.

CEPCIDI further established that the areas of science and technology, culture, social development, sustainable development, labor, and tourism would have access to resources of the Reserve Subfund and allocated each of them US\$190,833.33 to execute projects, subject to certain minimum criteria that CEPCIDI also established.

Finally, the seventh meeting of the nonpermanent specialized committees was convened in August 2003 and held at OAS headquarters on October 27 and 28, 2003.