

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) is guided by 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 by the Commission in 1996 and by the General Assembly in 1997. It is a hemispheric forum that enables the member states to evaluate policies and strategies and to exchange ideas on and experiences with the problem of drugs. Its main objectives are to expand and strengthen the member states' capacity to lower the demand for illegal drugs and prevent their use, 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.

CICAD's anti-drug program is divided into the following sections and units: the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM), Demand Reduction, Supply Reduction and Control, Alternative Development, Legal Development, Institutional Building, and the Inter-American Observatory on Drugs.

Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM)

At its thirty-third regular session, held in Washington, D.C., April 29 through May 2, 2003, CICAD examined and approved the revised indicators for MEM's Third Evaluation Round (2003-2004). At its thirty-fourth regular session, held in Montreal in November 2003, the Commission approved the addition of two new indicators on the subject of transnational organized crime, proposed by the First Inter-American Meeting on Cooperation Mechanisms against Organized Crime, held in Mexico, D.F., October 6 through 8, 2003.

Pursuant to MEM's objective of promoting international cooperation and improving the countries' drug control programs, the Commission considered 123 applications for financial and technical assistance. Of these, it decided to finance 14 high-priority projects in epidemiology and demand reduction. In so doing, the MEM completes a full cycle of evaluations and recommendations, followed by specific, prioritized programming aimed at pinpointing areas in which the countries will be able to make important headway.

MEM's Governmental Experts Group (GEG) met in Brasilia, Brazil in November 2003, to study the information that the countries presented on the progress achieved with implementation of the recommendations that CICAD made in January 2003. The GEG prepared the progress reports at its February 2004 meeting, which the Commission will take up at its meeting of May 2004.

In October 2003, representatives of the MEM national coordinating entities (NCEs) received training in the MEM process and the new questionnaire for the third evaluation round, including the new Web-based software for processing data received from the countries.

Demand Reduction

In its programs and projects, CICAD's Demand Reduction program emphasizes professional training in the prevention and treatment of drug abuse, and strengthening of the institutions that deal with these matters. The program has succeeded in making drug prevention and social rehabilitation of former addicts an important part of the undergraduate and postgraduate curriculums of 14 nursing schools in Latin America. A total of 11,500 students are currently receiving this training. The international online M.A. degree in addiction studies, developed by CICAD and a group of Spanish and Latin American universities, will graduate its first class in the summer of 2004.

The Demand Reduction Expert Group met in October 2003 and approved and launched the Practical Guide for the Organization of a Comprehensive Drug Dependency Treatment System. Published in February 2004, the guide will help the countries provide treatment that meets patient needs.

CICAD is working with the countries on their efforts to mitigate the growing problem of drug-related gangs and violence, and helped the governments of El Salvador and Honduras build up their rehabilitation programs for former gang members. With CICAD support, a study is currently being conducted in El Salvador on gangs in that country and their involvement in drug trafficking.

A project was conducted in Belize in 2003 to offer alternatives to incarceration to drug addicts who commit lesser offenses. This experience will be shared with other countries at a workshop to be held in the Caribbean in March 2004. Moreover, following the MEM recommendations, CICAD collaborated, both financially and technically, with Costa Rica, Guatemala, Peru and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, on priority demand-reduction projects.

Supply Reduction and Control

In the area of Supply Reduction, four training courses were offered in how to control drugs and chemical precursors. Participating were officials from customs, police and the port authorities. In 2003, CICAD's continued support to the Andean Community Regional Counterdrug Intelligence School, headquartered in Lima, was in the form of two training seminars having to do with operational and strategic intelligence. Six Latin American countries participated. Additionally, a specialized program on operational intelligence was held in Quito, Ecuador. The Directors of the School are putting together a strategic plan to carry the program into other countries.

Because traffickers use ports and maritime lanes to move illegal drugs and related contraband, CICAD did a hemisphere-wide study to identify the current trends in maritime narcotrafficking, the routes and methods used, and the problems the countries encounter in their programs to stop illegal drug trafficking. At its thirty-fourth regular session, CICAD approved creation of a group on maritime security and cooperation.

The MEM recommended to many member States that they improve control of the distribution and use of chemical substances and pharmaceutical products. In 2003, the two Groups of Experts that deal with these topics met in Brasilia, Brazil, where they came up with detailed recommendations for the countries on how to build up their capacities in this field. In October 2003, representatives of ten member States met with their European counterparts against the backdrop of the European Conference on the Diversion of Chemical Precursors of Drugs and examined the reasons why the

system for advance notification of exports of these substances (export prenotification – PEN) is not working properly, including the fact that countries are not always sending the notices, sending them too late or to the wrong authority. They agreed upon a number of measures to improve the PEN system in the future, one of which was to update the directory of national authorities competent in the surveillance of chemical precursors.

Also in the area of supply reduction, CICAD collaborated with the Government of Mexico to stage the first Inter-American Meeting on Cooperation Mechanisms against Organized Crime, held in October 2003. At its thirty-fourth regular session, the Commission decided to form an ad hoc group, open to all the members, to study the topic of organized crime and its links to drug trafficking, and the work of the CICAD, and to report its findings to the Commission at its thirty-fifth regular session.

Alternative Development

CICAD's Alternative Development Unit carries out and coordinates development programs in regions where illicit crops are grown, such as Bolivia, Colombia, Jamaica and Peru. It also implements programs in areas that have the potential to produce illicit crops and/or provide a labor source for illicit production, as in the case of Ecuador and Dominica. The paradigm of the programs has been one of traditional alternative development. Now, however, the paradigm has evolved to include preventive alternative development as well. In 2003, the Government of Colombia agreed to conduct a *Study on the Aerial Aspersions Program* in that country, which will look at the program's impact on human health and the environment. On the northern border of Ecuador, CICAD collaborated on an innovative project in preventive alternative development.

CICAD was involved in both policies on alternative development strategies in the member States. That involvement was evident in the institution-building activities that CICAD and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) supported as part of a diagnostic study done by Peru's National Commission for Drug-free Development and Life [Comisión Nacional para el Desarrollo y Vida sin Drogas (DEVIDA)]. Out of that study came recommendations on domestic laws, inter-institutional cooperation and project management. One important result was that DEVIDA now has a seat on the Council of Ministers. CICAD also undertook to reorient the Alternative Development work as a function of the fight against drugs. With the help of Peruvian specialists working in various areas of the growth of narcotrafficking (economics, sociology, etc.), a document is being prepared that will serve as a white paper for a panel of international experts exploring the best way to achieve a level of economic development sufficient to discourage the cultivation of illegal crops. Finally, through a project evaluation system that CICAD has been using, an evaluation was done in 2003 of the Generalized Land-Use Evaluation and Management Tool (GLEAM), resulting in a number of recommendations to achieve implementation of that project.

Legal Development

CICAD's Legal Development program focused on control of firearms, their parts, components and ammunition, through the amendments to the Model Regulations aimed at tightening controls on the activities of firearms brokers. Software was also developed to process the licenses and notifications required under the Model Regulations and will be installed in the member States in 2004.

Money Laundering

Group of Experts: The Group of Experts met in June and November. Its recommendations were adopted by CICAD at its thirty-fourth regular session and will be presented to the General Assembly for consideration. Prominent among those recommendations are the amendments to the Model Regulations on the following points: a) criminalization of the financing of terrorism; b) freezing the assets of terrorism and blocking the movement of good and delivery of services of a person associated with terrorism; c) control of the transmission of funds or value via informal networks or systems; and d) confiscation procedures.

Training Activities: The number of courses for the (IDB-CICAD) Judicial System project in Argentina and Uruguay doubled in May and August, respectively. The courses given under the projects launched in Brazil and Colombia will be conducted in the first and second thirds of 2004.

With support from the Government of France, courses were held in Bolivia, Argentina and Uruguay on the economics and finances of money laundering and on financing terrorism. Based on that experience, a hemispheric project was designed in which France and the OAS' Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) will collaborate.

Drawing upon a typology exercise conducted by the Group of Experts around the "Montesinos" case, Argentine, Peruvian and United States consultants gave a course on recovering the proceeds from corruption and money laundering. The course was tailored to judges, prosecutors and police in Argentina. The Argentine government pledged to repeat the course in Uruguay.

Technical Assistance: Under the IDB-CICAD program to strengthen Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs), started in 2002, the following activities were conducted:

Analysis and evaluation of the strategic plans presented by the beneficiary countries; development of an overall strategy for the project; development of profiles of consultants, classified by area of intervention.

The following were among the more significant developments either engineered by the program directly or under its influence:

- Bolivia participated in a number of courses on typologies of money laundering and financing of terrorism.
- The new law that Chile recently passed against money laundering, establishes a Financial Intelligence Unit (December 2003)
- A new anti-money laundering bill was introduced in Ecuador that makes provision for the creation of a new Financial Intelligence Unit. CICAD played a fundamental role in the preparation and review of that bill (February 2004)
- Venezuela did a study on the organizational needs of the Financial Intelligence Unit. That study will serve as the basis for the overhaul of that unit under the project.
- Argentina determined the staffing requirements of its Financial Intelligence Unit, which until now has been staffed with seconded personnel. The staffing structure was approved by an executive decree of December 2003.
- Peru has completed the terms of reference for and selection of the consultants who will determine what its FIU will require to develop its organizational and communications structure.
- Brazil has already established what data processing equipment will have to be purchased to update its intelligence systems. The tendering process is currently underway.

- In Uruguay, a determination was made as to what the ideal FIU staffing should be, based on the country's characteristics.
- CICAD participated as an observer in the evaluation mission that the Financial Action Task Force of South America (GAFISUD) conducted in Ecuador. In that capacity, it also advised the full membership of the Financial Action Task Force of South America (GAFISUD) on what the law-related findings of the mission were. Following the evaluation, technical assistance was provided to Ecuador to help it draft its anti-money laundering law.

Institutional strengthening of the national drug abuse control commissions

In 2003, the program to build up the national drug abuse control commissions helped Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela to develop and start up their national observatories on drugs and, with a contribution from the Spanish Government, launched a project on decentralizing the national anti-drug strategies to shift some of the responsibility to the municipal level. This project provides cooperation to the main offices of the national drug abuse control commissions and to selected municipal offices (up to 5 municipalities) in each country. The cooperation is in the form of training and equipment for the units with a view to decentralization and development of municipal drug abuse prevention plans.

There was also collaboration with the Government of Haiti on preparation of its national drug abuse control strategy, which was completed in 2003. In a meeting with the President of Bolivia in February, the Secretary General pledged CICAD's assistance in drawing up a new National Drug Control Plan, titling of lands and settlement of disputes on the demarcation of land in the Yungas, and in strengthening its National Drug Abuse Control Commission, CONALTID. In 2003, some notable progress was made in these areas, despite the conflicts between the Bolivian government and the coca growers.

Inter-American Observatory on Drugs

The statistics, research and information unit of CICAD and the Inter-American Observatory of Drugs devised new methods for conducting surveys on drug use (SIDUC) among households, university students, patients at rehabilitation centers and in emergency rooms, and provided technical and financial assistance for a variety of surveys of drug use in 13 member countries, many in response to requests received from member States seeking MEM assistance for priorities. The Statistical Summary on Drugs 2003 was published, with information on seizures of drugs, chemicals, properties, eradication of crops, and persons arrested for drug-related crime, and a study comparing drug use based on student surveys conducted in 7 Latin American capitals.

In conjunction with Robert Wood Johnson University's Medical School, the project to help the member States estimate the human, social and economic costs of drugs in their countries, produced a number of cost estimates for the four pilot countries and completed an instruction manual to help other interested member States do likewise.

The Inter-American Observatory on Drugs launched a quarterly online newsletter to publish drug-related research, studies and other interesting projects being conducted in the member States. In Belize it tested a prototype of 5 advanced technologies to help regulate immigration in remote border areas; it began working with the French observatory with a view to a joint project to help 6 Caribbean countries detect emerging patterns in the drug area; and in partnership with the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development, the Observatory offered fellowships for

government officials from Spanish-speaking countries who are working on drug issues, to participate in an online course on development of e-government strategies.

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. It serves as the OAS' principal advisory body in telecommunications-related matters. Its mission is to promote continuous development of telecommunications in the Hemisphere.

In 2003, modernization of the information and communications technologies (ICTs) continued at a rapid pace, affording numerous opportunities for the region's individual and collective development and the growth of its economies. However, we are all aware of the disparities in the cost of and access to technology within and among the countries of the region and of the grave situation that the telecommunications industry is experiencing, which as yet has not fully recovered from the decline that the world economies experienced and that was triggered when the dot.com bubble burst in early 2000.

The transition to the information and knowledge society poses significant challenges for an organization like CITEL, which is the forum in which government and the private sector come together to drive ICT development. The following needs should be mentioned:

- establish guidelines to achieve an efficient and equitable transition;
- select the main topics that effective regional cooperation can develop with a view to evening out the disparities in the region in terms the spread of the ICTs;
- support establishment of a proper regulatory and institutional framework to lower entry barriers and ensure real competition among service providers, to maximize the benefits;
- train people working in the telecommunications sector on related topics so as to help the countries adapt to the rapid changes around them and be always abreast of developments;
- preserve and promote the cultural and linguistic diversity of the region's peoples; and
- guarantee gender equality in access to information and knowledge.

The purpose of CITEL's programs is to create a greater awareness of the role that telecommunications play in the region's economic and social development, and to formulate guidelines and standards on critical issues. To respond to the challenges that the telecommunications world poses, CITEL conducted a number of activities in 2003 to improve its capacity to address the needs of its member States and associate members. The principal measures taken by CITEL during the period in question included the following:

Follow-up and dissemination of the Agenda for Connectivity in the Americas and the Quito Plan of Action

CITEL prepared an Agenda for Connectivity in the Americas and the Quito Plan of Action, which contain the principles, premises, definitions and objectives for seizing opportunities by establishing the procedures to follow when formulating and executing connectivity-related activities, which is multi-sectoral in nature. These documents were sent to the Secretariat of the Summit Process in 2002, which was asked to decide the appropriate measures to promote subsequent development and implementation, consistent with each member State's needs. This is a job that the telecommunications authorities on their own cannot do, which is why this sector is calling upon all regional and international organizations and the private sector to join forces to

facilitate the hemisphere's integration and afford its citizens every opportunity to realize their human potential.

Training of telecommunications professionals

Given the growing need for trained, specialized personnel to master the changes in telecommunications, CITEL has been working with prestigious training centers in the region, particularly with the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) Center of Excellence for the Americas Region, to provide proper training courses for telecommunications professionals from Latin America. In 2003, nine courses were offered (distance and face-to-face learning) on policy, regulation, management and the technology of telecommunications. Almost 280 fellowships were provided, to recipients everywhere in the region.

Telecommunications policies and regulation

Reform is transforming the industrial and government structures of the ICT sector across the globe, placing new demands on regulators who must protect consumers, prevent abusive competitive practices and achieve national objectives like universal access and increased economic productivity. CITEL and the ITU have started to update the Blue Book on Telecommunications Policies for the Americas, a basic and fundamental tool to put a system into practice that can cope with the problems and demands posed by the policy objective of forming a global information society, such as the increasing difficulties that interconnection, universal service/access, harmonization of standards related to spectrum use and the introduction of broadband.

Technological advances and the bundling of services increases the use of satellite broadband worldwide since satellite is one of the best ways of reaching regions that do not have land-based access. CITEL recently approved a recommendation whose purpose is to help the administrations get proper regulations introduced for satellite service, in order to promote the development of satellite-based broadband services. A Web page has also been set up that spells out the laws and regulations governing delivery of services via satellite, and providing all the information that parties interested in applying for licenses in the countries of the Americas will need.

To help the authorities craft policies that encourage the development of telecommunications networks and services, and considering the advanced telecommunications services now available and the advantages of migrating toward a national broadband infrastructure, studies and recommendations are being prepared on the end-user access network that will enable end-users to benefit by today's advanced services. Particularly noteworthy here are the studies underway on government policies and experiences in managing the ccTLD in the region, a comparative analysis of broadband experiences, and a technical report on voice over IP.

As a result of the information shared at the OAS Cyber Security Conference (Buenos Aires, Argentina, July 2003), CITEL, the Meeting of Ministers of Justice or Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA), and the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) will pursue their activities to come up with a Cyber Security Strategy. CITEL's Permanent Consultative Committee I, Telecommunications Standardization (CCP.I), set up a work program to perform the assigned functions and is studying the best regional practices for infrastructure protection.

Conformity Assessment of Telecommunications Equipment and Coordination of Standards

To obtain economies of scale, reduce the time needed to introduce equipment on the market and to lower costs, while also complying with national technical regulations and standards, CITELE has been working on the mutual recognition agreements (MRA) and coordination of technical standards. As previously reported, a mutual recognition agreement (MRA) has been prepared and approved for conformity assessment of telecommunications equipment and an analysis is in progress to harmonize the procedures for conformity assessment of telecommunications equipment in the region equipment, by putting together the Yellow Book. A number of countries are already participating, while others are taking steps to put the CITELE-prepared MRA into practice, including the amendment of national laws and regulations if necessary. As for harmonization of technical standards, mention should be made of the recent documents approved on coordination of standards for International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT-2000). A technical publication has also been approved that includes a detailed explanation of next generation networks.

The Summit underscored the need for information technology and connectivity to spread rapidly. CITELE has recognized that terrestrial digital television broadcasting offers new ways of gaining access to information and sharing it, and has approved a resolution to adopt and put into practice a common hemispheric standard for such broadcasting and which encourages the OAS member States to make the transition from analog to digital technology as quickly as possible.

Preparing the hemisphere's united positions in international meetings

CITELE has always emphasized the need for the region to have a harmonized point of view, as is evident from the more than 270 joint inter-American proposals put before the World Radiocommunication Conference, held in 2003. There, the member States from around the globe met to examine the international treaty called Radio Regulations, which contains the frequency assignments to over 40 communications services, ranging from ham radio operator services and professional radiocommunications to the mobile wireless technologies and communications via satellite.

Preparations got underway for the ITU's World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly, which will be held in 2004 (WTSA-04), and the World Conference on International Telecommunications, which will be held in 2006 or 2007 (WCIT). The WTSA-04 is the forum that will coordinate development of global standards on telecommunication networks and services. The WCIT is of particular importance because its purpose is to adopt, on a world-wide scale, standards for distributing the resources of the international telecommunications services, and will include study of the problems associated with international interconnections of internet and IP services.

Improving the coordination among subregional, regional and international organizations.

Many organizations have established programs for the development of information and communication technologies (ICT). The cooperation between CITELE and international and regional organizations continues to grow, as a means to improve efficiency, avoid duplication of effort, and reduce the amount of time it takes to resolve disputes by examining a number of issues beforehand. CITELE has cooperation agreements with the following organizations on topics of mutual interest: the Asociación Hispanoamericana de Centros de Investigación y Empresas de Telecomunicaciones (AHCIE); the Asociación Latinoamericana de Telecomunicaciones Mviles (ALACEL); the Asociación de Empresas de Telecomunicaciones del Acuerdo Subregional Andino (ASETA); the Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions (ATIS) Committee T1 (US); the African Telecommunications Union (ATU); Caribbean Latin American

Action (C/LAA); the CDMA Development Group (CDG); the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT); the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI); the Global VSAT Forum; the International Astronautical Federation (IAF); the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO); the Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA (US)); the Regional Commonwealth in the Field of Communications (RCC); the Postal Union of the Americas, Spain and Portugal (PUASP) and the International Telecommunications Union (ITU).

Support to the member States and associate members in sharing information and best practices to be able to deal with the changes in the world of telecommunications

This objective is akin to the role that CITELE has traditionally played as a forum in which its member States and associate members are mutually supportive.

Medical care in the Americas is in the midst of an incredible transformation. The existence and increasing affordability of telecommunications technologies opens up access to health services and improves their quality for more and more people. A book titled *Telehealth in the Americas* has been completed and recommends telehealth policies and strategies to be adopted by the OAS member States. The book was the result of collaborative activities of CITELE, the ITU and PAHO to benefit the entire region.

Regarding the Permanent Consultative Committees, the transfer of specialized know-how and sharing of experiences were increased not just through seminars but also through discussion in online forums and at roundtables. These Committees now have over 190 associate members, whose participation has been decisive in fulfilling the Committees' mandates. Prominent among the activities conducted under the umbrella of PCC.I (Telecommunications Standardization) were the following: the seminar to do a general analysis of the progress with implementation of the MRAs and to hear the experiences of a number of countries in the preparation and implementation of the MRAs; CITELE's meeting with the ITU and the private sector to look at the opportunities in the region and the description of the real market situation and what it means for public/private cooperation; and a workshop on managing Internet domain names, which examined the methods, practices and models used for managing domain names of ccTLD Country Code. A seminar on cyber security is planned for 2004, to discuss regional approaches and possibly identify the standards that will underpin telecommunications security in the region; and a workshop of next generation networks (NGN), which will discuss the challenges of building the fixed/mobile Internet-integrated NGN of the future, the operators' perspective on emerging NGN, and identification of necessary standards for the NGN and possible gaps.

In PCC.II (Radiocommunication including Broadcasting), a seminar and a round table were conducted on satellite broadband services which spotlighted new applications, trends and existing satellite services, and identified important regulatory issues that needed to be taken into account to facilitate implementation of these services and applications in CITELE's member States. Another outstanding success was a seminar on wireless broadband access to encourage information sharing and an exchange of information about the development of terrestrial wireless broadband access; the role of regulators, and opportunities and challenges for deployment of wireless broadband access.

Despite the successes achieved, the Americas still faces many obstacles ahead. The governments must rally all interested parties and forces to get them to participate and cooperate in fostering an orderly development of the networks and telecommunications services, using the most adequate and efficient systems available so that our peoples can gain by the potential that information and

communication technologies hold. This is everyone's mission. So we would urge the administrations and associate members to work actively in the CITEL forum in pursuit of this objective.

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 (CICTE) 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. The Committee is headquartered at the OAS General Secretariat.

From the Third Regular Session of CICTE held in El Salvador in January 2003, it is clear that the 2003-2004 Work Plan will serve as a guide for CICTE's activities for the entire year.

A number of important events took place in 2003, including the First Meeting of CICTE's National Points of Contact (NPC) in July. Also held in 2003 was the OAS Cyber Security Conference, which met in Buenos Aires under the joint auspices of CICTE, CITEL and REMJA. CICTE also played host to the United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee at the Follow-up Meeting of Regional and Subregional Organizations, held on October 7, 2003. CICTE's Fourth Regular Session was held in Montevideo, Uruguay in January 2004. It should be noted as well that CICTE has established constructive ties with various departments of the OAS and, through the international community, with important counter-terrorist organizations, all in order to advance its work plan and further its objectives.

Another major event was the entry into force of the Inter-American Convention Against Terrorism. With its ratification by Nicaragua, Mexico, Peru, Canada, Antigua and Barbuda and El Salvador, the Convention took effect on July 10, 2003, an event commemorated during the First Meeting of the National Points of Contact on July 14, 2003.

To help the States that have ratified the Convention develop the kind of legislation that will effectively implement it, CICTE, in combination with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), worked to stage the first of a series of workshops aimed at the States party to the Convention, to be held in San José, Costa Rica. This workshop focuses on project development and the adoption of domestic legislation that will make the Convention a vibrant instrument. With that it complemented a project conducted jointly with the Unit for Promotion of Democracy (UPD) and the Forum of Speakers of Central American Legislative Assemblies, to come up with joint counter-terrorist legislation.

CICTE has provided specialized technical assistance to a number of countries. In addition to the workshop on Convention implementation, mentioned earlier, in July CICTE teamed up with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Government of Spain to provide technical assistance to Bolivia's Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU). Spanish experts have conducted in-depth training on the modalities and typologies of terrorist financing for Bolivia's FIU, which is now better prepared to take on the responsibilities contained in the Recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering (FATF) on the subject of terrorist financing. CICTE's Secretariat also responded to a request from the Government of Peru to help it analyze and draft new counter-terrorist legislation. The Secretariat organized this mission jointly with UNODC and the IMF and conducted an inter-agency workshop focusing on the Peruvian government in September. The result was the formation of a project among government agencies to craft counter-terrorist legislation. Experts in one sector of the government received training that

enabled the government to give its human capital the authority to come up with a draft that will improve its laws based on international standards. The exposure to the inter-agency process should improve intergovernmental cooperation on the counter-terrorism issues that various ministries deal with.

In response to the new interest in the security of critical infrastructure, CICTE organized and held the OAS Cyber Security Conference, in Buenos Aires in July. This conference, hosted jointly with CITEL and the REMJA Group of Governmental Experts on Cyber-Crime, made important progress on developing a global cyber-security strategy that includes the entire OAS. Being a joint undertaking, it also demonstrated the ability of various areas of the General Secretariat to work together to accomplish substantial results on the topics before them. Sixteen member States participated in the conference, as did numerous representatives from the private sector. Following up on the meeting, CICTE continues to work with REMJA, CITEL, the member States and the Committee on Hemispheric Security to craft and put together the draft of a document containing a global strategy.

CICTE's Secretariat has been an active partner of the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering (FATF) in efforts to crack down on terrorist financing. In cooperation with CICAD and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), CICTE is preparing a training course for Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs) on the subject of terrorist financing.

The Executive Secretary of CICTE met with leaders of civil society in the area of Foz de Iguazú, where they discussed matters related to terrorist financing. He suggested to them that they adopt principles of transparency, based on GAFI's recommendations for oversight of nonprofit organizations. His comments were well received and triggered articles in the local press on the "know-your-client" policies apropos charitable donations. With the cooperation of the governments of the United States, Paraguay, Brazil and Argentina, in late 2004 CICTE will conduct additional training for the FIUs in the tri-border area.

On the global scene, CICTE was host of the United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee's Follow-up Meeting for Regional, Subregional and International Organizations. In attendance were over 200 participants representing more than 110 organizations and countries, all participating in talks on ways to advance international cooperation to combat terrorism. Presiding over the meeting were the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Honorable María Eugenia Brizuela de Avila, and the Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations, Ambassador Inocencio Arias, Chairman of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee. The meeting examined the role that regional and international organizations play in efforts to fight terrorism. The key areas of discussion included: how organizations can share best practices; the role of regional organizations in building up the member States capacity to fight terrorism, and how to implement the program at the international level.

CICTE closed this period with its Fourth Regular Session,, held in Montevideo, Uruguay, January 28 through 30, 2004. At this session the member States approved the Declaration of Montevideo and the Work Program for 2004-2005. The significant additions to the work plan include programs to meet the new security requirements in civil aviation and maritime transportation, imposed by international norms.

The scale of the public programs conducted by CICTE's Secretariat increased considerably during the year. The on-line database against terrorism (OLAT) at CICTE's page on the Internet now has over 370 registered users worldwide. Featuring over 300 documents, this database is a fast means to find laws, best practices and experts on terrorism-related topics. The Secretariat

also publishes a monthly news bulletin titled "*Informe*", which is distributed to over 500 people. The report contains recent developments and news related to counter-terrorism, upcoming events of interest to our National Points of Contact and new documents added to the OLAT database.

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)/Director General of the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD).

The IACNDR has been working on preparation of a strategic plan for policy on vulnerability reduction, risk management and disaster response. Since August 2002, a technical group composed of experts from the Committee's member states had been meeting to prepare a plan to be presented to the Permanent Council prior to the next regular session of the General Assembly. That plan was submitted in May 2003. The Committee also put together recommendations to be presented to the Special Conference on Hemispheric Security, held in Mexico in October 2003.

The Committee members have started to introduce the strategic plan to various interested parts of the inter-American community. Many areas of activity that the plan covers will require the support of the national governments and decisions on their part.

The IACNDR will continue to monitor implementation of the activities contained in the strategic plan.

FONDEM (Inter-American Emergency Aid Fund)

During the period covered by this report, the OAS General Secretariat made no token financial contributions to respond to disasters in the member States.

JUSTICE STUDIES CENTER OF 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 of the Americas was established by the General Assembly [AG/RES. 1 (XXVI-E/99)] as an intergovernmental entity with technical and operational autonomy. 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.

Projects, by area, based on the Center's three goals

Conducting in-depth studies of the justice systems and developing innovative ideas in the discussion of judicial reforms.

Study Projects

- *Follow-up of criminal procedure reforms in the Americas.* In 2001, the JSCA started the follow-up project which studies and compares the justice systems in the region, particularly the results of the criminal procedure reforms implemented in the last two decades
- *Changes in the justice system and civil society.* In 2002, the JSCA participated in research sponsored by the Rights and Citizenship Program of the Ford Foundation's Southern Cone Office. This was to be a learning exercise about the role of civil society organizations in the recent judicial reforms in Argentina, Colombia, Chile and Peru.
- *Gender and Reforms to the Criminal Procedure System.* With support from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the Center is conducting a study to determine to what extent the new criminal procedure systems factor in the gender issue when investigating, prosecuting and punishing sexual offenses and others committed against the physical integrity of persons, most of whose victims are women. The study was done in Chile and will branch out into Guatemala, Honduras and Bolivia.
- *Indigenous Peoples and the Criminal Procedure System.* As part of the JSCA's Training Area program, "Institution building for criminal procedure reform," this study, done with support from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), investigates the diversity angle in the region's reform processes, specifically in relation to the indigenous situation.
- *Women's Rights Tribunals.* With help from the GTZ, the JSCA conducted research to find the results of the women's rights tribunals in Chile, and their advantages and disadvantages. Those findings will be disseminated and discussed to determine whether other countries of the region should follow suit.
- *Administration of Justice and Racial Discrimination.* By mandate from the OAS, the JSCA is conducting a study on the way that the justice systems of the hemisphere tackle the problem of racial discrimination in the Americas.

To promote cooperation and the exchange of experiences among key parties in the justice sector in the region.

Activities in the Training Area

- *Inter-American Program to Train Instructors for Criminal Procedure Reform.* With funding from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the JSCA is working on a training program to ensure that the reforms in the criminal justice system in Latin America are implemented to maximum effect. It is targeted at the authorities and members of agencies and organizations involved in the process of criminal procedure reform.
- *Visits / workshops.* The JSCA is constantly organizing workshops on the ground. The workshops demonstrate the success stories associated with implementation and operation of adversarial criminal justice systems, and specifically Chile's new procedural system. During the visits participants attend hearings and/or oral arguments, learn about the institutions that participate in the system and have interviews and meetings with those institutions' authorities.
- *Training Program for Judges and Other Members of the Ecuadorian Criminal Justice System.* The JSCA, in association with the Universidad Técnica Particular de Loja and the firm Globatel, won the USAID-funded competition held by Fundación Esquel for designing and implementing a Training Program for Judges and Other Members of the Ecuadorian Criminal Justice System.
- *Virtual Forums.* The JSCA periodically organizes virtual forums to discuss current topics of interest in the region. The forums' method combines an e-list system for e-mail discussions, to which anyone may subscribe, and chat rooms moderated by regional experts on the subject matter being discussed.
- *Course: Oral Litigation for a New Criminal Law System.* In July, a course was given in Mexico City, for staff from the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic, from the Monterrey Public Defender's Office and from CIDE. In all 35 people attended, who were trained in the use of oral argument.
- *Internship programs.* This program is an effective way for the JSCA to enrich its work by enlisting the participation and input of professionals and students from various countries of the Americas and beyond. This enables the JSCA to create and maintain permanent ties with institutions and local experts.

Networking Projects

- *Creation of networks of justice institutions.* One of the missions of the Justice Studies Center of the Americas is to facilitate and promote communication between public institutions and civil society organizations in the area of justice reform, so as to help grow a regional community interested and actively participating in justice issues, with tight working relations among them.

Bilateral Cooperation Projects

- *Bilateral Cooperation.* The leading justice institutions in all countries of the region have been invited to enter into mutual cooperation agreements with the JSCA. This forms a juridical base of enormous importance both to provide the information and to enlist the institutions into the online work, and to envisage future possible technical cooperation activities.

- *JSCA International and Local Events.* Another method that the JSCA has developed to increase cooperation and sharing of experiences among those who play a role in justice systems in the region is to organize, co-organize, sponsor and participate in seminars, workshops, working meetings, forums and roundtables, as a speaker, visitor, observer and participant.

Generate and disseminate instruments that improve information on justice in the Americas

- *Internet Page.* The JSCA has set about serving as a permanent and active channel for generating, compiling and disseminating information, legislation and basic statistics on the operation of the judicial systems in each country of the region, in a simple way and at little cost. It has made optimal use of the many advantages that digital communication affords. All its efforts materialize at the Internet page www.cejamericas.org, where the following can be found:
 - *Cover News.* In Spanish and English, the Cover News is updated weekly and contains news, links to relevant documents, a schedule of events and access to special issues on public policy in the justice area (development of judicial statistics, alternative means of settling disputes, civil society and reforms to the justice system, and so on).
 - *MARC Module.* The Web page established pursuant to the mandate given to the JSCA at the IV REMJA features a virtual library with documents, legislation, links to other Internet pages and a complete directory of centers offering alternative dispute resolution mechanism (MARC) services in the various countries of the Americas.
 - *Virtual Library.* Here the reader can find on-line documents, legislations, summaries and bibliographical references, plus a search engine to consult the requested texts online.
 - *Research.* Updated details on the studies conducted by the JSCA. The objectives, context, products and expected results are described. Access is provided to other relevant information, such as data-gathering tools, statistics, legislation, news and events.
 - *Training Page.* Information on the courses, internship programs and activities, organized by area.

Projects

Report on Justice Systems in the Americas. Another way that the JSCA has proposed to facilitate the exchange of information and use to advantage the experience gained from the work in the region is the Annual Report on Justice Systems in the Americas, funded by the Canadian Government's Human Security Program.

Generating Judicial Indicators and Statistics: With financing from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the JSCA has been conducting this project since 2001. Its purpose is to create an integral system for data collection and processing, to produce quality judicial statistics that can be compared and are easy to understand and access.

Access to information on the justice systems. For the JSCA, having transparent, predictable, prompt and quality judicial systems is an essential of democracy and economic and social development. This project is being carried out in conjunction with the IACHR's Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression and with funding from the Rights and Citizenship Program of the Ford Foundation's Southern Cone Office.

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 under the Office of the Assistant Secretary 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 business 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.

Secretariat of the Administrative Tribunal

In addition to the Tribunal's administrative activities, in 2003 it was represented by its President, the Honorable Judge Rosa Montalvo Cabrera (Peru), and its Secretary at the XXXIII regular session of the General Assembly, held in Santiago, Chile. During its fourth plenary session, held on June 10, 2003, the Assembly elected Dr. Alma Montenegro de Fletcher to be a judge on the Administrative Tribunal of the Organization of American States.

With the consent of the other judges on the Tribunal, the following were among the activities carried out by its President, Judge Rosa Montalvo Cabrera, during the XXXIII regular session of the OAS General Assembly, in Santiago, Chile, June 2003:

- Working meeting with the Executive Director of the Justice Studies Center of the Americas.
- Working meeting with the Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Commission of Women.
- Presentation by the President of the Tribunal before the General Committee of the Assembly.
- Participation in the informal meeting where civil society organizations met with the heads of delegation of the OAS member States.

The Tribunal held its LI session from October 27 through 31, 2003, with the following judges present: Rosa Montalvo Cabrera, President, Lionel Alain Dupuis, Vice-President, Morton H. Sklar, and Agustín Gordillo.

At that session, the Tribunal took up complaint 276, wherein the petitioner alleged that the General Secretariat had failed to comply with the deadlines established in Article 112 of the Staff Rules. It also considered complaint 280, where the petitioner asked the Administrative Tribunal to order that the established procedures for performance evaluations and the right to be heard on the subject be observed before any decision not to renew her contract was taken.

The Administrative Tribunal also approved the following resolutions at its LI regular session:

Resolution 344: In tribute to His Excellency the President of the Commonwealth of Dominica, Dr. Nicholas J.O. Liverpool, thanking him for his service as a member of the OAS Administrative Tribunal, where he served with distinction and integrity.

Resolution 345: In keeping with Article 2, paragraph 5, of the Tribunal's Rules of Procedure, the first panel for 2004 was determined by lot, as follows: Judges Lionel Alain Dupuis (President), Franz Álvaro Vega Noya and Agustín Gordillo.

Resolution 346: In this resolution, the Administrative Tribunal expressed its deep appreciation to Judge Rosa Montalvo Cabrera for her hard-working dedication and distinguished leadership in the Administrative Tribunal's work.

Resolution 347: To clarify the statements contained in the brief filing the complaint and in the answer to it, the Tribunal decided to instruct the Secretary to request a brief of final arguments at least 15 days before the start of the Tribunal's session and the order for oral debate required under Article 39 of the Tribunal's Rules of Procedure.

The Administrative Tribunal also examined resolution AG/RES. 1974 (XXXIII-O/03) concerning the budget available for 2004.

The Tribunal also considered the study presented by the Secretariat of the Tribunal comparing the Statute and Rules of Procedure of the Tribunal with those of the Administrative Tribunals of the Inter-American Development Bank, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the International Labour Organisation, and a report prepared at the request of the President of the Tribunal on the Organization's policy regarding the Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest for Staff of the OAS. The judges agreed to take those documents into account for purposes of the draft amendment to the Tribunal's Rules of Procedure, which will be presented at its next regular session in 2004.

Finally, on March 20, 2003, a working meeting was held at OAS headquarters with the Secretaries of the Administrative Tribunals of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). There they exchanged views on various procedural and other matters relating to the coordination and sharing of information on the activities that the Secretariats of these tribunals perform.

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.

The PADF was created to raise public and private donations to help the most disadvantaged people of the Hemisphere, empower them to achieve sustainable economic and social development, and respond to natural disasters and humanitarian crises. It does its work through innovative partnerships with the public and private sectors, in furtherance of OAS priorities.

The relations between the Foundation, the General Secretariat and the member States were further strengthened during this period thanks to good coordination among the parties and the growing number of services that the PADF provided in Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay.

Important activities

Hillside farming project (Haiti)

This project is funded by USAID to improve production, processing and the marketing systems of community groups, cooperatives and agribusiness. More and more, the organizations that the PADF trains are playing an intermediary role in the country's farm marketing system and generating a considerable number of jobs. This program is coupled with another USAID-funded project to monetize grains, repair roads connecting centers of agricultural production with markets, and rural schools to be used in the event of a disaster, establish irrigation systems and teach communities how to prevent disasters. The Government of Haiti also gave the PADF funds to build an irrigation system in the south and, together with municipal officials and local residents, to implement erosion control measures in the city of Cap Haitienne.

Building up the NGOs' capacity (Haiti- Dominican Republic)

New agreements signed with USAID/Washington paved the way to improve economic-social conditions on the Haitian-Dominican border, to combat the trafficking in children to be used as work slaves, thereby helping to solve a major human rights problem. The World Bank and private sector contributions are funding, through the PADF, a community development project targeted at two municipal communes in the area.

Generation of sustainable jobs (Colombia)

With funding from USAID and strong private-sector participation, the PADF is implementing two important projects for families displaced by the violence and farmers who stop cultivating illegal crops and shift to lawful farming. Both projects reach 40,000 families in 16 departments and 110 municipalities, benefiting almost 200,000 people. Of these, some 40% are women. PADF leverages the resources received from USAID and forges strategic alliances that encourage domestic and international socially responsible corporate investment and public sector participation in programs targeted at the most needy sectors of the displaced population, particularly the Afro-Colombian, in rural development projects, incubation of small corporate businesses and microenterprise, establishment of productive community centers that also provide educational and health services and job training.

A delegation from the PADF Board, headed by the Secretary General of the OAS and accompanied by Congressional representatives and representatives of the private sector in the United States, visited Colombia in November 2003. The group met with the President of Colombia, the Honorable Dr. Alvaro Uribe, the Ambassador of the United States, the Director of USAID, and high-ranking representatives of the government and the private sector in Colombia. The delegation inaugurated two important community centers. The first, which provides medical care and education to 200 children and job training to mothers among the displaced, high-risk Afro-Colombian population of Soacha, near Bogota, was built and organized by the PADF, Minuto de Dios and AFRODES. The second, which is for incubating small businesses, health care and education, and better housing for 600 displaced ethnic families in Riohacha, La Guajira, was built by the PADF and the La Guajira Family Assistance Fund, and contributions from the ICBF, the municipality and the local chamber of commerce.

Remittances (El Salvador, Mexico, Haiti)

Latino and Caribbean immigrants living in the United States send US\$32 billion annually in family and community remittances to their countries of birth, a figure that surpasses the combined investment from international lending agencies in the region. The PADF, with support from USAID, started three pilot projects with immigrant groups from El Salvador, Mexico and Haiti in the United States, to channel a portion of their remittances to productive projects in their native communities. Each group is making initial investments which are then matched by the PADF to develop opportunities and create sustainable jobs and increase income in those communities.

In the case of El Salvador, the PADF is working with the *Comité Cívico Unido Americano-Salvadoreño*, helping five rural cooperatives diversify their traditional farm production to shift to new crops to sell on the domestic and international markets. In Haiti, the PADF is working with the National Organization for the Advancement of Haitians (NOAH) helping rural cooperatives to plant 40,000 fruit trees. In Mexico, the PADF is advising MIGPAO, *Organización de Migrantes por Ayoquezco*, on the development of an innovative model of transacted business so that the community can produce and export nopal to the American-Mexican market that longs for local products.

The three projects are part of the Transnational Development Fund created by the PADF with support from the private sector, foundations and donor governments. They are models that other Latino and Caribbean immigrants in the United States can follow to begin economic-social development projects in their native communities.

Corporate Partners

One of the Foundation's key approaches is to enlist a wide range of hemispheric partners in economic-social development processes, particularly the private corporate sector represented by banking, industry, commerce, business, chambers of commerce and business organizations. Examples of these corporate partners include the following: Unibank, Masterfoods and Citigroup in Haiti; Group M in Haiti-Dominican Republic; Banco Agrícola in El Salvador; Bank-Boston, Chevron-Texaco, Occidental Petroleum, 3M, Grupo Bavaria, chambers of commerce and family assistance funds in Colombia; Altria Group in Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay; Massalin Particulares in Argentina, and Caterpillar in Peru.

Other corporate partners include Landmark Graphics, Stanford Financial Group, Channellock Inc., Cornell Quality Tools, Danaher Tool Group, Genesis Medical Imaging, Meritool and Stride Tool Co, thanks to whom the PADF was able to send the member States 19 donations of "Medical Equipment and Education Tools" valued at over US\$1.3 million. PADF also works closely with the Latin American Chambers of Commerce to bring assistance to the hemisphere when natural disasters occur and to support other PADF projects in the region.

BOARD OF EXTERNAL AUDITORS

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution AG/RES. 123, adopted on April 14, 1973, and Permanent Council resolution CP/RES. 124 of June 10, 1975, the Board of External Auditors is responsible for the external auditing of the General Secretariat's accounts. The Board launched its activities 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 Permanent Council. The Board is made up of three members elected by the General Assembly.

The Board held its annual meeting from April 7 through 11, 2003, to prepare its report on the external audit of the accounts and financial statements of the OAS, pursuant to Article 129 of the General Standards.

The Board presented its observations on April 11, 2003, in the document titled Report to the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States: Audit of Accounts and Financial Statements, December 31, 2002 and 2001 (OEA/Ser.S JAE/doc.33/03). The report is divided into four sections: a) comments and recommendations for improving accounting-related procedures and internal controls; b) financial statements of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States; c) Financial statements of the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development and the Trust for the Americas; d) Financial statements of other agencies and entities related to the Organization of American States.

According to the reports issued by Arthur Anderson, LLP, a firm of independent auditors, the financial statements for the audited entities tallied with the General Secretariat's books, records, documents and vouchers.

The Board also discussed other issues, concerns and recommendations, which it wanted to bring to the attention of the Secretary General, the General Assembly and the Permanent Council. After the synopsis of the financial situation of the Regular Fund, the Specific Funds and the special contributions to the OAS, the Board examined the initiatives taken by OAS Management to put into practice the Board recommendations that appeared in the previous year's report and new topics of concern to the Board.

The Board underscored the fact that the independent auditors issued unqualified ("clean") reports –which is the ideal outcome of any audit- with regard to the 2002 financial statements of the following:

- Regular Fund of the OAS and Specific Funds
- Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development
- Trust for the Americas
- Leo S. Rowe Pan American Fund
- Rowe Commemorative Fund
- Unit for Promotion of Democracy
- Retirement and Pension Fund
- Inter-American Defense Board Fund
- Medical Benefits Trust Fund
- Planning for Adaptation to Global Climate Change Project

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. 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 Inter-American Defense Board (IADB) has continued its ongoing involvement in coordinating and supervising the humanitarian demining programs for Central America (MARMINCA) and South America (MARMINAS) on the border between Peru and Ecuador. Over 30 international supervisors take part in these endeavors, representing the Armed Forces of the Americas and acting always in support of the OAS through the Integrated Action against Antipersonnel Mines Program (AICMA). Members of the Chiefs of Staff of the IADB took part in supervisory and coordination visits to MARMINAS. In Honduras, the IADB coordinated with the U.S. Department of Defense in using originally German mechanical shovels, especially modified for demining purposes, in support of Honduras as a mine-free country. The Board also provided technical assistance in demining to Peru and Ecuador in the form of training courses for sappers and technical personnel. Of particular note is the fact that by April 1, 2004, 35,956 mines and explosive devices had been destroyed, which means that an area covering nearly two million square meters in that region has now been cleared. The Chiefs of Staff of the Board drafted a Manual of Operational Procedures for Humanitarian Demining, which encompasses both international norms and IADB guidelines.

The Board completed the inventory of Confidence- and Security-Building Measures in the Hemisphere, updated on the basis of the reports submitted by member states in 2002, as well as the Inventory of Confidence- and Security-Building Measures in Other Regions of the World. Those inventories were forwarded to the General Secretariat and presented to the Committee on Hemispheric Security.

The Inter-American Defense College (IADC) continued to offer its course in advanced professional and interdisciplinary studies for civilian officials, military personnel, and police as part of its 11-month academic program providing ample information on governmental systems, the international environment, the structure and workings of the inter-American system, peacekeeping operations, and analysis of threats to hemispheric security. Complementing those studies, the College ran four seminars on Threats, Concerns, and Other Challenges to Hemispheric Security, Peacekeeping Missions, Crisis Management, and Natural Disasters. In support of the Education for Peace Program, the College conducts courses on Conflict Resolution and Crisis Management Exercises to help participants grasp and practice basic negotiating skills, as well as lectures to promote regional understanding and enhance civilian-military relations. The College offers two Masters Degrees: one in International Services with a particular emphasis on Security and Defense, in coordination with American University; the other, on Defense and Security, in coordination with Universidad del Salvador in Argentina.

To broaden the scope of its academic program, the Inter-American Defense College has developed a distance learning program via the Internet in cooperation with the Institute of World Affairs. It currently offers a course on Conflict Resolution and Crisis Management.

In cooperation with the OAS and the Central American Armed Forces Conference, the IADC held a seminar in Guatemala on drafting White Books and Defense Policies at the national and regional level. It provided comprehensive analysis of the new defense policies in Central America and benefited, moreover, from the participation of civilian and military representatives who conveyed the experience and knowledge acquired in this field by other countries in the Hemisphere. The College is currently busy planning and developing a hemispheric seminar on the Collection, Identification, Stockpile Management, and Destruction of Small Arms and Light Weapons, to be held in Nicaragua, in coordination with the OAS General Secretariat, and with the participation of CICAD and the United Nations.

Through a range of academic initiatives, the College has made a point of supporting programs of concern to the OAS, such as promotion of the Democratic Charter and the promotion of a democratic culture through education.

In the person of its President, the IADC has attended and participated in all of the major meetings of the OAS, such as the High-Level Meeting on the Security Concerns of Small Island States, the annual meetings of CICTE, CICAD, and CIFTA, the Meeting of Experts on Confidence-building Measures, the General Assembly, and the Special Conference on Security. General Freeman also took part as a guest speaker in the Conference on Arms, Drugs, and Terrorism in the Hemisphere, organized by the OAS and George Washington University. He also spoke on several occasions to the Committee on Hemispheric Security regarding the outcomes of the various phases of the College's modernization program.

The IADC continued to expand and strengthen its Network of Academic Cooperation Agreements with numerous military and civilian institutes and universities in the Hemisphere. Thus far, over 15 academic cooperation agreements have been signed. Reflecting their growing prestige in the region, both the IADB and the IADC received numerous official visits, such as those of the National Defense Committee of Peru's National Congress, the Institute of Advanced National Studies of Ecuador, the Vice Minister of National Defense of Uruguay, the Institute of Advanced Studies for the Defense and National Security of the Dominican Republic, the College of Advanced Strategic Studies of El Salvador, the Director General of the National Police of Colombia, the Minister of Defense of Argentina, the Military Academy of Chile, the National Defense College of Honduras, and the visit of the Commander of the Fourth Brigade of Colombia.

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 covered in this report, the judges of the Court were as follows, in order of precedence: Antônio A. Cançado Trindade (Brazil), President; Sergio García Ramírez (Mexico), Vice President; Hernán Salgado Pesantes (Ecuador); Máximo Pacheco Gómez (Chile); Oliver Jackman (Barbados); Alirio Abreu Burelli (Venezuela); and Carlos Vicente de Roux Rengifo (Colombia). Also, during the period covered in this report, the Secretary of the Court was Manuel E. Ventura Robles (Costa Rica) and the Deputy Secretary was Pablo Saavedra Alessandri (Chile).

Contentious cases, provisional measures and advisory opinions submitted to the Court

In late 2002 and during 2003, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights submitted the following cases to the Court: *Mapiripán v. Colombia*, *The “La Nación” Newspaper v. Costa Rica*, *Alfonso Martín del Campo Dodd v. Mexico*, *Caesar v. Trinidad and Tobago*, *Yakye Axa Community v. Paraguay*, *De la Cruz Florez v. Peru*, *Carpio Nicolle et al. v. Guatemala*, *the Serrano Cruz Sisters v. El Salvador*, *Yatama v. Nicaragua*, *Acevedo Jaramillo et al. v. Peru*, *Acosta Calderón v. Ecuador*, *Daniel David Tibi v. Ecuador*, *Marco Molina Theissen v. Guatemala*, *López Álvarez v. Honduras*, and the case of the *Yean and Bosico Girls v. the Dominican Republic*. It also sought provisional measures in the cases of the *Communities of Jiguamiandó and Curbaradó* (Colombia), *Lysias Fleury* (Haití), and *Marta Colomina and Liliana Velásquez* (Venezuela).

Sessions

During the time covered in this report, the Court held four regular sessions, where it took up the following matters:

During its *LVIII Regular Session*, held February 17 through March 8, 2003, the Court delivered a judgment on the merits and reparations in the *Five Pensioners v. Peru Case*. It also issued decisions on provisional measures in the following cases: *Luis Uzcátegui* (Venezuela), *Luisiana Ríos et al.* (Venezuela), *Liliana Ortega et al.* (Venezuela), *Helen Mack Chang* (Guatemala), *Bámaca Velásquez* (Guatemala), and in the case of the *Communities of Jiguamiandó and Curbaradó* (Colombia). The Court also held public hearings in the following cases: *Mack Chang v. Guatemala*, *Maritza Urrutia v. Guatemala*, *Juan Humberto Sánchez v. Honduras*, *Bulacio v. Argentina*; *Advisory Opinion OC-18 (Juridical Condition and Rights of the Undocumented Migrants)* to hear the oral arguments of a number of OAS member States who participated in the Opinion. The Court also held hearings on the provisional measures requested in the following cases: *Luis Uzcátegui* (Venezuela), *Luisiana Ríos et al.* (Venezuela), and *Liliana Ortega et al.* (Venezuela). Finally, the Court agreed to accept Judge Abreu Burelli’s decision to decline, for personal reasons, the position of Vice President of the Court. In his place, it unanimously elected Judge Sergio García Ramírez as Vice President of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

During its *LIX Regular Session*, June 4 through 12, 2003, the Court issued its judgment on the preliminary objections, merits and reparations in *Juan Humberto Sánchez v. Honduras*. It also

issued decisions on provisional measures in the following cases: *Blake* (Guatemala), *Helen Mack Chang et al.* (Guatemala), and *Lysias Fleury* (Haiti). The Court held another public hearing on *Advisory Opinion OC-18 (Juridical Condition and Rights of the Undocumented Migrants)*, to hear oral arguments from the individuals, organizations or universities that presented *amicus curiae* briefs.

At its *LX Regular Session*, September 8 through 20, 2003, the Court issued a judgment on the merits and reparations in the *Bulacio v. Argentina Case* and its *Advisory Opinion OC-18 (Juridical Condition and Rights of the Undocumented Migrants)*. It also issued a decision on provisional measures in *Marta Colomina and Liliana Velásquez* (Venezuela) and a decision on compliance with the judgment in the *Benavides Cevallos v. Ecuador Case*. Finally, the Court appointed Chilean attorney Pablo Saavedra Alessandri as its new Secretary, who had up till then served as Deputy Secretary of the Tribunal. He took over his new functions on January 1, 2004.

At its *LXI Regular Session*, November 20 through December 4, 2003, the Court issued four judgments in the following cases: *Mack Chang v. Guatemala*, merits and the reparations; *Juan Humberto Sánchez v. Honduras*, interpretation of a judgment; *Maritza Urrutia v. Guatemala*, merits and reparations; and *Baena Ricardo et al. v. Panama*, jurisdiction. Also issued at that session was a decision on provisional measures in the case of *Luisiana Ríos et al.* (Venezuela). The Court also issued 15 orders for compliance with judgments in the following cases: *Blake v. Guatemala*, *Benavides Cevallos v. Ecuador*, *Barrios Altos v. Peru*, *Caballero Delgado and Santana v. Colombia*, *Garrido and Baigorria v. Argentina*, *Bámaca Velásquez v. Guatemala*, *Hilaire, Constantine and Benjamin et al. v. Trinidad and Tobago*, *The “White Van” Case (Paniagua Morales et al.) v. Guatemala*, *Cantoral Benavides v. Peru*, *Loayza Tamayo v. Peru*, *The “Street Children” Case (Villagrán Morales et al.) v. Guatemala*, *Suárez Rosero v. Ecuador*, *Castillo Páez v. Peru*, and the *Constitutional Court v. Peru*. It issued a decision in *“The Last Temptation of Christ” (Olmedo Bustos et al.)*, in which it ordered the case closed and filed. The Court also issued 8 decisions ordering compliance with provisional measures in the following cases: *Marta Colomina and Liliana Velásquez* (Venezuela), *Luis Uzcátegui* (Venezuela), *Luisiana Ríos et al.* (Venezuela), *Liliana Ortega et al.* (Venezuela), *Bámaca Velásquez* (Guatemala), *Lysias Fleury* (Haiti), and *James et al.* (Trinidad and Tobago). In the case of *Clemente Teherán et al. (“Zenu”Indigenous Community)* (Colombia) it ordered that the provisional measures be lifted and regarded as terminated. Finally, the Court elected its new President, Judge Sergio García Ramírez (Mexico) and its new Vice President, Judge Alirio Abreu Burelli (Venezuela), who will take office on the first day of the first session in 2004.

In the four regular sessions described above, the Court considered various issues relating to matters pending and examined various reports presented by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the States involved where provisional measures have been ordered. The Court also examined the various reports presented by the Commission, the States involved and the victims or their representatives in cases in which the Court’s judgment has been delivered and are in the compliance phase. It also took up a number of administrative matters.

Other activities

During the period covered in this report, the Court was pleased to receive the following visitors: Dr. Martín Sheinin, a member of the United Nations Human Rights Committee; Dr. Paul Mahoney, Secretary of the European Court of Human Rights; Minister Nilmário Miranda, Special Secretary for Human Rights of Brazil; Dr. Rafael Chamorro Mora, President of the Central American Court of Justice; Dr. Agustín García Calderón, President of the Supreme Court of El Salvador; Dr. Luis Paulino Mora Mora, President of the Supreme Court of Costa Rica; Dr. Fausto

Alvarado Dodero, Minister of Justice of Peru; Dr. Mérida O'Donnell, Regional Representative for Mexico and Central America, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) ; Dr. Edgar Armando Gutiérrez Girón, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guatemala; the Honorable Álvaro Uribe Vélez, President of the Republic of Colombia; Dr. Carolina Barco, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia; Dr. Roberto Tovar Faja, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica; Dr. Jaime Ruiz de Santiago, Representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Poland; and Dr. Prometeo Cerezo, Secretary of the Hispano-Luso-American Institute of International Law (IHLADI). The Court also entered into cooperation agreements with the University of Brasilia, the *Universidad para la Paz*, the Max-Planck Institute of International Law in Heidelberg, the Institute of International Studies of the *Universidad de Chile*, the Hispano-Luso-American Institute of International Law (IHLADI), the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the *Universidad Central de Chile*, the Center for Human and Civil Rights of the University of Notre Dame, the Council of State of the Republic of Colombia, the *Universidad Católica "Nuestra Señora de la Asunción"* in Paraguay, and the Public Ministry of the Republic of Chile. The Court also held the "Third Workshop for Study and Exchange on International Humanitarian Law and Related Topics" in conjunction with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).