

VI. PERMANENT OBSERVERS

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Permanent observer status in the Organization of American States was established by the General Assembly at its first regular session, held in San José, Costa Rica, in 1971 (AG/RES. 50 (I-O/71)). The permanent observers participate in the Organization's activities and contribute to its programs. As of the date of preparation of this report, there were 56 permanent observers in the Organization.

The Office of External Relations was in charge of activities associated with the permanent observers. It continued to broaden, strengthen and deepen the relations with permanent observers. The permanent observers took an interest in the Organization's work and participated through informational meetings, exchange of documents and special events.

Now that the Republic of Slovakia, Estonia, Georgia, Qatar and Yugoslavia have been granted permanent-observer status, there are a total of 56 permanent observers to the OAS. They are: Algeria, Angola, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, the European Union, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, the Holy See, Hungary, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea, Latvia, Lebanon, Morocco, the Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Yemen and Yugoslavia.

During this period, the Organization received contributions in cash totaling US\$8.5 million. They came from Cyprus, Denmark, the European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Korea, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and the United Kingdom. The OAS also received contributions in kind of close to US\$ 920,000 from France, Italy, Korea and Spain. The main areas strengthened by that support were: democracy, human rights, settlement of disputes, the fight against drug trafficking, terrorism, sustainable development and environment, the fellowships program, and the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN). Annex G of this report contains a breakdown of the respective contributions.

Some permanent observers opted to stage events and special exhibits at OAS headquarters. Finally, special mention should be made of the particularly strong representation of the permanent observers at the regular session of the General Assembly held in Bridgetown, Barbados.