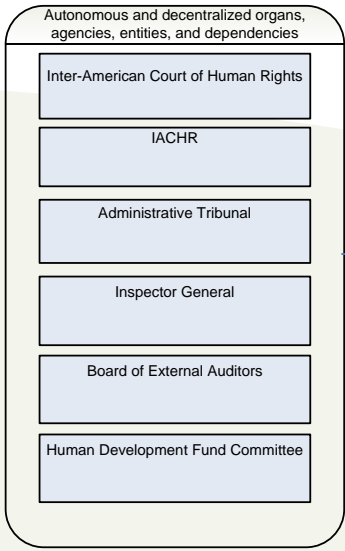


ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL
2005-2006

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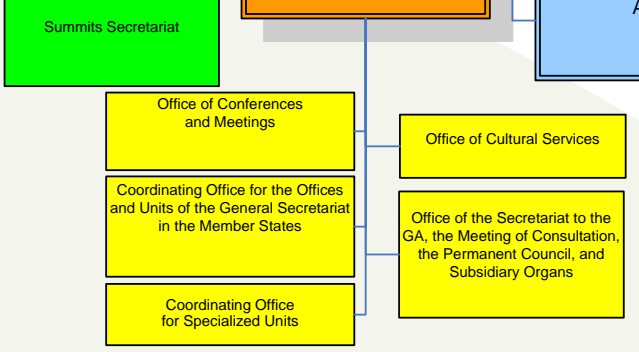
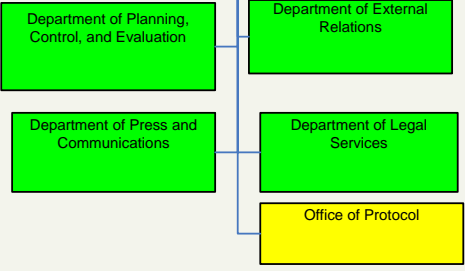
General Assembly
Permanent Council

General Secretariat
José Miguel Insulza
Secretary General
Chile

Assistant Secretary General
Albert Ramdin
Suriname

Chief of Staff

Chief of Staff
ASG



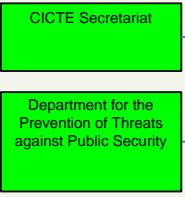
Secretariat for
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Secretariat for
Political Affairs

Department of
International Legal Affairs

Executive Secretariat for
Integral Development

Secretariat for
Administration and
Finance



Executive Secretariat
of CICAD

Department for the
Promotion of Democracy

Department for the
Promotion of Governance

Department of
Crisis Prevention and
Special Missions

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Judicial Cooperation
Office

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Department of
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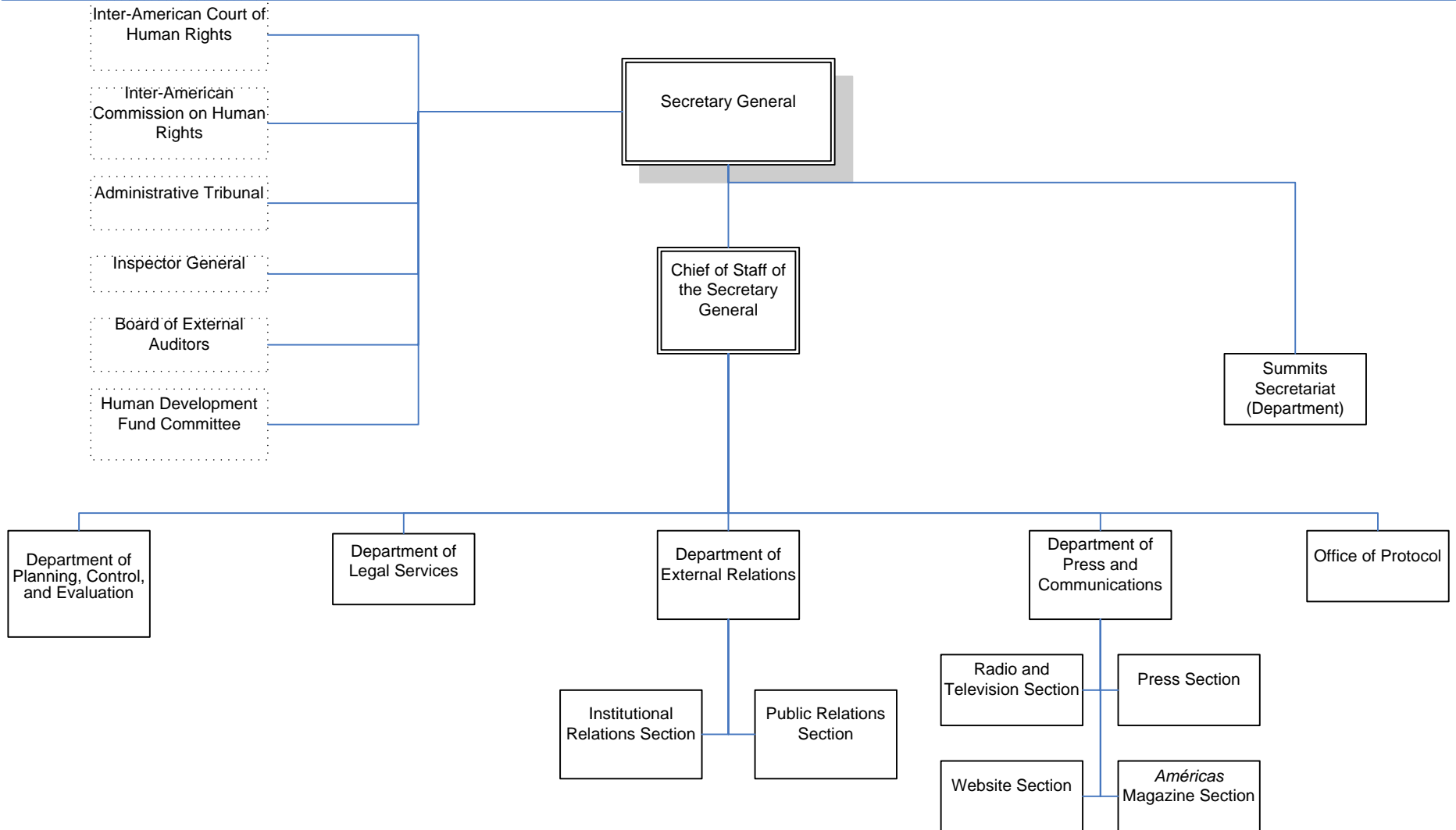
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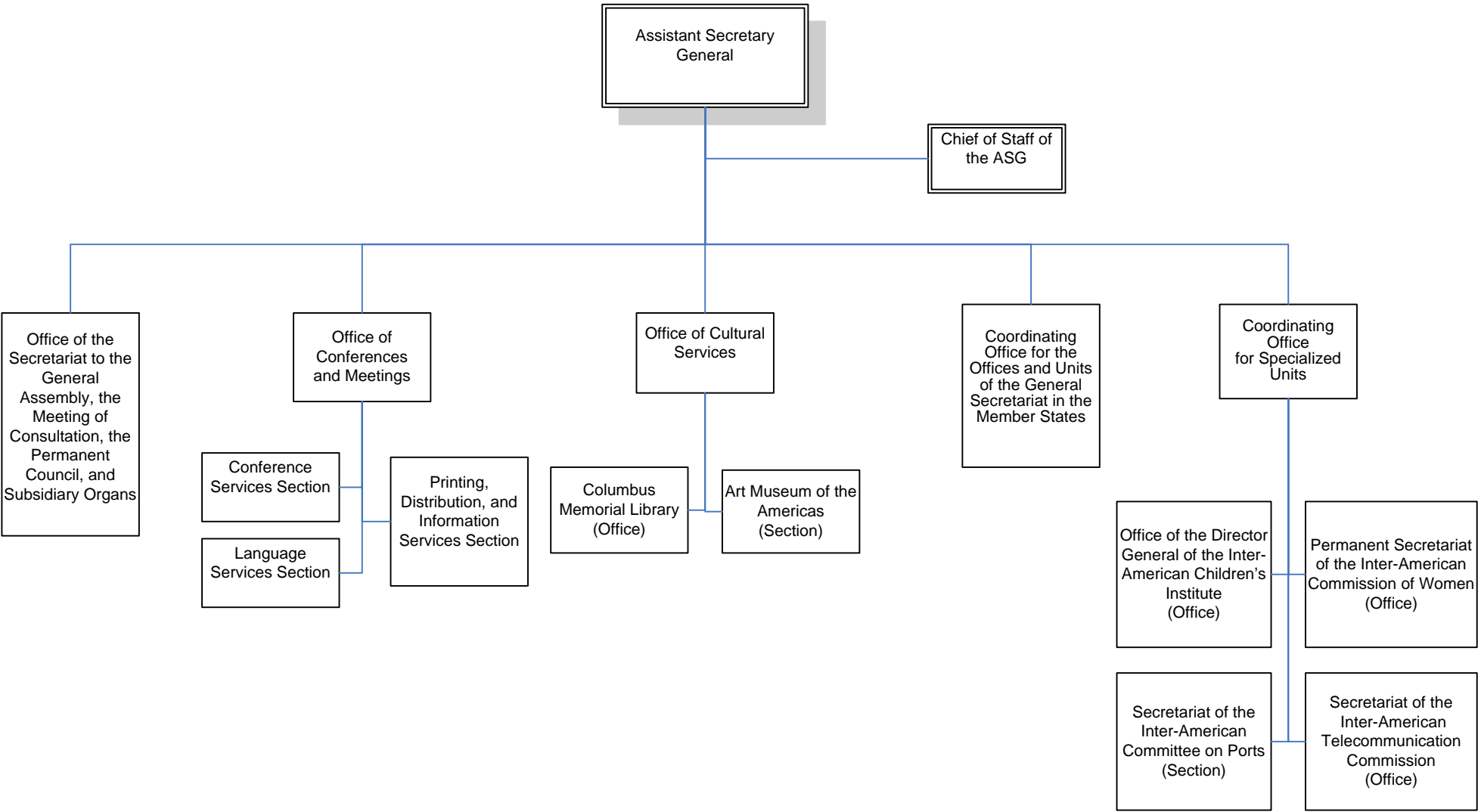
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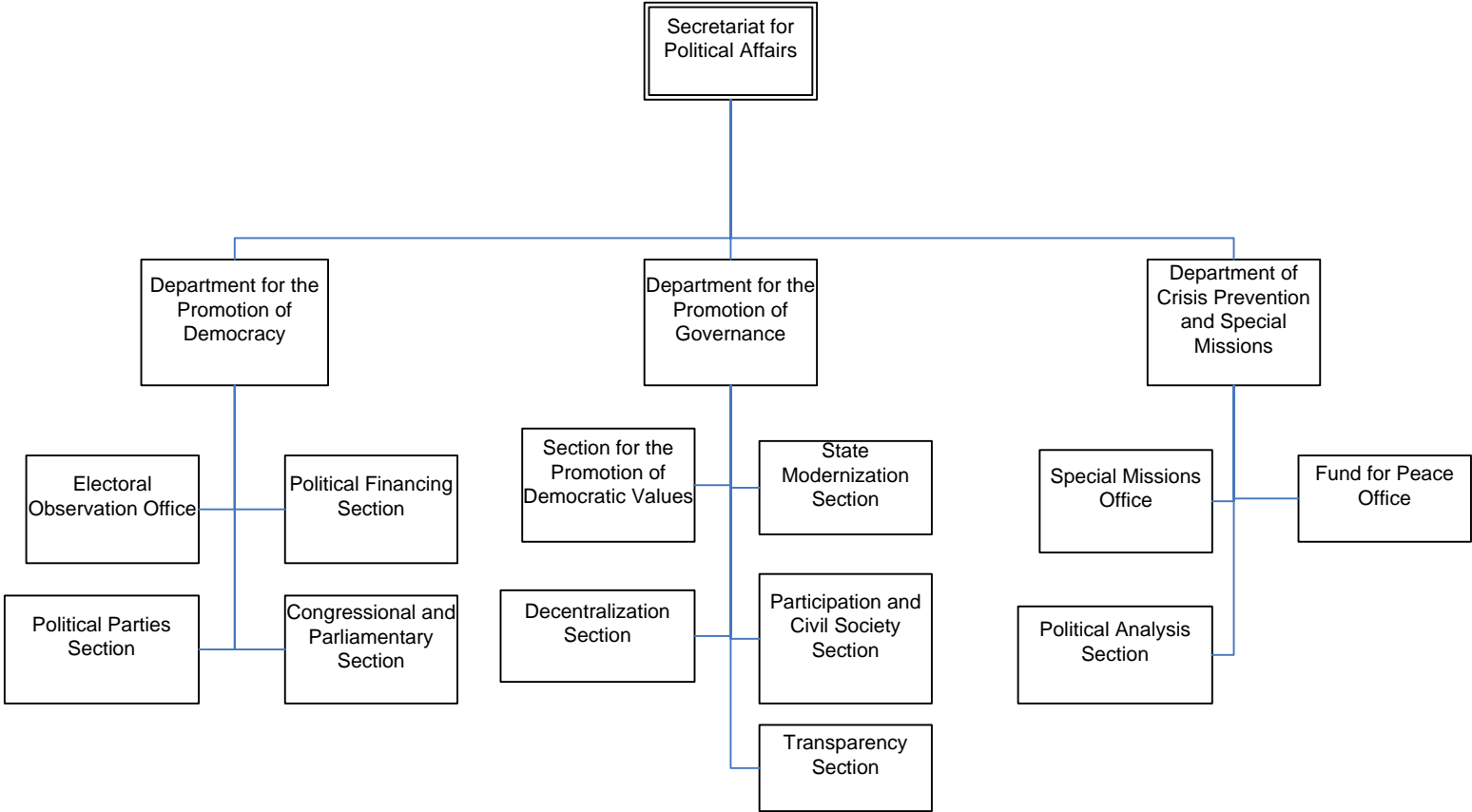
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Organizational Structure Office of the Assistant Secretary General

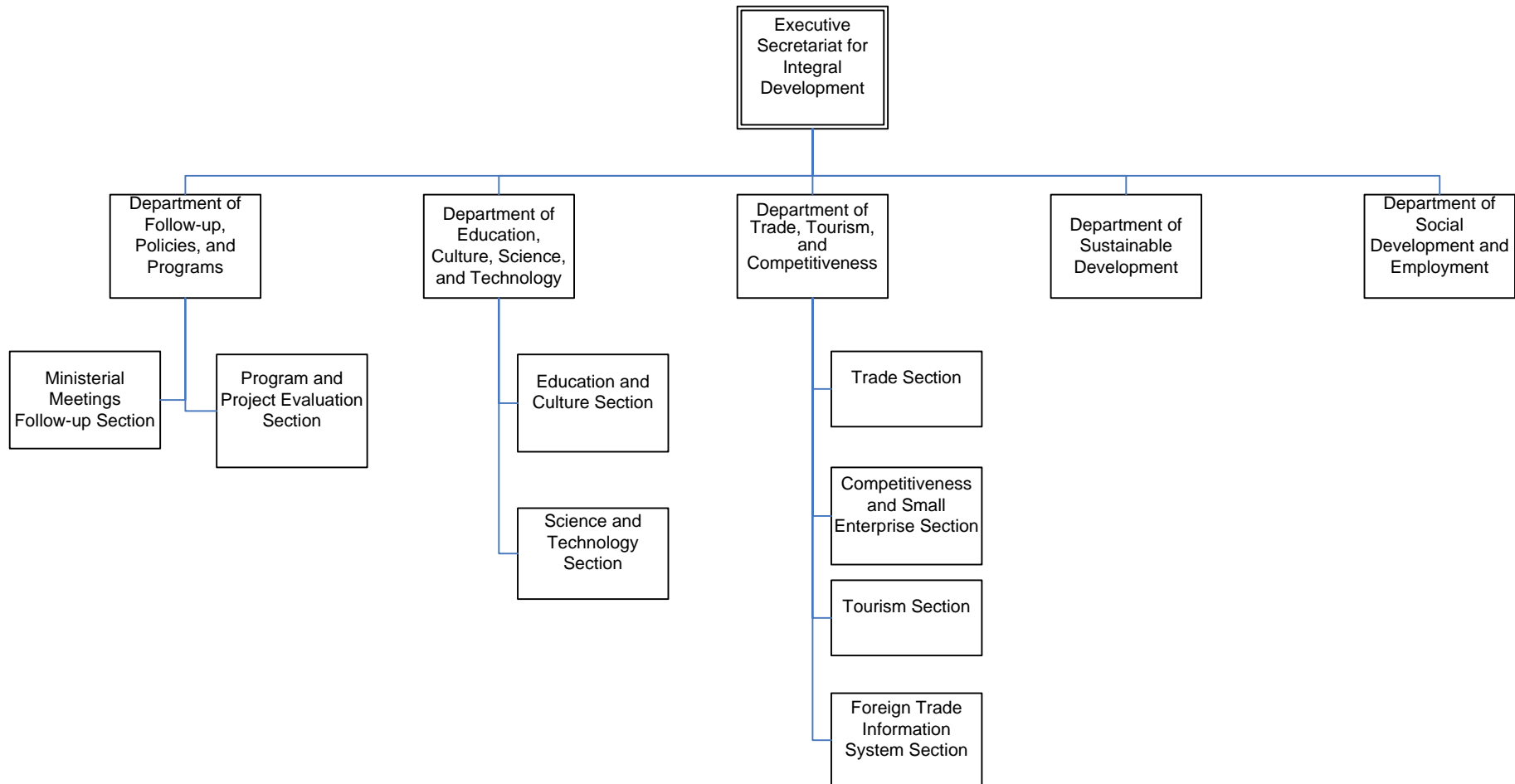


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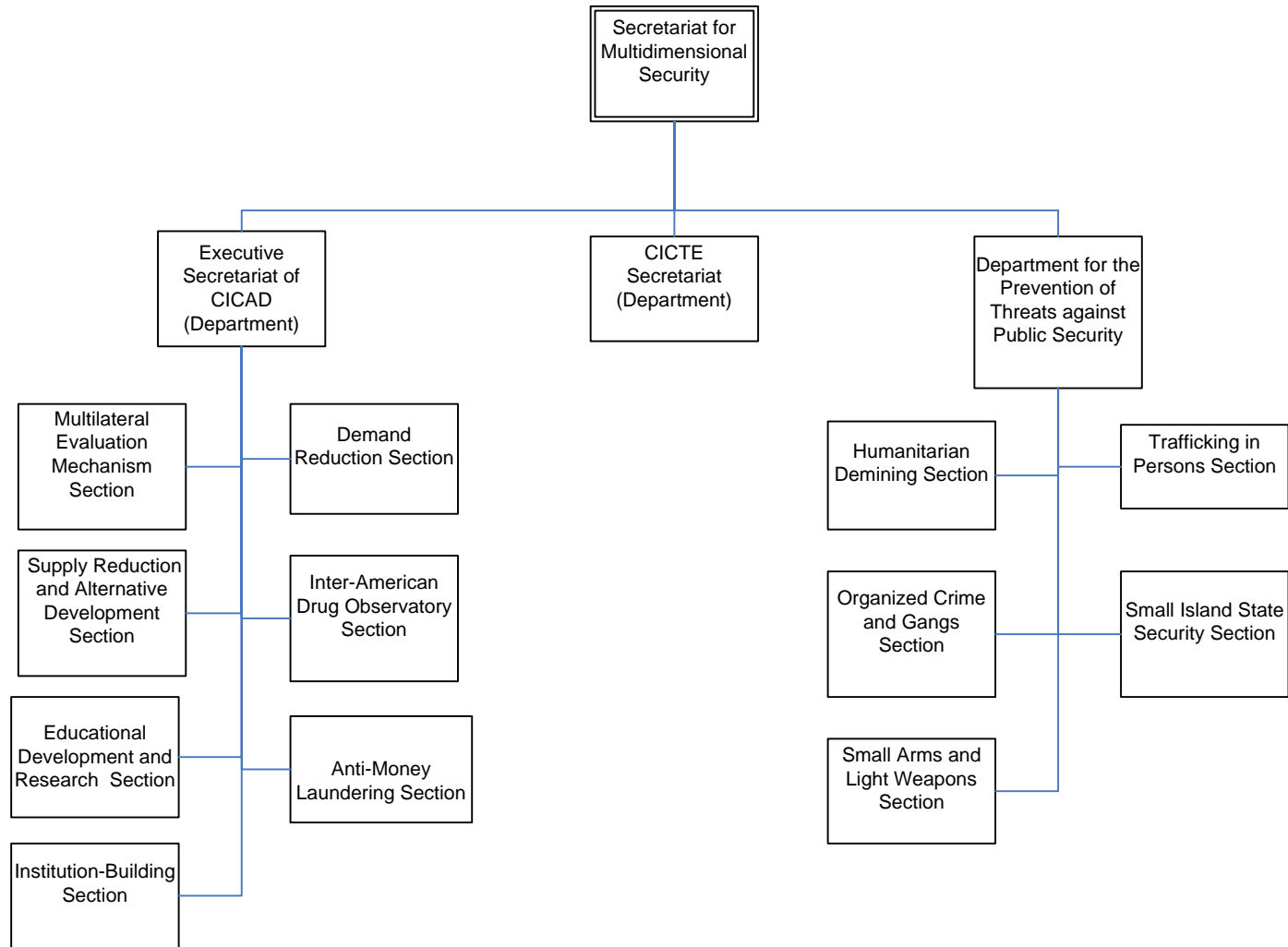


Organizational Structure

Executive Secretariat for Integral Development

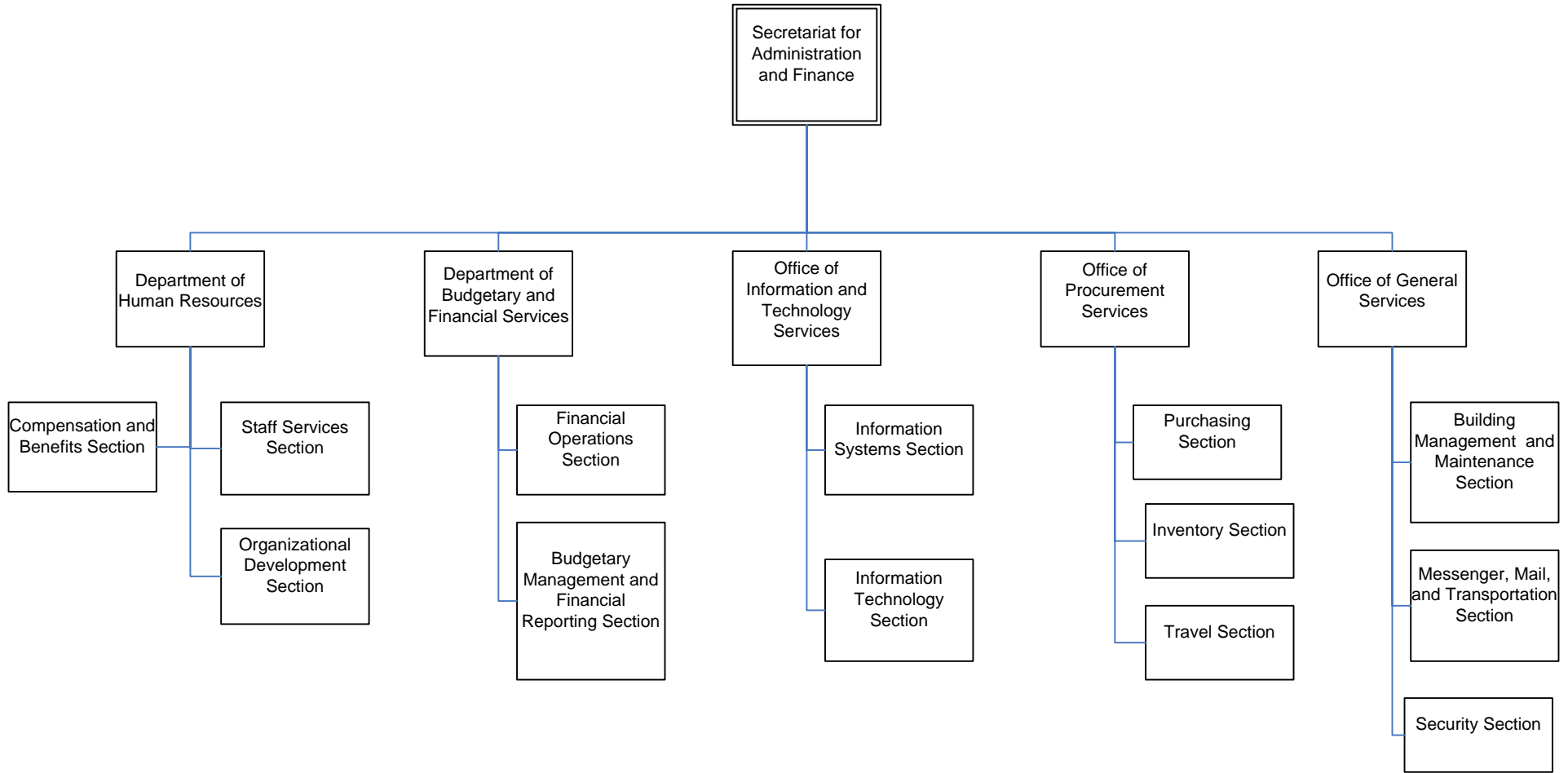


Organizational Structure Secretariat for Multidimensional Security



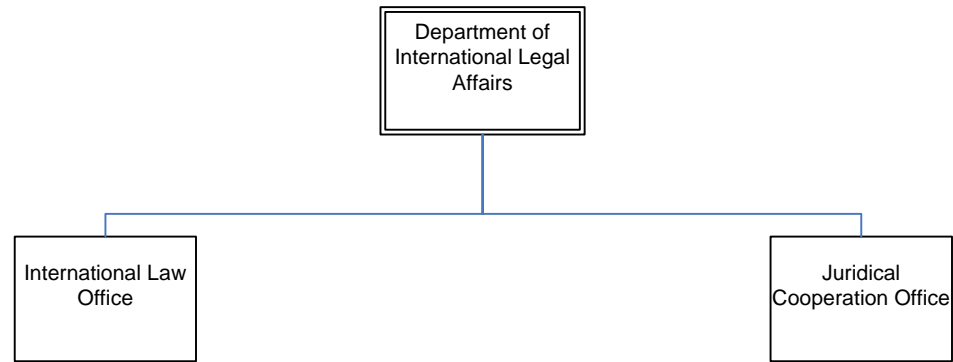
Organizational Structure

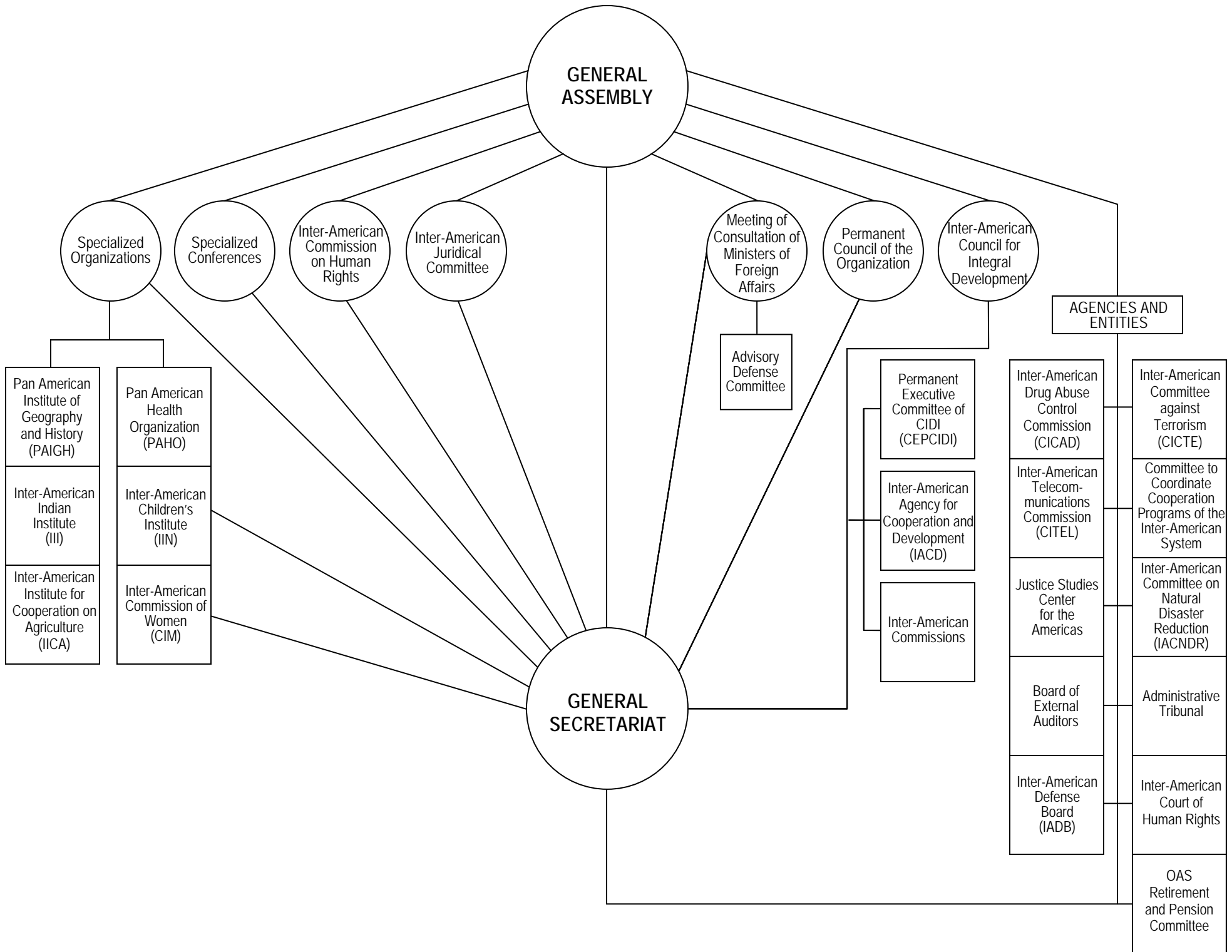
Secretariat for Administration and Finance



Organizational Structure

Department of International Legal Affairs





INTRODUCTION

In fulfillment of the mandate set forth in Articles 91 and 112 of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), I am pleased to present a report on the activities of the Organization and its financial situation for the period from March 1, 2005, to February 28, 2006. This report has been prepared pursuant to the guidelines contained in resolution AG/RES. 331, of 1978.

At the same time, this session of the Assembly also coincides with my first anniversary as Secretary General of the Organization. Therefore, in presenting this first report, I would like to offer some reflections on the changes that have occurred in the region and in the OAS during that period; our successes, shortcomings, and priorities; and the challenges that lie ahead. I shall restrict these reflections to the three core areas of the work of the Organization: democracy and human rights, integral development, and multidimensional security, adding only in conclusion a few comments about internal organizational and financial matters, since that issue will be covered in depth in a later address.

The Political Year

Our overall evaluation of the political year is highly positive. When we gathered in Fort Lauderdale a year ago we faced crises that were already fully under way or were looming in several countries of the region. A few days after my election, the Permanent Council had to take a position on the conflict among the branches of government in Ecuador that had led to the replacement of the President then in office. During that session of the Assembly, the resignation of the President of Bolivia was announced, and the OAS Secretary General was asked to take urgent action to defuse a conflict in Nicaragua that could also have culminated in a disruption of institutional order. At the same time, the electoral process in Haiti was experiencing serious delays, one of the main causes of which was the voter registration process, which was the direct responsibility of the OAS

A look at the situation as we gather for this session of the Assembly shows clear progress. The crises in the four countries mentioned above were dealt with democratically, and no similar cases of instability have arisen in the region.

We cooperated with the authorities in Ecuador in the appointment of a new Supreme Court of Justice, which is fully operational, along with another group of authorities whose situation depended on that appointment. We have thus helped to normalize a process that must, before year's end, lead to a presidential election under the terms laid out in the Constitution.

The voter registration process in Haiti was successful beyond all expectations, with the registration of more than 3.5 million voters. We cooperated with the Government, the Provisional Electoral Council, and the United Nations in an election unrivalled in the country's history in terms of turnout and transparency, and we expect to continue the work of our Special Mission even more decisively under the new government.

We were present with an electoral observation mission in Bolivia to monitor a completely normal process that led to the election of a president by an absolute majority, something that has not occurred in recent times in that sister nation. We have developed a work plan with the new government that includes our electoral observation of the Constituent Assembly elections and our technical assistance for that process.

For several months we maintained a high-level mission in Nicaragua, which persevered in the search for a seemingly impossible agreement. Finally, the stability and continuity of the democratic process were possible thanks to the positive attitude of all concerned, and Nicaragua is moving toward a decisive election at the end of this year. We hope that all the representative forces of the country will be able to participate fully in those elections, in a framework of tranquility and mutual trust.

None of these achievements is complete and, in each case, there are new challenges to overcome. But today we come to this session of this Assembly with no ongoing crises and with an encouraging assessment of the part played by the OAS in each of the countries where they occurred. This is good to see and fills us with optimism for the future.

The soundness of democratic development in the region is being put to the test this year in a succession of electoral processes unprecedented in our recent history. In the last six months seven presidential elections have taken place (two with a second round), two general elections in countries with parliamentary systems of government, and a large number of congressional and municipal elections. Between January 2005 and January 2006, a total of 13 presidential elections took place, more than ever before in a single year in the region.

The normality of these elections is a testament to how well rooted good electoral practices have become in our Hemisphere. In a few short years we have managed to consolidate systems in which political debate is broad, options are real, the process is peaceful, voter turnout massive, the count clean, and the results respected. This is no small thing for a region that until a couple of decades ago was still beset by several dictatorships and unrepresentative elections.

During this period we had been invited to observe numerous electoral processes in member countries. The OAS has been present with large contingents of observers at six of the seven presidential elections, at local and municipal elections, and even, for the first time, at primary elections. This is a task that the Organization performs with ever greater efficiency and credibility. The OAS seal of approval on an election is valued and we are proud of that. Over the rest of the year we expect to provide observation coverage for most of the six remaining presidential elections.

To conclude, based on our wealth of institutional experience we can reaffirm that the quality of elections in our countries has progressed notably. Of course there is always room for improvement. The independence of electoral tribunals must be increased and a huge effort made to have more and more reliable electoral rolls and to register increasing numbers of voters. However, overall, we have not detected any measures or activities that could be described as factors that might render an electoral process null and void.

A second tier of problems concerns the level of registration. The fact that a significant number of citizens in many countries are not registered can be due to a variety of reasons. On one hand, there is a purely political phenomenon: there are citizens who wish neither to register nor participate because they are not interested in politics or because the registration process is too cumbersome.

On the other hand in Latin America and the Caribbean there are millions of women and men who have never been registered, not even at birth. As a result, they are excluded not only from political and economic participation but also from programs to improve their situation and protect their security, and to prevent them from being easy prey to abuse by employers, discrimination, and

trafficking in persons. Keeping a modern, comprehensive, and reliable registry of all the country's inhabitants, or at least all its citizens, is an important democratic objective.

In this regard, I should like once again to draw attention to the work of the Organization in Haiti. There we helped create one of the most modern voter registries in the Americas. Furthermore, it was designed with the expectation that it would serve as a basis for a civil registry of the entire Haitian population. We expect to complete this task in cooperation with the new government and also to make our expertise available to other countries in the Caribbean and Latin America.

We have a long-term commitment to Haiti, which goes hand in hand with the direct commitment made by many member states taking part in MINUSTAH or other forms of cooperation. Over the weeks ahead we expect to complete the design of a new OAS work program in Haiti, coordinated with the government, regional agencies, and international organizations, in particular the United Nations. Our experience in Haiti shows that international agencies must and can coordinate their activities to accomplish better results. We hope to continue to work with everyone and to carry out the duties incumbent on us under a joint plan of action. That is how it should be in all critical situations in which several international agencies are involved.

In Colombia we face a huge challenge whose success demands hemispheric solidarity. The attempts of the Government of Colombia to achieve peace, bring major criminals to justice, and reincorporate combatants into society, are hampered by persistent violence connected with drug trafficking, kidnapping, and extortion. We have sought to support the Government of Colombia in its efforts to combat that violence and, at the same time, move forward in the peace process with the *Autodefensas Unidas de Colombia* (AUC, paramilitaries) and with the National Liberation Army (ELN) and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). Achieving that peace would quite simply mean putting an end to the Americas' longest-standing conflict, which has dragged on for nearly 50 years. We are pleased with the progress made with the first two above-mentioned organizations and hope that further headway with those processes will be possible during President Alvaro Uribe's second term.

Our Organization is involved in part of that peace program: it has the twofold task of monitoring the disarmament and demobilization of the AUC and ensuring observance of national and international standards in the area of human rights. As demobilization occurs, we are also required to support combatant reintegration efforts.

It is not an easy task because there are always setbacks, difficulties, and shortcomings, and the objective of ensuring full justice seems to come into conflict with the desire for rapid pacification. However, the progress made is undeniable: violence has declined and demobilization has taken place, in spite of the persistence of certain armed groups of criminals.

The growing conviction of the international community concerning the need for peace in Colombia has enabled the OAS to expand its presence there. A few months ago the presidents of South America asked the OAS to coordinate efforts to increase regional and international support for the peace process in Colombia. In the first quarter of this year, 34 new national and international observers were added to the Mission to Support the Peace Process in Colombia (MAPP/OAS). Accordingly there are now 80 people working for the Mission, which has an office in Bogotá, six regional offices, and a mobile team for those areas where we do not have a permanent presence. We

have improved verification of the pre-demobilization, demobilization, and post-demobilization stages of the illegal armed groups taking part in the peace process

Our increased presence has been possible thanks to fresh support provided by the Governments of The Bahamas, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Ireland, Korea, the Netherlands, Mexico, Sweden, and the United States. The Governments of Chile, Guatemala, Norway, Spain, and Thailand have announced that they will provide cooperation in the near future. I should mention that contributions were also obtained for the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to enable it to strengthen the work assigned to it by the Assembly last year.

Inter-American Democratic Charter

In accordance with the mandates of the last session of the General Assembly, the political activities of the General Secretariat are being organized around the Inter-American Democratic Charter. At our last Assembly session, follow-up on the commitments adopted in the Democratic Charter gave rise to intense discussions, which culminated in a mandate to the Secretary General to “[c]oordinate the activities and programs of the various offices of the General Secretariat relating to the promotion of democracy, in accordance with the Inter-American Democratic Charter.”

I have already referred to the aspects relating to the democratic generation of government authorities as well as to the crises that threaten to end or at least seriously impair the functioning of democracy. While origin and crisis are hugely important, the Inter-American Democratic Charter also refers broadly to the exercise of democracy, and all three must be evaluated as core elements in the light of the Charter.

There are two ways to perform that evaluation. The first would be through reports that a specialized unit could prepare on an annual basis on the progress of democracy in each country. In all honesty, I doubt if any member of our Organization would be willing to undergo a comprehensive examination of the status of its democracy.

The issue was discussed at last year’s General Assembly session and examined some months ago by the Council, where I gave a presentation pursuant to the mandate from the General Assembly in Fort Lauderdale. The reluctance to a kind of general evaluation is evident. From a broader perspective, therefore, the only option open to consideration is for those countries that are so inclined to voluntarily submit reports on the progress of democracy in their countries based on a common methodology.

Nevertheless, at those Council meetings we also concurred that the Inter-American Democratic Charter comes to our aid in this respect. The Charter, as I have often said, does not contain a definition of democracy but, rather, a taxonomy--a description of its fundamental characteristics. The democratic exercise of power includes respect for human rights, rejection of all forms of discrimination, full observance of the rule of law, freedom of expression, political pluralism, the separation of powers and independence of the branches of government, probity, and transparency in government activities.

What we propose is simple: just as we work to evaluate respect for and observance of some of these characteristics (human rights, transparency, freedom of expression, elections), so we could annually submit reports on each of these areas of the political work of the Organization that coincide with the

description in the Charter. If it is not possible to evaluate democracy as a whole, then let us do so by parts.

The foregoing becomes clearer still if we examine the different areas and the possibility of evaluating their current status and future prospects.

Human Rights

As with electoral observation and crisis management, over the years the OAS has consolidated its prestige in the protection of human rights, including, more recently, its permanent monitoring of freedom of expression. The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights is a source of pride for the Organization, and we all want to maintain its validity and independence.

Strengthening our human rights system requires the pursuit of three lines of action.

First, to ensure universalization of the system. All OAS member countries are members of the Inter-American Commission. However, the same cannot be said with regard to the signing of the American Convention or the acceptance of the contentious jurisdiction of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. We must spare no effort to consolidate this system, and to that end we will continue to work with all countries that have not signed the Convention, with the flexibility necessary to accommodate their concerns, so that the entire Hemisphere is governed by the same standards in this area.

Second, we must seek to broaden the activities of our system in the promotion of human rights, not only through the decisions and rulings issued by its organs on individual cases, but also by disseminating and publicizing more widely their national reports and their rapporteurship system.

Third, it is essential to increase observance of the decisions of the Court and the Commission. The level of observance is high, but some countries still fail to abide by those decisions. For the system to continue to be successful, formal compliance with decisions is not sufficient; rather, they must be implemented in full.

Finally, preserving and strengthening our system for the protection of human rights depends quite substantially on continued respect for its full independence. We may very often disagree with the decisions of the Court or the Commission or with their reports. However, what is important is that we recognize that the possibility of issuing them independently and without pressure is an inherent characteristic of the prestige and validity of the system. (That independence also depends on the availability of adequate financing for the Commission, but I will come to that later).

Transparency

The peoples of the Americas have a right to know about the activities of their authorities, and governments have an obligation to conduct their activities in a framework of transparency. Lack of transparency encourages corruption, which erodes the faith of citizens in democratic institutions. Without solid and reliable institutions, it is very difficult to resolve people's problems and to generate the public satisfaction necessary for effective and sustainable democratic governments.

The General Assembly session in Fort Lauderdale declared 2006 as the “Inter-American Year of the Fight against Corruption.” The results of the Follow-Up Mechanism for the Inter-American Convention against Corruption, in particular of its Committee of Experts, which will be presented to us at this session of the Assembly, are the outcome of the first effort in hemispheric follow-up on this Convention, which is the first of its kind in the world.

The countries of the Americas have been aware of the need to join forces to confront this problem, which makes no distinction between ideologies or geographic borders and very often relies on the latter to conceal the proceeds of corruption. That is why this international instrument has already been signed by the 34 active OAS member states and ratified by 33 of them.

At the same time, 28 of the states parties have entrusted the Follow-Up Mechanism for the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (MESICIC) and its Committee of Experts with the responsibility of conducting a technical review of the provisions of the Convention and offering recommendations to help them to meet the commitments they have made to deal effectively with this scourge.

The first round of review examined the implementation of those provisions of the Convention selected for that round. I will not refer to the contents of the recommendations, as the agenda for this Assembly session provides for a presentation in that respect, but I would like to draw attention to the fact that they were adopted by consensus by the anti-corruption experts of the 28 countries that comprise the MESICIC after a careful analysis in which the countries under review had the opportunity to present their points of view.

The OAS General Secretariat also hopes to contribute to the implementation of this Convention and, therefore, has implemented a cooperation program, with financial cooperation generously provided by Canada, to support countries that wish to improve their transparency and control mechanisms.

This cooperation should aim to improve the legal and institutional systems that the countries have in place for: preventing conflicts of interest; conserving public resources; reporting acts of corruption; detecting illicit enrichment by public officials; encouraging civil society participation in efforts to prevent corruption; strengthening and increasing the effectiveness of oversight bodies in this area; and enhancing mutual assistance and mutual technical cooperation among states to tackle corruption by encouraging coordination among their authorities.

Such progress also ought to make it possible to modernize public administration and improve the quality of government. The shortcomings that we often see in the design and management of public policies cannot always be blamed on a lack of probity but, more often than not, on inefficiency. Technical cooperation in public policy-shaping; professionalization of the civil service in countries; application of knowledge to government management; good government practices; and the use of new technologies, are essential aspects of good governance because citizens also need efficient governments for the solution of their problems.

Rule of Law

The proper functioning of the Court of Justice is one of the most critical factors in the public's assessment of the state of democracy and perhaps one of the most decisive in determining a negative final verdict. Most citizens in the region believe that justice is inequitable, that it is inaccessible to

them, or that it is corrupt. A change in these perceptions will not come about overnight and entails a transformation in the ways that justice is imparted in the Hemisphere.

A few weeks ago, the Ministers of Justice and Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas met here in Santo Domingo, in the framework of the OAS. At that meeting progress continued to be made, with the assistance of the General Secretariat's Department of International Legal Affairs, regarding such important issues as those related to extradition mechanisms, mutual assistance in criminal matters, the fight against cybercrime, and prison and penitentiary policy. We are certain that this process, which is so necessary, will continue to gain strength and improve concrete mechanisms for legal cooperation among our authorities.

Furthermore we will continue to provide all possible advisory services and technical assistance for the development of private international law. At present, by mandate of the General Assembly, common legal instruments are under consideration in the area of consumer protection, regulation of electronic commerce, and updating and modernization of registries of secure transactions in the Hemisphere, with a view to their adoption in the near future by a specialized conference (or CIDIP, as such conferences are known). These elements also have the effect of increasing legal security in the region.

The Justice Studies Center of the Americas (JSCA) is a unit that was created to support reform processes in the region. It has been operational in Latin America for several years, and our aim is to broaden its activities and scope to include the Caribbean. At the same time, the JSCA could be useful for the purposes of technical evaluation of the state of justice in the different countries, as a core requirement of the Democratic Charter.

Gender Matters

The activities of the Inter-American Commission of Women have grown in importance, and its areas of work involve issues connected with economic, labor, legal, political, and security matters. Nevertheless, our efforts in this area continue fundamentally to center on coordination of ministerial meetings.

We must place the CIM in a position to take greater initiatives with regard to these issues that are critical for the development of democracy. In our region women continue to be victims of discrimination in terms of jobs, wages, and access to public office, as well as victims of abuse, domestic violence, and other offences. While it is a crosscutting issue, in the sense that it is covered in all the programs and departments of the OAS, we believe that the body that deals specifically with the topic of gender, the CIM, needs to be strengthened.

In this context, we could harness the capacities offered by the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality (IAP) to upgrade the evaluation and implementation of public policies in this area.

Fight against Discrimination

The task we face over the coming period is the conclusion and implementation of three important legal instruments on discrimination.

The first concerns indigenous peoples in the Americas. In this context it is important to thank the Governments of Guatemala and Brazil for having hosted meetings of indigenous peoples, to reaffirm the commitment of the Organization of American States to the adoption of the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and to underscore the importance of the full and effective participation of these peoples in drafting the aforesaid Declaration.

No longer can we continue to delay the conclusion of the negotiations on this Declaration, which is indispensable as a guide for the countries of the Americas that do not yet have modern legislation that recognizes the rights of indigenous peoples and governs the means to preserve their culture.

The second challenge is to move forward toward the adoption of an inter-American convention against discrimination, intended as a broad instrument that encompasses all forms of discrimination in the Americas, including ethnic, religious, racial, and sexual discrimination. At the conference that we will hold this year in Brazil, we expect to define the general terms of this important initiative.

In third place, in the Plan of Action of the Fourth Summit of the Americas (Mar del Plata, November 5, 2005), the Heads of State and Government instructed the OAS “[t]o consider at the next OAS period of regular sessions of the General Assembly to be held in the Dominican Republic, a Declaration on the Decade of the Americas for Persons with Disabilities (2006-2016), together with a program of action.” This initiative is based in particular on the Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities, which we must put into effect, given that the period following ratification of the Convention by the minimum number of states required has long been exceeded. We hope that this session of the Assembly will adopt a resolution in that regard and that we can finally implement the provisions contained in this important Convention.

With these three documents fully in force, our follow-up of discrimination issues will be much more precise and objective.

In addition to these areas of work, we should also mention our programs on political parties and parliaments, which now include Central America and the Andean region; our activities in the area of decentralization, which received a boost from the Third RIAD Conference in Brazil; and the increasing strengthening of our efforts with civil society, which are not restricted simply to dialogue at our summits and assemblies, but seek also a more direct relationship with civil society in the activities of the General Secretariat.

Given all of these activities that the Organization already carries out, it is possible to perform an evaluation of how the Democratic Charter functions in connection with each of their main components. My proposal, therefore, is to carry out yearly evaluations on the situation of human rights, transparency, gender relations, discrimination, and the state of justice in the Americas. Over the coming years, we can add to these five reports three additional ones: on the separation and balance of powers, political pluralism (political party system), and civil society participation.

With these reports under permanent consideration by the Council and the Assembly, we shall be covering the areas that, in our opinion, are the most sensitive for the purposes of evaluating democracy. Whatever the case, expanding their scope and depth presupposes the willingness of countries to allow access to the necessary information and, at the same time, the countries’ own evaluations of the issues under review. Ultimately, all evaluation systems on democratic

development are highly sensitive to the amount of information and degree of interest that member countries are prepared to provide. Knowledge of strengths and weaknesses in each of these general characteristics of our democracy helps us to strengthen one another and to define the Organization's programs more clearly.

At the end of the day, the functioning of the mechanisms suggested for carrying out the mandate contained in resolution AG/RES. 2154 requires a political will based on cooperation and not on the logic of supervision, criticism, or sanctions. There are valuable experiences that we can draw on for this cooperative approach in CICAD's Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism and, more recently, in the Evaluation Mechanism for the Convention against Corruption. The idea is to adopt a positive attitude toward the possibility of cooperating to consolidate democracy and contribute effectively to generating better conditions for good governance.

Some Problems

Despite our positive evaluation of political developments in the region, I believe it necessary to mention as well a number of problems that have recently arisen in the region, which, in my view, do not contribute to necessary hemispheric unity.

I should make it clear at the outset that I shall not refer here to the issue that is in vogue in the international press, regarding the "leftward shift" of Latin America. The OAS is not an organization of right-wing, left-wing, or middle-of-the-road governments, but of democratic states. The OAS member states practice democracy in the framework of our founding Charter and of the Inter-American Democratic Charter. The economic and public-policy decisions that they adopt are within the purview of those governments; the decisions of peoples regarding whom they elect as their leaders are fully respected in this Organization. All that is required here is that, where democracy is concerned, we abide by the common principles on which we have agreed.

That said, there is no question that a number of recent controversies have affected our unity. I believe, as I have mentioned on several occasions, that fiery rhetoric, interference (albeit only verbal) in the affairs of other countries, and a moral condemnation of the policy decisions of other members, do not contribute to the climate of harmony that ought to exist among our countries.

Serious differences have existed among some of our governments over matters concerning human rights, environmental issues, territorial problems, and economic decisions. Naturally that does not ease relations among us, but we must learn to discuss our differences in a dignified manner and avoid ideological rhetoric and condemnation in our discussions.

The need for the foregoing is all the greater at a time when Latin America and the Caribbean are going through a period of solid economic growth, helped by the excellent prices for our commodities on the international market. This is the time to generate agreements and design policies that enable us to consolidate what we have accomplished and attract the necessary investment to maintain our growth in times of greater difficulty for the international economy.

Sustained growth is the foundation of any effort at social justice that we might undertake. We must be able to overcome our differences in the area of trade and continue to move forward with our integration processes, with each of us maintaining own vision and discussing our differences with respect and in a spirit of hemispheric unity.

The international press speaks, to my mind prematurely, of a division in Latin America. I hope that this session of the Assembly will give the lie to such assertions and that here in Santo Domingo we can reaffirm our democratic convictions and our full adherence to the principles of nonintervention and mutual respect that must guide our relations.

This Secretariat has participated in negotiations to settle differences among our countries peacefully. I would like to mention the recent signing of definitive agreements on borders between Honduras and El Salvador, and the Agreement on a Framework for Negotiations and Confidence-Building Measures between the Governments of Belize and Guatemala, agreeing on a new round of negotiations. Those negotiations have been carried out under the auspices of the OAS, and we hope that they will serve to encourage other countries to take similar paths.

It is normal for it to be said that the OAS has no jurisdiction over issues between countries. That simply means, however, that they cannot be brought unilaterally before the Organization. Without calling this principle into question, I submit that the General Secretariat can be an appropriate mechanism for bringing parties together and facilitating the solution of their problems, a task that it is fully prepared to take on if called upon to do so. I emphasize that the matter is a strictly voluntary one, but I ask that our members give due consideration to the possibility, especially if the dispute concerned can be resolved through good-faith mediation or facilitation.

Integral Development

Integral development is one of the fundamental pillars of the Organization. It is not a question of measuring the Organization's success merely by the amount of money obtained for certain projects, but also by its capacity to steer the efforts of the Americas toward attaining sustainable development, improving the quality of life of its people, and eradicating poverty. We must find a way to help guide development so that its benefits are fairly distributed.

The Mar del Plata Summit, which was held on November 4, 2005, marks a watershed in that direction. It was at that moment it was fully accepted that our democracies and our economies will never be stable while millions of our compatriots continue to be excluded from the possibility of holding decent jobs, leaving poverty behind, and enjoying a greater share of the benefits of economic growth.

The Declaration of Mar del Plata presents the vision of the 34 governments on how to confront the principal challenges of job creation and strengthening of democracy. The initiatives set forth in the Declaration refer to the issues of growth with employment; jobs to fight poverty; training the labor force; micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises as an engine of job growth; strengthening democratic governance; and how to build a framework for creating decent work.

The Plan of Action addresses each area of the Declaration from the point of view of national commitments, hemispheric cooperation, and international organizations. In addition to advocating sound macroeconomic policies, it vigorously advocates the need to generate equal opportunity. It also emphasizes the importance of the fundamental role of the private sector in generating employment and stepping up efforts to meet the commitments adopted at the Millennium Summit. Although the Mar del Plata Summit was concerned with many more issues, the ones that I have summarized here help us to understand where we stand in terms of the greatest challenge of our times

The six summits held since 1994 have addressed in depth the issues of development, environment, education, poverty, employment, and governments. All these issues are at the heart of the agencies of the inter-American system and are precisely the ones that the OAS has included as priorities in organizing its integral development area.

It is in the framework of the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development that assistance and coordination is provided, *inter alia*, for the ministerial meetings on education, environment, culture, science and technology, labor, and social development. These efforts should form the real backbone of these multilateral efforts to move toward fulfillment of the millennium goals set by the United Nations, in coordination with the other agencies of the inter-American system (the IDB, PAHO, IICA, and ECLAC) and those with which we make up the Joint Summit Working Group.

The Social Charter that is currently under discussion will be inseparable from the Inter-American Democratic Charter to the extent that it will be part of this already quite comprehensive reality of mandates from our Summits, ministerial meetings, and the Millennium Development Goals; adequately encapsulates them; and is accompanied by a Plan of Action that also takes all of our current programs into consideration. The Social Charter ought to be the active synthesis of all that has been done over the last decade and not simply remain another attempt to proclaim principles that we have defined on many occasions.

This process is not advancing as quickly as we would like and it would be extremely beneficial for you to reiterate its urgency. Many citizens of the countries that our Organization comprises have profound doubts regarding our capacity, as democratic governments, to govern well through management of the state apparatus and to direct growth, become part of the world, eliminate poverty, improve social services, and better distribute the benefits of democracy.

Our countries have been growing for the past three years but doubts still exist about our capacity to create stable policies that can attract investment and ensure the continuation of that growth through times when the economic cycle is less favorable for us. Furthermore, millions of people are excluded from the benefits of that development and there is a tendency toward a concentration of income.

I am convinced that if we manage to implement the Inter-American Democratic Charter more faithfully and join it with the future Social Charter, we will be taking a major step toward steering development in a fairer way. However, what we must avoid is allowing the Social Charter to get us bogged down once again in meaningless ideological and political discussions, at a time when most of its contents have already been defined and included in mandates at the Summits and ministerial meetings of the past decade.

If these mandates are to be carried out in a practical sense, it is necessary substantially to strengthen the work of our departments in the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development and to better disseminate their activities and scope. We have, for instance, a Department of Sustainable Development, which enjoys considerable prestige in all specialized forums on issues such as integrated water resource management; natural disasters and climate change; renewable energy; biodiversity; and environmental law, policy, and economy. People who say that the OAS could do more on energy matters are losing sight of our broad program in that area; and when we are called upon to discuss a resolution at this session of the Assembly on the problem of water, perhaps we should turn more to our experts on the matter, who are considered first among their peers.

What I wish to say is not criticism, but self-criticism. As an organization, we have not managed to integrate the fine work that some of our technical units do in our political activities, in close contact with their counterparts in various countries. I hope that the recent changes in the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development will enable more progress to be made toward the inclusion of integral development policies in the top tier of the Organization's activities.

A core component of the activities of SEDI which we want to strengthen consists of technical assistance projects to further development, in particular in the island and smaller states. In this area we are in the process of a fairly comprehensive re-engineering effort that appears likely to bear dividends. In order to continue to obtain sufficient resources, in competition with many other institutions, we must substantially improve the quality of our projects and their management.

We must find a way to approve larger-scale projects, some of which will have to be of a regional nature, without for that reason abandoning the national approach whenever it is more useful. Furthermore our activities should center in particular on the issues of institution-building and training of human resources. We must overcome the problems that have arisen this year in our scholarship and loan system, in order to be in a position to increase our funds and coverage so that we can reach a larger number of young people in our region.

Natural disasters must be one of our prime concerns. The 2005 hurricane season was equivalent to two full hurricane seasons in one. Of 27 tropical storms, 15 were hurricanes and seven major hurricanes. We have still not even finished estimating the human and economic cost, much less their impact on development in the countries affected. Never again do I want to experience the impotence of the Organization as it stood by unable to help and coordinate efforts against these disasters.

For that reason draft amendments to the Statutes of the Inter-American Emergency Aid Fund (FONDEM) have been prepared for adoption at this session of the Assembly, as has a draft resolution to continue to accord the highest priority to the topic of natural disasters, their management, and assistance. Furthermore, we will increase technical cooperation to provide training to persons responsible for dealing with disasters in each country.

Nonetheless, I have to say that the issue of natural disasters is symptomatic of the coordination problems faced by international agencies. I believe that, together, we could develop a viable and well-financed prevention and mitigation policy. However, if each agency, however important it may be, believes that it can develop a policy on its own, we will probably not be up to future challenges. This is a new call for us to become coordinated in this area, and frankly what matters is not to take the initiative or any credit for it, but simply to do our part in an essential undertaking for our countries.

There are issues that our Assembly, Council, and forums almost never address, despite their inclusion in and increasing prominence on the hemispheric agenda. Such is the case of immigration, whose importance on this year's agenda is undeniable and yet which fails to receive the importance it deserves in our deliberations and the work of the Secretariat.

This is truly a topic of hemispheric interest that exists in a large number of countries (north and south) and affects economies, cultures, and lifestyles throughout our region. It will not diminish over the coming years but, rather, tend to increase so long as the structural factors that cause it persist in our countries.

The member states of the Organization have different outlooks on the issue of immigration. However, they are compelled to seek common solutions for it. We can do that in different ways: either by strengthening the program for the protection of migrant workers that we approved at the Third Summit of the Americas, or by creating a new political organ on a level with the Council and the Secretariat. I am not making any proposals in this area but simply requesting that, quite obviously, we should include the issue on our agenda of concerns. I hope, therefore, that you will adopt some of the resolutions proposed in recent days in this area.

Security

Implementation of the policy on multidimensional security adopted in Mexico in 2003 has been slow, mainly due to a lack of new resources to accompany the important mandates received. This is not to say, however, that considerable progress has not been made in this area, in particular thanks to the work of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism, and the Demining Program.

There is no denying the significance and quality of the work in these three areas. CICAD is now 20 years old and is responsible for one of the most prestigious areas of activity of the Organization of American States. Its importance has increased visibly since the creation of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM), now in its 10th year. Thanks to the successful functioning of the MEM, not only has awareness increased of the activities of countries against drug trafficking and abuse, but also a climate of greater trust has been created, in which the countries are prepared to share information and accept recommendations and cooperation for their activities.

CICAD has also made strides in coordinating efforts against money laundering, by helping countries to develop modern laws in this area and evaluating progress.

In addition to the efforts of the Secretariat, CICAD has developed a horizontal cooperation program through which the countries share their experiences in the war on drugs. However, the success of CICAD means that requests for cooperation and assistance are always far in excess of available resources. Therefore, we urge the countries to consider our proposal to allocate to CICAD a small percentage of seized assets, in keeping with their domestic laws, in order to help maintain and broaden our programs.

The CICTE program has made considerable strides in the area of ports, airports, customs, and border security, and, in general, in efforts to prevent terrorism in the region. In coordination with CICAD, progress has also been made with regard to the investigation of terrorist financing.

Also under way is our technical assistance and specialized training program. Among its specific activities, next year this program will offer training and cooperation for security measures adopted by the Caribbean countries on the occasion of the 2007 Cricket World Cup.

The humanitarian demining program has also made a valuable contribution to the widespread problem of antipersonnel mines, a legacy of times that should never again darken our region. In the period covered by this report, assistance in this area was provided to six countries in our region. As with many other OAS programs that are financed exclusively with specific funds, this program has to restrict its activities according to the availability of such funds.

In the area of security and defense, the biggest news this year, without doubt, was the full incorporation into the OAS of the Inter-American Defense Board. This achievement is in keeping with the times; as in our countries, the OAS has enshrined the principle of civilian command over military matters under its jurisdiction in the Hemisphere. It remains now to transform this historic decision into a concrete work plan, which we expect to do over the coming months.

Despite their importance, the four units mentioned above already existed as separate entities in the Organization at the time of the meeting in Mexico and, therefore, their mere placement in the same Secretariat is not sufficient grounds to claim that we are turning the multidimensional security policy that we adopted at that conference into a reality, particularly since some of the main aspects of that concept were of little substance in the activities of the OAS a year ago.

To make the resolutions that our countries have adopted on security a reality, I have created a Department of Public Security to carry out programs to combat organized crime and gangs; the proliferation of small arms and light weapons; and trafficking in persons. In the future I hope that we will have sufficient advisory capacity to provide cooperation on public security matters to the member states, in particular to medium-sized and small countries.

In the mid-term, our objective should be to draw up with all of these elements a regional security agenda that takes into account all the dimensions examined by our conference in Mexico and that also addresses problems in the region that could cause security problems among our states. It is necessary to ensure that the peace prevailing in our region in recent decades is maintained and strengthened by consolidating peace at the domestic level and by fighting crime.

Legal Matters

The Inter-American Juridical Committee, the leading advisory body in the area of international law for our Organization and its members, is a hundred years old this year. It goes without saying that this session of the General Assembly should mark the centennial and recall the many contributions that the Juridical Committee has made to the enrichment of international law, such as our American Convention on Human Rights and our Convention against Corruption, which are pioneering instruments of their kind in the world. The Juridical Committee has played a central role in the development of inter-American institutions and law, which we cannot fail to recognize. Its working agenda includes a host of topics that I have already addressed in this presentation, such as the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the conventions on discrimination.

This brings me to another reflection of an institutional nature. The various American Conferences since 1889 proposed the creation of different institutions in the Inter-American system. These were gradually created--some sooner, others later--on the most varied issues: health (PAHO), women (CIM), children (IIN), development financing (IDB), agriculture (IICA), human rights, etc.

One institution that was proposed but never materialized was an Inter-American Court of Justice. The first draft resolution dates from 1923 (Fifth International Conference of American States), when the creation of a Permanent Court of American Justice was proposed; the second harks back to the Eighth International Conference of American States in 1938. The latter resolution says quite forthrightly, something not always common: "If at present it is not possible to realize the establishment of this institution to administer justice in America the idea and the purpose of creating it when those conditions imperatively demand its establishment should not be abandoned," and in

conclusion declares that, "It is the firm purpose of the States of the American Continent to establish an Inter-American Court of International Justice, whenever these States may recognize the possibility of doing so with complete assurance of successes..." (resolution XXV, adopted on December 22, 1938).

It was at that time that the International Court of Justice of The Hague, the successor to the Permanent Court, was established. The states of the Hemisphere then comprised almost 50 percent of the United Nations and therefore carried considerable weight in the new Court. A new request made at the Tenth Conference, in 1954, did not bear fruit. Now the situation has changed completely: the states of the Americas have much less heft on the International Court and might perhaps be able once again to consider the possibility of a establishing a regional court as a suitable complement to the present inter-American system. We may be nearing the "opportunity" envisaged in 1938, which is well worth examining in our specialized bodies.

Administration and Finance

When I took the helm of the General Secretariat a year ago, I decided not to alter the organizational structure of the OAS any more than necessary, so as not to disrupt still further the lives of the people working at the OAS, who had been going through a period of extreme uncertainty for almost a year before I took office. On this point, I concurred fully with the Assistant Secretary General, with whom we have formed a single team and a single administration.

Accordingly, although the Assembly had authorized us to make changes, those changes have essentially been restricted to three aspects. We have called the main working areas secretariats, to clearly indicate not only their responsibilities but also their inclusion in the General Secretariat. We have created a new Department of Control and Evaluation, so that the General Secretariat may have the necessary data to direct the way in which the Organization obtains and spends its resources. And we have reorganized the Office of Scholarships, to ensure independent and transparent operations, without detriment to the absolute right of the policy-making bodies to set substantive criteria for action.

The third change was due to unfortunate circumstances that had to be addressed. As for the first two, I cannot conceive that, in a centrally run institution, each unit would obtain and manage its resources autonomously without management's knowing about it.

Our intention is clear: to steer the Organization toward the objectives and priorities decided upon by the policy-making bodies and the General Secretariat. Strengthening this concept is essential to establishing what is appropriate for everyone, coordinating actions, and ensuring that work proceeds only in accordance with the mandates issued by legitimate bodies. Next year, when I present this report, I shall focus on the progress made and/or the shortcomings regarding the substantive topics entrusted to us. Reports will cease to be mere accounts of what has taken place, and the Organization will no longer be addressing any topics not linked to legitimate mandates.

For this to be possible, adequate financing is essential. In this regard, at the request of the CARICOM countries, which placed the topic of the ongoing financing of the OAS on the agenda for this session of the Assembly, I shall present a detailed report, which will be appended to this one.

I am also concerned, from an organizational point of view, about finding a more appropriate place for those countries that are currently observers and participate more closely with the OAS. At present, the Organization has 60 permanent observers, which demonstrates a confidence and an interest that we are grateful for. But we have to recognize that they demonstrate varying levels of interest and support.

Other institutions close to our own, like the IDB, have intermediate categories between full members and observers. I believe that we too, acting carefully and on the basis of consensus, could create such categories. Full membership should be restricted to the countries of the Americas, but it seems fair that friendly countries that cooperate with us in a systematic and significant manner should be given proper recognition.

I realize that this was discussed a few years ago and consequently I did not think it wise to introduce it again as a topic for the Assembly, but I hope we will be able to reconsider it during the course of the year.

This presentation must necessarily be brief, and for that reason the documents that each unit has submitted on its activities have been appended to it. In conclusion, I should simply like to mention the efforts we have made to reach out, beyond the member states, to establish appropriate links between the OAS and international, regional, subregional, and global organizations; the significant development of communications as a fundamental means of transmitting our thoughts and our activities; and the recognition given recently to the Lecture Series of the Americas, which by extending invitations to statesmen, people in the arts, intellectuals, and figures of international renown, generates high-quality dialogue on the present and future of our region.

José Miguel Insulza
Secretary General

I. GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND COUNCILS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly is the supreme organ of the Organization of American States, and is composed of the delegations of all the member states, which have the right to be represented in it and are entitled to vote. The definition of the mechanisms, policies, actions, and mandates of the Organization originates in the General Assembly. Its functions are set forth in Chapter IX of the Charter, Article 57 of which states that it meets each year, at the time stipulated in its Rules of Procedure and at a venue chosen according to the rotation principle. 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.

As the inter-American agenda has expanded in recent years, so, too, has the number of items included on the agenda of the General Assembly.

Thirty-fifth regular session

The thirty-fifth regular session was held on June 5-7, 2005 in Fort Lauderdale, in the United States of America. Presiding was Her Excellency, Condoleezza Rice, United States Secretary of State. The Assembly adopted 5 declarations and 97 resolutions. The Proceedings of the General Assembly are published in the document of that name (OEA/Ser.P.XXXV-O.2), which is divided into two volumes: Volume I, containing the certified texts of the declarations and resolutions adopted, and Volume II, which contains the verbatim texts of the plenary sessions, summary minutes of the General Committee, and other documents pertaining to this session.

Declarations

Declaration of Florida: Delivering the Benefits of Democracy [AG/DEC. 41 (XXXV-O/05)]: The General Assembly declared that the Organization of American States should continue building on the ideals and commitments of the OAS Charter and the Inter-American Democratic Charter, working together to advance shared political and economic values to make this a Hemisphere of democratic, stable, and prosperous nations. The Declaration reaffirms that the Secretary General may bring to the attention of the Permanent Council, in the exercise of the authority conferred on him by the OAS Charter and pursuant to the Inter-American Democratic Charter, those situations that could require action under the said Charters. The Permanent Council is instructed, for the purpose of facilitating regional cooperation to strengthen representative democracy and good governance, to consider, in cooperation with governments, in an ongoing manner, initiatives to support these areas, in accordance with the provisions of the Inter-American Democratic Charter and with the circumstances surrounding democratic processes in the region. The Working Group to Negotiate the Social Charter of the Americas and a Plan of Action is encouraged to ensure that its work may serve effectively to strengthen existing OAS instruments on democracy, integral development, and the fight against poverty. The Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI), in cooperation with the relevant cooperative hemispheric networks, is instructed to formulate strategies to combat poverty, illiteracy, low levels of human development, social problems, and environmental degradation.

Declaration of the General Assembly on the Situation in Bolivia [AG/DEC. 42 (XXXV-O/05)]: The General Assembly calls upon the actors in the Bolivian political process to surmount the present crisis promptly, through dialogue, in a peaceful fashion, and with respect for human rights, in accordance with applicable constitutional provisions, preserving democracy and guaranteeing the unity of Bolivia and it

expressed the readiness of the Organization of American States to provide all cooperation that may be requested by the legitimate Bolivian authorities, to facilitate dialogue as a means of surmounting the crisis and guaranteeing the preservation of democratic institutions.

Declaration: “Support for Nicaragua” [AG/DEC. 43 (XXXV-O/05)]: The General Assembly expressed its concern regarding the situation that gravely affects the democratic system in Nicaragua, places at Nicaragua’s disposal the experience of the OAS with a view to strengthening the democratic institutional framework, and emphasized the importance of the Permanent Council continuing its direct monitoring of developments in Nicaragua, pursuant to the Inter-American Democratic Charter.

Declaration on the Question of the Malvinas Islands [AG/DEC. 44 (XXXV-O/05)] The General Assembly welcomed the reaffirmation of the will of the Argentine Government to continue exploring all possible avenues for peaceful settlement of the dispute and its constructive approach towards the inhabitants of the Malvinas Islands. It reaffirmed the need for negotiations to begin, as soon as possible, on the sovereignty dispute, in order to find a peaceful solution to the controversy. Consequently, it decided to continue to examine the issue at subsequent sessions of the General Assembly.

Declaration on Coordination of Volunteers in the Hemisphere in Response to Natural Disasters and the Fight against Hunger and Poverty. White Helmets Initiative: The Impact of the Energy Situation on the Development of Member States [AG/DEC. 45 (XXXV-O/05)]: The General Assembly declared its renewed support for the White Helmets Initiative, and commitment to promote their cooperation, to share the experience acquired in crisis situations, and to seek the greatest possible efficiency in the development of emergency response mechanisms; to welcome the decision taken by the Governments of Honduras, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay, which have designated their respective focal points for the White Helmets Initiative; to recognize the progress made in the Regional Seminars for the Promotion and Dissemination of Volunteers for Humanitarian Assistance in Latin America and the Caribbean; and its concern that each country should identify its national, governmental, and nongovernmental capabilities, programs, and experiences for the fight against hunger and poverty and the handling of emergencies, including the participation of volunteer corps.

Resolutions

At its thirty-fifth regular session, the General Assembly adopted major decisions on such issues as democracy, human rights, legal development, social development, hemispheric security, terrorism, corruption, civil society, anti-personnel-landmine clearing, natural disasters, trade, tourism, scholarships, women, children, and indigenous peoples. The General Assembly also adopted resolutions on issues being addressed by the organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization, as well as resolutions on administrative aspects of the General Secretariat.

AG/RES. 2061 (XXXV-O/05)	Place and Date of the Thirty-sixth Regular Session of the General Assembly
AG/RES. 2062 (XXXV-O/05)	Tribute to Assistant Secretary General Luigi R. Einaudi
AG/RES. 2063 (XXXV-O/05)	Free Trade and Investment in the Hemisphere (Report of the Permanent Council)
AG/RES. 2064 (XXXV-O/05)	The Role of the Legislative Branch in Combating Corruption and Impunity in the Hemisphere
AG/RES. 2065 (XXXV-O/05)	Seventh Inter-American Specialized Conference on Private International Law
AG/RES. 2066 (XXXV-O/05)	Dissemination of Information on the Inter-American System for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in Educational Institutions in the Countries of the Hemisphere

AG/RES. 2067 (XXXV-O/05)	Human Rights Defenders: Support for the Individuals, Groups, and Organizations of Civil Society Working to Promote and Protect Human Rights in the Americas
AG/RES. 2068 (XXXV-O/05)	Meeting of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas
AG/RES. 2069 (XXXV-O/05)	Observations and Recommendations on the Annual Report of the Inter-American Juridical Committee
AG/RES. 2070 (XXXV-O/05)	Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law
AG/RES. 2071 (XXXV-O/05)	2006: Inter-American Year of the Fight against Corruption
AG/RES. 2072 (XXXV-O/05)	Promotion of the International Criminal Court
AG/RES. 2073 (XXXV-O/05)	American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
AG/RES. 2074 (XXXV-O/05)	Standards for the Preparation of Periodic Reports Pursuant to the Protocol of San Salvador
AG/RES. 2075 (XXXV-O/05)	Strengthening of Human Rights Systems Pursuant to the Plan of Action of the Third Summit of the Americas
AG/RES. 2076 (XXXV-O/05)	Follow-Up on the Inter-American Convention against Corruption and Its Program for Cooperation
AG/RES. 2077 (XXXV-O/05)	Strengthening Mechanisms for Policy Dialogue for Integral Development
AG/RES. 2078 (XXXV-O/05)	Strengthening Technical Cooperation for Integral Development
AG/RES. 2079 (XXXV-O/05)	Strengthening Substantive Policy Dialogue in the Framework of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development
AG/RES. 2080 (XXXV-O/05)	Study of the Relationship Between Trade, Debt, and Financing
AG/RES. 2081 (XXXV-O/05)	Poverty, Equity, and Social Inclusion: Follow-Up to the Declaration of Margarita
AG/RES. 2082 (XXXV-O/05)	Microcredit and Microfinancing for Job Creation and Poverty Alleviation, and Instruments for Furthering Social Cohesion and Community Participation
AG/RES. 2083 (XXXV-O/05)	Strengthening of Micro, Small, and Medium-Sized Enterprises
AG/RES. 2084 (XXXV-O/05)	Report of the Second Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities
AG/RES. 2085 (XXXV-O/05)	Report of the First Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Social Development
AG/RES. 2086 (XXXV-O/05)	Report of the Second Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Education
AG/RES. 2087 (XXXV-O/05)	Report of the First Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities on Science and Technology
AG/RES. 2088 (XXXV-O/05)	XIV Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor
AG/RES. 2089 (XXXV-O/05)	XIX Inter-American Travel Congress
AG/RES. 2090 (XXXV-O/05)	Continuing Participation in the Inter-American Council for Integral Development by Member States That Have Not Ratified the Protocol Of Managua
AG/RES. 2091 (XXXV-O/05)	Support for and Follow-Up to the Summits of the Americas Process
AG/RES. 2092 (XXXV-O/05)	Increasing and Strengthening Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities and in the Summits of the Americas Process
AG/RES. 2093 (XXXV-O/05)	Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities Responsible for Policies on Decentralization, Local Government, and Citizen Participation at the Municipal Level in the Hemisphere
AG/RES. 2094 (XXXV-O/05)	Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials

AG/RES. 2095 (XXXV-O/05)	Meeting of the Permanent Council with Representatives of the Legislatures of the Americas
AG/RES. 2096 (XXXV-O/05)	Appointment of Women to Senior Management Positions at the OAS
AG/RES. 2097 (XXXV-O/05)	Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission: Report on Its Third Evaluation Round
AG/RES. 2098 (XXXV-O/05)	Observations and Recommendations on the Annual Report of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission
AG/RES. 2099 (XXXV-O/05)	Strengthening of the Inter-American Commission of Women
AG/RES. 2100 (XXXV-O/05)	Support for the Activities of and Preparations for the Fourth Regular Meeting of the Assembly of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission
AG/RES. 2101 (XXXV-O/05)	XIX Pan American Child Congress
AG/RES. 2102 (XXXV-O/05)	Cooperation Between the Organization of American States and the United Nations System, the General Secretariat of the Central American Integration System, and the General Secretariat of the Caribbean Community
AG/RES. 2103 (XXXV-O/05)	Public Presentation of the Candidates Proposed for the Positions of Secretary General and Assistant Secretary General of the Organization of American States
AG/RES. 2104 (XXXV-O/05)	Consolidation of the Regime Established in the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty Of Tlatelolco)
AG/RES. 2105 (XXXV-O/05)	Support for Action against Antipersonnel Mines in Ecuador and Peru
AG/RES. 2106 (XXXV-O/05)	Support for the Program for Comprehensive Action against Antipersonnel Mines in Central America
AG/RES. 2107 (XXXV-O/05)	The Americas as a Biological- and Chemical-Weapons-Free Region
AG/RES. 2108 (XXXV-O/05)	The Proliferation of and the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects
AG/RES. 2109 (XXXV-O/05)	Disarmament and Nonproliferation Education
AG/RES. 2110 (XXXV-O/05)	Inter-American Convention on Transparency in Conventional Weapons Acquisitions
AG/RES. 2111 (XXXV-O/05)	Inter-American Support for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty
AG/RES. 2112 (XXXV-O/05)	Special Security Concerns of the Small Island States of the Caribbean
AG/RES. 2113 (XXXV-O/05)	Transparency and Confidence- and Security-Building in the Americas
AG/RES. 2114 (XXXV-O/05)	Natural Disaster Reduction and Risk Management
AG/RES. 2115 (XXXV-O/05)	Addressing Extreme Poverty, Inequality, and Social Exclusion as a Means of Strengthening Hemispheric Security
AG/RES. 2116 (XXXV-O/05)	Fighting Transnational Organized Crime in the Hemisphere
AG/RES. 2117 (XXXV-O/05)	Follow-Up to the Special Conference on Security
AG/RES. 2118 (XXXV-O/05)	Fighting the Crime of Trafficking in Persons
AG/RES. 2119 (XXXV-O/05)	Promotion and Strengthening of Democracy
AG/RES. 2120 (XXXV-O/05)	Presentation of Candidates for Membership on the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights
AG/RES. 2121 (XXXV-O/05)	Access to Public Information: Strengthening Democracy
AG/RES. 2122 (XXXV-O/05)	Program for Democratic Governance in the Americas
AG/RES. 2123 (XXXV-O/05)	Promotion of Corporate Social Responsibility in the Hemisphere
AG/RES. 2124 (XXXV-O/05)	Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality

AG/RES. 2125 (XXXV-O/05)	Study of the Rights and the Care of Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment
AG/RES. 2126 (XXXV-O/05)	Prevention of Racism and All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance and Consideration of the Preparation of a Draft Inter-American Convention
AG/RES. 2127 (XXXV-O/05)	Promotion of and Respect for International Humanitarian Law
AG/RES. 2128 (XXXV-O/05)	Observations and Recommendations on the Annual Report of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
AG/RES. 2129 (XXXV-O/05)	Observations and Recommendations on the Annual Report of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights
AG/RES. 2130 (XXXV-O/05)	The Human Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families
AG/RES. 2131 (XXXV-O/05)	Situation of the Inter-American Indian Institute
AG/RES. 2132 (XXXV-O/05)	Strengthening of the National Human Rights Systems of the Member States and Support for the Work of Defenders of the People, Defenders of the Population, and Human Rights Attorneys or Commissioners (Ombudsmen)
AG/RES. 2133 (XXXV-O/05)	Inter-American Program of Cooperation to Prevent and Remedy Cases of International Abduction of Children By One of Their Parents
AG/RES. 2134 (XXXV-O/05)	Persons Who Have Disappeared and Assistance to Members of Their Families
AG/RES. 2135 (XXXV-O/05)	Support for and Monitoring of Activities Related to the World Summit on the Information Society
AG/RES. 2136 (XXXV-O/05)	Observations and Recommendations on the Annual Reports of the Organs, Agencies, and Entities of the Organization
AG/RES. 2137 (XXXV-O/05)	Support for the Work of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism
AG/RES. 2138 (XXXV-O/05)	Fourth Biennial Report on Fulfillment of Resolution AG/RES. 1456 (XXVII-O/97), "Promotion of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, 'Convention of Belém Do Pará'"
AG/RES. 2139 (XXXV-O/05)	Draft Social Charter of the Americas: Renewal of the Hemispheric Commitment to Fight Extreme Poverty in the Region
AG/RES. 2140 (XXXV-O/05)	Internally Displaced Persons
AG/RES. 2141 (XXXV-O/05)	Inter-American Program for the Promotion and Protection of the Human Rights of Migrants, Including Migrant Workers and Their Families
AG/RES. 2142 (XXXV-O/05)	The Americas as an Antipersonnel-Land-Mine-Free Zone
AG/RES. 2143 (XXXV-O/05)	Protecting Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms While Countering Terrorism
AG/RES. 2144 (XXXV-O/05)	Promotion of Hemispheric Cooperation in Dealing with Gangs
AG/RES. 2145 (XXXV-O/05)	Denying MANPADS to Terrorists: Control and Security of Man-Portable Air Defense Systems (MANPADS)
AG/RES. 2146 (XXXV-O/05)	Extradition of and Denial of Safe Haven to Terrorists: Mechanisms for Cooperation in the Fight against Terrorism
AG/RES. 2147 (XXXV-O/05)	Strengthening Democracy in Haiti
AG/RES. 2148 (XXXV-O/05)	Combating the Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Smuggling of and Trafficking in Children in the Hemisphere
AG/RES. 2149 (XXXV-O/05)	Right to Freedom of Thought and Expression and the Importance of the Media

AG/RES. 2150 (XXXV-O/05)	Obligation of Member States to Respect the Rules and Principles of International Law Contained in the OAS Charter in order to Preserve and Strengthen Peace in the Hemisphere
AG/RES. 2151 (XXXV-O/05)	Delivering the Benefits of Democracy: Partnership for Integral Development
AG/RES. 2152 (XXXV-O/05)	Limitation of Military Spending
AG/RES. 2153 (XXXV-O/05)	Amendment to the Statute of the Justice Studies Center of the Americas
AG/RES. 2154 (XXXV-O/05)	Promotion of Regional Cooperation for Implementation of the Inter-American Democratic Charter
AG/RES. 2155 (XXXV-O/05)	Vote of Appreciation to the People and Government of the United States
AG/RES. 2156 (XXXV-O/05)	Modernization and Reorganization of the OAS General Secretariat
AG/RES. 2157 (XXXV-O/05)	Program-budget of the Organization for 2006, Quotas and Contributions to FEMCIDI for 2006

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

The following ambassadors chaired the Permanent Council:

- July-September 2005, Chair: Ambassador Roberto Álvarez Gil, Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic. Vice Chair: Ambassador Deborah-Mae Novell, Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda
- October-December 2005, Chair: Ambassador Izben C. Williams, Permanent Representative of Saint Kitts and Nevis. Vice Chair: Ambassador Jorge Valero, Permanent Representative of Venezuela.
- January-March 2006, Chair: Ambassador Sonia M. Johnny, Permanent Representative of Saint Lucia. Vice Chair: Ambassador Marina Valere, Permanent Representative of Trinidad and Tobago.
- April-June 2006: Chair: Ambassador Ellsworth I. A. John, Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; Vice Chair: Ambassador Marina Valere, Permanent Representative of Trinidad and Tobago.

The office of chair is held by each of the representatives, in turn, following the alphabetic order in Spanish of the names of their respective countries. The office of vice chair is filled in the same way, following reverse alphabetic order. These positions are held for a three-month term, which begins automatically on the first day of each quarter.

Presentations

In the course of the year, the Secretaries General, the Acting Secretary General, and the Assistant Secretary General addressed the Permanent Council on a number of occasions to talk about facilitation missions conducted in countries of the region, including Colombia, Bolivia, Haiti, and Nicaragua, and the ongoing process between Belize and Guatemala. They also referred to the electoral observation missions of the General Secretariat in OAS member states, presented reports on administrative developments in the Organization, and delivered speeches during protocolary visits to the Organization.

Visits to the Permanent Council

The Council welcomes the following presidents and officials: The President of Honduras, Ricardo Maduro Joest; The President of the Dominican Republic, Doctor Leonel Fernández; The President of Guyana, Bharrat Jagdeo; The interim Prime Minister of Haiti, Gérard Latortue; The Minister of Foreign

Affairs of Peru, Ambassador Oscar Maúrtua de Romaña; The Prime Minister of Jamaica, Percival J. Patterson; the President Elect of Haiti, René Préval; The President of Peru, Alejandro Toledo; The Vice President of Panama, Samuel Lewis Navarro; the President of Nicaragua, Enrique Bolaños Geyer; The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nicaragua, Norman Caldera Cardenal; The United States Commerce Secretary, Carlos Gutiérrez; The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic, Ambassador Carlos Morales Troncoso; The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador, Ambassador Francisco Carrión Mena; and others.

Resolutions and Declarations

The Council approved the following resolutions, the complete texts of which are posted on the Council's website:

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| CP/DEC. 28 (1494/05) | Declaration of the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States on the Acts of Terrorism Perpetrated in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on July 7, 2005 |
| CP/RES. 885 (1499/05) | Support for Democracy in Bolivia |
| CP/RES. 886 (1501/05) | Convocation of the Third Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities Responsible for Policies on Decentralization, Local Government, and Citizen Participation at the Municipal Level in the Hemisphere |
| CP/RES. 887 (1501/05) | Convocation of the Second Meeting of Central Authorities and Other Experts on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters and Extradition |
| CP/RES. 888 (1501/05) | Place and Date of the Sixth Meeting of Negotiations in the Quest for Points of Consensus of the Working Group to Prepare the Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples |
| CP/RES. 889 (1503/05) rev. 2 | Convocation of the Meeting of National Authorities on Trafficking in Persons |
| CP/RES. 890 (1503/05) | Specific Fund for the Inter-American Program of Cooperation to Prevent and Remedy Cases of Abduction of Children by one of their Parents |
| CP/RES. 891 (1505/05) | Solidarity with and Assistance for the People and Government of the United States |
| CP/RES. 892 (1507/05) | Support for Nicaragua |
| CP/RES. 893 (1514/05) | Reallocation of the Extra-Budgetary Appropriation Approved under CP/RES. 882 (1478/05) to Defray Part of the FY2005 Unforeseen Expenses |
| CP/RES. 894 (1516/05) | Use and Replenishment of the Capital Fund for the OAS Scholarship and Training Programs to Meet Overextended Fellowship Commitments |
| CP/RES. 895 (1524/05) | Creation of the Assistant Secretariat for Multidimensional Security and the Assistant Secretariat for Political Affairs |

CP/RES. 896 (1524/05)	Convocation of the Fourth Meeting of the Group of Governmental Experts on Cyber-Crime, Pursuant to Resolution AG/RES. 2068 (XXXV-O/05) and the Recommendations of the Fifth Meeting of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA-V)
CP/DEC. 30 (1528/06)	Declaration of the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States on the Elections Held in Haiti
CP/RES. 897 (1526/06)	Convocation of the Thirty-First Special Session of the General Assembly
CP/RES. 898 (1528/06)	Place and Date of the Seventh Meeting of Negotiations in the Quest for Points of Consensus of the Working Group to Prepare the Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
CP/RES. 899 (1531/06)	Date and Place of the Sixth Meeting of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA-VI)
CP/RES. 900 (1532/06)	The Inter-American Defense Board as an Entity of the Organization of American States and Approval of its Statutes
CP/RES. 901 (1535/06)	Change of Date of the Thirty-Second Special Session of the General Assembly
CP/RES. 902 (1537/06)	Invitations to the Thirty-Sixth Regular Session of the General Assembly
CP/RES. 903 (1542/06)	Adjustment to the 2006 Approved Program-Budget
CP/RES.904 (1550/06)	Convocation of the Meeting of States Parties to the Inter-American Convention on Transparency in Conventional Weapons Acquisitions
CP/RES.905 (1550/06)	Convocation of the Meeting on the Limitation of Military Spending and the Promotion of Greater Transparency in the Acquisition of Arms
CP/RES.906 (1550/06)	Convocation of the Second Meeting of the CIFTA-CICAD Group of Experts to Prepare Model Legislation on the Areas Covered by the CIFTA
CP/RES.907 (1550/06)	Addressing Extreme Poverty, Inequality, and Social Exclusion as a Means of Strengthening Hemispheric Security

INTER-AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT

The Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) 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). It has the following subsidiary bodies: Permanent Executive Committee (CEPCIDI), Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD), Nonpermanent Specialized Committees (CENPES), and the Inter-American Committees.

Tenth Regular Meeting of CIDI

The Tenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) was held at OAS headquarters on April 28, 2005. The Permanent Representative of Saint Kitts and Nevis, Ambassador Izben C. Williams, and Mr. Patricio Powell, Alternate Representative of Chile, were elected Chair and Vice Chair of the meeting, respectively. Furthermore, the delegations of Argentina, Canada, Brazil, and United States were elected as the members of the Style Committee for the meeting.

The Executive Secretary for Integral Development, Dr. Brian Stevenson, presented a report on partnership for development in the framework of the Organization. He indicated his strong belief that the OAS, its member states and its Secretariat could accomplish great things in addressing the development challenges faced by the region. In this framework, and taking advantage of the ongoing restructuring of the General Secretariat, Dr. Stevenson mentioned that SEDI would support the member states in defining and promoting development policies for the region, under the umbrella of CIDI and its ministerial processes, and that it would support development programs and offer them technical assistance. At the meeting the importance was underlined of acquiring external funds, maintaining contributions, supporting the Special Multilateral Fund of CIDI (FEMCIDI) and ensuring the efficient and transparent management of funds.

CIDI instructed CEPCIDI to elect four new members of the Management Board of the IACD, as well as the Chair and Vice Chair of the Permanent Executive Committee, received the offer of voluntary contributions to FEMCIDI from several member states, and adopted the following reports: Summary Description of Ongoing Programs and Activities in the Tourism Area; Report to the General Assembly pursuant to resolution AG/RES. 1987 (XXXIV-O/04); Report on Implementation of Strategies to Mobilize External Resources and Expand the OAS Scholarship and Training Programs; Report on Activities of the OAS General Secretariat on the resolution on Trade and Integration in the Americas; and Report of the Working Group on Sustainable Development on the Draft Inter-American Program on Sustainable Development (2005-2007).

The 10th Regular Meeting of CIDI went on to consider and approve the following resolutions: Strengthening of Political Dialogue Mechanisms for Integral Development; Strengthening of Technical Cooperation for Integral Development; Strengthening of the Substantive Policy Dialogue in the Framework of CIDI; Poverty, Equity and Social Inclusion: Follow-up to the Declaration of Margarita; Microcredit and Microfinancing for Job Creation and Poverty Alleviation and Instruments for Furthering Social Cohesion and Community Participation; Strengthening of Micro, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises; Study on the Relationship between Trade, Debt, and Financing; XIX Inter-American Travel Congress; XIV Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor; Report on the Second Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities on Culture; Report on the First Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Social Development; Report on the Second Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Education; Report on the First Meeting of Minister and High Authorities on Science and Technology; Inter-American Program on Sustainable Development; Delegation of Authority for Approving the Appointment

of the Executive Secretary for Integral Development; and Continuing Participation in the Inter-American Council for Integral Development by Member States that have not Ratified the Protocol of Managua.

CIDI also decided to present the following draft resolutions to the General Assembly at its 35th regular session: Strengthening of Political Dialogue Mechanisms for Integral Development; Strengthening of Technical Cooperation for Integral Development; Strengthening the Substantive Policy Dialogue in the Framework of CIDI; Study on the Relationship between Trade, Debt, and Financing; Poverty, Equity and Social Inclusion: Follow-up to the Declaration of Margarita; Microcredit and Microfinancing for Job Creation and Poverty Alleviation and Instruments for Furthering Social Cohesion and Community Participation; Strengthening Micro, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises; Report on the Second Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities on Culture; Report on the First Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Social Development; Report on the Second Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Education; Report on the First Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities on Science and Technology; XIV Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor; XIX Inter-American Travel Congress; Continuing Participation in the Inter-American Council for Integral Development by Member States that Have not Ratified the Protocol Managua. All the draft resolutions were considered and adopted by the General Assembly in June 2005.

Nonpermanent Specialized Committees (CENPES)

The nonpermanent specialized committees are technical bodies that lend support to CIDI in dealing with specialized matters or in developing specific aspects of inter-American cooperation in the priority cooperation areas of the Strategic Plan. There are 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 Tourism Development.

CEPCIDI convoked the annual meeting of the Nonpermanent Specialized Committees (CENPES) corresponding to the 2004 FEMCIDI programming exercise, which was held from May 3 to 5, 2005. The 33 members of the 8 Committees evaluated the projects and submitted recommendations to the Management Board of the IACD on the projects that should be financed and the level of financing for each project. The CENPES recommended 92 projects, of which 52 are multinational and 40 national, for a total amount of US\$ 7,598,967.52. The recommendations of the CENPES were approved by the Management Board of the IACD in June 2005.

II. GENERAL SECRETARIAT

THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT

Chapter XVI of the Charter describes the functions and attributes of the General Secretariat, the OAS' central and permanent organ headquartered in Washington, D.C. Elected by the General Assembly, the Secretary General directs the General Secretariat, serves as its legal representative and participates in all meetings of the Organization with voice but without vote. The Secretary General has the authority to bring to the attention of the General Assembly or the Permanent Council any matter that, in his judgment, could affect the peace and security of the Hemisphere or the development of the member states. It is the Secretary General's responsibility to establish whatever offices he deems necessary within the General Secretariat, to determine the number of staff members, appoint them, regulate their duties and functions, and fix their remuneration. The Assistant Secretary General, also elected by the General Assembly, is the Secretary of the Permanent Council and an advisory officer to the Secretary General, whose functions he performs during the latter's temporary absence or permanent disability. The Assistant Secretary General also acts as the Secretary General's representative in all matters which the latter entrusts to him.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

In keeping with the policy and practice decided by the General Assembly and with the pertinent decisions of the Councils, the Office of the Secretary General, under the provisions of Article 111 of the Charter, directs the functions associated with the promotion of economic, social, juridical, educational, scientific, and cultural relations among all the member states of the Organization.

Office of the Secretary General

Over the past year, the activities of the Office of the Secretary General were guided by the hemispheric agenda and the mandates assigned by the Summits of the Heads of State and Government of the Americas and by the need to respond to specific developments in certain member states.

Overall, the Office supported and complemented the efforts of the various organs, secretariats, departments, and sections in a wide range of issues: promotion and defense of democracy; protection of human rights; promotion of good governance; the fight against poverty and discrimination; preservation of the environment and the quest for sustainable development; the prevention of and war on crime; development of the inter-American legal system; stimulating partnership for development among the countries of the Americas to achieve prosperity and development; and the fight against corruption, drug abuse and terrorism.

The Office provided political and administrative support for the Secretary General's efforts to solve a series of political issues in the Hemisphere, especially his efforts to solve the political crisis in Ecuador and to help negotiate a political compromise between the Government of Nicaragua and the two main political parties, as well as the Secretary General's direct participation in the process of preparing general elections in Haiti.

The Office also conducted research, prepared drafts of the Secretary General's speeches, and liaised with the permanent missions, government agencies, and civil society. The Office organized the journeys of the Secretary General to the Summit of the Americas in Mar del Plata; the assumptions of office of the presidents of Bolivia, Chile, Costa Rica, and Haiti; ministerial conferences; official visits to member states; and to other international conferences and meetings, including those held at United Nations headquarters in New York.

As for administrative issues, the Office of the Secretary General triggered a series of substantial changes in the way the Organization is funded, managed, and organized in order to achieve disciplined, transparent, and responsible management of the Organization's human and financial resources. Thus, the Office designed the new structure of the General Secretariat, which the Secretary General submitted to the Permanent Council on December 15, 2005 in the form of Executive Order 05-13 (a revised version of which was issued on February 14, 2006). The new organic structure was based on a thorough examination of the mandates assigned by the member states, on identification of the functions performed by each area of the General Secretariat in order to comply with those mandates, and on previous reorganization efforts. The new structure comprises four main axes (the Executive Secretariat of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights; the Secretariat for Political Affairs; the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development; and the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security), plus the units to support the political organs (all of which are under the responsibility of the Assistant Secretary General), the Secretariat for Administration and Finance, and the Department of International legal Affairs.

The Office of the Secretary General promoted the establishment of the Project Evaluation Committee, which is responsible for assessing the relevance and importance of projects already under way and any

future proposals for projects to be executed with funds administered by the Organization. It also helped establish the Committee on Resource Mobilization, which is responsible for drawing up an integral strategy for the Organization's fund-raising programs and for evaluating the outcomes of activities financed by external donors.

Likewise, the Office prompted the establishment of the Department of Planning, Control, and Evaluation, which is charged with coordinating the General Secretariat's planning, control, and evaluation procedures; developing and administering the instruments used for well-coordinated management; organizing programming and budgetary control in coordination with the Secretariat for Administration and Finance; and obtaining the managerial data and institutional statistics needed for strategic decision making.

Finally, the Office of the Secretary General, working closely with the Secretariat for Administration and Finance, managed to have the General Assembly adopt, at a special session convened at the end of January 2006, a transitory scale of quota assessments that will determine the contributions of member states to the Organization for the next two years. The Assembly also adopted a new budgetary cap of US\$81.5 million for 2007, thereby laying the groundwork for the first increase in the OAS Regular Fund in more than a decade.

Department of Planning, Control and Evaluation

The Department of Planning, Control and Evaluation (DPCE) was created by Executive Order 05-13 Rev. 1. It reports to the Office of the Chief of Staff of the Secretary General and carries out the functions provided in Executive Order 05-15 of December 21, 2005.

The DPCE was created in order to coordinate the planning, control and evaluation processes of the General Secretariat, including the Secretariats, Departments, and Offices that report to the General Secretariat; develop and administer such instruments as it may require for the coordinated management of those processes; manage budget programming and oversight in coordination with the Secretariat for Administration and Finance; and take steps to obtain the management information and institutional statistics necessary to adopt strategic decisions. The Department also acts as Technical Secretariat of the Project Evaluation Committee, created by Executive Order 05-11 of October 31, 2005, revised on January 12, 2006.

The DPCE went into operation in January 2006 and initially formed a staff composed of a Director and five professionals. Between January and March this year it pursued activities in three fields: development of planning, evaluation and control instruments; budget programming; and project evaluation.

In the area of planning, evaluation and control instruments, the DPCE provided training to its staff and established methodologies for setting up a management instrument panel and procedures for planning and control, effectiveness evaluation, and project evaluation and follow up. At present, these instruments are under development.

As regards budget programming, the Department planned and implemented a programmatic goal-setting process for each of the dependencies in the General Secretariat with a view to preparation of the 2007 budget. The Department held 10 workshops, which were attended by more than 120 staff members of the General Secretariat. This process was carried out using methodology furnished by the DPCE that establishes a goal classification framework organized by products, processes, and sub-processes mainly in accordance with Organization mandates. This work has paved the way for the preparation of the Annual Operating Plan (OAP) as the first step in a strategic planning process in the Organization. The Department has also been involved in every presentation and discussion of the 2007 draft budget of the

Secretary General with the political organs of the Organization, contributing programmatic information presented for the first time in the OAS budget programming process.

Furthermore, in the area of project evaluation, the Department has provided technical secretariat services to the Project Evaluation Committee (PEC) at all five of the meetings it has held. It has created and put into operation a working group in support of the PEC, which it coordinates. The Working Group has met on four occasions to date, and the DPCE has processed around 30 project proposals to evaluate their pertinence and relevance in the light of the mandates of the political organs. In addition, it has developed instruments in support of the CEP and its working group, such as designs for project profiles to be submitted to the CEP and development of an instrument to analyze the pertinence of project proposals presented. Also under development is a database with which to manage information on OAS projects.

Department of Legal Services

The DLS was created by Executive Order 05-13 Rev. 1. It reports to the Office of the Chief of Staff of the Secretary General and provides legal advisory services on matters within its sphere of competence.

Inquiries

Between March 2005 and February 2006, the Department of Legal Services (DLS) answered, in writing, 964 inquiries from various offices of the General Secretariat, from the political bodies, and from the delegations. Of these, 441 were legal opinions. Some 326 agreements were reviewed. The institutions that made most use of the Department's services were the Secretariat for Administration and Finance, which made 250 inquiries; SEDI, accounting for 197; the Secretariat for Political Affairs, which accounted for 170; the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security, which made 87 inquiries; the Office of the Secretary General, with 52; the Office of the Assistant Secretary General with 43; and the Department of External Relations, which accounted for 21 inquiries.

Advisory Services to the General Secretariat

The Department collaborated in the drafting and review of rules and regulations, including Executive Orders on: "Restructuring of the General Secretariat"; "Department of International Legal Affairs and the Office of the Legal Advisor to the Secretary General"; "Transfer of the Coordinating Office for the Offices and Units of the General Secretariat in the Member States to the Office of the Assistant Secretary General"; "Creation of the Project Evaluation Committee"; "Contracting of Professional Personnel and Independent Contractors to Provide Professional Services to the Secretariat of the Inter-American Children's Institute, and the Permanent Secretariat of the Inter-American Commission of Women: Measures to Achieve a More Equitable Geographic Representation"; "Creation of the Committee on Resource Mobilization"; "Functions of the Department of Planning, Control and Evaluation"; and "Process of Negotiating, Preparing, Reviewing, Signing and Registering Agreements in the General Secretariat".

The Department of Legal Services collaborated in the preparation of the Directives of the Secretary General on: "Observance of the General Standards, and Administrative, Budgetary and Financial Rules Governing the Operations of the General Secretariat;" and "Guidelines for Performance Contracts (CPRs) for the Execution of Projects Financed with External Funds."

The DLS took part in the meetings held by the Assistant Secretary General in preparation for the coming General Assembly, and provided advisory services on other matters.

The Department of Legal Services provided advice to the Chief of Staff of the Secretary General on administrative and labor matters connected with the IIN, as well as on other issues.

The Department collaborated with the Special Mission of the OAS in Haiti in the preparation, coordination, supervision, and delivery to the Haitian authorities of voter identity cards, and in the bidding and selection process for companies to offer goods and services connected with identity cards.

The DLS provided assistance to SEDI in drafting and negotiating agreements with donors for execution of specific projects, and in preparing model agreements for project execution. It cooperated in the preparation of documents connected with the Fourth Stage of the Project to Rebuild Housing in Honduras, and took part in the respective bidding and contracting. It reviewed the model agreements for projects financed by FEMCIDI.

The Department of Legal Services provided advice to the Executive Secretariat of the IACHR in the review of project execution agreements with donors, and on labor matters.

The DLS collaborated with the Department for the Promotion of Democracy in the review of: the agreements on privileges and immunities; contracts for electoral observation missions in countries such as Bolivia, Guyana, Peru, Surinam, St. Vincent and The Grenadines, and Venezuela; and projects on: electronic voting; modernization of the state; and promotion of citizen participation in electoral processes. It collaborated with the Mission to Support the Peace Process in Colombia in the review of contracts.

The DLS helped the Department of Sustainable Development with the wording and negotiation of an amendment to the agreement for the project on the “Guarani Aquifer System” financed by the World Bank; answering enquiries on labor issues; and review of contracts with suppliers for the project on the Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network.

The Department advised and helped the Tourism and Small Enterprise Section successfully to register two brands with the United States Patent and Trademarks Office.

The Department of Legal Services provided advice to the Secretariat for Administration and Finance on the negotiation and drafting of different documents, such as rental agreements for office space located in the General Secretariat Building, and contracts for renovation of the Main Building. It provided advisory services on budgetary and administrative issues having to do with the interpretation of rules to be applied in concrete cases, such as requests for hearings and reconsideration, repatriation benefits, and personnel policies. It provided advice on the application of the Agreement with the host country on Tax Refunds. It took part in the drafting of executive orders on the prohibition of workplace harassment and protection of whistleblowers, informants and witnesses in the General Secretariat. It has also been providing assistance to the Department of Human Resources in training for investigators and advisers in cases of workplace and sexual harassment.

The DLS collaborated in the drafting and review of administrative memoranda on policy for use of CPRs; review of the CPR form; rules and procedure for the use of software for which the General Secretariat possesses a user's license; administrative procedures and policies on services provided by the Office of Information and Technology Services; liability of officials who have the authority to bind General Secretariat funds; and policy and procedure with respect to cellular telephones. It also conducted the negotiations for the transfer of the 401(m) Retirement Plan to new trustees and administrators.

The DLS cooperated with the Office of the Inspector General by reviewing the terms of reference of the contracts to conduct audits in member states, by answering inquiries, and by participating in audits done of projects and cases, providing the proper legal foundation.

Advice was provided on incorporation and taxes to non-profit entities, such as the Trust for the Americas, the Model OAS General Assembly (MOAS) Inter-American Studies Foundation, and the Young Americas Business Trust.

The Department served on various committees of the General Secretariat as members and/or legal advisors. These included the Insurance Committee, the Selection and Awards Committee, the Sales Committee, the Board of Trustees of the Medical Benefits Trust Fund, and the Leo Rowe Memorial Fund.

Advisory Services to the Political Organs

The DLS provided advisory services at meetings of the General Assembly and the Permanent Council, mainly on administrative, budgetary, labor, and procedural matters. It provided advice to the Permanent Council and the CAAP in a number of areas, including preparation of draft resolutions; creation of guidelines on the use of funds of the conferences subprogram; and the efforts to find a solution to the problem of increasing member state quotas.

The Department provided advice to CIDI, CEPCIDI, and the IACD Management Board on regulatory and procedural matters, including preparation of the Partnership for Development Plan.

The Department of Legal Services advised CICAD on activities connected with its multilateral evaluation programs, legal development, arms control, and control of money laundering, including participation in the regular and specialized meetings, meetings of governmental expert groups on evaluation of policies against drugs and money laundering, and international events on control of illicit trafficking in firearms and ammunition. It offered technical assistance to several member states, by reviewing draft legislative proposals against drugs, money laundering, and illicit trafficking in firearms and ammunition.

The DLS prepared draft resolutions for CITELE and advised its Secretariat on matters connected with the formulation of the draft budget, use of specific funds, application of the Inter-American Convention on an International Amateur Radio Permit, and legal nature of the mandates of the Summit's process.

The Department collaborated with the General Assembly of Delegates of the CIM.

The DLS advised the IIN on the application of its Statutes and Rules of Procedure, and on its Strategic Plan.

The Department of Legal Services cooperated with the Inter-American Defense Board (IADB) and with the Permanent Council's Committee for Hemispheric Security by amending the documents for normalizing the juridical ties between the OAS and the IADB. It cooperated with the IADB and the Inter-American Defense College in the review of contracts.

The DLS provided advisory services to the General Committee and the Committee on Inter-American Summits Management.

The DLS advised the Office of the Director General of the IICA on the creation of a new system of evaluation, merit awards, and privileges and immunities. It advised the Executive Committee and the Special Advisory Committee on administrative matters.

The Department cooperated with the Retirement and Pension Committee by drafting new provisions applicable to cases of divorce; and by drafting guidelines for the participation of the Secretary Treasurer of the Retirement and Pension Fund in the Administrative Committee of the 401(m) Plan.

The DLS provided assistance to the Rowe Fund Committee in connection with its policy on collection of arrears.

Litigation

The Department of Legal Services provided advice on tailoring decision-making to avoid litigation. It helped hearing officers and the Reconsideration Committee to find solutions to labor disputes keeping in mind the best interests of the General Secretariat. The Department secured extrajudicial settlement agreements and thus averted complaints against the Organization.

Department of External Relations

The Department of External Relations was created by Executive Order 05-13 Rev. 1. It is a dependency of the Office of the Chief of Staff of the Secretary General and performs functions set out in Executive Order 05-15 of December 21, 2005.

The Department's mission is to advise the various departments, offices, and units of the General Secretariat and the governing bodies on all activities related to external relations, while promoting and maintaining contacts with the permanent observers, the nongovernmental organizations, academic institutions, the headquarters country of the Organization, the private sector, and non-profits, among others. Detailed information regarding the activities of the permanent observers is contained as Chapter VI of this Report.

Lecture Series of the Americas

The Lecture Series of the Americas was created by Permanent Council resolution 870 in September 2004 to enrich hemispheric debate on the main topics on the Inter-American agenda and was formally launched in January 2005, thanks to the sponsorship of Universidad de San Martín de Porres. This initiative consists of monthly conferences at which renowned personalities of international stature share their knowledge and experience with the general public. After each lecture there is an exchange of views on the presentation by a panel of experts on the topics addressed at the conference. In 2005 we had a number of prestigious speakers, including former President of the United States, Jimmy Carter; former President of the Inter-American Development Bank, Enrique Iglesias; the President of the International Criminal Court, Philippe Kirsch; John Taylor, Former Under Secretary of the Treasury for International Affairs; Derek Walcott, Nobel Laureate for Literature; Alejandro Miro Quesada, President of the Inter-American Press Association; José Miguel Insulza, Secretary General of the OAS; Felipe González former President of Spain; George Alleyne, Director Emeritus of the Pan American Health Organization; and Cheng Siwei, Vice Chairman of the National People's Congress, People's Republic of China.

Based on the 12 monthly conferences of the Lecture Series, other special programs were also produced for broadcast by the "Voice of the Americas" program, HITN and EDUSAT. The programs consisted of transmissions of recordings of the monthly lectures, followed by roundtables composed of members of the local diplomatic community and recognized scholars, who discussed the presentations. During the period covered in this report the agreement was renewed with Universidad de San Martín de Porres for holding a further 12 lectures in 2006.

Model OAS General Assembly (MOAS)

The Model OAS General Assembly (MOAS) program was transferred from the Office of Conferences and Meetings to the Department of External Relations in January 2005. The effort has been made to expand MOAS activities so as to hold more than one model assembly for universities and high schools

per year. With that in mind, in March 2005 talks were initiated with the Global Foundation for Democracy and Development (GFDD) and the United Nations Association of the Dominican Republic (UNA-DR), followed by negotiations with the Dominican government. In September 2005, the President of the Dominican Republic, Mr. Sr. Leonel Fernández, the Secretary General of the OAS, and representatives of the GFDD and ANU-RD, signed an agreement to hold the XXIII MOAS for universities of the Hemisphere in Santo Domingo in March 2006. The Universidad del Norte de Barranquilla (UNINORTE) was also engaged in talks with a view to holding an MOAS for universities of the Hemisphere in Barranquilla, Colombia, in October 2006. In October 2005 a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the Inter-American Institute of Diplomacy (IAID) for the participation of the Office of Resource Mobilization as co-sponsor of the Washington Model OAS General Assembly (WMOAS) for universities, which is held annually in Washington, DC. From November 30 to December 3, 2005, the XXIV Model General Assembly for high schools was held in Washington, DC. The event was attended by some 370 students, mainly from the United States, as well as a delegation from Puerto Rico and another from the Dominican Republic. In all 33 OAS member states were represented. Furthermore, negotiations commenced with Universidad San Martín de Porres of Peru for holding a national MOAS for fifth-grade students in September 2006, in Lima. Contact has also been made with District of Columbia Public Schools in Washington, DC, with a view to the participation of those schools in the 2006 MOAS. The MOAS program has been disseminated through information letters sent to 70 universities in the United States, a presentation on the MOAS program to university students during tours of the Organization, preparation of a new MOAS web page to be published in the first half of 2006, production of 4,000 information leaflets on the MOAS (in English and Spanish) for distribution to universities and high schools, and publication of a one-page color advertisement about the MOAS on the back cover of the April 2006 edition of *Américas Magazine*.

Dissemination Program

The Department's external audience dissemination program received a total of 4,088 visitors and organized 226 dissemination meetings in 2005, chiefly to provide information about the activities of the Organization in areas connected with strengthening of democracy, free trade, promotion and protection of human rights, multidimensional security, and sustainable development, among other issues. Furthermore, the period covered by this report saw the launch of a special joint dissemination project with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, aimed at increasing awareness of the role that multilateral institutions play on the global stage. Visits made by external groups to the OAS increased by 9% compared with the year before.

Other Activities

In accordance with resolution 2121 adopted by the Thirty-Fifth Regular Session of the General Assembly of the OAS, held in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, in June 2005, the Department of External Relations, in conjunction with the Ministry General Secretariat of Government of Chile, organized the Meeting of Government Spokespersons of the OAS Member States in Santiago, Chile, on August 17 and 18. The seminar included roundtable discussions and presentations by experts on issues related to freedom of expression and access to public information in the region. The event was opened by the President of Chile, Ricardo Lagos, together with the Secretary General of the OAS, José Miguel Insulza; the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), José Luis Machinea; and the Minister Secretary General of the Government of Chile, Osvaldo Puccio.

The Department of External Relations organized a conference which examined the results of the 2005 Latinobarómetro Polls. For more than a decade Latinobarómetro has conducted polls in Latin America and the Caribbean on confidence in, and perception in the region of, democratic institutions. This conference was led by the Secretary General of the OAS and the President of the Inter-American

Development Bank (IDB), Luis Alberto Moreno. Marta Lagos, Executive Director of Latinobarómetro, presented the results of polls carried out in 18 countries in Latin America, and Professor Robert Worcester of the International Advisory Council of Latinobarómetro examine the results of polls conducted in six Caribbean countries. In addition, Enrique García, President of the Andean Development Corporation (CAF) and Peter Hakim, President of the Inter-American Dialogue, commented on the presentations given by Lagos and Worcester.

Department of Press and Communications

The Department of Press and Communications was created by Executive Order 05-13 Rev. 1. It answers to the Office of the Chief of Staff of the Secretary General and performs the functions set out in Executive Order 05-15 of December 21, 2005.

The purposes of the Department of Press and Communications are, *inter alia*, to inform the press about the agenda of the Secretary General, the Assistant Secretary General, and the Permanent Council; and project the image of the OAS as a hemispheric forum for policy discussion with a presence in the political dealings of the member states and a meaningful role to play in the solution of any crises that occur in the Americas and the Caribbean.

Since August 2005, in order to ensure a faithful reflection in the Hemisphere's media of the efforts and objectives of the Organization of American States, the Department of Press and Communications enhanced its production of press material through greater content and closer relations with the media, with a view to regaining its former media prominence in the Hemisphere.

Organized along simple lines, the Department decided to keep the written press, radio, and television sections, strengthen the Web Cast Office, intensify photographic distribution, and redesign the profile of the *Américas Magazine*, as well as enhance the qualitative treatment and quantity of information in all these sections. With few resources for radio and television, which are sections that require technology on a level with what is in use today, priority centered on written media, with a view, once the presence and opinion of the Organization had been firmly established, to then building on that to strengthen the other sections.

The Organization has gained prominence in both the digital and the print media. This is easily confirmed by visiting the Newsclips or the OAS News pages on the website. The declarations, opinions, and image of the institution are present in the mass media.

The DPC provides significant coverage of OAS Electoral Observation Missions and of the Organization's negotiation efforts to solve crises in the countries of the Hemisphere. The widespread demand for information that the OAS currently generates necessitates intense efforts with the media, whether from headquarters in Washington, DC, or from the countries to which a particular mission or official has traveled. Nicaragua, Haiti, Bolivia, Ecuador, Venezuela, and Peru have been the scene of highly newsworthy political processes in which the OAS, far from going unnoticed, has played a substantial role, is relevant, and draws media attention.

Adopting a fast-acting, direct strategy, the Department opted for the production of more extensive press releases on the audiences and appearances of the Secretary General and Assistant Secretary General, as well as the meetings of the Permanent Council, with interviews and press conferences arranged according to their public agendas. The department has switched from a purely informative style to one that contextualizes and delivers the most topical elements. In this way, developments in the area of institution building, good governance, refinement of the democratic system, and electoral observation, as well as missions, such as those conducted in Haiti, are successfully circulated.

In this context, and on the premise that to a large extent the media repositioning aims of the Organization depend on transparency in the delivery of information, the Department has developed new mechanisms to project the image of the OAS. Accordingly, in order to provide a general information framework, encounters between the Secretary General and selected groups of journalists are held in advance of events in which the Organization plays a central role. DPC professionals are also in permanent contact with a long list of journalists, who are increasingly eager for opinions from within our Organization. The policy of the Department is to attend to all inquiries and, while it is not always possible to satisfy them, a current of goodwill is generated that is important to the spirit of the relations that should prevail between the Organization and the media.

In the context of Electoral Observation Missions and visits of the Secretary General and Assistant Secretary General – in particular to Peru, Venezuela, and Haiti – the Department has played an important part in disseminating the role of the OAS. The press releases and organization of meetings with the media in each country, coordinated from Washington, are the key to the increasingly abundant flow of information. Coupled with that is the work carried out with local media organizations.

As regards the OAS website, the Department of Press and Communications has proposed a project on centralization of information management. The objective is to coordinate access to materials posted on the website, have organized guidelines for uploading documents, and harmonize the Organization's message in accordance with official guidelines. It is imperative to organize and coordinate the contents of the website in the framework of a new electronic information architecture without delay.

As to photography, the Department has managed significantly to increase photograph distribution in the media. Photographic material is not only posted on the website, but arranged for the media by topic and country. A "photo and caption" system was set up to cover events so that one image might convey the whole message. This system has been well received and is used by the media in all the member states.

With respect to technology, the hope is to modernize it so that the DPC can improve radio and television broadcasting, transmit prompt dispatches over the Internet during visits of the Secretary General and Assistant Secretary General, and equip the Press Room for outside journalists who come to OAS headquarters to cover information generated by the Organization.

It would be fair to assume, judging from the tide of information contained in the Newsclips (daily broadcasts that provide a roundup of information on the OAS and the most important local news in the 34 member states), that the discourse of the OAS has become a core item of media coverage in the hemisphere. Anything the OAS has to say on any given day is sought-after news that is singled out for publication.

Protocol Office

The Protocol Office was created by Executive Order 05-13 Rev. 1. It is a dependency of the Office of the Chief of Staff of the Secretary General and provides assistance in matters within its sphere of competence.

In the period covered by this report the PO continued to coordinate the official ceremonies of the Organization's political bodies, the Permanent Council, the Secretary General and Assistant Secretary General, and the departments of the General Secretariat. It also served as liaison between the Department of State and the permanent missions on matters related to registration and visas of staff of the missions and the privileges and immunities of the diplomats accredited to the Organization. It also organized and

coordinated the use of the Main Building for protocolary or social-cultural functions and kept current the Directory of Permanent Missions. Its most significant activities included the following.

Protocolary meetings were held for the visits of the Presidents of Honduras, Dominican Republic, and Guyana. Ceremonies were organized and protocolary meetings held to mark Pan American Day and the birth date of Simón Bolívar, and to commemorate the Discovery of America - Encounter of Two Worlds. The Office also coordinated the ceremonies for presentation of credentials to the Permanent Representatives of Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Brazil, Peru, and Nicaragua, as well as courtesy visits made by various permanent observers. Farewell receptions were organized for the ambassadors of Mexico, Peru, and Uruguay and for outgoing Assistant Secretary Luigi Einaudi. Letters of congratulations were prepared and sent to the permanent representatives and observers on the occasion of their respective independence days. The Office also organized the ceremony at which the Secretary General and Assistant Secretary General took office.

Under the coordination of the Protocol Office, 12 “Country Weeks” were staged during which member states and permanent observers hosted cultural or academic events. The Office helped organize four art exhibits and four recitals not associated with the Country Weeks Program. Protocol-related assistance was provided for all the openings and exhibits of the Art Museum of the Americas. This office also organized all the ceremonies at which protocols and other agreements between the Organization and the member countries were signed or their instruments of ratification deposited. During the regular session of the General Assembly held in Fort Lauderdale, several working events were held, as was a large reception hosted by the Secretary General for some 800 invited guests.

As regards the management of the main building, 200 receptions, luncheons, dinners, and lectures were held during the year and the expected proceeds from renting out space in the building in 2005 totaled about \$90,000. Owing to the Simón Bolívar Room’s remodeling, the Hall of the Americas had to be used for meetings of the Permanent Council, which meant that proceeds from renting out the Main Building were less than in years past. The Office collaborated closely on the organization and staging of the Food Festival of the Americas and the Christmas reception for the Christmas tree organized by the Organization of Women of the Americas, an association made up of the wives of the diplomats of the permanent missions to the OAS. Indeed, the Protocol Office collaborated with that organization throughout the year. The Office also organized and coordinated the following official events: 7 breakfasts, 12 luncheons, and some 15 receptions.

In addition, before submitting them to the Department of State, the Office reviewed and processed some 4,000 applications from the permanent missions and their staff for accreditation, issuance and renewal of visas, changes to visas, extensions of stays, work permits and their renewal, importation and purchase of duty-free goods, securing and renewal of tax exemption cards and driver’s licenses, and registration of vehicles, registration renewal, proof of insurance, and sale or exportation of vehicles. Visas were arranged for high-ranking OAS officials and letters for driver’s licenses for OAS staff and non-diplomatic personnel of the permanent missions. The office act as liaison with the Escort Service of the Department of State and with airlines to arrange travel services for the Secretary General

The “Directory of Missions, Heads of State/Government, and Senior Government Officials, OAS Organs and Affiliated Entities” was updated and published on the Intranet, and arrangements have been made with the company that produces the “Official Diplomatic Directory” to include information on the missions and the General Secretariat in that directory, which will be published in 2006. The Office kept a monthly schedule of activities in the Building.

Summits Department

The Summits Department (SD) was created by Executive Order 05-13 Rev. 1. It is part of the Office of the Secretary General and provides services on matters within its sphere of competence.

Summits of the Americas

As of the Third Summit of the Americas and in keeping with several resolutions, the SD provides technical and logistical support to the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG); manages the Summit of the Americas Information Network; preserves the institutional memory of the Summit process; updates information on follow-up activities conducted pursuant to the mandates approved by the heads of state and government of the Americas; coordinates civil society participation in the OAS and the Summits process; chairs the Joint Summits Working Group; and provides information needed by the countries on the Summits process.

The SD provided assistance to the meetings of the SIRG in preparation for the Fourth Summit of the Americas. In addition to supplying logistical and technical support, the SD helped to compile the national reports presented by the countries on implementation of Summit mandates. During the preparations for the Fourth Summit, Argentina, as Chair of the SIRG and host of the Summit, directed the work with the technical support of this Secretariat. The SIRG held eight meetings during this period, at which the Declaration and Plan of Action of Mar del Plata were negotiated, the SD provided technical advisory and logistical services, forwarded relevant documents to the national coordinators, translated documents and published them on the Internet website for government access only.

The SD helped to link the ministerial and other sectoral meetings to the Summits process, and coordinated civil society participation in them. Assistance was provided at the following meetings: 14th Inter-American Meeting, at the Ministerial level, on Health and Agriculture; 37th Regular Session of CICAD; Meeting of Ministers of Health and Environment; Fourth Meeting of Ministers of Education; Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture and Rural Life; and 14th Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor.

The SD also provides secretariat services to the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG), composed of 12 international agencies, and is in charge of coordinating its activities. The JSWG met on five occasions in 2005: February 3, March 9, June 8, September 7, and November 4.

The SD organized the seminar. "Contributions of the Joint Summit Working Group to the Fourth Summit of the Americas," which was held on September 7, 2005, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, to identify concrete initiatives for inclusion in the Plan of Action of Mar del Plata and to facilitate an exchange of views among the Summits national coordinators and agency representatives on advocacy for follow-up and implementation of the mandates of the Fourth Summit. At the Fourth Summit of the Americas the Working Group presented to the heads of state and government a report entitled "Achievements of the Summits of the Americas: Institutional Outcomes".

Furthermore, in the framework of the Fourth Summit of the Americas, the Third Meeting of the Heads of the agencies was held at the invitation of the Secretary General of the OAS and the President of the IDB. The objective of the meeting was to exchange ideas on the role and contributions of the institutions to the Summits follow-up process.

The SD organized 8 events to disseminate information on implementation of Summit mandates and in preparation for the Fourth Summit of the Americas. It published 4 editions of the electronic bulletin "The Summits of the Americas Inform" in March, May, and July 2005, and in January 2006. In addition, the SD presented to the heads of state and government assembled at the Fourth Summit the reports,

“Achievements of the Summits of the Americas: National Outcomes” and “Achievements of the Summits of the Americas: Institutional Outcomes,” on implementation of the mandates contained in the Plan of Action of Québec, and the Declaration of Nuevo León. In order to facilitate information on the summits process, a series of briefings were given on the preparations for the Fourth Summit in a number of member states (Dominican Republic, Barbados, Bahamas, Costa Rica, Venezuela, St Lucia (OECS) and Trinidad and Tobago), technical units of the OAS (CICAD, Office of Education, Science and Technology), and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).

The SD mobilized external funds from member states (Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, El Salvador, United States, Mexico, Trinidad and Tobago, Nicaragua, and Guyana), members of the JSWG (IDB and CAF), as well as governmental development agencies, such as the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and the Open Society Institute.

Support to the Committee on Inter-American Summits Management and Civil Society Participation

The SD provides technical assistance to this Committee, coordinates civil society participation in its meetings, and registers nongovernmental organizations with the Organization. Accordingly, during the period covered by this report the SD provided technical support services at this Committee’s five meetings by preparing reports and the draft work plan, analyzing applications from nongovernmental organizations, and coordinating the registration of 36 civil society organizations in the activities of the OAS, in keeping with the “Guidelines for the Participation of Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities.”

Civil Society

In the framework of the 35th General Assembly, a dialogue was organized between representatives of more than 150 nongovernmental organizations and several ministers of foreign affairs to discuss the role of civil society in the preparations for the Fourth Summit of the Americas. With the idea of strengthening relations with civil society and its participation in the summits process, the secretariat has kept the website on this issue permanently updated. It also updated the database of nongovernmental organizations registered with the OAS.

By the same token, support was provided for the participation of civil society representatives in the ministerial meetings and specialized conferences that were held in the framework of the Permanent Council, including the Meeting of National Authorities on Trafficking in Persons. It should be noted that civil society has been involved in the preparatory activities for the Fourth Summit of the Americas through the Civil Society Hemispheric Forum held in April 2005 and through several regional seminars held in the Andean subregion, the Caribbean, and MERCOSUR. Civil society organizations also had the opportunity to present to the SIRG their recommendations on the Fourth Summit of the Americas at the following meetings: XXXVII and XL SIRG meetings.

Support to the Working Group to Prepare the Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

The SD provided technical and logistical support to the Permanent Council’s Working Group to Prepare the Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. In that connection, it helped with the preparation of its Work Plan and different projects were submitted to a variety of cooperation agencies to get financing to enable representatives of the indigenous peoples to participate in the discussions on the draft Declaration, and to improve communication and a sharing of experiences among the General Secretariat, the member states, and the indigenous peoples.

In accordance with resolution AG/RES. 2073 (XXXV-O/05), the Secretariat provided support for holding the Working Group's Fifth and Sixth Meetings of Negotiations in the Quest for Points of Consensus, which were held from February 7 to 11, 2005, in Washington, DC, and from October 10 to 14, 2005 in Antigua, Guatemala, respectively.

The SD also continued to administer the Specific Fund to Support Preparation of the American Declaration, and to maintain the database on indigenous peoples of the Americas. The Specific Fund received contributions from Brazil, Canada, United States, Nicaragua, Finland, and Guatemala.

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL

Under Article 115 of the Charter of the OAS and in keeping with the policy and practice decided upon by the General Assembly and in the respective resolutions of the Councils, the Office of the Assistant Secretary General serves as the Secretariat of the Permanent Council, provides advisory services to the Secretary General, and is in charge of the activities that the Secretary General entrusts to him.

The Office of the Assistant Secretary General provided advisory services to the Secretary General, supported the activities of the various dependencies of the General Secretariat, and made efforts to assist the member states in the search for solutions to topics of critical importance to them.

In his capacity as Secretary of the General Assembly, the Assistant Secretary General coordinated technical and operational services for the thirty-fifth regular session of the General Assembly, held in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, United States, in June 2005. He also supervised the preparatory technical work for the thirty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly, to be held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, in June 2006.

In the same capacity, he coordinated technical and operational services for the thirty-first and thirty-second special sessions of the General Assembly, which adopted the scale of Regular Fund quota assessments and the ceiling of the 2007 budget, and the Statutes of the Inter-American Defense Board, respectively.

As Secretary of the Permanent Council and its subsidiary organs, the Assistant Secretary General provided the chairs of those bodies with policy support and guidance and facilitated deliberations on their respective agenda items. The Office of the Secretariat of the General Assembly, the Meeting of Consultation, the Permanent Council, and Subsidiary Organs assisted representatives of the member states and permanent observers in the preparation and holding of regular and special meetings of the Council and of protocolary meetings, at which Heads of State and Government were received. Likewise, it provided support to joint meetings of the Council with the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CEPCIDI) and meetings of the Joint Working Group of the Permanent Council and CEPCIDI on the Draft Social Charter of the Americas.

During the period covered by the report, the Office of the Assistant General Secretariat coordinated a number of special and closed meetings of the Permanent Council, as well as periodic coordination meetings between the Council chairs and the regional coordinators.

Support and coordination of this type were also provided in other instances, such as meetings of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE); the Conference of the States Party to the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (CIFTA) and meetings of the Consultative Committee of the CIFTA; and meetings of the Special Committee against Transnational Organized Crime, the Working Group to Prepare the Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Working Group to Prepare a Draft Inter-American Convention against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance, and the Joint Consultative Organ of the Committee on Hemispheric Security and CEPCIDI on Natural Disaster Reduction and Risk Management.

As a result of the entry into force of Executive Order 05-13 Rev. 1, the Office of the Assistant Secretary General—in addition to performing its statutory functions as Secretariat to the General Assembly, the Meeting of Consultation, the Permanent Council, and Subsidiary Organs—has under it the Office of Conferences and Meetings, the Office of Cultural Services, which includes the Columbus Memorial

Library and the Art Museum of the Americas; the Coordinating Office for the Offices and Units of the General Secretariat in the Member States; and the Coordinating Office for the Specialized Units, which includes the Permanent Secretariat of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), the Office of the Director General of the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN), the Secretariat of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL), and the Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee on Ports (CIP). Because operating budget funds have not been allocated for the Coordinating Office for Specialized Units and the Office of Cultural Services, these areas currently have no specific coordinator. Despite its limited human resources, the Office of the Assistant Secretary General has maintained a system of communication and consultation with the specialized entities and is developing a comprehensive plan to review the actual functioning of the entities and optimize areas of synergy among them. In addition, the Office has been successful in reviving the Group of Friends of the cultural services. These groups, composed of the permanent representatives of the member states, together with private-sector representatives, have established a joint endeavor to improve the functioning of these entities and improve the integration of programs and projects in the new strategic plan of the Organization.

The Resource Mobilization Committee, chaired by the Assistant Secretary General, was established by Executive Order. Its secretariat is the Department of External Relations. The Committee is working in close coordination with the Office of the Secretary General and the Secretariats for Administration and Finance, Political Affairs, Multidimensional Security, and Integral Development.

In addition to the topics covered by these areas, the Office of the Assistant Secretary General, on instructions from the Secretary General, has been coordinating the Secretariat's activities in the area of natural disasters. In this regard, it worked closely with the Department of Sustainable Development and the pertinent organs, agencies, and entities of the inter-American system. Special attention was paid to specific disasters in countries that had led to the convocation of meetings of the executive committee of the Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction. Likewise, measures were taken to obtain contributions from the Inter-American Emergency Aid Fund for countries affected by natural disasters.

The Assistant Secretary General continued to provide ongoing support to the Secretary General in the political affairs of the OAS member states and represented him in numerous meetings and forums. Of special note are the efforts by the Assistant Secretary General to find solutions to the political and institutional crisis in Haiti, by means of various visits to the country during the period covered by this report. The Assistant Secretary General represented the Secretary General at a number of international meetings at which the subject of Haiti was discussed.

In December 2005, the Assistant Secretary General led the Electoral Observation Mission to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. In addition, he represented the Secretary General at the inauguration of President Manuel Zelaya of Honduras, on January 26, 2006.

Office of Conferences and Meetings

The OCR was established by Executive Order 05-13 Rev. 1. It is made up of the Office of the Director and three sections: Conference Services, Language Services, and Printing, Distribution, and Information Services.

The OCR continued to develop and consolidate its support and services infrastructure for meetings of the political bodies. It provided assistance for planning and organizing the logistical and services structure for 697 OAS meetings, which entailed the preparation and negotiation of agreements and the mobilization of financial, human, and technological resources at OAS headquarters for meetings in the host countries.

It updated the biannual and annual meeting schedule systems and the mechanisms for making more efficient use of conference services resources. It provided support to the CAAP by successfully overseeing and managing the Regular Fund subprogram for funding unprogrammed OAS meetings, including the thirty-first special session of the General Assembly, in January 2006.

Working with the Office of Information and Technology Services (OITS), the OCR replaced and modernized conference services equipment and facilities by installing technologically advanced, digital equipment. The Simón Bolívar Room was completely renovated and re-inaugurated, in coordination with the Department of Press and Communications of the General Secretariat and the OITS. It now operates with state-of-the-art equipment that, in addition to a conventional name-handling system, has highly sophisticated audio/video multimedia services, integrated and compatible with real time videoconferencing in four languages.

Moreover, the OCR replaced all of its document reproduction equipment with high-speed digital machines, and refurbished the document archives and recovery system in the Documentation Center, which services the Permanent Council in the Simón Bolívar Room.

The OCR and the Department of Budgetary and Financial Services completed an overhaul of the OASES system's administrative procedures for OAS meetings. With the OITS, it also set up a computerized platform for conference services as well as Internet access to these services, available to all users. Consequently, users are able to check the schedule of meetings online, obtain official meeting documents, consult a database of references, and view meetings.

Conference Services

In the area of conferences, at headquarters the OCR coordinated 670 meetings of the political and technical bodies, the Permanent Council and its subsidiary organs, CIDI and its subsidiary bodies, and the other specialized organs and agencies, such as the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL), the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), and the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN). The member states provided the venues for 60 high-level meetings, including the thirty-fifth regular session of the General Assembly, the thirty-seventh and thirty-eighth regular sessions of CICAD, technical meetings of the IACHR, CITEL, CICAD, and the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD), and 815 other meetings.

During this period, the OCR updated a biannual schedule of the Organization's meetings, as an instrument for making better use of necessary conference services resources.

Language Services

The OCR provided translation and simultaneous interpretation in the four official languages to all meetings of organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization, at headquarters and in the member states, servicing a total of 697 meetings. More than 44,000 pages were translated into the four official languages. The policy of modernizing equipment and programs for language services (TRADOS) and the four-language glossary called MultiTerm continued. It continued to expand its roster of freelance translators and interpreters, with the addition of professionals from the member states. The Section also kept up inter-institutional contacts for sharing glossaries and terminology with other international organizations and expanded the e-library of OAS documents on the Internet. An added effort has been made to add the names of more translators and interpreters living in all the member states, which represents potential savings for the host countries when meetings are held away from headquarters.

Printing, Distribution, and Information Services

The OCR reproduced and distributed official documents of the Organization, which entailed the printing of master documents, copying, distribution, and storage. The OCR provided the permanent missions of the member states and permanent observers with assistance in searching for information.

Some of the Section's activities over the past year are listed below:

- Printing and distribution of 5,345 individual documents, involving a total of 4,476,932 pages.
- Printing and distribution of 9,325 invitations for the Art Museum of the Americas and the Office of Protocol.
- Continued data storage and documents management through the IDMS system.

Office of Cultural Services

The Office of Cultural Services (OSC) was established by Executive Order 05-13 Rev. 1. It consists of the Columbus Memorial Library and the Art Museum of the Americas.

Columbus Memorial Library

The Library is currently the repository of the institutional memory of the Organization of American States, the Pan American Union, and the inter-American system. Over the years, the Library has evolved from a traditional library program to one that includes the General Secretariat's archives and records management system. It is also the depository of OAS documents.

In 2002 the Permanent Council decided to allocate US\$300,000 from the Reserve Subfund to the Columbus Memorial Library to provide access to its documents and archives. The Library initiated three projects and in 2005, as part of the Documents Retrospective Conversion Project, 10,549 catalogue cards were scanned to make them available online. The files will appear in standard OCLC MARC format in the On Line Public Access Catalogue (OPAC), reaching a broad client base via the Internet and the Organization's Web page.

Work on the Preservation and Digitization Project continued. It will produce digital images of a select group of Permanent Council resolutions and declarations and of the Proceedings and documents of the General Assembly. A total of 50,000 images were identified for digitization and in 2005, 9,310 images of OAS documents were scanned and checked for quality control.

In November 2005, the Integrated Library Automation System developed by TLC ("The Library Corporation") was installed, and training was provided on its use. The system enables the Library to provide services to automate all library functions, including acquisitions, serials, circulation, OAS documents, and cataloguing, thus providing access to the Columbus Memorial Library's rich collection on the inter-American system.

Donations helped supplement the Library's limited budget in the acquisitions area, which received and processed 1,534 books and periodicals and prepared 43 purchase orders from requisitions received from other OAS departments for the purchase of books and other materials. Likewise, 4,054 United Nations documents were added to the collection.

The Documents Retrospective Conversion Project was completed, with 10,549 catalogue cards of OAS publications scanned to make them available online. The Library continues to assign the International Standard Book Number (ISBN) and CIP ("Cataloging-in-Publication") data for new OAS publications and documents. In 2005, 166 ISBNs were assigned and 51 CIPs were prepared. This ensures that new

OAS publications and documents will be immediately available in the online catalogue. The Library continued to publish the “Selective List of Books Accessioned and New Periodicals Received in the Columbus Memorial Library.” This information may be found in the Library’s Public Folder on the Intranet.

The demand for reference services is still on the rise, even as the Library provides access to resources that support OAS programs. The Library is helping to meet current research needs and the Archives are documenting and providing access to important past events.

The Reference Unit circulated 11,068 books and 4,624 periodicals and answered 5,212 requests for information. A total of 127 cubic feet of photographs of historical value were used to respond to these requests. The Documents Control Unit also saw an increase in requests and answered some 1,423 requests for information, while the Archives Management Unit answered 398. A total of 9,001 photocopies were made for the General Secretariat, the missions, and outside users.

The use of various databases has enabled Reference Services to increase its servicing capability. The Library subscribes to “First Search” and can provide access to information in 70 databases, covering a wide range of subject matters, with access to thousands of libraries worldwide and to 5.9 million articles in electronic format from 9,000 periodicals, including 3,500 e-zines.

The search version of the “Hispanic American Periodicals Index” (HAPI) provides global data on Central America, South America, Mexico, and the Caribbean, the U.S.-Mexican border region, and Hispanics in the United States. The Library continues to have access to “WorldCat,” the “United Nations Treaty Collection Database,” and “Lexis-Nexis.” It also subscribes to “The Economic Intelligence Unit – Selected Country Profiles” and the “Official Document System of the United Nations On Line.”

With regard to OAS documents and publications, a total of 74,200 documents were received, processed, and circulated, and search aids were prepared to assist in the recovery of these documents, with 23 new classifications provided for OAS documents.

In the area of preservation, the Library processed and microfilmed the OAS Official Records Series and sent it to university and specialized libraries. Proceeds from sales that help the Library fulfill its mandate of seeking external sources of funding resulted in deposits of \$80,310 into the Hipólito Unanue account.

The Archives and Records Management Service (ARMS) has a contract with “Iron Mountain” and “Paxton Records” for storage of the Organization’s records at a site away from headquarters. A total of 4,893 boxes are stored with the outside contractors. The Archives and Records Management Center received 357 boxes of semi-active documents for storage; it sent 479 empty boxes to offices for transferal of their records to ARMS; and it permanently processed valuable records, which were also stored. ARMS has 10,692 cubic feet of General Secretariat files in its custody.

The Columbus Memorial Library mounted four exhibits: Columbus Memorial Library – Depository of the institutional memory of the Organization of American States, Donations by Ecuador to the Columbus Memorial Library, the Panama Canal – on the occasion of the visit of the President of the Republic of Panama to the OAS, and CARICOM.

The Columbus Memorial Library has benefited greatly from the assistance of the interns and volunteers assigned to specific projects and of the Group of Friends of the Columbus Memorial Library, a topic included on the order of business of the Permanent Council meeting of September 23, 2005.

Art Museum of the Americas

During the period covered by this report, the Museum focused on conservation activities and on the promotion of its resources, in particular the physical structure of the Museum building, the permanent collection, the art archives, and the audiovisual collection.

As regards the building, major renovation and restoration work was undertaken with the help of donations from the permanent observer missions of China, Qatar, and Turkey to improve access to the building, conserve it, and enhance its appearance in terms of both aesthetic and historical considerations, including a redesign of the foyer, with the installation of a reception desk and a marble floor, and restoration of the original doors and wooden staircases. As part of the project, a color guide for visitors was printed, with a brief summary of the building's history and the Museum's major programs.

During the period under consideration, 11,200 people visited the Museum's exhibits, either on guided tours or independently. The four exhibits from the permanent collection during this period—*Art of the Print* (74 works), *Jamaica in the Collection* (10 works), *The Language of Objects* (56 works), and *Geometry and Gesture* (62 works)—explored diverse thematic and technical facets of the permanent collection, with all regions of the Americas well represented. The exhibits were reviewed in *Contemporary Impressions: the Journal of the American Print Alliance* (spring 2005), *InPrint* (March 2005), *El Tiempo Latino* (April 2005), *Gaceta Iberoamericana* (spring 2005), and *The Washington Post* (November 19, 2005).

Because of the renovation work being done in the Permanent Council meeting room, the satellite gallery in the main building was closed and exhibits in that gallery were suspended until an alternative space could be found. In the meantime, an exhibit selection committee, made up of Museum staff and experts from outside cultural institutions, was established. The committee met once in November 2005 to review 69 exhibit proposals received by the Museum. A selection was made from this group for consideration as possible future exhibits.

To reinforce the educational component of the exhibits, the Museum gave guided tours and lectures to 39 groups (905 people) from universities, high schools, and educational and cultural associations. In addition, the following were held: three children's workshops, with the participation of guest artists exploring exhibit-related topics; 20 classes for adults on drawing and silk-screening techniques; and a lecture by art historian Dr. Edward Sullivan, Dean of Humanities of New York University. With support from the Inter-American Development Bank, a color catalogue on the Museum's graphic collection was printed. Educational information on the exhibits continues to be posted on the Museum's Web page, in order to reach a wider audience.

As part of the "Art-in-Office" program, 194 works of art from the permanent collection are on loan to the offices and public areas of the buildings at headquarters. In connection with that activity, preventive conservation work was done, including cleaning, replacement of glass with UV Plexiglas, and consolidation of pictorial layers. Likewise, the loan forms to be signed by the offices were revised in order to improve record-keeping of the works of art loaned out internally.

During this period, 15 donations were made to the permanent collection, including prints by Edith Behring (Paraguay), Félix Ángel (Colombia), Rudy Ayoroa (Bolivia), and Antonio Seguí (Argentina); photographs by Diego Cifuentes (Ecuador); and paintings by Beatriz Briceño (Panama) and Jaime Colson (Dominican Republic).

The art archives are a one-of-a-kind source for the study of Latin American and Caribbean art. As a means of promoting this resource, a new section was added to the Museum's Web page, on the contents

and organizational structure of this documentation. During this period, the Museum responded to 950 requests for information, and 38 researchers from various institutions visited the Museum to consult the art archives in person. Further, 35 boxes of materials previously stored at a site away from headquarters were processed, and pertinent materials and documents were incorporated into the art archives. The Museum continues to receive and process new bibliographic materials sent by artists, galleries, and diverse cultural institutions, in order to enrich and expand the archives.

Further, 180 images from the permanent collection were digitized for use in the Museum's database (an automated integrated collection system for cataloguing and tracking works of art). The Museum initiated the first phase of conversion--from VHS to digital format--of the film collection on the art and artists of the member countries, to enhance preservation and improve sales potential. In addition, films were loaned to the Hispanic Information and Telecommunications Network (HITN), a communications network that promotes the educational, social, cultural, and economic development of the Hispanic community in the United States. These films will be shown as part of HITN's cultural programs.

Added to the inventory were 150 works of art that are not part of the permanent collection and were previously stored away from headquarters. They have not been included in the permanent collection for the following reasons: (1) the artists are already represented in the collection with works of equivalent or better quality; (2) they are in poor condition; or (3) they did not meet the criteria established by the Acquisitions Committee for inclusion in the collection. This is the category of works of art that are sold at the art sales organized by the Museum for fundraising purposes, or that are donated to schools and cultural institutions.

The Museum arranged for the donation of eight works of art to the Latin American Youth Center, an organization nationally recognized for its efforts in support of the Hispanic and Caribbean community of Washington, D.C.; it participated in a cultural program on Latin American women artists, organized by the Women's Committee of the National Museum of Women in the Arts; it attended monthly meetings of the museum consortium "Neighbors to the President" to exchange information and develop activities to promote the member museums' collections and programs; and it collaborated with the Staff Association on the VII Annual Art Exhibit.

During this period, \$17,090 was raised from the sale of art, videos, slides, catalogues, reproduction fees, and rentals of the Museum building. Further, donations were obtained, through the Department of External Resources, from the Governments of China (\$20,000), Qatar (\$10,000), and Turkey (\$6,000) for restoration of the Museum building, and a \$10,000 donation was received from the Government of Brazil for the publication of a guide on Brazil's representation in the Museum's collections. Moreover, several interns and volunteers assisted the Museum during this time by working in such areas as the cataloguing of works of arts, documentation of archives, and preventive conservation of the graphic art collection.

Coordinating Office for the Offices of the General Secretariat in the Member States

The Coordinating Office for the Offices of the General Secretariat in the Member States was established by Executive Order 05-13 Rev. 1 to support services rendered at the hemispheric level through various bodies.

In order to optimize services in the various member states, the directors of all OAS General Secretariat offices in the region were invited to visit headquarters on January 19 and 20, 2006. The main focus of the meeting was sharing with the directors the strategy and approach adopted for meeting the expectations of the offices in the member states in 2006. The meeting was an opportunity for familiarization with the vision of the new General Secretariat administration and for broad dialogue and an exchange of ideas

among staff of the General Secretariat offices in the member states and headquarters staff. Such a meeting had not been held for almost two decades.

Among the various topics addressed, it bears noting that in the area of democracy and good governance, the offices of the General Secretariat in the member states will further facilitate dialogue, access to training activities, and technical support to the governments. The offices have also recognized the importance of working more closely with NGOs in promoting OAS activities. This collaboration will continue and be reinforced to the extent that the office directors continue to receive strategic guidance and support from headquarters and seek to seek greater familiarity with the national agenda of their host country.

In his dialogues with the office directors, the Secretary General emphasized the importance the present administration attaches to the offices of the General Secretariat in the member states. He urged them to increase their receptivity, their responsibility, and their dedication to the goals and objectives of the Organization while observing the applicable rules and procedures. The Assistant Secretary General indicated that his office, being charged with coordinating the offices in the member states, will work to ensure that the offices have the proper levels of support and attention from the Coordinating Office. He also recalled that it was important that the directors abide by operating procedures and guidelines received; exercise responsible leadership and management; and of demonstrate responsibility in complying with internal controls, as instructed by executive orders, administrative memorandums, the Office of the Inspector General, and the Department of Human Resources.

The meeting was also an opportunity to exchange ideas with the directors on how they could play a more significant and supportive role at their duty stations; and how they could be equipped to act as more effective representatives of the Organization, to promote efficient diplomacy and good public administration, and to improve understanding and exchange among the peoples of the Americas. The office directors also had a chance to converse with the Chair of the Permanent Council, the Office of the Inspector General, and a number of assistant secretaries and directors from various areas. As a result of the meeting, the directors contributed various ideas, initiatives, and suggestions, for a strategy document that was to be drafted.

Other activities of the Coordinating Office included facilitating, in December 2005, the acquisition of 15 computers and 13 scanners to improve efficiency at the OAS offices in member states. The new computers were duly equipped with the appropriate software and licenses and sent to offices where equipment requirements had been identified beforehand. The use of scanners has begun to reduce the use of facsimile communications and will eventually eliminate the need for faxes, producing savings for the offices. The Coordinating Office continues to work with the Office of Information and Technology Services to improve efficiency in the field. To that end, an Internet-based telephone system is being tested. The trial period will end on May 15, 2006. To date, 21 countries are participating in this technology. The voice-over-Internet protocol (VOIP) mechanism allows offices to communicate with each other and with headquarters as if making local calls; this removes the high cost of long-distance calling.

In accordance with resolution AG/RES. 2157 (XXXV-O/05), the report on work plans for 2006 has been submitted. It addresses the various activities of the OAS in the context of the priority areas identified in the mandates of the Summits of the Americas process and of the OAS General Assembly. These activities include programs and projects in the areas of democracy and human rights, provision of technical cooperation, support to the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), support to CICTE in fighting terrorism, natural disaster reduction, sustainable development, and education.

SECRETARIAT FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS

Established by Executive Order 05-13 Rev. 1, the Secretariat for Political Affairs has three departments: the Department for the Promotion of Democracy, the Department for the Promotion of Governance, and the Department of Crisis Prevention and Special Missions.

Department for the Promotion of Democracy

Inter-American Forum on Political Parties (FIAPP)

The activities of the Inter-American Forum on Political Parties in 2005 focused on five main areas: national technical assistance projects, promotion of the gender perspective and of women's participation in politics, lobbying for an agenda of political party reform and institutionalization, and generating practical know-how. Among the more prominent activities were the programs to support the National Constitutional Assembly processes in Bolivia; international observation for the seating of Ecuador's Supreme Court of Justice; and activities to encourage dialogue and political reform, conducted under the Democratic Values and Political Management Program in Guatemala.

During this reporting period, FIAPP provided support to the OAS missions that observed the most recent political transitions in Ecuador and Bolivia to identify lines of cooperative endeavor with representative institutions in these countries. In the case of Bolivia, the outcome of the Mission was the design of a political-technical cooperation program for relevant national bodies that lasted approximately two years.

Through FIAPP, specialized technical assistance was organized and provided as part of the missions of the Permanent Council and the Secretary General to Ecuador to determine the support to be provided to strengthen democracy, in response to a request from the Ecuadorian Government. Through technical assistance programs to Colombia, Venezuela and Peru, assistance was provided on matters related to promoting political dialogue, strengthening the institutions of democratic government and improving democratic governance. Under the Democratic Values and Political Management Program in Guatemala, FIAPP worked with the Guatemalan Special Congressional Committee for Electoral Matters on amendment of the Electoral and Political Party Law and creation of the National Registry of Persons Law (RENAP).

FIAPP also cooperated with the ministries of women's affairs in Central America to discuss affirmative action measures, the adoption of quotas within political parties and political training. It also organized subregional meetings, such as the CARICOM forum on strengthening political parties; the workshop on implementation of the new law on guarantees and presidential re-election in Colombia; and the discussion on financing prospects in Mexico. FIAPP is currently working on a study comparing the status and prospects of the political parties in the Andean Region and has a large collection of publications (www.upd.oas.org/fiapp).

Electoral Observation Missions and Programs to Strengthen Electoral Systems and Processes

Improving voting processes and procedures, which continues to be a challenge that is vital to the transparency and legitimacy of the region's democratic institutions, is the paramount objective of this program. The effort focuses on organizing and conducting Electoral Observation Missions in the member States that so request, providing support to build up the institutions of the electoral authorities of the countries in the region, and modernizing electoral processes and systems.

By the end of 2005-2007, the region will have been witness to an extraordinary number of elections during that period. Of the more than 30 elections that will take place in those two years, almost half will be presidential elections. Given the circumstances, the OAS's role becomes particularly relevant since, at the request of the corresponding governments, the Organization will be observing a good number of those elections.

In 2005, the OAS General Secretariat observed seven elections, including a first-time mission to observe political primaries in Honduras. These elections, organized and overseen by a newly-created electoral authority, are especially noteworthy since they represent important progress from the standpoint of citizens' political participation, which now includes participation in the primary institution in any democratic system of government, which is the political party.

The OAS deployed a group of 113 people to observe the Honduran General Elections in November 2005, held to elect the President and Vice President of the Republic, Deputies to the National Congress, mayors and municipal councils.

The MOE, at the invitation of the Government of the Republic of Suriname, was installed with a mandate to follow the course of the May 25 election, in which members of the National Assembly and district and local councils were elected.

The Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, for its part, extended an invitation to the OAS to organize and deploy an Electoral Observation Mission on the occasion of the elections held on December 4, 2005, to select Deputies to the National Assembly.

The OAS deployed an Electoral Observation Mission to observe the General and Mayoral Elections held in Bolivia on December 18, 2005. The Mission consisted of a group of 166 international observers who hailed from practically all the member States of the OAS. It did a rapid-count tally that confirmed the official results announced by the CNE.

As for the support given to the member States in 2005 to help them build and modernize their electoral institutions, assistance continued to be provided to initiatives such as institution building and strengthening in Guatemala and Honduras; modernization of the handling of civil records and citizen registry in Honduras, Paraguay and Haiti; promoting citizen participation and support for political-electoral legislative reforms in Guatemala; and modernization of the electoral institutions in Peru, Honduras and Ecuador.

Particularly important among these programs was the support provided to Haiti's Provisional Electoral Council (CEP) with organization and management of the presidential elections. In Haiti, thanks to the support offered by the Special Mission in Haiti, the OAS conducted an electoral technical assistance program to design and introduce a voter-registration system. Thanks to this program: i) identification papers were issued to over three million Haitians; ii) a permanent registration system was created; iii) a complete and reliable electoral roll was put together; iv) an identification document for voters was prepared; and lastly v) the bases for a civil registry system were established.

Similarly, electoral horizontal cooperation continued to be promoted among the countries of the Hemisphere through the Inter-American Electoral Technology Network (RITE) and the Inter-American Electoral Technology Program (PITE). Within this framework, the IV Inter-American Meeting of Electoral Technology was held in Bogotá, Colombia with more than 20 election authorities from the Hemisphere participating. This important event, held on April 6 and 7, 2005 in partnership with the *Organización Electoral de Colombia*, continued the effort to promote and enhance the sharing of knowledge, practices and experience in electoral technology among election-related authorities. This

initiative showcased the progress achieved by the OAS and the various inter-American electoral authorities in this last year, and the scope of the new technologies that they have acquired or developed.

Under the Horizontal Cooperation Agreement signed with Brazil's Supreme Electoral Tribunal, the OAS continued to support the pilot exercises in e-voting in Paraguay, Panama and the Dominican Republic.

Finally, under the heading of "special programs", progress was made in 2005 on implementation of the Rural Judicial Facilitators Program in Nicaragua.

Strengthening of the Legislative Branch

As for inter-parliamentary cooperation, the Program to Support the Strengthening of Legislative Institutions (PAFIL) provided advisory services and technical assistance for the Meeting of the Presidents and Speakers of the Legislative Branches of Government in Latin America, held in Bogotá, Colombia.

To help combat corruption and ensure transparency in the business of legislating, the Program had meetings with the Group of Latin American Parliamentarians against Corruption [*Grupo de Parlamentarios Latinoamericanos Contra la Corrupción*] (PLACC) and held a Conference on Anti-Terrorism Legislative Action in the Eastern Caribbean States in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

PAFIL embarked upon coordination of a project on the Role of the Legislative Branches with regard to free trade agreements, proposed by the Forum of Presidents and Speakers of the Legislative Branches of Central America and the Caribbean Basin and financed by FEMCIDI. In the first phase, a project was approved for research into the agenda for satisfying the competitiveness requirements under international trade agreements.

Department for the Promotion of Governance

The ability of a democratic political system to endure rests upon the strength and vitality of its political institutions and culture. The Department's mission is, therefore, to provide advisory services, information and technical support to the OAS General Secretariat and to the member states on strengthening democratic institutions and culture.

Promotion of Democratic Values and Practices

Articles 26 and 27 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter call upon the General Secretariat to support the strengthening of a democratic culture by developing education programs for children and youth as a means of ensuring the continuation of democratic values, including liberty and social justice. To accomplish this, the development of democratic values and practices must be stimulated and promoted, in order to arouse and nurture within this Hemisphere the new generations' interest in and commitment to the democratic political processes and their participatory spirit.

Through the Program for the Promotion of Democratic Leadership and Citizenship, the OAS has, since 1995, been a hemispheric catalyst in shaping a new democratic leadership. The program provides academic and methodological resources for training young leaders from the Hemisphere through regional and national courses in democratic institutions, values and practices and political management. The purpose of the courses is to strengthen young people's knowledge of democracy and their commitment to it; to teach the use of the tools of political analysis; to instruct young people in how to use modern information and communication technologies as applied to the practice of politics; and to promote the analysis and sharing of experiences among young leaders in the region. These are intensive courses lasting approximately nine days. They cover theory, analytical exercises and case studies on topics such

as the challenges to democracy; political parties and electoral systems; political communications; negotiation techniques and leadership. The instructors in the courses are leading experts and distinguished political figures from the countries of the region.

A total of 13 national and regional courses were conducted in 2005. Tailored for young leaders, these courses on democratic institutions, values and practices were given in Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Mexico, Peru and Suriname. The more than 500 young leaders who participated came from political parties, the media, academia, civil society and the armed forces. Cooperating in this program were dozens of counterpart institutions, including the Inter-American Development Bank, as well as hundreds of academic experts, presidents and high-ranking officials.

With the assistance of the ministries of education of Peru and Argentina, the program also launched the distance course for elementary- and secondary-school teachers on the Inter-American Democratic Charter and the teaching of democratic values. The main goal of the pilot course is to train 1,500 Peruvian teachers to design “democratic classrooms” in which young democratic citizens are shaped.

In keeping with the mandates of the IV Meeting of Ministers of Education, the General Secretariat supported design and implementation of the Inter-American Program on Education for Democratic Values and Practices, a hemispheric initiative to promote the culture of democracy through education by means of research, professional development, educational resources and information sharing.

Program of Support for Decentralization Processes

Technical support continued to be provided to the High-Level Inter-American Network on Decentralization, Local Government and Citizen Participation (RIAD), established to help put into practice the commitments undertaken at the Inter-American Summits.

RIAD completed the series of subregional meetings to enable central governments to share experiences and to promote dialogue with local protagonists such as national and regional associations of municipalities and civil society organizations involved in local development. In addition to the subregional meetings held for the Central American and CARICOM countries, and the First Meeting of Federal States of the Americas, held the previous year, as RIAD Vice Chair for South America Peru hosted the First RIAD Meeting for the South American countries in Lima, in August 2005. That encounter also afforded an opportunity for the South American countries to enter into a dialogue with one of the regional municipal associations, FLACMA (*Federación Latinoamericana de Ciudades, Municipios y Asociaciones*) [Latin American Federation of Cities, Municipalities and Associations].

Jamaica, as Vice Chair for the CARICOM subregion, and Trinidad and Tobago, as host country, convoked a ministerial conference in August 2005 where key players in central and local government and in civil society continued to examine the challenges that decentralization and participation pose and the progress made. Also supporting and participating in that meeting was the Commonwealth Local Government Forum. The meeting made headway on the formation of the Caribbean Forum of Ministers agreed upon the previous year, to be the vehicle to coordinate fulfillment of the commitments and activities of RIAD/OAS and of the Commonwealth in these fields. It also worked on a regional strategy for decentralization and community participation and approved the Port-of-Spain Accord reflecting the meeting’s results and the decisions reached there.

To further strengthen RIAD and in compliance with a specific mandate, the Technical Secretariat moved ahead on the creation of a technical and financial support group, with contributions received from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and technical assistance provided by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). With the technical advisory services of experts

from 13 subregional, regional and international agencies, especially the International City/County Municipal Association, a fair was organized on the theme of “Decentralization and Municipal Best Practices.” The experiences of eight municipalities from the Hemisphere were documented and introduced on video and in interactive format. The activity was timed to coincide with the third ministerial meeting of RIAD. The Technical Secretariat conducted promotional and technical support activities for RIAD, including its Web page, a Central American research project on “Strengthening Decentralization in Central America” with funding from the Inter-American Development Bank. Two editions of the six-month on-line (virtual) course on “Decentralization and Local/Regional Development” were done in 2005, with the architects of decentralization policies participating. The on-line course was conducted in cooperation with Chile’s Universidad Alberto Hurtado.

RIAD’s activities were reported to its third ministerial meeting, held in Recife, Brazil, October 26 through 28, 2005, and to the Fourth Summit of the Americas, held in Mar del Plata, Argentina in November 2005. The ministerial meeting’s theme was “Local Government, Citizen Participation and Regional Development: Fighting poverty, generating jobs and income, and democratic governance.” In addition to the meeting’s plenary sessions, time was also set aside for regional dialogue on these themes. The Government of Brazil was elected to chair RIAD, and Costa Rica, Chile, Jamaica and Mexico were the countries elected to be the Network’s regional Vice Chairs, working with the Chair in heading up and leading the Network and carrying out subregional activities. The first meeting of the executive committee for this period was convoked by Brazil and met on March 27 and 28, 2006, where it approved a plan of thematic approaches and activities to steer the work of RIAD in 2006-2007.

Finally, it is important to note that in its Declaration, the Fourth Summit of the Americas recognized the work that RIAD had done on the very themes being examined at that Summit.

Secure Identities Project in the Caribbean Subregion

During this reporting period, activities associated with projects to strengthen and modernize civil registries in Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines were carried out. Progress was also made on arrangements to carry out new national activities in Antigua and Barbuda and St. Kitts and Nevis.

Professor Albert K. Fiadjoe of the University of the West Indies (Cave Hill, Barbados) completed a study comparing civil registries in a number of Caribbean countries. The study looked at the laws, rules and organizational and administrative practices used by a number of responsible institutions to ascertain the identity of persons. The study produced various recommendations on how these institutions could improve operations to conform to the 2004 Declaration of Nuevo León, specifically the focus on “modernization of the State as an important element for strengthening democratic and good governance, combining effectiveness and efficiency with greater access to services, transparency, and responsibility in management and the consolidation and professionalization of the civil service.”

Publication of this study and a ministerial meeting are planned, but the necessary funds must first be secured. Working with the Office of the General Secretariat in Jamaica, planning began on efforts to facilitate promotion of “horizontal cooperation” among the CARICOM member countries on the issue of the right of identity, to showcase a possible plan to train staff of the civil registries in coordination with Jamaica’s Registrar General’s Department (civil records). Here again, execution of this component of the program will depend on whether the needed funds are secured.

Department of Crisis Prevention and Special Missions

This Department, which replaces the previous Office for the Prevention and Resolution of Conflicts, assists the Secretary General in preventing and resolving any political-institutional crises that may or could arise in the region. Accordingly, the Department seeks to combine the institution's capacity for political analysis with its capacity for preventing, managing and resolving crises and conflicts.

In response to requests from the governments of Bolivia, Ecuador and Nicaragua, technical assistance and advisory services were offered in 2005 to the missions deployed in those countries. The Secretary General is actively engaged in these missions, which are conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Inter-American Democratic Charter and pursuant to resolutions of the General Assembly and the Permanent Council.

The Mission of the Secretary General's Special Representative in Bolivia, headed by Horacio Serpa (Colombia), was geared to enabling dialogue with a broad spectrum of actors, while accompanying national authorities and the Bolivian people in their quest to find avenues of understanding. The work of the Mission was instrumental in achieving a peaceful electoral process that had the credibility and legitimacy necessary for the rival candidates in the race to accept the outcome and despite the many existing challenges.

The purpose of the Mission of the Secretary General's Special Representatives in Ecuador, Sonia Picado (Costa Rica) and José Antonio Viera-Gallo (Chile), was to follow the process of selecting the members of Ecuador's Supreme Court. The OAS was supportive of the Ecuadorian Government's efforts in the critical process of re-establishing the Supreme Court in the wake of a serious political-institutional crisis that led to the departure from office of President Lucio Gutiérrez and the swearing in of President Alfredo Palacio. The work done to assist the reordering of the institutions of State underscored the importance of coordinated action on the part of the OAS, the United Nations and the Andean Community of Nations (CAN), in partnership with national and civil society organizations.

The Mission of the Secretary General's Special Representative in Nicaragua, headed by Mr. Dante Caputo, followed the dialogue that took place in that country from June to October 2005. The Mission facilitated the dialogue between the Government and the various sectors of Nicaraguan society, against the backdrop of a political crisis with the potential to rock the stability of democratic institutions in the country. The OAS supported the efforts made by the Government of Nicaragua and the various political sectors to ensure governance and restore the balance among the branches of government through the agreements struck. Those agreements materialized in a Framework Law, which was a step toward settling the political crisis in the country, creating the conditions to ensure the Government's stability and a normal election process.

Between February 2005 and March 2006, the Mission to Support the Peace Process in Colombia (MAPP/OEA) participated in 20 demobilizations of the *Autodefensas Unidas de Colombia* (AUC) in the Peace Process spearheaded by the Colombian government. During this period, thanks to the work of its seven offices spread across Colombian territory, MAPP/OEA verified the demobilization, disarming and reinsertion of more than 18,000 AUC combatants. In this context, the MAPP/OEA implemented a pilot project in the municipality of Tierralta, department of Córdoba, for communities affected by the violence and where armed elements were a particularly presence. Under this project, community leaders were trained as conciliators "in equity" to help settle conflicts within their communities peacefully. This Mission also includes a specialist in charge of incorporating the gender perspective in the conduct of the MAPP.

The Central American Program for Strengthening Democratic Dialogue (PCA) continued to be implemented during this reporting period. Its primary purpose is to build institutional capacity and strengthen local, national and subregional strategies for facilitating political dialogue and establishing mechanisms to manage conflict within the Central American countries.

During this reporting period, the Department implemented the Training Program on Gender, Conflict and Peace Building in the Andean Region, and the OAS' Conflict Prevention and Resolution Systems Program in Bolivia (PSPRC), which helped the Government of Bolivia design and implement a strategy and policy on the issue of conflicts and featuring capacity building for representatives of the government and of civil society to enable them to engage in negotiation, political dialogue and the resolution of conflicts.

The Department continued its work of interstate political facilitation through the Peace Fund. The OAS General Secretariat smoothed the way for Belize and Guatemala to sign an agreement on a framework of negotiation and confidence-building measures, on September 7, 2005. Under that agreement, the two countries pledged to begin a new round of negotiations. The First Ministerial Negotiating Session was on November 14 and 15, 2005, in San Pedro, Belize. The second session was held on February 10, 2006, at OAS headquarters in Washington, D.C. At this session, the Secretary General proposed that the process of negotiation begin with the maritime area of the territorial differendum.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT FOR INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT

Established by Executive Order 05-13 Rev. 1, the structure of SEDI is made up of the Office of the Executive Secretary and the Departments of Follow-up, Policies and Programs; Education, Culture, Science, and Technology; Trade, Tourism, and Competitiveness; Sustainable Development; and Social Development and Employment.

Office of the Executive Secretary

In 2005, SEDI, through its executive office, continued to support the policy programs within the framework of the CIDI by actively coordinating with the various offices of the Secretariat. It also persisted in its efforts to implement programs and marshal external funds to support the efforts that the countries are making for their own development and that of the region.

The main thrusts this year, which was one of institutional transition, were the activities described under each department, section and program. An important development in 2005 was the consolidation of the Development Innovations and Alliances Program, conceived as a new strategy for horizontal cooperation among the governments of the region, which at the same time enlists greater private sector participation and implements agreements with the private sector.

New Cooperation Mechanisms

The initiatives conducted under the Innovations and Alliances Program rest upon three pillars: horizontal cooperation; private sector participation; and training and capacity building. The projects focus mainly on e-government and municipal development, but include other issues as well, such as corporate social responsibility and computer recycling. The program's activities are supported by various areas of the General Secretariat and by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the Institute for Connectivity in the Americas (ICA) and the Andean Development Corporation (CAF).

The results in the area of e-government came mainly from the activities of Red GEALC and the training provided through the online course in e-government. The Red GEALC (Network of e-Government Leaders of Latin America and the Caribbean) was further consolidated in 2005. The Network now boasts active representatives from 31 countries, a Web portal (www.redgealc.net) and two regional promoters. As part of the Network's activities, 14 experts from 12 countries were assembled and e-government workshops were organized in the Caribbean (Trinidad and Tobago) and Ottawa. The first brought together 13 e-government officials from the various countries of the Caribbean, while the Ottawa workshop was attended by 29 e-government officials from Latin America and the Caribbean.

As for training, by the end of 2005 the online course in e-government had trained over 1,000 people from all the OAS' subregions. The strategic partnership with the ICA was significantly stronger thanks to the support it provided to most of the e-government activities. Under an agreement with Microsoft, assistance was provided for a number of e-government activities being conducted by governments in the region.

Under the program of the Municipal Network of Efficient and Transparent Municipalities (MuNet), following the MuNet workshop on municipal e-government (Caracas) the program began to work directly with 21 municipalities in the Andean and Central American regions to devise e-government strategies with the aid of local consultants. These strategies have been formally presented to the mayors in some 70% of the participating municipalities. Furthermore, 200 officials of those municipalities were trained through the aforementioned course in e-government. SEDI has created a municipal e-government portal,

which the municipalities in the MuNet Program are testing. By implementing specific initiatives in e-government, those municipalities will become part of the information society.

The municipal development area focused on the activities of the MuNet Program that seek to build up municipal capacities in the two major areas of cadastre/registration and e-government, with the support of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the Andean Development Corporation (CAF) and the partnership with Stewart Information International.

In the area of cadastre/registration, the MuNet convocation was issued inviting proposals in the area of Cadastre and Registration. Five countries (Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Peru and Venezuela) were selected to receive seed funds to begin work in 2006. In the area of information sharing, more than 500 copies of the CD containing the final reports of the OAS' 2004 workshop on cadastre and registration were produced and circulated. With the support of the ICA, a virtual discussion group was created on the subject of cadastre and registration with over 160 experts and practitioners from across Latin America and the Caribbean participating. As for MuNet training, experts from the region and the Office of Mayor of Gijón, Spain partnered with the program to produce more than 500 CDs of the self-study course on "Cadastral Management" to help improve government management. Those CDs have been distributed to municipalities, municipal associations and other organizations in the region. Finally, under the agreement concluded with Stewart Information International, an integrated geographic information system was implemented for tax management, land records and tax collection in Antigua and Barbuda. This project was introduced to the countries of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) in September, to explore the possibilities of replicating it elsewhere in this Caribbean subregion.

Under the "Computers for Communities" program, conducted with the support of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the OAS, in cooperation with ICA and Industry Canada (IC), coordinated a final regional workshop for the Caribbean, held in Kingston (February 2005). The program has a web site to provide information and enable interested persons to share information and experiences (www.cpc-cfc.net).

In the area of corporate social responsibility, the program conducted jointly by the IACD and the Foro EMPRESA and approved by the IDB's Multilateral Investment Fund (MIF) and CIDA, bolstered its operations in 2005 with training activities targeting groups and member businesses, particularly in the pilot countries (Chile, Peru, Brazil, El Salvador). It also disseminated information on corporate social responsibility throughout the region.

Department of Follow-Up, Policies and Programs

Established by Executive Order 05-13 Rev. 1, the DSPP has two sections. The first is the Ministerial Meetings Follow-up Section, which serves as Secretariat of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI). The second is the Program and Project Evaluation Section, which is responsible for administering and evaluating the Special Multilateral Fund of CIDI (FEMCIDI) and other projects and activities in partnership for development.

Ministerial Meetings Follow-Up

This Section coordinated the activities to follow up on the mandates from the General Assembly, the Tenth Regular Meeting of CIDI, and those adopted at the various sectoral meetings, either in the form of ministerials or meetings of inter-American committees.

In collaboration with other offices of the General Secretariat, the section assisted with the planning, coordination, preparatory work and actual holding of the following sectoral meetings: the Second Meeting

of the Inter-American Committee on Education; the Second Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities; the First Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Science and Technology, and the Fourteenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor. A more detailed list of the agreements that the member states adopted at each of these meetings appears in the sections corresponding to each sectoral area of SEDI.

As Secretariat of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI), the Section planned and coordinated the Tenth Regular Meeting of CIDI. In preparation for this meeting, the DSPP organized the meetings of various bodies and prepared reports and technical papers on topics within its area of competence. It also contributed to the exchange of specialized information related to cooperation policies in the priority areas of the Strategic Plan that figured on CIDI's agenda.

Lastly, the Section was responsible for assisting with the Board's work by processing electronic inquiries regarding management of the technical cooperation projects financed with resources from the Special Multilateral Fund of CIDI (FEMCIDI).

Program and Project Evaluation

- Programming of the Special Multilateral Fund of CIDI (FEMCIDI) 2004

The Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) prepared the document titled "Preliminary Proposed Programming of Partnership Activities FEMCIDI 2004," which included 109 project proposals submitted by 31 member countries. The total amount requested for those projects was US\$ 11,863,018. The member States' contributions to FEMCIDI 2004 totaled US \$7,873,028.80.

The Proposed Programming document, together with the documents pertaining to the projects included therein (the complete project proposal, progress reports, work programs, and so on), was sent to the members of the Nonpermanent Specialized Committees (CENPES) early in the year. The CENPES meeting for the FEMCIDI 2004 programming cycle took place on May 3 through 5, 2005. The 33 members of the eight committees evaluated the projects and presented their recommendations to the IACD Management Board in June 2005.

The document "Programming of Partnership for Development Activities: FEMCIDI 2004" containing the CENPES recommendations was approved by the IACD Management Board in June 2005. Ninety-two (92) projects --52 multinational and 40 national-- were approved for a total of US \$7,598,967.52. To finance the FEMCIDI 2004 programming cycle, the Management Board also authorized the use of the interest accrued between January 2004 and April 2005, non-programmed funds and a portion of the FEMCIDI 2002 Reserve Account, in addition to the net contributions to FEMCIDI 2004.

The following list shows the number of projects by area and the distribution of the resources:

- Trade: 9 projects for US \$815,575
- Social Development: 15 projects for US \$1,061,280
- Education: 27 projects for US \$ 2,363,005
- Culture: 3 projects for US \$126,048.52
- Science and Technology: 16 projects for US \$1,601,000
- Democracy: 4 projects for US \$122,779
- Tourism: 6 projects for US \$622,679
- Environment: 11 projects for US \$ 819,917
- Integral Development: 1 project for US \$66,583

The Management Board's decision with regard to projects financed with resources from FEMCIDI 2004 was that their period of execution would be from mid 2005 to November 2006. Because this is longer than the usual 12-month period, the Board also decided that no extensions would be granted on the period of execution. SEDI worked with the General Secretariat's Department of Legal Services to update the legal instruments (agreements and memoranda of execution) governing the administration and execution of projects, and with the executing institutions on preparation of the plans of execution that each project has to submit in order to receive the first disbursement. By mid February 2006, US\$ 3,087,058.81 had been disbursed for all the projects underway.

- Execution: FEMCIDI 2003 and FEMCIDI 2002

In November 2004, the Management Board of the IACD authorized an extension on the execution periods of 73 projects financed by FEMCIDI 2003, and 2 projects financed by FEMCIDI 2002. The termination date of those projects was decided on a case-by-case basis and ranged from late January to late December 2005. Any possibility of an additional extension was precluded, so that the execution of those projects ended in December 2005.

In cooperation with the Offices of the General Secretariat in the member states, SEDI continued the work associated with monitoring execution and analyzing the progress reports. It provided support to executing institutions in those cases where coordination of activities became problematic, particularly in the case of multinational projects. It processed the transfers of funds and examined the final reports.

- Training in project formulation

The Section continued to cooperate with the member states by training personnel in how to use the tools needed to formulate multinational and national cooperation projects for which resources will be requested from international finance organizations and regional and national cooperation agencies. In 2005, workshops were conducted for government officials and officials of nongovernmental organizations in Honduras, Saint Lucia, Panama, Mexico, Venezuela and Uruguay, where over 200 people were trained.

- Evaluation of FEMCIDI-financed projects

The second round of evaluations of FEMCIDI-financed projects concluded in May 2005. The sample selected for this second round involved thirty-eight (38) projects financed by funds from FEMCIDI 2001 and 2002. These projects were slated to be completed between January 2002 and December 2003 (although some projects were granted extensions and continued into 2004). The projects selected for the sample included some one-year projects and other multi-year projects. Of the 38 projects selected to be evaluated by the independent consultants, 18 were multinational and 20 were national. Twenty had received funding of US\$100,000 or more.

The evaluations found that 100% of the projects evaluated were highly consistent with the policies and priorities of the governments and with the priorities established by the member states within the framework of the OAS. While a significant percentage of the projects (76%) achieved the planned results, there were differences of degree among them; 24% produced the anticipated results, but to a more limited extent. To a large degree (86%) these projects made proper use of the resources provided and the ratio of costs to results was within reason. As for sustainability, while this factor is still the weakest of all those evaluated (in only 63% of the cases was it found that the stream of benefits and impacts would continue once the project was finalized), this was a slight improvement (5%) over the sustainability of the projects evaluated in the first round.

As a cumulative result of the first and second rounds of evaluation, SEDI identified and grouped the findings into three categories of factors: 1) factors that contribute to the projects' success; 2) factors that impair optimum project development, and 3) lessons learned (elements that must be considered to improve project planning and execution). These factors are intended to make it easier for coordinating and executing institutions, for those presenting new project proposals and for the Secretariat to use the findings to improve project design and execution and prospects for sustainability. Each of the three categories has, therefore, been divided into subcategories based on the design, administration and execution, and sustainability of the projects. Therefore, on instructions from the IACD's Management Board, this information was forwarded to the National Liaison Agencies (ONEs), to the Offices of the General Secretariat in the member states, and to the institutions coordinating/participating in projects, to be used in the formulation of new projects and to be taken into account during project execution.

SEDI started the third round of evaluations in the second half of 2005 by selecting a cross-section of 27 projects financed by FEMCIDI 2002 and 2003. The independent consultants will complete their work when the reports are delivered in the early months of 2006. It is then that the member states will be told of the results of the evaluation. The report of the IACD Management Board, with the analysis of the third round's findings, will be presented in mid 2006.

Department of Education, Culture, Science and Technology

Established by Executive Order 05-13 Rev.1, the DECCT has two sections: Education and Culture (SEC) and Science and Technology (SCT).

Education

The IV Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Education was held for the first time in the Caribbean (Scarborough, August 11-12, 2005), Trinidad and Tobago being the host country. The Ministers approved the Declaration of Scarborough and Commitments to Action, which transform the priorities into concrete actions for the next two years. On the previous day, a high-level seminar was staged in partnership with the IDB on "Education for Democratic Citizenship in the Americas: An Agenda for Action." The events leading up to the seminar and meeting included a Preparatory Meeting (May 12-13, 2005); a virtual dialogue with civil society organizations moderated by the *Organización Universitaria Interamericana* (OUI); and a meeting of international organizations involved in education in the Americas.

In its capacity as Technical Secretariat, the SEC organized the IV and V Meetings of the Authorities and Executive Committee of the Inter-American Committee on Education (February 15-16, and November 8-9, 2005) to support and strengthen their work. At the meetings, participants reviewed the status of the projects and activities being conducted under the umbrella of the CIE, and the SEC presented a preliminary 2005-2007 Work Plan based on the Commitments to Action adopted at the Fourth Ministerial.

As to the support and backing for the Hemispheric and Summit Projects, the three hemispheric projects financed by FEMCIDI in the areas of equity and quality, teacher development, and secondary education and certification of labor competencies made headway despite a number of obstacles to operations and communications owing to changes in the ministries and the coordinator countries. Where necessary, support continued to be provided in the form of technical assistance.

As for the Summit Projects, the Regional Education Indicators Project (PRIE) continued to compile and analyze the data gathered by the member States on the performance of their educational systems. It also released its report titled *Educational Panorama 2005. Progressing Toward the Goals*. In July, the SEC

participated in the meeting of the coordinator countries and undertook to design and develop the Web site (www.prie.oas.org).

The Second Meeting of the Hemispheric Education Forum (Brasilia, June 13-15, 2005) was held to improve the evaluation of educational results in the member States. It was attended by 22 countries, including the Municipality of Quito, Ecuador, technical experts from the PRIE, and representatives of international organizations, national and international authorities and observers.

On the theme Educating for Democratic Values and Practices, SEC, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education of Colombia, organized an International Workshop on Citizenship Competencies, held in Bogotá (25-28 April 2005). Its objective was to promote an in-depth analysis of Colombia's citizenship competencies program.

At the IV Meeting of Ministers of Education, the countries approved the creation of the *Inter-American Program on Education for Democratic Values and Practices* with three components: (1) research; (2) professional development and educational resources, and (3) information exchange. The *Inter-American Program* will be coordinated by the SEC, in cooperation with the Department for the Promotion of Democracy (OPD).

The SEC provided continuous technical assistance on Early Childhood Education to the ministries of education and international organizations. In September 2005, in partnership with the Network of Human Development of the World Bank, the Children and Youth unit of the World Bank and the Evaluation of Education unit of the IDB, the SEC assisted with the "World Symposium on Early Child Development: A Priority for Sustained Economic Growth & Equity" to ensure that the Latin American and Caribbean countries would be represented. Its support was in the form of the participation of experts in the evaluation of early childhood education programs in the region. Prior to that, national directors of Early Education and Curriculum were invited to participate in an international congress on the subject.

Culture

The main element in the 2003-2005 Work Plan of the Inter-American Committee on Culture (CIC) and of the Plan of Action of Mexico approved by the Second Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Culture and High-level Authorities (Mexico, August 2004) is to launch the Inter-American Cultural Policy Observatory (ICPO). Promoted as the first step toward building this infrastructure was the creation of the Technical Secretariat of the Inter-American Network of Cultural Policy Observatories, which was formed by the end of the Network's first meeting (Washington, August 24, 2005). The purpose of the network is to enable kindred entities in the region to share information and experiences. Its definitive structure is under discussion, and a survey is being conducted to establish what the issues and problems are and how cultural observatories in the region operate.

A coordination meeting was held with the Andrés Bello Agreement and the host countries of the Subregional Workshops of Cultural Information Systems (Canada, Chile and Mexico). The idea was to find out what each subregion's specific needs are and establish some common ground on the theme and methodology. The workshops begin in March 2006.

Using horizontal cooperation, a workshop was held on "Projects in Integral Community Preservation and Development" (Mexico, September 19-23, 2005) to share Mexico's experience with enlisting communities in the job of preserving and maintaining their heritage.

The Second Meeting of the CIC (Washington, August 24-25, 2005) sought to define a Work Plan for 2005-2007. It focused on four core themes: i) cultural diversity and sustainable development; ii) cultural

information infrastructure; iii) recommendations of civil society to the Second Ministerial Meeting on Culture; and iv) the Third Ministerial Meeting on Culture. The CIC drafted a paragraph on the importance of cultural diversity, which was included in the Declaration of Mar del Plata.

Also during this period, new officers were elected for the CIC for the 2005-2007 period. The countries elected were as follows: Canada (Chair); Brazil and Guatemala (First Vice Chairs), United States and Jamaica (Second Vice Chairs). The officers were asked to carry out the Work Plan, which as of this writing is circulating among the member states. Canada made an informal offer to host the next Ministerial Meeting on Culture in Montreal, in the fall of 2006.

Science and Technology

In the area of information technologies and advanced networking, through a variety of activities and forums the Section encouraged interconnection efforts designed to facilitate access to the new generation of advanced Internet technologies and application in the region. It bolstered cooperative relations with various institutions, including the National Science Foundation (NSF), the IDB, Internet2, and the National Institute of Health (NIH). It encouraged strengthening of Latin American Cooperation of Advanced Networks (CLARA) and the dialogue between this network and the Pan American Institute of Geography and History and the Regional Center for Space, Science and Technology Education in Latin America and the Caribbean (CRECTEALC). A cooperation agreement was signed between the OAS and the CRECTEALC. The Section also worked to promote science and technology indicators.

The Section helped CITELE prepare materials on connectivity for scientific and advanced research, which the countries will examine as part of the Agenda for Connectivity in the Americas and the Plan of Action of Quito. It also helped evaluate short courses for the region.

On the issue of Gender and Science and Technology, the Section worked with UNCSTD's Gender Advisory Board, the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) and the UNESCO Regional Chair on Women, Science and Technology in Latin America in efforts to mainstream the gender perspective into programs and policies in science and technology. It also participated in the preparation of UNESCO-Paris' International Report on Science, Technology and Gender (IRSTG-2006). Support was provided to enable key entities on this topic to participate in the dialogue with civil society in anticipation of and in preparation for the IV Summit. Various meetings were attended with national and regional institutions to explore ways to cooperate on improving the education of women in science. Prominent here was the IUPAP's Second International Conference on Women in Physics.

The Section brought the gender approach to online courses in science, technology and society organized by the UNESCO Regional Chair and delivered using the platform of the OAS Educational Portal of the Americas.

Working with the United States Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) and the World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO), the Engineering for the Americas Symposium was held (Lima, November 2005). Co-sponsored by partners in private enterprise, the event brought together numerous participants from 24 member states and laid the groundwork for the intersectoral movement to upgrade education in engineering and technology in the Americas.

As a result of a January 2006 meeting, there is now a Strategic Plan in place to implement the Symposium's recommendations. The Engineering for the Americas Initiative seeks to establish a mechanism for bringing about reforms in education at the regional level. These reforms will be responsive to the productive sector's needs and will be intended to train new engineers on the basis of transparent accreditation systems, enabling professional mobility, greater investment and regional integration.

The Section followed up on activities associated with the FEMCIDI Multinational Project on “Capacity building for the safe and sustainable use of agricultural biotechnology in Latin America and the Caribbean” and advised on the inclusion of biotechnology in the program of the Young Americas Business Trust (YABT) and in the training of young scientists in the region.

In the area of technological services, the Section continued to provide support to strengthen the Inter-American Metrology System (SIM) as its Executive Secretariat. It also helped strengthen the Inter-American Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC). Advisory services and technical assistance were provided for the XI General Assembly of the SIM (Trinidad and Tobago, October 2005) and to the meetings of the SIM Council. The Section followed up and provided technical assistance to the Project on Chemical Metrology and Accreditation, which is sponsored in the region by the German government, through the PTB. These efforts are geared to supporting the development of small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), by creating jobs and improving their ability to compete.

In the area of Materials and Nanotechnology, the Section promoted the strengthening of the Inter-American Materials Collaboration (CIAM) and participated in its annual meeting, which was co-sponsored by the National Science Foundation and the National Council of Science and Technology of Mexico. Activities are being coordinated with the member countries of CIAM that are interested in working toward implementation of the hemispheric initiative in this area.

As for promoting civil society’s participation, the Section coordinated with the Summits Department in undertaking efforts to promote and facilitate the participation of civil society organizations involved in science, technology, engineering, innovation and science education (CTIIEC) in this sector’s dialogue in the lead-up to the IV Summit of the Americas. The Section participated in five important hemispheric events, which were among the efforts to encourage civil society’s participation in the dialogue at meetings of the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG), the OAS General Assembly, and the Summit itself.

The Section supported the Ibero-American Workshops on Nano-Bio-Info-Cogno Converging Technologies, Photovoltaic Energy and Nuclear Magnetic Resonance. These are short training courses for professionals from the region, co-sponsored by the OAS, the CYTED Program and the Spanish International Cooperation Agency.

The second edition of the publication *Science, Technology Engineering and Innovation for Development: A Vision for the Americas in the Twenty-first Century* was released. It captures some of the preparations for the first ministerial of science and technology in the framework of CIDI.

Department of Trade, Tourism and Competitiveness

Established by Executive Order 05-13 Rev. 1, the DCTC is made up of the Trade Section, the Competitiveness and Small Enterprise Section, the Tourism Section and the Foreign Trade Information System (SICE) Section.

Trade

This area supports the member states, particularly the smaller-scale economies, in strengthening their institutional and human capacities so that they are able to participate in the implementation and administration of trade agreements and take advantage of the benefits of broader markets and increased investments.

Activities in the 2005-2006 period were of the kinds described below:

- Supporting the processes of negotiating and implementing trade agreements.
- Supporting the member States with the design, programming and execution of horizontal cooperation projects in the area of trade.
- Analyses and policy studies on trade and other issues related to trade agreements and integration in the Hemisphere.
- Efforts to improve transparency and encourage greater civil society participation in the area of trade.

Recognizing the role that the private sector plays as an engine of the kind of growth that creates jobs, the DTTC encourages links with the private sector by providing its support to the OAS' Private Sector Forum, which meets before the regular sessions of the OAS General Assembly and the Summits of the Americas to advance the dialogue between the public and private sectors and to promote concrete initiatives related to the OAS' agenda for integral development. Two events were staged in support of the Private Sector Forum: the First Private Sector Forum, held in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, on the occasion of the thirty-fifth regular session of the General Assembly in June 2005. Support was also provided to the Second Private Sector Forum, which was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on November 2, 2005, on the occasion of the IV Summit of the Americas. That forum provided an important opportunity for dialogue between representatives of business organizations –national, regional and inter-American-- and private sector businesses and companies in the Americas. They made their recommendations to the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the OAS as to the strategies for creating jobs; promoting competitiveness and productivity through education and technology; and strengthening governance and transparency.

The DTTC is supportive of the member states' efforts to improve transparency and promote greater participation by the diverse sectors of civil society through the variety of projects and activities it organizes for journalists, parliamentarians, scholars and other interested groups.

Competitiveness and Small Enterprise

On the issue of competitiveness, the ground was laid to assist the member states with their efforts to devise, formulate and implement policies that impact competitiveness and prepare them to take advantage of the benefits of trade. The dialogue between the public and private sectors was promoted so that the policies and programs to promote competitiveness will be responsive to the business sector's needs and bring greater prosperity.

On the theme of Small Enterprise, the OAS has been supporting development of the small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Latin America and the Caribbean through multinational initiatives in quality, innovation management, enterprise, association, export management and other areas of activity. At the present time, better use of Internet services and digital media are being explored in order to be able to better serve small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in these areas, improve their access to government procurement markets and enable them to compete on international markets.

During the period covered in this report, activity has focused on:

- Building the capacities of small- and medium-sized enterprise (SME) and of the institutional framework that supports them, to make better use of online services and electronic media to strengthen their competitiveness for trade and development. During this first year, the activities have focused on identifying Internet accessible services and have been conducted as a collaborative effort involving government, small- and medium-sized enterprise and technical bodies that provide business

and other services to the small- and medium-sized enterprises. The learning got underway with the use of Internet services and electronic media to set up a business, for association and supply chain integration, export management and competitive participation of the small- and medium-sized enterprises in government procurement.

- Development Strategies for Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs). A review of lessons learned and best practices, and development of pilot activities in designing development strategies for small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs); in other words, a review of their capacities to use the available online services such as e-government services, and to participate in e-commerce.
- The government procurements program seeks to make government procurement and contracting in the OAS member states more efficient, effective and transparent.

The activities conducted under this Program in the 2005-2006 period are described below:

- Building up the capacities of the institutions responsible for government procurement in the OAS member states to devise strategies and programs geared to improving the government procurement procedures and systems, particularly by using electronic procurement systems that operate by the Internet.
- Supporting the initiatives of the Inter-American Government Procurement Network run by the national government procurement authorities, and in which private sector and civil society organizations also participate.
- Organizing cooperation to fit the priorities established by the procurement authorities; prominent among those priorities is working on strategies to develop government e-procurement and modernize in general, the participation of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises in procurement, terms for standardizing procurement practices, and professional training of administrators and government procurers.

Tourism

In this area, the Department is supporting inter-American technical and policy dialogue for tourism development and joint action in multinational projects and activities, with emphasis on the development of small tourism enterprise, security and good environmental management, all in an effort to make Latin American and Caribbean tourism destinations more competitive on the international markets. The activities have centered on:

- Supporting the holding of the Inter-American Travel Congresses, ministerial meetings held within the framework of the OAS' Inter-American Council for Integral Development.
- Quality management and marketing in micro-, small- and medium-sized tourism enterprises, particularly in small hotels. Salient here are issues related to the establishment of standards, training and certification, and association and supply chain integration for marketing via the Internet, and the use of electronic media. Quality management includes environmental and security management. This has been the focus of the activity in the Caribbean and Central America in recent years.
- Preparation to lessen the impact and recover from natural and man-made disasters that have an impact on the tourism infrastructure within CARICOM. This is a new project in the Caribbean.

- Strategies to promote the development of micro-, small- and medium-sized tourism enterprises. This is a new project related to the mandates on supporting the development of tourism micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, and more specifically on supporting professional development, training, and use of Internet services and digital media. The authorities and technicians from the countries were consulted and recommended that the initial priority be strengthening national capacities for preparing strategies and the issues of quality, association and marketing.

Foreign Trade Information System (SICE)

SICE compiles, and then publishes at its Internet site, data on trade and economic integration. Its purpose is to provide complete and up-to-date information on trade in the Hemisphere, in the four official languages of the OAS. Since SICE's Web page was first introduced (www.sice.oas.org), the number of users has increased steadily. In 2005-2006, it averaged over 6,000 visits per day.

SICE has documents on the following topics: trade agreements and bilateral investment treaties between member countries of the OAS; the FTAA process; commercial arbitration; e-commerce; competition policy; intellectual property; technical obstacles to trade; services; trade-related institutions; general information on the countries; businesses and chambers of commerce; quantitative data, including trade flows, tariffs, and prices.

Some of SICE's activities during the 2005-2006 period focused on: i) promoting transparency through the Web site of the Foreign Trade Information System (SICE), which centralizes and circulates information on trade and related matters in the Americas; and ii) a project on Caribbean Trade Reference Centers for all of CARICOM, developed to facilitate access to information on the issues dealt with in trade negotiations in order to make the Caribbean public more knowledgeable on trade issues.

Department of Sustainable Development

Established by Executive Order No. 05-13 Rev. 1, the DDS is the department of the General Secretariat responsible for advisory and support services on sustainable development and environment, in compliance with the mandates of the organs of government and the Summits of the Americas.

Activities to Support Policy Development

The DDS provided advisory services and technical-operational support to a number of regional events. These included the First Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-level Authorities on Sustainable Development convened by CEPCIDI through its Working Group on Sustainable Development. In anticipation of the meeting, the DDS coordinated the holding of a Workshop on Sustainable Agriculture, Sustainable Forestry and Tourism, held in San José, Costa Rica, and continued with preparations for the Workshops on Water Resources and the Workshop on Managing Risks from Natural Disasters, to be held in 2006.

It also provided technical and advisory support to the Joint Consultative Body of the Committee on Hemispheric Security (CSH) and the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CEPCIDI) on Natural Disaster Reduction and Risk Management to further fulfillment of resolution AG/RES. 2114 (XXXV-O/05). It participated in the meetings of the Joint Consultative Body, contributing to the exchange of experiences and methods of analyzing vulnerability and risk and the cost and benefit of investing in natural disaster mitigation.

Development of Projects, Programs and Activities

The DDS continued to assist the countries with the design, development and execution of policies, programs and projects, particularly to deal with the challenges that the member states must take on in the area of integral development of water resources, especially in international river basins; sustainable development of border areas; management of coastal areas and adaptation to climate change; conservation of the biological diversity; environmental and economic management; mitigation of natural disasters; sustainable energy and energy efficiency; and public participation. The activities and projects in this area are listed below. A detailed list of them is available at www.oas.org/dds

- Management of water resources
 1. Implementation of integrated water resource management practices for the Pantanal and the Upper Paraguay River Basin.
 2. Integrated management of land-based activities that affect coastal marine areas in the San Francisco River Basin
 3. Implementation of the Strategic Action Program for the Bi-national Bermejo River Basin
 4. Strategic Action Program for Integrated Management of the Water Resources and the Sustainable Development of the San Juan River Basin and Its Coastal Zone.
 5. A framework for management of the water resources in the River Plate Basin with respect to the hydrological effects of climatic variability and change
 6. Environmental protection and sustainable development of the Guarani aquifer system
 7. Building capacities in research and management of the transboundary aquifer for environmental protection and sustainable development of the Guarani aquifer system
 8. Integrated and sustainable management of the transboundary water resources in the Amazon River Basin
 9. Sustainable land management in the American Gran Chaco transboundary ecosystem
 10. Strategic action plan for the Brazilian Amazon region
 11. Paranaiba Valley integrated development action plan
 12. Improved management of water resources in Brazil
 13. Preparation and execution of the mechanisms for circulating lessons learned and lessons in the integrated management of transboundary water resources
 14. Inter-American Water Resources Network

- Natural Hazards Risk Management
 1. Caribbean Hazard Management Capacity Building Programme (CHAMP)
 2. International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) – Community based Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) in Central America
 3. Disaster Reduction on University Campuses in the Americas
 4. Natural Hazard Assessment Techniques
 5. Climate Change: Organizing the Science for the American Cordillera

- Conservation and sustainable use of the biodiversity
 1. Inter-American Biodiversity Network (IABIN)
 2. Property Registration System in Latin America and the Caribbean
 3. Sustainable Development and Bio-Cultural Conservation in the Brazil-Suriname Border Region

- Management of coastal areas and adaptation to climate change

1. Activity on climate change related to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- Promotion of sustainable energy
 1. Renewable Energy in the Americas Program
 2. Latin American and Caribbean Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership
 3. Geothermal Energy Project for the Eastern Caribbean (Geo-Caraibes)
 4. Global Sustainable Energy Islands Initiative
 - Environmental law, policy and economics
 1. Environmental impact assessments and institutional capacity building in the free market context
 2. Environmental assessments of the Andean Community and Central America
 3. Evaluation of sustainability of the soy production chain

Sources of Financing

A significant percentage (90%) of the financing to carry out the activities and projects listed above comes from external sources, like the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the member states, and regional and international cooperation agencies. The technical cooperation administered by the DDS is approximately US\$10 million.

Cross-cutting Themes

In conducting these activities, the DDS supported crosscutting policies and projects in areas such as sustainable agriculture and tourism, and cooperated with the countries in identifying the causes and tools to combat land degradation. Through these measures, the DDS helped cultivate hemispheric policies on issues like governance for environmental issues; the inclusion of local institutions and municipalities in decision-making, and promotion of mechanisms for public and citizen participation that give indigenous groups, women, community and nongovernmental organizations the opportunities to form partnerships in the quest for sustainable development.

Department of Social Development and Employment

The DSDE has two sections: Social Development and Employment.

During the period covered in this report, work got underway on drafting the Social Charter of the Americas. As part of the General Secretariat's team charged with assisting the work of the Joint Permanent Council/CEPCIDI Working Group to draft this Social Charter, the Department provided technical support in preparing documents for the Working Group's discussions.

As for the functions of Technical Secretariat to the Coordinating Committee of the Social Network of Latin America and the Caribbean, which partners social investment funds and other organizations fighting poverty, support was provided for coordination of its Annual Conference, held in Cuzco, Peru, in September 2005. The special voluntary fund was administered as well. The Department took part in cooperation activities, among them the Social Network's meeting with Basque officials in Bilbao in October 2005.

In furtherance of the Work Plan of the Inter-American Committee on Social Development (CIDES), DDSE supported the Chilean government-sponsored international workshop titled: "Learning Communities: the Experience of the Puente-Chile Solidario Program," held in Viña del Mar in July 2005.

Attending the workshop were representatives of 23 member states, who were able to share their experiences in social protection. The Department also worked on a project on micro, small- and medium-sized enterprise, to both encourage and reflect upon their development as one strategy for fighting poverty and creating jobs.

As for the employment issue, the XIV Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor of the OAS was held in Mexico City in September 2005. It was attended by Ministers of Labor from throughout the Hemisphere, labor organizations and management organizations, and representatives of a number of international agencies. During this event, the Ministers approved the Declaration and Plan of Action of Mexico, which will steer hemispheric cooperation on employment and labor. They also sent a message to the IV Summit of the Americas, which was included in the Declaration of Mar del Plata. The message underscored the vital contributions that the ministries of labor made to achieve the Summit's objectives, the promotion of decent work and policies that encourage investment and growth with equity.

In preparing for the XIV Conference of Ministers of Labor, the Secretariat coordinated a broad negotiating process that involved three preparatory meetings and a Virtual Forum. It also continued to strengthen the working groups of the Conference of Ministers of Labor, which met in Buenos Aires in April of 2005. It promoted and consolidated the participation of labor and business, which were part of the advisory bodies, COSATE and CEATAL, at the Conference and at the IV Summit of the Americas. The strategy for horizontal cooperation among the ministries of labor was further developed and the area's ties with other international agencies were tightened. In fact, in September 2005 the OAS General Secretariat signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Office of the Director-General of the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

SECRETARIAT FOR MULTIDIMENSIONAL SECURITY

The Secretariat for Multidimensional Security was created by Executive Order 05-13 Rev. 1 and is composed of the following areas: Executive Secretariat of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission, Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism, and Department for the Prevention of Threats against Public Security.

Executive Secretariat of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission

The Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) was established by the General Assembly in 1986. It is based on the principles and objectives set 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. It has an Executive Secretariat, at the departmental level, created by Executive Order 05-13 Rev. 1.

The CICAD anti-drug program implemented by the Executive Secretariat is divided into the following areas: the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM); Demand Reduction; Supply Reduction and Alternative Development; Legal Development; Institution-Building; and the Inter-American Observatory on Drugs. In 2005, CICAD created an Educational Development and Research Section to better target its training activities and specialized studies.

Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM)

At its 37th regular session held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic from April 26 to 29, 2005, CICAD examined and adopted the 33 national reports and the Hemispheric Report of the MEM Third Evaluation Round (2003-2004). CICAD also instructed a delegation to visit Antigua and Barbuda in order to engage it in the MEM process. The visit was conducted in August and successfully secured the commitment of the government to renew its participation, which it did.

A strategy was developed and launched to promote the MEM and its benefits for governments, given that the success of the process depends on multiple government bodies to amass the information required.

The Governmental Expert Group (GEG) of the MEM met in Washington, DC, in October 2005 to discuss and evaluate the indicators, procedures, and timeframes of the MEM process, as well as to draw up recommendations for improving the Mechanism. The GEG finished drafting its recommendations in February 2006, given that the Fourth Evaluation Round (2004-2006) is scheduled to commence in mid-2006. In November, the GEG analyzed the information submitted by the countries on progress in implementation of the recommendations made in the Third Round.

Demand Reduction

The demand reduction program gives priority, through its programs and projects, to training for professionals in drug abuse prevention and treatment, and to strengthening the institutions concerned with these issues. The Group of Experts on Demand Reduction produced and released a publication entitled "Time to Prevent: CICAD Hemispheric Guidelines on School-Based Prevention," which offers clear guidelines on this priority task. Two partnerships were also forged: with the Lions Club International Foundation to promote its Life Skills program; and with the National Strategy Information Centre (NSIC) of the United States for the program "Culture of Lawfulness".

CICAD concluded a horizontal cooperation agreement with Chile's National Drug Council (CONACE), the purpose of which is to develop a mutual co-operation program to support school-based prevention programs in the countries of the Americas. CONACE will field its team of experts with experience in this area.

Supply Reduction

In the area of Supply Reduction, multiple training courses were offered in control of drugs and chemical precursors, attended by customs, police, and port officials. In 2005, CICAD continued to provide support for the Counter-Drug Intelligence School, based in Lima, through two training seminars on strategic and operational intelligence analysis. There was also a training course for prosecutors in Central America.

To enhance control of distribution and use of chemical substances and pharmaceutical products, the two groups of experts concerned with these issues offered detailed recommendations to the countries. Another group of experts also continued its work on ports and sea routes for transporting illicit drugs.

Alternative Development

The Alternative Development Unit implements and coordinates development programs in regions of illicit crop cultivation, such as Bolivia, Colombia, and Peru, in the framework of a comprehensive and sustained alternative development context.

CICAD participated in a new type of alliance between the US Agency for International Development (USAID), the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), and the cocoa industry represented by the World Cocoa Foundation (WCF). The alliance is called the Andean Countries Cocoa Export Support Opportunity (ACCESO) and it will create an Andean Cocoa network to increase the competitiveness and productivity of cocoa producers in Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia.

In 2005, a study of the effects of aerial spraying was completed in Colombia, which examined the human-health and environmental impact of the program. An in-depth study was also conducted of the impact of the various types of herbicides used in processing and refining of cocaine and heroin. Both scientific reports were presented to the Government of Colombia, discussed at various scientific forums, and distributed over the Internet.

Legal Development

The Legal Development program centered its efforts on the control of firearms, their parts, components, and ammunition, through amendments to the Model Regulations designed to strengthen control of the activities of firearms brokers. These efforts build on the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (CIFTA).

Money Laundering Control

The IDB and CICAD collaborated in a joint project to provide training and technical assistance. CICAD organized and implemented multiple training workshops for judges and prosecutors, mock money laundering trials, and specialization courses for law enforcement and customs officials on tracking asset flows from illicit drug trafficking.

The program to strengthening financial intelligence units accomplished its goals in South America and continued on to Central America, where it worked to create these units and provide training to their teams

of professionals. In participation with the United Nations, the feasibility was assessed of establishing an interactive training program in Central America. The Group of Experts met to address issues such as organized crime, special investigative techniques, confiscation of assets, international cooperation, and money laundering as a criminal offence.

Institution Building

In 2005, the program to strengthen national drug commissions provided support to the Andean countries to develop and implement national observatories on drugs. The program also moved forward with the project on decentralization of national anti-drug strategies at the municipal level, with support provided by the Government of Spain. This project supplies cooperation to the central offices of national commissions and selected municipalities in the form of training and equipment for units to decentralize and implement municipal plans on drug abuse prevention.

Educational Development and Research

With eight years of experience, this new unit has successfully included important components of the drug problem in undergraduate and postgraduate programs at 16 schools of nursing in Latin America. Altogether, some 15,000 students have received this training. This cooperation model is being applied in other areas of further education: schools of public health, teacher-training colleges, and schools of medicine.

A memorandum of understanding was signed with Brazil to provide support to member states interested in the introduction of drug abuse content in university curriculums; implementation of online research training programs for professionals in health and related areas; and a pilot study on women, drugs, and violence, in partnership with 23 universities in 11 countries in the Hemisphere.

Inter-American Observatory on Drugs

The Inter-American Observatory on Drugs (OID), CICAD's statistical information and research unit, prepared new methodologies for drug abuse surveys by household, as well as in university students, patients of treatment centers, and admissions in hospital emergency rooms. It also provided technical and financial assistance for a variety of surveys drug abuse surveys in 13 countries. The Drug Statistical Summary 1994-2004 was published, with information on seizures of drugs, chemicals, and real property, as well as crop eradication, and drug-related arrests. Also published was a comparative study of drug abuse based on school-based surveys in capital cities in Latin America. In its pilot phase, the program to assist member states in estimating the human, social, and economic cost of drugs in their countries yielded a series of estimated costs for all seven countries. An analytical report of the study and a methodology manual were presented at the Summit of the Americas.

Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism

The Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (S/CICTE), at the departmental level, was created by Executive Order 05-13 Rev. 1.

The CICTE program of technical assistance and specialized training reached maturity in 2005. Together with more than 20 partner organizations, within the OAS and beyond, the volume of its programs has substantially increased, while moving into new areas of the Work Plan. Equally, the CICTE legislative assistance and consultation service, run jointly with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, has continued to provide practical advice to member states engaged in revising their counter-terrorism and anti-terrorist financing legislation, to bring their laws into conformity with the international treaty obligations and the

requirements of UN Security Council Resolutions. This has become especially significant as more and more member states (five this past year) ratify both the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism and the UN Counter-Terrorism conventions on which it is based. As of today, 17 member states have ratified the Inter-American Convention and 16 have ratified the twelve international counter terrorism conventions. The thirteenth convention, regarding nuclear terrorism, was opened for signature in September.

Port Security

Last year, working with the US Maritime Administration, the International Maritime Organization and World Maritime University training was provided for 158 port security officers from 30 member states on implementing the ISPS Code on port security. As more and more member states were able to certify that they are in compliance with the code, new courses were included for port security trainers, as were more specialized training courses on container inspections. Member state ports ship 600,000 containers yearly just to the US, for which reason improving container security is considered an essential element in maintaining the safe and efficient flow and of trade. In addition, a program of in-depth port security assessments for four national port systems was initiated, with follow up for each –including specific recommendations and individualized training. This year a series of follow-up visits was initiated to determine the effectiveness of this training.

Airport Security

The airport security program parallels the port security program. Developing a Memorandum of Understanding with a contracting agency took longer to resolve than anticipated. In cooperation with the International Civil Aviation Organization and the US Transportation Security Administration, training was provided for 81 airport security officials from 24 member states on key aspects of the ICAO security standards. Support was also provided for an ICAO workshop designed to improve member state ability to implement new 2006 Hold Baggage Screen (HBS) requirements. CICTE's assistance allowed more than 21 states that would have otherwise been unable to participate to attend the workshop.

Customs and Border Security

Member states have recognized that strengthening customs and border control systems is an essential step, not only to curb the movement of terrorists and dangerous materials, but to improve their ability to deal with contraband of all types, as well as potential human traffickers. Close cooperation between customs, immigration, and police officials is essential to efficient border management, and, with this in mind, in collaboration with the International Organization on Migration, CICTE has begun a series of comprehensive border management studies, conducting five in 2005. These studies provide member states with detailed recommendations for improving their border management systems. On the same basis, CICTE provided training for 121 customs and other law enforcement officials from 18 member states on means to develop and manage professional integrity programs. Finally, in a joint CICTE-CICAD-CCLEC workshop 17 CARICOM and two Haitian customs and law enforcement officials were trained on container and passenger targeting. The US Department of Homeland Security provided key support to this event, including access to the facilities at Port Everglades for hands on training. All these programs help member states develop a common operational doctrine and improve cooperation.

Legislation and Legal Assistance

The CICTE legislative and legal assistance service has developed a distinctive and effective approach to helping member states reconcile the complex issues involved in implementing a host of international agreements and national legislation. Beginning with sub-regional meetings to acquaint member state

governments with the legal requirements and implications of these conventions, CICTE then offers workshops to individual member states to review current and pending legislation. As a final step, CICTE conducts specialized training for legal officials such as prosecutors on technical procedures related to the conventions. Last year, CICTE conducted one sub-regional meeting on counter-terrorism legislation for six Eastern Caribbean states; six national workshops on counter-terrorism legislation; and two sub-regional training programs for prosecutors on mutual legal assistance in terrorism-related cases. In all of these programs, CICTE works closely with other interested bodies such as CICAD, within the OAS family, and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, one of its principal partners in these programs. In 2006 this program will be expanded in cooperation with the Government of Spain.

Cyber-Security

In cooperation with the Government of Brazil, CICTE held the Second Meeting of Government Experts on Cyber-security in Sao Paulo in September 2005. This meeting finalized plans for implementing a cyber-security alert network for the Americas. In the next few weeks CICTE will begin implementing this plan, first by bringing online a network of operating national computer security incident response teams (CSIRTs) in the member states, then by providing training to member state CSIRT operators as they are identified.

Other Initiatives

Helping member states in the Caribbean prepare for the 2007 Cricket World Cup remains a high priority for the Secretariat.

Working in conjunction with the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) CICTE provided special training on hostage negotiation to 38 law enforcement officials from 12 Caribbean states. This course was followed by CICTE's second annual counter-terrorism policy exercise. This year's scenario was based on a hostage-taking incident at a sporting event, and took place in Jamaica.

In cooperation with the Government of Trinidad & Tobago, CICTE held its first counter-terrorism intelligence seminar for Caribbean security executives. Participants from the Caribbean, Argentina, and Colombia provided briefings on potential problems in the region, and discussed means of exchanging useful information. Argentina will follow up this year with a course for intelligence professionals.

The Government of Argentina also held a regional workshop on legal assistance and cooperation on counterterrorism and the prevention of terrorist financing for 65 government officials from 11 Member States. Participants discussed ways of improving legal cooperation among judges, prosecutors and judicial police. In addition, the Secretariat supported Colombia's Financial Intelligence Unit participation in the FATF Typologies Exercise to add perspective to discussion on emerging trends in terrorist financing. CICTE has FATF Observer status.

In order create a regional network of security-related think tanks, CICTE has so far identified and contacted over 80 such groups and established a dialogue with interested academic and professional groups. In addition, CICTE has completely revamped its web page, resulting in a substantial increase in visitors and downloads.

Department for the Prevention of Threats against Public Security

Created by Executive Order 05-13 Rev. 1, the purpose of the Department for the Prevention of Threats against Public Security is to centralize and deal with the work of combating the new security threats

described in the Declaration of Mexico on Security in the Americas, issued in 2003. It began to function on March 1, 2006.

Inasmuch as the Department was not operating during the bulk of this reporting period, the information on many areas of the Department (Transnational Organized Crime and Gangs; Small Arms and Light Weapons; Police Cooperation; and Small Island State Security) is forward looking. The information on the activities of the two areas of the Department that predated its establishment (Humanitarian Demining and Trafficking in Persons) appears below.

Humanitarian Demining

The Comprehensive Action against Antipersonnel Mines (AICMA) assisted Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Peru and Suriname during this reporting period. One major development was that AICMA's support was instrumental in enabling Suriname and Guatemala to complete their humanitarian demining programs. Suriname and Guatemala were declared to be antipersonnel mine-free zones in March and December 2005, respectively.

Under the humanitarian demining program, the Department collaborated directly in the beneficiary member states' mine-clearing efforts, which in 2005 succeeded in removing almost 9,000 mines. As a result, Nicaragua –the Central American country where the antipersonnel mine problem was most severe- - has completed 90% of its established goal of eliminating all antipersonnel mines that were planted within its territory during its internal armed conflict. The bulk of the demining effort in Nicaragua is expected to be completed by the end of 2006, with demining operations shutting down by mid-2007.

In 2005, demining operations were conducted along the border between Peru and Ecuador. And following up on the cooperation agreement signed in 2003 with the Colombian government, a seminar was held on humanitarian demining during the first quarter of 2005, to share the lessons learned by the program and the various agencies involved in the matter. In October of last year, a team of trainers from the Program, with the support of the Inter-American Defense Board, trained a group of 40 Colombian military in how to locate, mark and clear minefields. In 2006, plans are to continue the demining of 33 other minefields under military jurisdiction.

To address the needs of the affected population, AICMA continued to provide its support to the project to assist victims of mines and unexploded ordinance. This program has helped some 800 victims, most of whom were in Nicaragua.

Finally, as part of the preventive education component targeted at communities affected by mines, AICMA continued its awareness campaigns in Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Peru, which publicized information on the dangers that mines pose to the more than 200,000 people who live in affected areas. The accomplishments of the program as a whole have been reported in the local and international press to create as much awareness as possible about this initiative.

Fighting the Crime of Trafficking in Persons

During this reporting period, the Department continued to implement the mandates contained in resolutions AG/RES. 2118 (XXXV-O/05) "Fighting the Crime of Trafficking in Persons" and CIM/RES.225 (XXXI-O/02) "Fighting the Crime of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women, Adolescents, and Children."

In partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Phase II of the project against trafficking in persons in Mexico and Bolivia continued. Similarly, to create public awareness of the

terrible scourge that human trafficking represents and to launch hemispheric action to put a stop to it, awareness and training seminars and workshops were organized in: Belize (April), Peru (April), Bolivia (July and October), Ecuador (August), Guatemala (September and December), and Mexico (March, May and October). These seminars were geared to government representatives working on this issue: attorneys, diplomats, police, immigration officers, nongovernmental organizations, adolescents, the communications media, and so on.

In Haiti, work is being done in conjunction with the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit of the Haitian National Police (PNH). The project will be instrumental in providing professional training to police, overseeing the use of the international resources supplied to the Juvenile Brigade, and in organizing activities in the area. The research project on trafficking in persons in Haiti has gotten underway and will investigate what impact the trafficking in persons has had on that country.

Presentations have been delivered at numerous international events, among them the following: a Seminar on Raising Awareness and Training to Fight the Trafficking in Persons, Lima, Peru, April 2005; the Second Europe-America Atlantic Forum, held in Madrid, Spain, July 13, 2005; a Training Seminar, Quito, Ecuador, August 2005; the Key Migration Issues Workshop Series' Seminar on Trafficking in Human Beings, sponsored by the United Nations and held in New York on October 18, 2005; First Latin American Congress of Police Security Forces for Missing Persons, Santiago, Chile, October 19-21, 2005; Meeting of the Special Committee on Transnational Organized Crime, Washington, D.C., February 2006; Conference on "Trafficking of Persons and the Commercial Exploitation of Minors," Puebla, Mexico, March 1, 2006; Seminar on Illicit Trafficking in Persons: the Need for Legislation in Chile," Santiago, Chile, March 30, 2006; Training Seminar, La Paz, Bolivia, March 31, 2006; and participation in the launch of the Web portal of the Latin American Missing Persons Network in La Paz, Bolivia, November 25, 2005, and in Belize City, Belize, April 26, 2006; and participation in the Strategic Plan 2005-2010 of the Inter-American Center against Disappearance, Exploitation and Trafficking (CIDETT), Lima, Peru, February 2-3, 2006.

Finally, in keeping with resolution AG/RES. 2118 (XXXV-O/05), the Meeting of National Authorities on Trafficking in Persons was held on Venezuela's Isla Margarita, March 14 through 17, 2006.

Organized Crime and Gangs

This section provides technical and legal assistance to the member states in their fight against organized crime. In March 2006, technical support was provided to the Office of the Chair of the Special Committee on Transnational Organized Crime, to prepare a Hemispheric Plan of Action against Transnational Organized Crime, based on the Committee's own decision that the plan should take a horizontal or cross-cutting approach and cover all issues rather than the issue-specific approach the plan originally had. As of the presentation of this report, the Committee is still examining the draft Plan of Action. Once the member states have approved the Plan of Action, the Section will be responsible for coordinating the implementation of the mandates that the member states assign to the General Secretariat. The section is also responsible for providing technical assistance on the topic of gangs, which are viewed as a phenomenon independent of Organized Crime, as can be inferred from General Assembly resolution AG/RES 2144 (XXXV-O-05), "Promotion of Hemispheric Cooperation in Dealing with Gangs."

Small Arms and Light Weapons

This area will be responsible for implementing the General Assembly's mandates on firearms, munitions and explosives and for bolstering the objectives and mandates of the Consultative Committee of the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (CIFTA). It will also provide assistance to the member states on

issues related to the proliferation, trafficking in, identification, stockpiling, handling and destruction of firearms, ammunition and explosives and will serve as a center for information and observation of these topics in the Hemisphere.

Police Cooperation

The police cooperation section will be geared to improving the technical capacity of the police forces in the region, by collaborating on police techniques, information and knowledge, best practices, technology and human resources. The section will organize seminars and training workshops, provide technical assistance to police forces, and promote the exchange of information and dialogue among the police forces in the region.

Small Island State Security Section

The characteristics peculiar to small states, particularly small island states, make them particularly prone to multidimensional and transnational risks and threats associated with political, economic, social, health, environmental and geographic issues. Multilateral cooperation is the most effective means of responding to and managing the threats and concerns that small states share. This section will be in charge of providing support to those states in the area of public security, as mandated under the General Assembly resolutions on the special concerns of the small island states of the Caribbean.

SECRETARIAT FOR ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

Established by Executive Order 05-13 Rev. 1, the SAF is composed of the Office of the Assistant Secretary; two departments: Human Resources and Budgetary and Financial Services; and three offices: Information and Technology Services; Procurement Services, and General Services.

Office of the Assistant Secretary

During this reporting period, the Office of the Assistant Secretary continued to support the Organization's political organs by coordinating with the various areas of the General Secretariat. The main activities in 2005 are described under each of the departments, offices and sections.

Department of Human Resources

Created by Executive Order 05-13 Rev. 1, the DRH is composed of the Compensation and Benefits Section; Staff Services Section; and the Organizational Development Section.

In 2005, the Department of Human Resources (DRH) experienced a reduction-in-force, at a time when the number of requests for advisory services and inquiries rose. During that period, the DRH faced challenges because of the workload created by the services and information it was called upon to provide to staff of the incoming and outgoing administrations (the Secretary General and the Assistant Secretary General) on the question of benefits (transport, health, visas). It also had to provide advisory services on the rules and procedures regarding human resources, staff services, and orientation to the new management, as well as recruitment, classifications of posts, administration of benefits for staff under every fund or other source of financing. The breakdown of the staff of the General Secretariat appears in Appendix D. One of the initiatives that came about as a result of the change of Administration was the preparation of an orientation handbook, in electronic format, for the new staff members of the Organization. Also, the change of Administration gave rise to a number of restructurings. The DRH helped with personnel-related matters and reordering of positions, and also updated and implemented extensive changes in the data processing system.

Apart from the significant increase in activity at the DRH, the latter was tasked with reviewing the rules and regulations of performance contracts (CPRs) to ensure that they were consistent with the GS/OAS. Recognizing that the DRH's involvement in processing CPRs would make matters more complex and time consuming, the DRH created guides and instructions for the client areas with updated rules and forms. It advised the various client areas on ways to simplify and streamline the process, while observing the rules and procedures on this matter. The DRH developed a database with the information from the various CPRs to help ensure observance of the rules and a record of the CPRs. This undertaking involved a number of missions, since many of the performance contracts are away from headquarters in Washington.

The volume of operations that the DRH routinely handles, such as recruitments, competitions for vacant posts, job classifications, administration of benefits and insurance renewals, increased in 2005. The Department evaluated and processed 3,216 personnel actions and processed 425 certifications of employment, 688 applications for G4 visas for staff and consultants, 74 work permits for dependents of staff and consultants with G4 visas, and 170 applications for G5 visas. The DRH processed 109 cases of travel provided for in the Staff Rules (travel to the country of origin, repatriation travel, travel for recruitment purposes, and transfer-related travel).

The Department provided secretariat services to the Joint Committee on Insurance Matters and to the Medical Benefits Trust Fund Committee by providing technical support to members, preparing the materials for the meetings and acting upon the decisions adopted.

A number of areas received the DRH's assistance in the form of advice on alternative contracting mechanisms to be responsive to the Missions' needs. It also helped with salary-related studies.

In addition to its regular and routine functions, the Department also embarked upon a number of special initiatives, some of which are summarized here. In the area of Professional Development and Training and based on the study prepared by DeLoitte & Touche, the DRH, in collaboration with the Office for the Promotion of Dialogue of the Unit for Democracy, offered "communications" workshops for the staff at headquarters. Two workshops were designed and given for staff at headquarters on "Working together with an open mind and trust." Each was offered 14 times in the period from October 2004 to December 2005. The Performance Evaluation form was also changed to reflect the "good communications" factor.

The Health Unit had approximately 3,035 visits in 2005. The physician on duty, who was contracted through Johns Hopkins University, did some 150 medical examinations. The unit continued to promote good health and prevention among the employees through such programs as: the flu vaccination campaign; allergy injections; blood drives; and the Health Fair, which was attended by 250 people, and two new health programs designed to treat the high stress levels commonly found in any workplace. It also put on a series of 6 lectures on "Nutrition and Health", which were attended by 190 staff members.

The GS/OAS's Student Intern Program continued to grow. Some 463 applications were received. Of these, 181 were selected by the various offices of the General Secretariat to serve as interns.

Department of Budgetary and Financial Services

Created by Executive Order 05-13 Rev.1, the DBFS has two sections: Financial Operations, and Budgetary Management and Financial Reporting.

Budgetary Aspects

The proposed program budget for 2006 was prepared for \$76.3 million, although the financing did not include the increase in quota assessments. At its thirty-fifth regular session, the General Assembly instructed the Permanent Council to convoke a special session of the General Assembly to establish a new scale of quota assessments, to establish the budgetary ceiling for 2007 and to deal with such financial or budgetary matters as the General Assembly should deem pertinent.

The General Secretariat provided support services during the analysis done by the Permanent Council's Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs (CAAP) and the Working Group to Study a Scale of Quota Assessments. At its thirty-first special session, held January 30-31, 2006, the General Assembly approved a new temporary scale of quota assessments that would be in effect in 2007 and 2008. It also instructed the Permanent Council to present a new method for computing the scale of quota assessments at its thirty-seventh regular session. The Assembly also set the ceiling for the 2007 budget at \$81.5 million, in line with the analysis presented by the Secretary General but less than the \$88.5 million estimated to be the amount required to ensure the Secretariat's optimum performance and to have sufficient funds in the Regular Fund budget to fulfill the mandates from the General Assembly and the Summit of the Americas.

On December 14, 2005, the Secretary General presented the Permanent Council (CAAP) with his plan for restructuring the General Secretariat. These structural changes impacted the activities of the Department

of Budgetary and Financial Services which, together with the Department of Human Resources, undertook efforts to harmonize the existing structure in the OASES data processing systems and in this way ensure that the information given on the financial statements and reports and in the personnel records reflected the structure mapped out in Executive Order 05-13 Rev. 1, and in this way be able to prepare the periodic reports on the status of execution of the Regular Fund 2005 and of the Specific Funds.

In 2005, the General Secretariat had to deal with a budgetary deficit of some \$3.9 million, a result of certain extraordinary circumstances that arose during the period of budgetary execution. The fellowships awarded by the Organization's Fellowship Program together represented commitments that exceeded the approved budget by \$2 million. The item earmarked for buildings maintenance also had to be increased by \$624,000 and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights' item by \$272,500. The Secretariat also discovered that the budget approved for Terminations and Repatriations was insufficient to cover the staff changes that occurred mainly as a result of the change in administration in 2004 and the restructuring done under Executive Order 05-03. The shortfall was approximately \$1.1 million. To cover this deficit, the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs authorized the use of \$1.0 million existing under the supplementary appropriation originally intended to defray the expenses associated with the change of administration in 2005, and the use of residual balances under the heading of personnel, which resulted from deferred recruitment and other changes in personnel-related costs. CEPCIDI and the Permanent Council authorized a loan of \$2.0 million from the Capital Fund for OAS Fellowships established under resolution CP/RES. 831 to cover the excess financial commitments of the Fellowships and Training program.

Financial Aspects

The financial situation of the Organization of American States (OAS) is captured in the financial statements that appear at the end of the report, under Appendix E. They include:

a) the Operating and Reserve Subfunds of the Regular Fund (Tables 1 and 2) and the Special Multilateral Fund of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (FEMCIDI) (Tables 3 and 4), whose budgets are approved by the General Assembly; and

b) the Specific Funds (Table 5) funded by unilateral or multinational contributions to finance activities approved by the governing bodies. The Combined Statements of Assets, Liabilities and Balances of the Funds represent the Organization's financial position at year's end, whereas the Combined Statements of Changes in Fund Balances represent the results of the financial activity during the fiscal period.

In 2005, total collections of 2005 quotas and quotas in arrears from previous years came to a total of \$76.3 million, representing a 13.7% increase over collections in 2004, which were \$67.1 million.

The preliminary financial statements show that as of December 31, 2005, the Regular Fund's financial situation was better than in 2004, owing to improved quota collections. The Balance of the Regular Fund as of December 31, 2005, which was \$10.1 million, was \$2.6 million more than the balance at the end of 2004, which had been \$7.6 million.

Office of Information and Technology Services

The OITS was created by Executive Order 05-13 Rev.1 and has two sections: Information Systems and Information Technology.

The OITS completed modernization of the systems that will provide support to the meetings of the Organization's political bodies in the recently remodeled Simón Bolívar Conference Room. The new

technologies introduced are: a wireless conference microphone and simultaneous interpretation system from the company “Danish Interpretation Systems”; a system of remotely operated cameras with television-transmission quality; a video distribution system using advanced technology that allows transmission from various sources of video to the ambassadors in their own language; a wireless system with Internet access; and a computer installed for each delegate within a private network. Implementation of these systems was coordinated by the offices of Conferences and Meetings, Press and Communications, General Services and the Assistant Secretary General’s Office.

The infrastructure for transmitting television and radio via the Internet, “Webcast,” has been upgraded with the purchase of a multimedia server that uses advanced technology and transmits the signal in the OAS’ four official languages.

Improvements were made to the communications system with the purchase of two “Polycom” videoconferencing systems. This equipment uses advanced technology and is a low-cost means of holding meetings and cutting costs.

Modernization of the cabling and wiring in the Administration Building was completed. A new system was installed that uses “Fast Ethernet” technology, allowing dedicated transmission of data at a speed of 100 megabits per second (mbps). Installation of these new technologies has expanded the platform within the General Secretariat that allows voice and data services to be combined into a single infrastructure, which will also allow integration with the network systems in the GSB Buildings, while speeding up operations like e-mail, data transmission, access to the OASES system and to the documents management system (IDMS).

A secure “Instant Messaging” system was installed to facilitate communications between Headquarters and the national offices, and the GoToAssist program was purchased to improve response time in providing remote technical support to those offices.

OITS has continued to support expansion of the Secure E-Mail System of the Working Group on Mutual Legal Assistance using “Groove Virtual Office.” This year, the number of member states participating has doubled from 10 to 20. The OAS is the leading international organization in the use of this technology, allowing rapid and secure communication among the central authorities of the member states on legal matters and extradition.

To better manage the telephone services, a system was developed for tabulating long-distance phone calls. This system makes it easier to prepare each area’s monthly report. The OITS has continued to support development of applications in other areas like the IACHR, Conferences, Service Requests and the Columbus Memorial Library.

A new centralized backup system was installed to protect the data on the Organization’s combined information system, using high-capacity servers and maximizing the resources. This has made data retrieval faster and more efficient.

The OITS has kept the integrity of the voice and data systems efficient, secure and stable and uses the “Helpdesk” system to continue to provide high-quality technical service.

The infrastructure of services and the backup for the OASES system was upgraded and the first part of a mechanism for auditing the administrative systems was completed. The mechanism will check for procedural violations and establish internal controls of the critical modules (Payroll, Accounts Payable, Human Resources and “GL”).

In the area of research and development, OITS has done an evaluation of the various places to carry out the Continuity and Recovery Plan; the costs and conditions of the various alternatives have been evaluated.

The OITS represented the OAS in the Consortium of International Organizations for technical and financial evaluation of long-distance service delivery proposals.

Office of Procurement Services

The OPS was established by Executive Order 05-13 Rev. 1 and has three sections: Purchasing, Inventory and Travel.

Purchasing Area

As the following table shows, the OSC had to cope with a further increase (as much as 15% over 2004) in the workload and the number of purchase orders processed.

	Requisition Lines	Requisition Headers	Purchase Order Lines	Purchase Order Headers
2004	28,747	16,690	29,880	20,622
2005	31,008	18,361	31,988	22,449
Incr(%)	15%	15%	7%	9%

The total amount of transactions related to Purchase Orders, excluding agreements, rose from \$111 million in 2004 to \$116 million this year (an increase of approximately 5%). Of that amount, over \$20 million went toward actions for procurement of goods, while \$11 million was for travel within and outside the headquarters country.

In terms of system maintenance and administration, the procurement area handled over 1,000 tickets from the client care system. Similarly, as is customary, purchase transactions were periodically reviewed and over 15,000 transactions –requisitions and purchase orders alike-- were cleaned up. This constant control made it possible for the office to close the books on time at the end of 2005, despite the many difficulties that arose.

Over 15 regular and special training sessions were given on preparing, checking, receiving and approving purchase orders, as well as special courses on how to process transactions involved in contracting consultants (CPRs) and advanced courses on special topics related to the procurement system. Accordingly, the certification of the OAS offices in the member states continued.

The Office was very much involved in acquiring and negotiating contracts for goods and services for the Special Mission of the OAS in Haiti and the Voter Registration Process. Those operations in 2005 came to a total of \$5,428,528, and were done through seven formal bidding processes. They were for 4X4 vehicles, portable computers, registration forms, digital fingerprint scanners, signature pads; digital cameras, inkless fingerprint pads, services for comparing fingerprints, ballots and printing services.

Another 18 formal tendering processes, advertised at the Web site, were completed and another 8 were processed using the “Aide Memoire” method. Some of the more important involved a total of \$392,483 and included coordination and processing, selection of purveyors, and negotiation and execution of procurement contracts for: Internet connectivity; 4X4 vehicles for the Mission to Support the Peace Process in Colombia; evaluation of ports and training in Belize for CICTE, and lab equipment for DDS projects in Bolivia.

It is important to note that the procurement activities associated with the OAS' Special Mission in Haiti necessitated recording and conversion of over 2,200 purchase orders for CPRs, goods and services. At least 5 people from the OPS dedicated themselves to this work.

Moreover, the OPS continued to file six-month reports with the Permanent Council on CPRs. The report requires constant attention and continually changes to meet the Council's needs.

Inventory Area

Bar code stickers were received, delivered to users at headquarters and their placement coordinated. Payment was authorized for 451 new items, costing a total of \$2,642,553. More than 11,000 new fields were opened to record them in the inventory database. More than 17,000 items located in all buildings at headquarters were inventoried, updating more than 85,000 fields in the database, including an accounting of the items used by over 60 staff members who retired from the Organization or were transferred to other areas. Some 342 obsolete or damaged goods were eliminated from the inventory with the authorization of the Committee for Sales and/or Liquidation of the Movable Property of the SG/OEA. Some items were sold or donated to the OAS Missions and Staff of the Missions and Organization. More than 1,000 deliveries were made to the various users in all buildings at headquarters. Over 3,000 boxes or envelopes were delivered to staff. Constant technical support was provided to over 100 users of the online office supplies procurement system, coordinating the purchases, deliveries, returns and authorizing payment for over 350 purchase orders.

Over 1,000 new products were entered into the inventory database. These were products received by the Offices of the General Secretariat, projects and missions away from headquarters. Their total cost was \$1,913,737. The information in the database on another 2,000 items was updated. More than 31,000 fields were recorded in the database.

Travel Area

The OPS continued to meet the General Secretariat's needs in the area of travel arrangements. Working with the respective consulates, it arranged almost 500 official visas for travelers to over 20 countries.

Office of General Services

Established by Executive Order 05-13 Rev. 1, the OSG has three sections: the Building Management and Maintenance Section; Messenger, Mail and Transportation Section; and the Security Section.

The focus of the OSG's efforts was on completing and continuing important building infrastructure projects and their maintenance. The historic remodeling of the Simón Bolívar conference room was completed, costing an estimated \$4.2 million. That conference room has 50% additional space, a new air conditioning system and a new sprinkler system. Plans have been made to eventually install a fire alarm. The interpreters' booths for the meeting room have been remodeled. There is now an area for documents distribution and an equipment control panel. The Simón Bolívar Room is equipped with modern simultaneous interpretation installations in four languages, as well as advanced video and sound system technology. As part of this remodeling project, a press room was built in the Public Information Office.

The CAAP gave its authorization (CP/CAAP/SA-525/05) for additional capital investments of \$624,000 to replace the elevator in the Main Building; replace the cooling tower; install a protective film on the windows, and do structural repairs to the Museum's compressor. Bids have already been invited for purchase of the elevator and the cooling tower. The structural repair work to the parking area has been completed.

Work was completed on the exterior of buildings, mainly on the Secretary General's official residence, for a total of \$52,000. This work was also authorized by the CAAP (CP/CAAP-2741/05 rev 1). The work mainly involved painting the exterior of the residence and its annex, repairs to exterior flooring, gutters and downspouts, repaving of the driveway, and installation of an air conditioner in the annex.

Available office space on the second floor of the F Street Building was leased to the Albert Sabine Institute. A number of storage rooms were also leased to those currently leasing space from the Secretariat in that building. The proceeds from the lease of space came to a total of \$1,582,102 in 2005.

The Equitrac counting system on the photocopiers was modernized at a cost of some \$32,900. The new online system, which replaces the modem-based system, allows for more efficient and secure communication and substantially reduces the possibility that unauthorized users might get into the General Secretariat's information technology system. The Office also continued the policy of replacing photocopiers more than ten years old. It purchased four new machines at a cost of \$27,000. Maintenance services were also hired, and included repairs, paper and supplies for the General Secretariat's entire complement of photocopy machines (46) for an approximate cost of \$106,000.

Maintenance of all the General Secretariat's buildings continued, costing some \$6.5 million, including the general insurance and the mortgage on the F Street building. This figure mainly covers the cost of basic services, maintenance contracts, repairs and supplies. The increase in the cost of the basic services (water, electric power, steam, gas and sanitation), and the increase in the cost of the maintenance contracts (electromechanical equipment, elevators, security equipment, fire prevention systems, fumigation, trash collection and gasoline), and the contracting of security and janitorial services, necessitated approval of an additional \$ 628,000 (CP/CAAP-2792/05).

The Office continued to manage the parking areas owned by the General Secretariat, following the guidelines and regulations contained in Administrative Memoranda Nos. 83 and 91. This does not carry a direct administrative cost to the General Secretariat and is covered by the fees paid by the users of the parking areas. Since all staff members of the General Secretariat are entitled to a parking space and the spaces available within the General Secretariat are not sufficient, additional space has to be leased from private parking garages. Management of the parking areas also subsidizes the purchase of the *Metrocheck* passes for those staff members who are entitled to park but who use this system instead. The operating cost of these parking facilities was approximately \$551,000, while parking revenues were in excess of \$578,000.

DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL LEGAL AFFAIRS

The DAJI was established by Executive Order 05-13 Rev. 1. It consists of the International Law Office and the Juridical Cooperation Office (Technical Secretariat of Juridical Cooperation Mechanisms).

The Office of the Director continued to direct, plan, and coordinate programs, activities, and actions in progress. In its task of supporting the various inter-American organs and bodies charged with the development of international law, it participated in the two sessions of the Inter-American Juridical Committee, in the Meeting of Central Authorities, and in the Workshops on International Law.

It also acted as adviser on the high-level mission of the Permanent Council to Ecuador, in application of the Inter-American Democratic Charter (April 2005), and accompanied OAS observers of the selection process for members of the Supreme Court (October 2005). On behalf of the Secretary General, it participated in the annual congress of the Ibero-American Federation of Ombudsmen (Asunción, November 2005) and the congress of the International Association of Judges (Montevideo, November 2005).

In terms of academic affairs and the dissemination of inter-American law, it participated, among other activities, in the seminar entitled “Democracy and Multilateralism in the Americas,” organized by the *Université Laval* (Quebec, May 2005); and in the course on inter-American law at the Law School of the *Universidad Nacional de Córdoba*, in Argentina; served on the thesis defense committee for the state doctorate on democracy in the inter-American system, at the *Université de Paris II* (Paris, April 2005); and published articles on inter-American law in various specialized books and reviews.

International Law Office

In 2005, the International Law Office (ODI) rendered legal services in the area of international law to the General Assembly and to the CAJP, drafting resolutions, organizing special meetings, and writing final reports, in addition to advising delegations. It provided legal advisory services to the working groups on racism, indigenous peoples, and trafficking in persons, and organized a number of meetings of experts. The ODI also conducted studies for the selection of topics for CIDIP-VII and for determination of a method for preparing inter-American instruments on electronic records and consumer protection. It prepared draft international instruments to amend the Inter-American Convention to Facilitate Disaster Assistance and to amend the Statutes of the FONDEM and the IACNDR.

As Secretariat to the Inter-American Juridical Committee (CJI), the ODI provided technical and administrative support during the CJI’s two regular sessions. It prepared annotated agendas, assisted in drafting resolutions, edited reports presented by CJI members, drew up summary minutes, and took charge of preparing the Committee’s Annual Report. While the CJI was in recess, the ODI assisted the rapporteurs in their work and carried out the mandates issued in CJI resolutions.

In fulfillment of the Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law, AG/RES. 1471 (XXVII-O/97), the ODI organized the 32nd Course on International Law. The Course was held from August 1 to 26, 2005, and attended by 28 teachers from different countries in the Americas and Europe, 29 OAS scholars chosen from among more than 100 candidates, and 14 paying students. The central theme of the Course was “The Contribution of International Organizations to Current International Law.” From October 22 to 26, 2005, the ODI organized the Workshops on International Law in Ottawa, Canada, together with the Faculty of Law of the University of Ottawa; 52 professors of international law attended. The ODI also published the 31st Course on International Law, the topic being “International Law, Trade, Finance, and Development”; the Workshops on International Law held in Peru in 2003 and those held in

Chile in 2004; and the CJI Opinion Series “Competition and Cartels in the Americas,” by João Grandino Rodas and Jonathan T. Fried. Since 1994, the ODI has maintained and updated an on-line shop, which has a catalogue of 19 publications. The ODI also updated the content, design, administration, and control of its Web page and that of the Inter-American Juridical Committee. It provided support services to the 24th Model Assembly, held at OAS headquarters for secondary-school students between November 30 and December 3, 2005. Its attorneys participated in various forums to provide legal advice and report on activities carried out in the OAS framework.

The ODI acts as depository for inter-American multilateral treaties and for bilateral agreements concluded by OAS bodies. In 2005, the ODI participated in four signature processes, 17 deposits of instruments of ratification and accession, and 15 designations of central authorities. It also prepared certificates and provided complete and updated information on those treaties. As for bilateral agreements, it recorded 92 cooperation agreements in various areas and published the complete texts on-line, in PDF format. Appendix C includes additional information regarding inter-American treaties and conventions.

Juridical Cooperation Office

Meetings of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJAs)

Advisory and technical secretariat services were rendered to the following meetings:

- Second Meeting of Central Authorities and Other Experts on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters and Extradition, held in Brasilia, Brazil, from September 1 to 3, 2005 (private section: <http://www.oas.org/juridico/MLA/sp/index.html>)
- Meetings at OAS headquarters in the framework of the Working Group on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters and Extradition, on May 5 and 6 and November 9 and 10, 2005 (private section: <http://www.oas.org/juridico/MLA/sp/index.html>)
- Fourth Meeting of the Group of Government Experts on Cybercrime, held at OAS headquarters on February 27 and 28, 2006 (http://www.oas.org/juridico/spanish/cybGE_IVreun_sp.htm)

These events led to the adoption of various recommendations and measures on the topics addressed, which will be presented to REMJA-VI for consideration and may be viewed at the following Web addresses:

(<http://www.oas.org/juridico/spanish/reunion.html>;
<http://www.oas.org/juridico/MLA/sp/index.html>;
<http://www.oas.org/juridico/spanish/cybersp.htm>;
http://www.oas.org/juridico/spanish/gapeca_sp.htm).

Combating corruption

The Office continued to serve as Technical Secretariat of the Follow-up Mechanism for the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (MESICIC). The Committee of Experts, one of the organs of this mechanism, successfully held eight meetings and will soon conclude the work planned for the first round. Two regular meetings were held, from March 7 to 12 and from September 26 to October 1, 2005, and 11 country reports were adopted.

As a result of its efforts to raise external funds for its activities, the Office is conducting a pilot project, financed by the Canadian Government’s cooperation agency, to support implementation of the recommendations of the MESICIC Committee in Argentina, Paraguay, Nicaragua, and Colombia.

In pursuit of the Plan of Action of Managua and of resolution AG/RES. 2034 (XXXIV-O/04), operative paragraph 6.c, the Meeting of Experts on Cooperation with respect to the Denial of Safe Haven to Corrupt

Officials and Those Who Corrupt Them, Their Extradition, and the Denial of Entry and Recovery of the Proceeds of Corruption and Their Return to Their Legitimate Owners, was held at OAS headquarters on March 28 and 29, 2005 (http://www.oas.org/juridico/spanish/rexcor_sp.htm).

Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (CIFTA)

Technical support was provided to the following meetings, held at OAS headquarters. The documents of these meetings can be viewed at the following address:

http://www.oas.org/juridico/spanish/images/armas_r11_c46.jpg.

- Sixth regular meeting of the Consultative Committee of the CIFTA, held in accordance with General Assembly resolution AG/RES. 1999 (XXXIV-O/04), on April 14 and 15, 2005
- First Meeting of National Authorities Directly Responsible for Granting Export, Import, and International Transit Licenses or Authorizations for Transfers of Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials, held on October 6 and 7, 2005, in keeping with paragraph 8 of the Declaration of Bogotá on the Functioning and Application of the CIFTA, the work plan of the Consultative Committee, and resolution AG/RES. 1999 (XXXIV-O/04)
- First Meeting of the Group of Experts to Prepare Model Legislation on the Areas Covered by the CIFTA, held in keeping with paragraph 3 of the Methodology for the Development of Model Legislation for the Purpose of Facilitating the Effective Application of the CIFTA [resolution CP/RES. 884 (1484/05)], on February 6 and 7, 2006

The Office continues to work closely with other international institutions, such as the United Nations, the IDB, the Council of Europe, and the OCDE, and with subregional bodies.

III. SPECIALIZED ORGANIZATIONS

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Chapter XVIII of the Charter defines the specialized organizations as intergovernmental organizations established by multilateral agreements and having specific functions with respect to technical matters of common interest to the American states. They enjoy the fullest technical autonomy, but are to take into account the recommendations of the General Assembly and the Councils. This chapter summarizes the reports that the following specialized organizations presented pursuant to Articles 127 and 91.f of the Charter:

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO);
The Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN);
The Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM);
The Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH);
The Inter-American Indian Institute (IIC); and
The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).

PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Established in 1902 by the Second International Conference of American States, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) is the inter-American system's specialized organization in health matters and the World Health Organization's Regional Office for the Americas (AMRO/WHO). Its mission is to "lead strategic collaborative efforts among member states and other partners to promote equity in health, to combat disease, and to improve the quality of and lengthen the lives of the peoples of the Americas."

The 2005 annual report of the Director of PAHO, "Working Together for Health in the Americas" draws attention to the achievements of the member states, partners, and strategic allies that cooperate with PAHO to improve health in the Americas. The achievements are set out in three strategic lines described below and constitute the cooperation framework of PAHO.

Addressing the Unfinished Agenda

To build consensus to reduce maternal mortality in the Americas, an Inter-Institutional Task Force to reduce maternal mortality was created, composed of UNFPA, UNICEF, USAID, the IDB, the World Bank, and other agencies, with PAHO as Technical Secretariat. This task force has provided political momentum to reducing maternal mortality.

In the area of social networks and prevention of child mortality, one achievement has been the Declaration of Tegucigalpa, which recommends the preparation of a regional strategy for neonatal health, the development of which is currently underway.

Building on the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, the Action Plan 2005-2007 has included renewal of Primary Health Care, access to safe drinking water, treatment of solid waste, and improvement of hygiene.

With respect to nutrition and food security in the fight against poverty, efforts are underway in several countries in the Hemisphere to promote initiatives for improvement of food availability, access, and consumption in the poorest municipalities, or areas affected by natural disasters, as well as programs to reduce the root causes of poverty and hunger.

Protecting the Gains Achieved

In 2005, all the countries vaccinated more than 43.7 million people, mainly children; 1.5 million women of fertile age and more than 12 million persons over age 60 were immunized against influenza. Vaccination week in 2006 will be in April, and the above-mentioned figures are expected to be surpassed. July 2005 saw the holding of the Regional Consultation Meeting on Renewal of PHC with a view to the adoption of a policy document, a regional declaration, and a plan of action for the whole of the Americas. The Directing Council of Ministers of Health approved these documents in September 2005.

Response to New Challenges

With respect to the fight against HIV/AIDS, the commitment of the Special Summit of the Americas in Monterrey, Mexico in 2004, to provide universal treatment to all those who need it, or to at least 600,000 individuals was met and surpassed. In November 2005, the Fourth Summit of the Americas requested PAHO to continue to implement technical cooperation measures in order to attain universal coverage in

the treatment of HIV/AIDS, to work on prevention to reduce the number of cases, and to tackle the problem of discrimination and stigma in the workplace.

The Regional Directors of the United Nations agencies that comprise UNAIDS (RDG HIV/AIDS), carried out activities to bolster the support that those agencies provide to the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in the fight against HIV/AIDS. These activities included: i) the dialogue with high-ranking representatives of regional agencies in Washington, D.C., to harmonize international cooperation on HIV/AIDS in the Americas. The dialogue, which was held during the annual Meeting of the Regional Directors from March 3 to 4, 2005, at PAHO, included the IDB and its President, Enrique Iglesias, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the US Department of State, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); ii) publication of “What UN Staff in Latin America and the Caribbean Need to Say about the HIV Epidemic”; and iii) the Meeting of the Regional Directors from February 7 to 8, 2006, including a dialogue with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

Furthermore, it is recalled that PAHO coordinates this Coalition (IACVP), which in particular targets young people and gangs at the municipal level.

The International Health Regulations (IHR) and Influenza Pandemic, adopted by the 58th World Health Assembly in September 2005, include a code of conduct for public health emergencies of international concern that provide guidelines for the international community. The Fourth Summit of the Americas requested the member states to ratify their accession to the IHR as soon as possible.

In response to the threat of an influenza pandemic, and to the mandate of the Fourth Summit of the Americas, PAHO launched a Strategic and Operational Plan for Responding to Pandemic Influenza. PAHO encouraged and supported the formulation of National Preparedness Plans for an Influenza Pandemic in the Region

Representatives of the World Organization for Animal Health, FAO, IICA and IDB met at PAHO in March 2006 to consider joint measures, in preparation for the possibility of the arrival of the H5N1 avian influenza virus in wild birds or poultry in the Americas.

Since the entry into effect of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), 31 countries have signed the instrument and 16 have ratified it. Under the Smoke-Free Americas Initiative, since July 2005, nine countries in the Americas have ratified the FCTC and another three have approved its ratification.

Joint Efforts

In addition to the above-mentioned three main strategic lines, there are several joint initiatives underway, among which the following are worth mentioning.

More than 65 projects were designed in the areas of sustainable development and inter-sectoral interventions, health information and technology, universal access to health services, risk management, disease control, and family and community health.

PAHO provided assistance to several countries in the wake of emergencies (floods and Hurricane Jeanne, Hurricane Frances, floods in Guyana, Hurricane Katrina, and Hurricane Stan). PAHO also provided assistance following the earthquake in Pakistan and the tsunami in Asia.

PAHO is providing special support to five Key Countries: Bolivia, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, and Nicaragua.

As regards collaboration with the inter-American system, PAHO cooperates with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in the design of standards or guidelines on human rights and health; participates in hearings; and organizes training workshops in member states for public health staff and civil society

With the OAS, PAHO participated in Inter-American Meetings and Conferences of Ministers in other sectors, such as Labor, Education, Environment, and Social Development.

Health figured high on the agenda of the Fourth Summit of the Americas. In the Declaration importance was drawn to strengthening cooperation in the struggle against chronic diseases as well as emerging and re-emerging diseases; PAHO was requested to coordinate regional efforts in the fight against HIV/AIDS and avian and human influenza, as well as to encourage development of social security systems and health and safety for workers. PAHO, a member of the Joint Summit Working Group, is assisting with follow-up and implementation of the Summit Declarations and Plans of Action and will provide support for the preparation of future summits.

Achievements

In sum, during the period under review, implementation of the PAHO technical cooperation framework has met expectations with respect to four main outcomes:

In *Addressing the Unfinished Agenda*, the main achievements center on reduction of maternal and child mortality in the region, improvement of health for indigenous peoples and persons living, and efforts to confront illnesses such as Chagas disease, filariasis, schistosomiasis, trachoma and others.

In *Protecting the Gains Achieved*, vaccination coverage has remained high and Vaccination Week has been a success throughout the Americas. Other achievements include the “healthy municipalities and communities strategy,” sub-regional integration processes, the health of border populations, renewal of Primary Health Care, and support for countries with their public health policies.

In terms of *New Challenges*, PAHO has confronted HIV/AIDS infection in the context of the “Treat Three Million by 2005” Initiative, prevention of violence, tobacco control, and public health emergencies (including emerging diseases such as pandemic influenza), and disaster preparedness and response.

PAHO has worked with multiple partners to meet the challenge of *Inter-Institutional Cooperation*, including the member states, the Inter-American system, the United Nations, and other sectors to further strengthen strategic alliances and build consensus to continue to improve Health in the Americas.

INTER-AMERICAN CHILDREN'S INSTITUTE

The Inter-American Children's Institute is a specialized organization that helps create public policy on children's behalf in the Americas, promote the relationship between the state and civil society, and cultivate a critical awareness of the problems affecting children in the Hemisphere.

In the framework of the Strategic Plan 2005-2008, adopted by the Directing Council, the new Director General of the IIN and his technical team are drawing up a Programmatic Plan and an Operational Plan which will make it possible to achieve the objectives and comply with the guiding principles of the Strategic Plan and to realize its future vision. More detailed information is available on the Website <http://www.iin.oea.org>.

Pursuant to the mandates received from its own bodies and from those of the OAS, the IIN continued to provide the member states with services and products on a regular basis. Moreover, it provided technical assistance for implementation of the National Child System Prototype (SNI Prototype) and the Site for Child-Related Action Coordination (CA Site) and for the establishment of new centers--including Antigua and Barbuda and Jamaica—of the Inter-American Child and Family Information Network (RIIN), and provided technical assistance and training on Regulatory Prototypes and on Prototypes of Targeted Public Policies (PPF). It also submitted the Annual Report to the OAS Secretary General on the Situation of Child Commercial Sexual Exploitation in the Americas.

More than 70 actions were undertaken in the member states and at IIN headquarters in Montevideo in the areas of technical assistance, training, research, meetings planning, dissemination of information, project formulation, and drafting of reports, among which the following are noteworthy:

- Strengthening of systems for the protection of children's human rights with regard to such key aspects as the monitoring of government actions for child protection against sexual violence, the investigation of child trafficking, child pornography on the Internet, the study of regulatory frameworks for such issues, and the implementation of systems for monitoring rights enforcement (Chile, Uruguay, Paraguay, Panama, and the Dominican Republic);
- Research in Nicaragua and Costa Rica as a supplement to implementation of the "Project on Child Trafficking, Child Pornography on the Internet, and Regulatory Frameworks for MERCOSUR, Bolivia, and Chile";
- Research in Costa Rica, Colombia, Brazil, and Uruguay on best practices in dealing with delinquent children, with a Workshop-Seminar in Montevideo on "Best Practices in the Implementation of Freedom-Depriving Measures in Latin America";
- Development of a site on the international abduction of children by one of their parents, where member states may obtain information on the topic;
- Launching of a study on "Governance and Children's Rights," which will lay the basis for IIN action under its Strategic Plan 2005-2008;
- Launching of the survey on the "Situation of Children's Human Rights in the Americas," a regional diagnostic assessment of the status of children's rights in order to determine an actual basis and starting point for policy design and program preparation; the study was completed in April 2006.
- Technical cooperation with the Argentine Republic in the context of the National Action Plan on Children's Rights of the National Social Policy Council of the Office of the President of the Republic, aimed at raising awareness of and providing training on the application of various mechanisms for monitoring the enforcement of children's rights through the "Support System for Monitoring Rights Enforcement (SMD)."

The new Director General of the IIN, who took office in December 2005, is taking steps to base the Institute's work on the promotion of good governance and democracy in the context of the Strategic Plan. Thus, one of the IIN's fundamental approaches will be to strengthen working ties with other areas of the OAS specialized in the promotion and protection of human rights in the inter-American system.

Despite the acute institutional financial crisis and the cuts made in technical positions since 2001, the IIN maintains ongoing ties with civil society organizations and is seeking to strengthen relations with authorities responsible for children's affairs in the region. Lastly, by implementing a system for strategic planning and monitoring of its programs and activities, the IIN is developing a sustained strategy with international cooperation that will enable it to strengthen its position as the inter-American system's principal technical body for the promotion and protection of a sector of the population that deserves utmost attention in our region.

INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN

Created by the Sixth International Conference of American States (Havana, 1928), the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) is the OAS' advisory body on issues related to women in the Hemisphere.

In 2005, the activities of the Inter-American Commission of Women centered on completing the 2004-2006 Biennial Work Plan, the mandates approved by the XXXII Assembly of Delegates of the CIM, the mandates from the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth regular session, and from the Summits of the Americas. Most of the attention went to the Follow-up Mechanism to the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women "Convention of Belém do Pará" (MESECVI) and to the project to fight the crime of trafficking in persons, especially women, adolescents, and children.

Human Rights and the Eradication of Violence against Women

The CIM continued to promote ratification of the Convention of Belém do Pará by all the member states of the OAS. On December 14, 2005, the Government of Jamaica deposited its instrument of ratification, bringing the total number of states parties to 32.

As Secretariat of the Follow-up Mechanism for the Convention of Belém do Pará (MESECVI), CIM requested that the member states appoint an expert to serve on the MESECVI Committee of Experts on Violence (CEVI). In July, it convened the first meeting of the MESECVI Committee of Experts, which was held August 22-24, 2005. Based on the projects prepared by the Secretariat, the CEVI approved the agenda, rules of procedure, questionnaire, time table, and work method. The CIM later asked the member states to designate the competent national authority to serve as liaison with the Secretariat. Once these appointments were received, the first round of evaluation got underway by sending the competent national authorities a copy of the questionnaire by which to evaluate the Convention's implementation. CEVI will examine the responses to the questionnaire at the first meeting of the multilateral evaluation round, scheduled for mid 2006.

To promote the Convention's implementation, the CIM participated in a number of regional forums, which included the International Congress on the Harmonization of Local Law with International Human Rights Instruments on Women's Rights, held in Mexico.

In compliance with resolution AG/RES. 2118 (XXXV-O/05) "Fighting the Crime of Trafficking in Persons," the CIM has continued to work on the fight against the trafficking in persons in the Hemisphere. It organized a number of seminars and consciousness-raising events for government officials, parliamentarians, diplomats, police and immigration officials, NGOs, young people, and the media, which were held in Belize, Bolivia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, and Peru. These activities are intended to build and promote the governmental and nongovernmental capacity to effectively respond to the problems posed by the crime of trafficking in women and children.

The CIM was also instrumental in designing campaigns to prevent the trafficking in persons in Bolivia and Mexico. CIM's partners in these activities were the ministries of foreign affairs, the ministries of labor and employment, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), and NGOs.

Various activities were carried out as part of the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality (PIA), salient among them the Project on the Training Course on Gender, Conflict and Peace-Building. In Lima, Peru, the CIM conducted the "First Training

Course on Gender, Conflict and Peace-Building: Andean Region,” a joint enterprise by the CIM, the Office of Conflict Prevention and Resolution and the Inclusive Security program of the Hunt Alternatives Fund. Some 30 women and men from the participating countries, who work on issues related to peace and security, were trained to promote the integration of the gender perspective and women’s participation in the resolution of conflicts and peace-building. A second course will be given in Central America in 2006. The project was funded by Hunt Alternatives Fund—of which Inclusive Security is part—and by the Government of the People’s Republic of China. A second training course will be conducted in Central America in 2006.

Another initiative is the “Project on Integrating the Gender Perspective” within the OAS. Following the success of the 2001-2003 “Project on Integrating the Gender Perspective,” where OAS officials in charge of programs and policies were trained in gender-related issues, the Government of Canada is providing funding for additional training courses. In October, a coordination meeting for Phase II of the project was held. Present at the meeting were officials from various OAS offices. From October 2005 to February 2006, training sessions were planned and conducted with officials from various units of the OAS in charge of programs and policies, in order to train them in gender analysis applicable to their sector. A special informative meeting was also held for directors and unit chiefs.

These courses reinforce the training already received on incorporating a gender perspective, and also address other issues such as harassment and abuse of power. The *training of trainers* module is very important to institutionalize the gender-related training in the OAS, and create an experienced team with technical know-how and the materials needed to duplicate the program.

Summits of the Americas

Complying with resolution CIM/RES.230 (XXXI-O/04) “Gender and Access to Decent Work to Address Poverty and Strengthen Democratic Governance,” the CIM collaborated with the Secretariat of the Summits Process and the missions of the member states to ensure that incorporation of the gender perspective was included in the Declaration and Plan of Action of the IV Summit of the Americas. To that end, the Secretariat prepared recommendations, which were presented to the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG) for consideration. The CIM also participated in the Gender Forum of the Americas, held in Buenos Aires in April 2005, on the occasion of the IV Summit. There it presented CIM’s recommendations to the Summit.

PAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY

Established by the Sixth International Conference of American States (Havana, 1928), the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) offers technical cooperation, provides training at research centers, issues publications, and organizes technical meetings in the fields of cartography, geography, history, and geophysics. It is headquartered in Mexico City.

From November 16 through 23, 2005, Caracas, Venezuela was the site of the PAIGH's major quadrennial statutory meetings, thus culminating a special biennium for the PAIGH: re-engineering in 2004 and looking to the future in 2005. With this accomplished, the transition is well underway. The first phase of the re-engineering has been completed and implemented. The Institute's financial and administrative situation has improved and the conditions are present to make the PAIGH the Hemisphere's agency for assisting the member states with their interpretation of their territory, one based on geographic analysis, historical study, and a vision of the Hemisphere.

Progress in the modernization and re-engineering of the PAIGH

The following are some of the basic achievements obtained by modernizing the PAIGH between 2003 and 2005:

- Total labor costs were cut by 37% and payroll costs by 56%;
- 81% of the quota assessments owed by the member states were paid;
- Execution of scientific activities was up by 43.70%;
- The PAIGH's Operating Fund was restored to health, thereby guaranteeing execution of the 2006 technical assistance program;
- The Pan American Professional Network was formed, pulling together specialists in the sciences that are the purview of the PAIGH;
- The PAIGH's publications are now being digitally edited and produced;
- The PAIGH became the regional liaison with the major international organizations in geography and history.

This effort has put the Institute back on a sustainable track. It now operates on the basis of its real income and is deficit-free. The Pan American spirit of the Institute has been revitalized and it has been repositioned as the premier organization in the Hemisphere on the subject of geography, history, and spatial information.

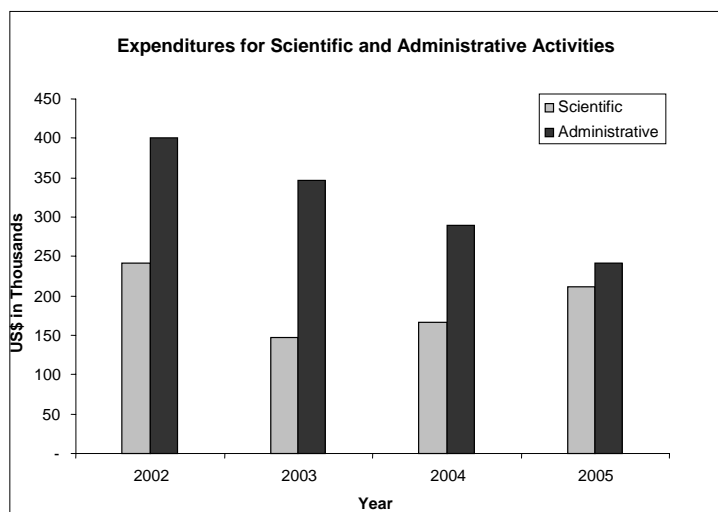
Technical Cooperation and Assistance Program 2005

The technical assistance program executed in 2005 consisted of 28 projects conducted to benefit the member states. They involved execution of a budget of US\$211,000, greater than the amounts executed in recent years. The projects were on cartography, geography, history, and geophysics.

Work progressed on the projects resulting from the 2006 annual call for technical assistance project proposals. The call for proposals resulted in approval of a total of 27 projects with a budget of US\$163,580. Similarly, the 2007 annual call for proposals is currently underway to stimulate and support new Pan American initiatives on the following topics: (1) spatial data infrastructures; (2) land planning; (3) new global history applied to the Americas, and (4) response to emergencies caused by natural disasters.

PAIGH expenditures executed in 2002-2005 for scientific and administrative activities

Activities	2002	%	2003	%	2004	%	2005	%
Scientific	241,296	38	146,831	30	165,845	36	211,000	47
Administrative	401,198	62	345,919	70	290,110	64	241,920	53
Totals	642,494	100	492,750	100	455,855	100	452,920	100



Financial execution for administrative and operational activities, which represented 62% of the spending in 2002, is now 47%, while execution for scientific activities went from 38% to 53% of total spending.

Occasional publications and periodicals in 2005

Dissemination is one of the PAIGH's main functions. In 2005, the PAIGH's General Secretariat worked on producing its publications. It executed a budget of US\$42,615, armed with the new technological tools introduced into the process that have streamlined it and made it more economical and efficient. Issues of the journals *Cartográfica*, *Geofísica*, *Antropología y Arqueología Americana*, *Historia* and *Geografía* were published, making up for the back issues that built up between 2002 and 2004.

Statutory Meetings

In 2005, the PAIGH held its annual and quadrennial statutory meetings in Caracas, Venezuela: 63rd Meeting of Authorities (June 15-17); 64th Meeting of Authorities (November 15 and 20); XX Technical Consultative Meeting on Cartography (November 16 through 18); XVIII Technical Consultative Meeting on Geography (November 16 through 18); XVI Technical Consultative Meeting on History (November 16 through 18); X Technical Consultative Meeting on Geophysics (November 16 through 18); XVIII General Assembly (November 20 to 23)

Prior to these meetings, the General Secretariat complied with the provisions of the 31 resolutions approved at the XXXVIII Meeting of the Directing Council (Costa Rica, 2004). The member states elected the PAIGH's officers for the 2005-2009 period: Oscar Aguilar Bulgarelli (Costa Rica) was elected President, and Santiago Borrero Mutis (Colombia) was elected Secretary General.

The General Secretariat believes that these events were highly relevant. The following was achieved: a solid contribution was made to the Pan American movement, in a context of plurality, diversity, and convergence; progress was achieved in the region's incorporation of spatial data technologies and new strides were made in geographic and historical analysis for the good of the Americas; renewed effort was invested to make the PAIGH more relevant and strengthen it as the intergovernmental organization on geography and history in the Americas.

INTER-AMERICAN INDIAN INSTITUTE

Created by the 1940 Pátzcuaro International Convention, the basic objectives of the Inter-American Indian Institute are to collaborate in the coordination of the member states' indigenous policies and to promote research and training for persons dedicated to indigenous communities' development. It is headquartered in Mexico City.

The following figure prominently among the activities carried out. The Library has catalogued 51,022 publications, 32,057 journal articles, 3,263 articles in books, 165 maps, 774 articles on traditional medicine, and 6,400 books. Some 60% of the Historic Archives predating 1980 has been organized. Digitalization of the Historic Archives continues, with a view to their preservation. Dr. Laura Giraudo, a historian from the University of Milan, Italy, collaborated in reviewing and organizing the Institute's Historic Archives in the period from November 2004 to February 2005.

In 2005, the Institute's Web site received more visits than it did in 2004. Preparations were made for the server shift, and to add more sections to the Web page. Research is currently in progress on "Songs of the Wirrárika on their pilgrimage to Wirikuta," financed with a grant from Mrs. Elizabeth Córdova MacArthur, received in December 2004. The research is 90% complete. The research titled "History of the 1992 Mexican constitutional reform process on indigenous-related issues. Testimony of one of the negotiators," carried out with the cooperation of the Institute of History of the Universidad de Michoacán, México, is 96% complete.

In this reporting period, two students from the Universidad del Mar, Oaxaca, assisted with the work of the Library and Historic Archives. A student from the History School of the Universidad Metropolitana also continued to provide support.

A Financial Viability Commission is in the process of being set up.

Where events are concerned, the "Project Xocotzin. Holy infant 2005. Tohuehueahuilli, the games of our grandparents," promoted by the Secretariat of Public Education, the Government of the Federal District, Mixtín A.C., and the Inter-American Indian Institute was launched in 2005 and conducted in Mexico City.

As for publications, as of December 31, 2005, two issues of the journal *América Indígena's* 2004 series had been published, completing that year's series. Two issues from the 2005 series were also published. These issues were made available at the Institute's Web site, where the user could read them at no cost. Also, 32 works with materials from the Institute's Historic Archives were published on CD.

INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE

Founded in 1942, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture is the specialized agency of the inter-American system for the agricultural sector. It stimulates, promotes, and supports the member states' efforts to achieve agricultural development and rural welfare. It is headquartered in San José, Costa Rica.

IICA partnered with its member states in continuing to promote sustainable agricultural development, food security, and the rural prosperity of the Hemisphere.

In 2005, IICA did more to publicize the findings of its studies on the real importance of agriculture and rural life, which found that both areas are strategic to the countries' integral development. This finding was reaffirmed by the Heads of State and Government at the IV Summit of the Americas in Mar del Plata, Argentina, and by the Ministers of Agriculture of the Hemisphere at the Third Ministerial Meeting "Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas," held in Guayaquil, Ecuador.

Through its operating units and offices, the Institute was instrumental in helping to implement the mandates from the Summits and the Ministerial Meetings. To that end, it provided technical cooperation to be responsive to the member states' demands, to promote integration processes, to monitor the situation of agriculture and rural life in the Hemisphere, to help build the hemispheric consensus and coordinate strategies and activities with other regional and international agencies.

At the Thirteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), the Ministers acknowledged the Institute's modernization work in recent years, which has paralleled efforts to coordinate agendas and periodically render accounts. At that meeting, Dr. Chelston W. D. Brathwaite was unanimously re-elected as Director General of IICA for the 2006-2010 period.

The strategy "Working Together" was reinforced through joint endeavors with the WTO, ECLAC, the OAS, the FAO, UNESCO, the ILO, the IDB, the World Bank, the CATIE, the CTA, PAHO, USAID, the AECI and the GTZ, among others. These partnerships achieved important results in our programs on rural development, trade negotiations, agricultural health and food safety, information, promotion of agribusiness, technological innovation, investment projects, environmental management and training.

IICA promoted development and enhancement of business skills and knowledge through the Inter-American Program on Trade, Agribusiness and Food Safety. This program involved identifying trade opportunities, training, facilitating market access--including markets in the United States, Canada and Europe, development of information systems, support for modernization of markets, and promotion of small rural agro-industry.

On the issue of trade policies and negotiations, the Institute adapted its cooperative activity to conform to the new reality that has emerged from the trade liberalization processes and the proliferation of bilateral and multilateral agreements under which productive activity and agri-commerce are conducted. Significant support continued to be provided to the countries' offices of agricultural trade policy, to help with agritrade negotiations, evaluating the impact of trade agreements on the agricultural and livestock sector, and the important work of administering them.

Along this same line, the horizontal cooperation program titled "Policy and Trade Node: Focal Point Mexico," was implemented, intended to enable a sharing of experiences on these subjects in the Hemisphere. The Institute also served as technical secretariat of a number of regional ministerial forums that endeavored to build and consolidate consensus on policies for agriculture, rural prosperity, and trade.

Other measures geared to improving agricultural competitiveness included promotion of the Commodity Chain Analysis and Action-oriented Dialogue (CADIAC) approach, mainly in countries of the Central American, Andean, and Caribbean regions. The use of this approach has made it easier to build consensus between the actors in the public and private sectors on critical issues affecting the competitiveness of the agri-food chains and implementation of the joint measures needed to deal with those issues.

The Institute began formulating a hemispheric program on agri-biotechnology and biosafety. Experts from the countries and IICA's own technicians determined the priority lines of cooperative endeavor. IICA facilitated effective implementation of the Protocol of Cartagena on Biosafety and strengthened its coordination with the North American Biotechnology Initiative and CAS' Biotechnology Group. A regional analysis was also completed on the institutional standing of the agri-biotechnologies in Latin America and the Caribbean and a specialized Web page on the topic was launched.

In addition, IICA followed the modernization of the countries' agricultural technological innovation systems, preparation of regional studies on the priority issues of the FORAGRO and strengthening of the regional technological innovation cooperative system through the cooperative agricultural research and technology transfer program (PROCI).

With the growing importance of global agricultural trade, cooperation in the area of agricultural health and food safety (AHFS) has been stepped up. One important development has been the use of the tool "Performance, Vision and Strategy" (PVS) to evaluate the AHFS services and support their institutional modernization, in order to increase agri-trade.

The Initiative of the Americas for Strengthening Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures was continued, making it possible for representatives of the sanitary and phytosanitary services of the member states to constantly participate in the WTO's SPS Committee.

Aware of the breadth of the topics related to the AHFS, among them the avian flu, the Institute has strengthened its alliances and cooperative ties with other organizations such as the WHO-PAHO, the *Codex Alimentarius*, the OIE and the IPPC.

IICA continued to promote and disseminate the territorial approach to rural development, and to help shape management policies, mechanisms, strategies, and investments that fit that approach. The business of the Institute in this field was more impactful thanks to the synergies resulting from the work done in conjunction with other organizations, both within the framework of the Interagency Rural Development Group and within national inter-agency groups formed to tackle this issue. Among the more important activities in the area of rural development was the added thrust that IICA gave to the strategic axis called BRAMCO, in which rural development institutions from Brazil, Mexico, and Colombia participate. Also a master's degree program in rural development management was launched. Technical assistance was provided, multiple training events were staged, and pilot projects implemented. Technical documents were published and work was done with strategic partners, among them the Rural Policy Research Institute, the Global Environmental Change and Food Systems, the IUCN and the RUTA.

Cultivation of human capital remained a priority in 2005. To address that priority, IICA was supportive of the processes of integrating higher agricultural education, improving the relevance and quality of agricultural and rural education, and certification of agricultural education programs in the Americas. In response to the demands contained in the national and regional agendas, distance education and training courses were prepared on issues vital to agricultural and rural development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

As a corollary to direct technical cooperation, the Institute undertook a sweeping project to compile and organize agricultural and rural information and knowledge to make itself the Hemisphere's principal source and standard in that field. It modernized its portal www.iica.int, improved the technical content, and expanded subscription of the INFOGRA information system (Trade, INFOTEC, Agri-health, Rural Development, PRODAR). The Institute updated the SIDALC, planned the libraries system, improved management of publications, and strengthened the internal data system (Intranet and VPN).

To improve institutional capacities, four high-level technical forums were held and more than 150 documents were published. Staff performance continued to be recognized by rewarding excellence.

At the regional level, the Institute served as technical secretariat of a number of permanent ministerials and helped enable and manage platforms and thematic networks of professionals and technicians, in an effort to build consensus among countries and among regions to piece together the architecture of common agendas.

Finally, IICA's work is reflected in programs, projects and activities in its 34 member states, on such subjects as facilitating competition, trade, promotion of good safety and agricultural health, strengthening of rural communities, hemispheric integration, development of human capital, environmental management and institutional modernization. Preparation, execution, and evaluation of investment projects in agricultural and rural development were ongoing, through inter-thematic teamwork that followed the Institute's strategy.

IV. OTHER INTER-AMERICAN BODIES

INTER-AMERICAN JURIDICAL COMMITTEE

The Inter-American Juridical Committee is one of the organs through which the Organization of American States (OAS) accomplishes its purposes (Article 53 of the Charter). Chapter XIV of the Charter defines its composition, powers, and functions in the following fashion: it serves as an advisory body to the Organization on juridical matters, it promotes the progressive development and the codification of international law, and it studies juridical problems related to the integration of the developing countries of the Hemisphere. It has its headquarters in Rio de Janeiro and is composed of eleven jurists who are nationals of the member states and are elected by the General Assembly.

The Inter-American Juridical Committee held two regular sessions in 2005. The first was in Managua, Nicaragua, February 28 through March 11, 2005, and the second at the Committee's headquarters in Rio de Janeiro, August 1 through 19, 2005. The following topics figured on the Committee's agenda at these two sessions: Joint efforts of the Americas in the struggle against corruption and impunity; the legal aspects of States' domestic enforcement of judgments of international tribunals or courts or other international bodies that have jurisdictional functions; the legal aspects of the interdependence between democracy and economic and social development; the Seventh Inter-American Specialized Conference on Private International Law (CIDIP-VII); Consideration on the codification and standardization of international law in the Americas; preparations for the commemoration of the centennial of the Inter-American Juridical Committee; the International Criminal Court; principles of judicial ethics; freedom of information; access to and protection of personal information and data; the legal aspects of inter-American security; and preparation of a draft inter-American convention against racism and all forms of discrimination and intolerance. The Inter-American Juridical Committee approved reports and adopted resolutions on these topics.

The members of the Inter-American Juridical Committee in 2005 were as follows: Mauricio Herdocia (President), Jean-Paul Hubert (Vice-President), Luis Herrera, Galo Leoro, Antonio Pérez, Eduardo Vio, Ana Elizabeth Villalta, Stephen Vasciannie, Luis Marchand, Joao Grandino Rodas and Alonso Gómez-Robledo.

During the thirty-fifth regular session of the OAS General Assembly (Fort Lauderdale, June 2005), the following were elected to membership on the Committee: Dr. Jaime Aparicio (Bolivia) and Dr. José Manuel Delgado (Venezuela). Dr. Ana Elizabeth Villalta (El Salvador) was re-elected to another term. The terms of office of these three members begin on January 1, 2006, and last four years. The members who left the Inter-American Juridical Committee on December 31, 2005 were Dr. Luis Herrera (Venezuela) and Dr. Stephen Vasciannie (Jamaica).

Dr. Mauricio Herdocia presented the Committee's Annual Report to the General Assembly, on its work in 2004.

The officials from the OAS General Secretariat who provided the Inter-American Juridical Committee with technical and administrative assistance were Dr. Jean-Michel Arrighi, Director of the Department of International Legal Affairs, and Drs. Manoel Tolomei Moletta and Dante M. Negro, Principal Legal Advisors with that department.

Finally, the Inter-American Juridical Committee, in coordination with the International Law Office of the Department of International Legal Affairs, organized the XXXII Course on International Law, held from August 1 through 26, 2005. Participating were 28 professors from various countries in the Americas and

Europe, 29 OAS fellowship recipients selected from over 70 applicants, and 14 self-paying students. The central theme of the course was: *The contribution of international organizations to international law today.*

INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) was created by a resolution of the Fifth Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs in Santiago Chile, in 1959. It was formally established in 1960 when the Council of the Organization approved its Statute. Its Regulations, first adopted in 1980, were amended several times thereafter, most recently in 2000.

Commission sessions held in 2005

In this reporting period, the Commission met on two occasions: for its 122nd regular session, February 23 to March 11, 2005, and for the 123rd regular session, October 11 through 28, 2005.

At the 122nd regular session, the Commission elected its new officers: Clare K. Roberts, President; Susana Villarán, First Vice President, and Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro, Second Vice President. The Commission also assigned functions to the various rapporteurships and examined numerous individual petitions asserting human rights violations and alleging that the international responsibility of OAS member states had been engaged. It approved a total of 51 reports on individual cases and petitions and held 43 hearings on individual cases, the general human rights situation in various countries of the Hemisphere, precautionary measures, and follow-up of its recommendations. The Commission examined other issues within its competence as well.

During its 123rd session, from October 11 through 28, 2005, the Commission continued to study numerous individual communications alleging violations of human rights protected under the American Convention and the American Declaration. It approved a total of 66 reports on cases and individual petitions. The Commission held 55 hearings between October 17 and 25, 2005, in connection with individual cases and petitions, precautionary measures and general and specific human rights situations. Also during that session and in compliance with the mandate set out in OAS General Assembly resolution AG/RES. 2074 (XXXV-O/05), the Commission organized a workshop on economic, social and cultural rights. The event was attended by international experts, representatives of OAS member States serving on the Working Group in charge of preparing a Social Charter for the Americas, and representatives of civil society.

Visits

In 2005 the Commission made three visits to Haiti, with financial support provided by the Government of France and logistical support from the OAS Special Mission to Strengthen Democracy in Haiti. The Commission's Special Rapporteur for Haiti, President Clare K. Roberts, visited Haiti from April 18 through 22, 2005. A delegation from the Commission's Secretariat made another trip to Haiti from July 11 through 15, 2005, mainly to compile additional information on the situation of the administration of justice in that country, in order to complete a report on that subject. The Commission made a third visit from November 2 through 5, 2005, together with UNICEF's Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean. The delegation was headed by Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro, Commissioner and the IACHR's Rapporteur for Children and an Independent Expert of the United Nations Secretary General for the World Study on Violence against Children, and by María Jesús Conde, UNICEF's Child Protection Advisor for Latin America and the Caribbean.

The First Vice President and the IACHR's Special Rapporteur for Guatemala, Susana Villarán, visited Guatemala at the Government's invitation and at the request of representatives of civil society. Financial support for the visit was provided by the European Commission. During that visit, working meetings were held on five cases where important agreements on friendly settlement were reached; five cases involving

follow-up of recommendations, and eight precautionary measures. During her visit, the Rapporteur also attended an event held to publicly acknowledge the Plan de Sánchez massacre back on July 18, 1982, when members of the Guatemalan Army and civilian collaborators under the Army's direction massacred 268 individuals, most of whom were Mayan indigenous persons. During her visit, she also presented a document on reparations to victims of human rights violations. She followed up on the issues related to the administration of justice and to violence against women, and evaluated the situation of social and indigenous leaders, those who work for justice and men and women engaged in the defense of human rights.

A Commission delegation headed by the Vice President and Rapporteur for Colombia, Susana Villarán, traveled to Bogotá from February 15 through 19, 2005, to formally present the *Report on the Demobilization Process in Colombia*. On December 14 and 15, 2005, a Commission delegation headed by Executive Secretary Santiago A. Canton visited Bogotá to follow up on the demobilization in Colombia, in keeping with the mandate established in OAS Permanent Council resolution CP/RES. 859 (1397/04), where the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights is invited to provide advisory services to the Mission to Support the Peace Process in Colombia (MAPP/OEA).

At the invitation of the Mexican Government and at the request of various representatives of Mexican civil society, the Inter-American Commission, with support provided by the European Commission, visited Mexico from August 25 through 31, 2005. Commissioner José Zalaquett, who served as the Commission's Rapporteur for Mexico and as Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, headed up the delegation, which also included officials from the Commission's Secretariat. The program also featured the Commission's first official visit to the state of Oaxaca.

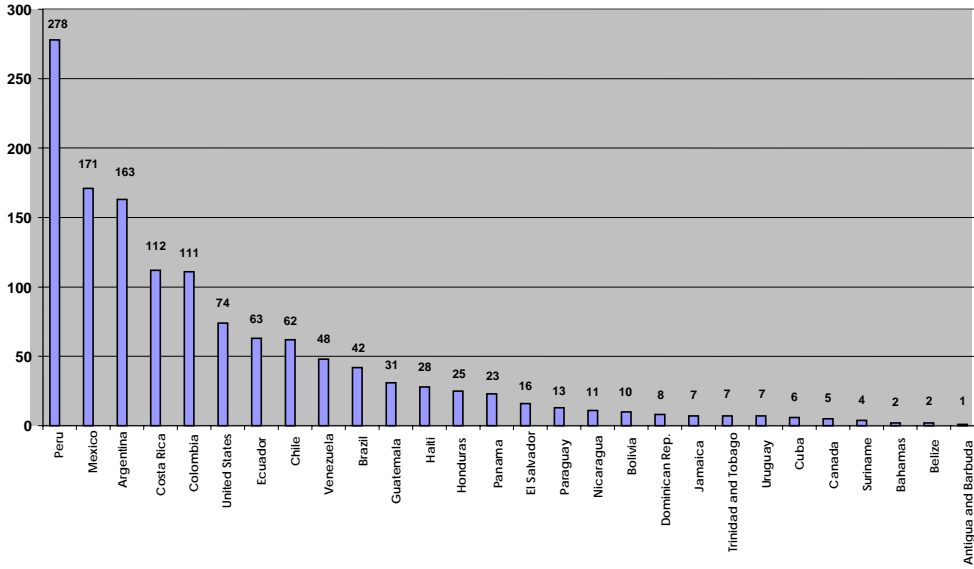
Financial situation

During 2005, the Commission was pleased to observe the sizeable financial contributions made by the governments of Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Finland, France, Ireland, Italy, Mexico, Spain, Sweden, and the United States and the financing provided by the Inter-American Development Bank, the European Commission, the Human Rights and Democracy Foundation, the McCormick Foundation and the University of Notre Dame, all of whose contributions were made specifically to bolster the inter-American human rights system. However, the Commission continues to be affected by a financial crisis as the number of petitions and other areas within the Commission's purview continue to grow.

Petitions and cases

In 2005, the Inter-American Commission received 1,330 individual petitions.

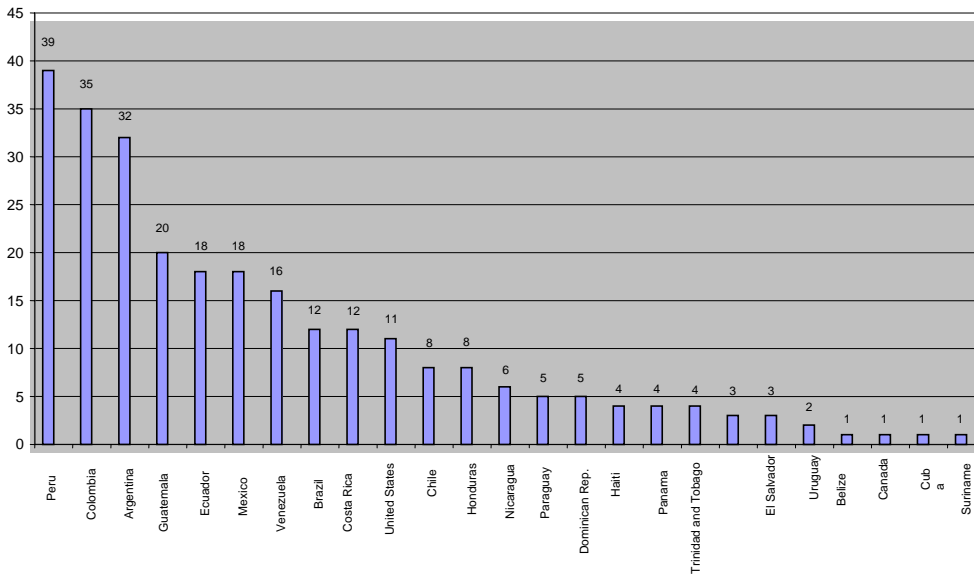
TOTAL NUMBER OF PETITIONS RECEIVED IN 2005, BY COUNTRY
Total: 1330



Precautionary measures

The Commission received 269 requests for precautionary measures in 2005.

TOTAL REQUESTS FOR PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES RECEIVED IN 2005, BY COUNTRY
Total: 269



The Inter-American Commission's cases with the Inter-American Court of Human Rights

In 2005, the Commission continued to litigate a series of matters before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. Between January 1 and December 31, 2005, the Commission filed ten cases with the Inter-American Court: Nogueira de Carvalho (Brazil); Cuatro Puntos Cardinales (Honduras); Sawhoyamaxa Indigenous Community (Paraguay), Dismissed Congressional Workers (Peru), Bernabé Baldeón-García (Peru), Retén de Catia (Venezuela), Vargas Areco (Paraguay), Goiburú, Mancuello and Villalta (Paraguay), Claude Reyes *et al.* (Chile), and Almonacid Arellano (Chile). It also filed seven requests with the Court seeking provisional measures in the cases of: Fermín Ramírez (Guatemala), Gutiérrez Soler (Colombia), López Álvarez (Honduras), Ramírez Hinostroza and Rivera Paz (Peru), FEBEM's "*Complexo do Tataupé*" (Brazil), Castañeda Gutman (Mexico), and the La Pica Penitentiary (Venezuela). The Commission also participated in a number of public hearings before the Court in 2005.

**V. OTHER AUTONOMOUS AND DECENTRALIZED
ORGANS, AGENCIES, ENTITIES AND DEPENDENCIES**

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 problems related to natural disasters and serve as the principal forum of the Organization of American States (OAS) for study of this topic, in coordination with the competent national organizations.

In resolution AG/RES. 2114 (XXXV-O/05), “Natural Disaster Reduction and Risk Management,” the General Assembly called for the formation of a joint consultative body of the Committee on Hemispheric Security (CSH) and the Permanent Executive Committee of CIDI (CEPCIDI) whose principal tasks would be:

- a. To work on the immediate implementation of the Permanent Council recommendations contained in the document “Recommendations of the Committee on Hemispheric Security on Natural Disaster Reduction and Risk Management” (CP/CSH-718/05);
- b. To review the Statutes of FONDEM and of the IACNDR and propose the amendments necessary to create a single permanent inter-American committee to address natural and other disasters;
- c. To convene a meeting of the disaster preparedness agencies, with the participation of governmental experts, subregional sector institutions, and international experts, to share experiences and methods of assessing vulnerability, risk, and the costs and benefits of investing in natural hazards mitigation; and
- d. To develop a funding approach geared specifically toward natural disaster prevention, reconstruction, and recovery.

The joint advisory body met for the first time on September 12, 2005, and twice again in 2006. The agendas of its meetings demonstrate the progress achieved in carrying out the task entrusted to it. The meetings provided a forum in which the Department of Sustainable Development and bodies of the inter-American system could give presentations on topics such as “The inter-American response—experiences and challenges,” “Recommendations on systematic risk management,” and “Funding approach geared specifically toward natural disaster prevention, reconstruction, and recovery.”

The progress made by the joint advisory body in establishing the Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction (IACNDR) as a single permanent inter-American committee to address natural and other disasters deserves separate treatment. This not only created an entity to encompass all the Organization’s efforts in connection with natural disasters and a mechanism for follow-up on implementation of the other mandates of resolution AG/RES. 2114 but also provided a single forum for establishing ties and coordinating activities with other bodies interested in natural disaster mitigation. In this connection, the incorporation of the Inter-American Defense Board (IADB) as a member of the IACNDR also deserves mention.

Inter-American Emergency Aid Fund

The Inter-American Emergency Aid Fund (FONDEM) was created by the General Assembly through resolution AG/RES. 1327 (XXV-O/95), to provide available social, humanitarian, material, technical, and financial aid to any member state of the Organization that is threatened by, has suffered from, or is in an emergency situation caused by natural disasters.

In the period covered by this report, and in response to various natural disasters in the region, the OAS General Secretariat made the following contributions in United States dollars:

2005

El Salvador (hurricane and volcanic activity)	\$15,000
Mexico (hurricane and volcanic activity)	\$15,000
Guatemala	\$15,000
Grenada (hurricane)	\$10,000

2006

Bolivia (floods)	\$15,000
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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 Ministers of Justice or of 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. The Center is governed by its Statutes and Rules of Procedure, and 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.

Support for Criminal Justice Reforms

In the period covered by this report, and in support of criminal justice reforms, the JSCA has implemented the pilot project “Strengthening the Adversarial System in the Province of Buenos Aires” in order to implement an oral hearing system that quickly resolves cases in which the defendant was caught in *flagrante delicto*, in Mar del Plata, Argentina.

The following studies have also been prepared:

- “Follow-up Study on Criminal Procedure Reform” (Cordoba, Argentina): The CPR follow-up studies seek to obtain information on the functioning of criminal justice systems in order to identify major problems in the implementation of public, adversarial systems.
- “Gender and Criminal Procedure Reforms (2nd Stage)” (Bolivia, Argentina): To provide information on how criminal justice systems, and particularly those that have undergone extensive reforms in recent years, deal with crimes that mainly affect women such as violent assault and sexual assault.
- “Empirical Evaluation of Chile's Criminal Procedure Reform” (Chile): The JSCA and Fundación Paz Ciudadana were awarded the commission for this study, which identifies the strengths and weaknesses of the Chilean CPR.
- “Indigenous Communities and Criminal Procedure Reform” (Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Guatemala and Peru): To provide a preliminary overview of the impact of and issues related to the application of new adversarial criminal justice systems in an indigenous context.
- “Public Defense Manual for Latin America and the Caribbean”: To provide tools, based on practical experience, for the effective and efficient design and administration of a public defense system.
- “Challenges of the Public Prosecutor's Office in Latin America”: To identify the main problems faced in the area of criminal prosecution in countries with reformed justice systems, and to provide creative and innovative solutions to these problems.

Furthermore, several training programs have been carried out, *inter alia*:

- Inter-American Program for Training Trainers for Criminal Procedure Reform (Version 2), which looks to improve the outcomes of the criminal justice reform processes in the region by training a critical mass of leaders who will implement replicas of the program in their respective countries. Students came from

Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela.

- JSCA, INECIP and Diario Judicial de Argentina Training Program: Geared towards attorneys, advanced law students and criminal justice system operators, this specialized course provides information on the criminal procedure reforms that have led to the implementation of an oral adversarial system in countries throughout the region in recent decades.
- Strengthening and Modernization of Justice Administration in Mexico: Consists of the organization of fora on key issues related to judicial reform in Mexico in order to compare experiences and generate debate within the country's justice sector.

In the period covered by this report the JSCA organized three inter-American seminars: i) III Inter-American Seminar on Judicial Management held in Managua, Nicaragua, to analyze experiences and lessons learned in the design, implementation and operation of substantive aspects of judicial office models and their sustainability in terms of organizational, functional, economic and cultural aspects; ii) Inter-American Seminar on Civil Justice, held in Santiago, Chile, in order to provide a general overview of key aspects of civil justice reform in Latin American countries; and, iii) Inter-American Seminar on Criminal Prosecution in Latin America in order to continue the debate on the current state and challenges of criminal prosecution in public prosecutor's office in the context of the criminal procedure reform.

Developing Information Systems and Judicial Management

Several projects are underway to strengthen judicial information systems, including: "Criminal Court Statistics for Guatemala" to collect statistical information in order to contribute to improving the country's judicial information systems; "Index of Online Access to Judicial Information" to compare the performance of countries across the region in this area, identifying how much judicial information is accessible online; and a "Report on Judicial Systems in the Americas (2004-2005)" to provide a comprehensive overview of the region's judicial systems, describing the structure and characteristics, operation, productivity and reform initiatives underway in each institution.

Furthermore, as regards support for judicial management, production is in process of a "Judicial Management Manual" whose objective is to provide instruments for, and relate useful experiences with, designing or redesigning judicial offices.

Other Activities

In order to conduct in-depth studies of justice systems and develop innovative approaches to discussions of judicial reform, the preparation is underway of a study on "Justice Spending", which seeks to provide quantitative information on the budgetary resources of justice sector institutions in the Americas.

To promote regional cooperation and the exchange of experiences among key justice sector actors, the "JSCA Internships" program constitutes an effective mechanism to enrich the JSCA's work by facilitating the participation of professionals and/or students from various countries in the Americas and, in some cases, other continents.

The JSCA has generated and disseminated the following instruments to improve the quality of information on justice in the Americas:

- JSCA Virtual Information Center (VIC): VIC is the virtual platform through which the JSCA makes the information that it generates and gathers on judicial system is available to the regional

community the JSCA uses its web site, www.cejamericas.org, to present itself to the world and the countries of the Americas. The site contains all of the documents, research, activities and information that the Center generates.

- JSCA Virtual Library: to offer information on justice-related issues in general and justice reform in the OAS member countries in particular.
- Nexus Newsletter: This newsletter is designed to help us reach our external audiences by offering a summary of news related to justice reform and modernization processes in the Americas, presenting information on related events and serving as a resource for the individuals and institutions who are involved or interested in these topics.
- Judicial Systems Journal: this journal is a joint publication of the JSCA and INECIP. Its purpose is to promote the discussion and exchange of information and experiences regarding justice in the Americas.
- JSCA Publications: JSCA uses print versions of its publications to reach an audience that does not have consistent access to an efficient Internet system in order to download the documents that we offer online. JSCA presents a limited number of print copies of some of its studies. The material is distributed free of charge throughout the region (recipients cover shipping charges).

ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL

The Administrative Tribunal (TRIBAD) was established on April 22, 1971, by resolution AG/RES. 35 (I-O/71), adopted by the General Assembly 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 is composed of six members and is supported by the Secretariat of the Administrative Tribunal.

At the thirty-fifth regular session of the General Assembly, the Tribunal was represented by its Secretary, Mr. Reinaldo Rodríguez Gallad. On that occasion, Mr. Andre M. Surena was elected to serve as a judge on the Tribunal until 2011.

In October 2005, the Tribunal, having convened all of its members, held its 53rd regular session, attended by judges Morton Sklar (President), Agustín Gordillo (Vice President), Alma Montenegro de Fletcher, and José Antonio Arze Aguirre. Once the Tribunal was in session, judge José Antonio Arze Aguirre assumed his office. The Tribunal considered the following items: independence of the Tribunal; complaint No. 283, Relinda Louisy v. Secretary General; amendments to the Rules of Procedure; celebration of the 35th anniversary of the Tribunal; and appointment of the Secretary of the Tribunal. The Secretary reported on the quantifiable results of the Tribunal's 2005 budget and note was taken of the budget for 2006, provided in resolution AG/RES. 2157 (XXXV-O/05). The following resolutions were also adopted:

- Resolution 350 (LIII-O/05), "Independence of the Administrative Tribunal"
- Resolution 351 (LIII-O/05), "Request for Correction of Errors in Judgment 151"
- Resolution 352 (LIII-O/05), "Celebration of the Tribunal's 35th Anniversary"
- Resolution 353 (LIII-O/05), "Amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Administrative Tribunal"
- Resolution 354 (LIII-O/05), "Appointment of the Consultant/Secretary of the Administrative Tribunal of the OAS"

The majority of the members of the Tribunal being present, they met with the Secretary General and presented to him resolution 350 (LIII-O/05), "Independence of the Administrative Tribunal."

On October 3, 2005, a working luncheon was held with the Tribunal members present at the 53rd session of the Tribunal and distinguished representatives of the OAS and of administrative tribunals of the ADB, UN, IMF, and IDB. The topics discussed focused on current problems being considered by these bodies. A commitment was also secured to participate in the publication of the book and the holding of the seminar to commemorate the Tribunal's anniversary, tasks on which the Secretariat has been working.

The Secretariat has prepared new draft amendments to its Statute, which will be circulated to the members for subsequent consideration by the Permanent Council and then by the General Assembly.

The Secretariat has arranged with the OITS/OAS to change the Tribunal's Web page by updating the document search system, using the Triblex system adopted by the Administrative Tribunal of the ILO.

At the request of the members, the Secretariat prepared the following reports: Article XII of the Statute of the Tribunal; Independence of the Tribunal; Jurisprudence of International Administrative Tribunals on Contracts for External Consultants; GS/OAS Salary Policy.

In addition to performing the tasks assigned it under the Statute and Rules of Procedure of the Tribunal, the Secretariat also collaborated with the working committees of the Permanent Council, CICTE, the CIM, and the JSCA.

PAN AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

Established in 1962, the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF) is a private, nonprofit, nongovernmental institution that operates under a cooperation agreement concluded with the OAS to support development programs and assistance to victims of natural disasters and humanitarian crises. The OAS was the first multilateral organization to establish a nongovernmental organization, the PADF, as one of its partners.

The Secretary General chairs the Foundation's Board of Directors, which includes 25 leaders from the private sector, from all corners of the Hemisphere. The President of the Foundation is Ruth Espey-Romero and the executive director is John Sanbrailo. All the members of the Board of Directors work on a volunteer basis, serve as a support group to the OAS, and make monetary contributions and contributions in kind to the Foundation's programs. The headquarters of the PADF is located within the facilities of the OAS, where the foundation leases its offices and covers all of its costs and services.

The PADF's mission is to encourage integral development for the most needy in Latin America and the Caribbean, so as to "create a Hemisphere of opportunity for all." This mission is accomplished through innovative alliances with private, public, and nonprofit organizations, alliances that seek to further the OAS' priorities. One of the Foundation's most important objectives is to strengthen civil society in the region and raise donations from businesses, corporations, civic groups, international agencies, and organizations like USAID, the World Bank, and the Inter-American Development Bank, to name just a few. It also handles contributions from governmental institutions in the region.

The period from March 2005 to February 2006 stood out because of the many activities carried out under the leadership of Acting Secretary General Einaudi, Secretary General José Miguel Insulza, and Assistant Secretary-General Albert Ramdin. To respond to the major humanitarian crisis in the Hemisphere, the PADF continued to provide employment, technical training, and other services to thousands of persons displaced by the violence in Colombia and to coca farmers who opted to abandon that illegal crop in that country. In the last five years, PADF programs have benefited over 400,000 Colombians, especially Afro-Colombians, as well as displaced women and children. This year, the PADF obtained new funds from USAID to continue in the 2006-2010 period the assistance program for displaced persons in Colombia, as well as to provide support for alternative development in coca-growing areas of the country, in support of the policies of the Colombian government and the OAS, with a view to consolidating its democracy through the peace process.

The PADF also extended its financing in Haiti for programs in agricultural and rural development, generation of employment, to help victims of natural disasters and rebuild infrastructure, to strengthen community organizations, and to combat illicit trafficking in persons. A waste management and street cleaning program was launched to create employment in different neighborhoods in conflict in Port-au-Prince in support of the electoral process. This activity was carried out with advisory services from the OAS, using resources provided by USAID, and working with the Yélé Haiti Foundation created by the famous Haitian singer Wyclef Jean. A new donation was secured to support a Haitian model of community-driven development financed by the World Bank. Other PADF initiatives include encouragement of cooperative ties between nongovernmental organizations along the border between Haiti and the Dominican Republic, as a way to reduce conflict, protect human rights, and foster dialogue and peace.

The Foundation also broadened its activities in the city of El Alto, Bolivia, in social assistance projects and to repair community infrastructure, in order to support the democratic process. With funding from the

Fondo Productivo Social (FPS) and the World Bank, the PADF set up a program to provide advisory services to Bolivian municipalities on how to prepare and carry out rural projects.

In the 2005-2006 period, the PADF provided over \$2.0 million in donations of medical and dental equipment and tools for vocational training centers in Colombia, Costa Rica, Uruguay, Venezuela, and elsewhere. These helped community-based organizations expand their services so as to be able to serve low-income beneficiaries who do not have access to basic services. The Foundation continues to make arrangements for even more donations of medical and dental equipment, tools for development, school buses, fire trucks, machinery, and equipment for various municipalities in the region.

Under the leadership of the Secretary General, and to help the Caribbean islands and other countries hit by the hurricanes and flooding, the PADF raised over \$1 million for humanitarian relief and reconstruction in Grenada, Jamaica, Haiti, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Bolivia, with the support of the OAS, the Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction, the American Chambers of Commerce, and private donors like Chevron, Citigroup, Altria, Kraft Foods, Caterpillar, Stanford Financial, and others. The PADF uses OAS contributions to arrange for matching donations from the private sector. For every dollar contributed by the OAS, the PADF raised over 10 more dollars to help victims of natural disasters. A donation was also secured from USAID's Office of US Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) to enable greater private sector participation in disaster mitigation and preparedness programs in countries such as Costa Rica, Colombia, Trinidad and Tobago, and others.

In support of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, the Foundation also broadened its efforts to strengthen civil society institutions throughout the region, creating ties with private and governmental donors in order to strengthen democratic values and practices in the Americas. It is worth noting here that the PADF raised private donations for NGOs in Argentina, Brazil, Honduras, Peru, and elsewhere.

It also increased cooperation with Hispanic and Caribbean groups living in the United States, to help them channel their community remittances into development projects, especially in the areas of agriculture and education. To that end, the PADF worked with 30 Latin and Caribbean groups in the United States, in particular Salvadorans and Haitians. In partnership with them, some \$2 million dollars in contributions were raised from those groups and from other donors for projects in their countries. Based on the successful projects, ALCANCE and Manos Unidas, an alliance was established with the Banco Agrícola of El Salvador to broaden development projects in that country.

The PADF continues to look for new mechanisms and sources of funding to implement projects with NGOs, community-based groups, municipalities, and private businesses, in support of the OAS and the initiatives of the Summits of the Americas.

BOARD OF EXTERNAL AUDITORS

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution AG/RES. 123 (III-O/73), adopted on April 14, 1973, and Permanent Council resolution CP/RES. 124 (164/75), of June 10, 1975, the Board of External Auditors is responsible for the external auditing of the General Secretariat's accounts.

The Board held its annual meeting March 27 through 31, 2006, to prepare its report on the external audit of the accounts and financial statements of the OAS for the years ending December 31, 2005 and 2004, in keeping with Article 129 of the General Standards.

On May 10, 2006, the Board will present its observations in the document *Report to the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States: Audit of Accounts and Financial Statements, December 31, 2005 and 2004* (OEA/Ser.S JAE/doc.36/06). The report will have five sections: a) Comments and recommendations to improve the operating procedures and internal accounting 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 Associated with the Organization of American States; e) Financial Statements of the Retirement and Pension Fund (audited by the Firm of Ernst and Young, LLP).

SB & Company, LLC, a firm of independent auditors, found that the financial statements of the audited entities were consistent with the books, documents, and vouchers of the General Secretariat.

The Board met with the Secretary General and advised him of the findings of the audit and its recommendations, so that those recommendations might be made known to the General Assembly and the Permanent Council.

The most important recommendations are:

To the Permanent Council:

- Assign high priority to collecting quotas and identify more effective ways to encourage prompt payment of quotas in arrears, helping to reduce the arrearage, and to consider possible changes to the requirements that member states must meet to encourage them to make their payments early in the fiscal year.
- Reaffirm the recommendation to start a planning process aimed at pinpointing the OAS' priorities and objectives, so that it is able to assign budgetary resources to meet the most relevant priorities.
- As a budgetary initiative, establish a visible and systematic mechanism that helps generate savings.
- Consider the use of other sources of income, including the decision to maximize the potential of the property of the Inter-American Defense Board at 16th and Euclid Streets in Washington, D.C.

To the General Secretariat:

- Do a cost analysis that identifies all administrative elements of cost of supervision used to support the specific funds. The resulting mechanism should be able to compute the cost that attends every proposed grant or donation to the specific funds.

- Provide suitable financing to ensure that staff away from headquarters are properly trained. Prepare an appropriate method to monitor and improve the internal controls at the National Offices.
- Ensure that the internal control policies and procedures associated with the use of scholarships are the most appropriate. The OAS should also develop and introduce a process that ensures that all internal policies associated with the fellowship selection and approval process are strictly observed and duly documented.

Following the summary of the financial situation of the Regular Fund, the Specific Funds and the special contributions to the OAS, the Board considered what the Administration of the General Secretariat had done to put into practice the recommendations the Board had made in the previous year's report and other matters of interest to it.

The Board emphasized the fact that the firm of independent auditors had issued unqualified ("clean") reports—the best possible outcome of an audit—on the following financial statements for 2005:

- 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 the Promotion of Democracy
- Inter-American Defense Board Fund
- Medical Benefits Trust Fund
- Retirement and Pension Fund

INTER-AMERICAN DEFENSE BOARD

The Inter-American Defense Board (IADB) was established in 1942 to study and recommend measures for the defense of the Hemisphere. It is the oldest multilateral military organization in the world. It promotes peace and security in the Hemisphere, fosters confidence-building through military cooperation ties, and strengthens relations between civilians and the military. The Inter-American Defense Board promotes cooperative security interests in the Western Hemisphere. It supervises a senior-level academic program in security and defense studies at the Inter-American Defense College.

In its work on humanitarian demining issues, the IADB continues to coordinate and oversee the Assistance Missions for Mine-Clearing in Central America (MARMINCA) and South America (MARMINAS), in support of the Comprehensive Action against Antipersonnel Mines (AICMA) program of the OAS. Over the year, 29 international supervisors and monitors took part in these two missions, deployed by the Armed Forces of Brazil, Chile, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Venezuela. In December 2005, MARMINCA concluded its mine-clearing work in Guatemala and it is now continuing its work in five sectors in the northern region of Nicaragua. On December 15, Guatemala completed its humanitarian demining tasks and the country was declared free of anti-personnel landmines. As for MARMINAS, in 2005 humanitarian demining courses were provided for Peruvian and Ecuadorian military, police, and government officials. Demining monitoring work was also conducted on the Ecuadorian side. It is worth noting that, by end-February 2006, 55,367 mines and explosive devices had been destroyed in the course of the two demining missions, clearing an area of almost 2,800,000 square meters.

Currently, the IADB is organizing a Group of Inter-American Monitors to implement OAS commitments in support of the National Demining Plan in Colombia. This Group of Monitors receives voluntary support from the armed forces of Brazil, Honduras, and Nicaragua. The Dominican Republic and Ecuador have also expressed their readiness to provide military technical personnel.

With respect to confidence and security building measures (CSBMs), pursuant to resolution AG/RES. 2113 (XXXV-O/05), the IADB has updated the inventory of the CSBMs applied in the Hemisphere in 2004 based on the reports presented by member states and has also updated its inventory of CSBMs in other regions. Both these reports were submitted as document C-3183-S to the OAS General Secretariat for presentation in due course to the Committee on Hemispheric Security. Currently the reports on the Hemisphere and other parts of the world are being updated on the basis of measures applied in 2005. On April 25 and 26, 2005, the IADB took part in the First CSBMs Forum organized by the Committee on Hemispheric Security in the Hall of the Americas at OAS headquarters. There were presentations on CSBMs in the Hemisphere and in other regions.

In the educational sphere, the Inter-American Defense College (IADC) conducted its senior-level academic program for civilian officials and military and police officers, providing them with a wide range of professional and inter-disciplinary knowledge about governmental systems, the international environment, the structure and workings of the inter-American system, analysis of threats, concerns, and challenges to hemispheric security, peace-keeping operations, natural disasters, conflict resolution, and crisis management. So far 2,128 people have successfully completed this course and over 500 of them have gone on to hold top military positions in their respective countries. Some have become ministers of defense. Two much-admired graduates even became president of their respective countries.

It is worth noting that, in the quest for greater academic excellence, the IADC now offers two Master's Degrees: one in International Services with particular emphasis on Security and Defense, in coordination

with American University, and the other on Defense and Security, in coordination with the El Salvador University of the Argentine Republic. The IADC also conducts a Study Trip to Argentina, Paraguay, and Brazil.

A significant new feature of the 2005-2006 academic program was the inclusion of a module on Civilian-Military Relations in Democracy. This course was highly informative and provided important perspectives and analysis of the dynamics of currently changing relations between civilians and the military in the countries of the Hemisphere.

The Study Program was also enriched by the addition of a “Course on Terrorism and Other Forms of Organized Violence,” made possible thanks to the Friendship Program developed under an agreement with the National Defense University (NDU). The Friendship Program enabled students at the IADC, the NDU, and participants from the IADB and the OAS to analyze the threat posed by these scourges to democratic governance and the economy in the context of the changed economic and political order following the break-up of the old bipolar international system, and to realize the need for effective regional and international cooperation in dealing effectively with that threat.

The IADC welcomed a number of distinguished visitors in the period under review. They included, in particular, the OAS Secretary General; the ambassadors and permanent representatives of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Paraguay, Peru, United States, and Venezuela; the Minister of Defense of Guatemala; and the Vice Minister of Defense of Argentina. The College was also visited by representatives of a number of institutions: Ecuador’s National Institute of War; the War Colleges of Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, and Mexico; the Officers and Chiefs of Staff Colleges of Guatemala and Honduras; and Guatemala’s National Defense Studies Center.

Finally, with regard to the IADC’s academic activities, mention should be made of the 35 research monographs/theses produced by members of Class XLIV. Most of them are posted on the IADC website (<http://library.jid.org/en/mono44.htm>) and all of them can be consulted at the IADC library.

INTER-AMERICAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

The Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACtHR) is an autonomous judicial body 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 judges, elected in a personal capacity by the States parties to the American Convention during sessions of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States.

During this reporting period, the Court was composed of the following judges, listed in order of precedence: Sergio García Ramírez (Mexico), President; Alirio Abreu Burelli (Venezuela), Vice President; Oliver Jackman (Barbados); Antonio A. Cançado Trindade (Brazil); Cecilia Medina Quiroga (Chile); Manuel E. Ventura Robles (Costa Rica); and Diego García Sayán (Peru). The Secretary of the Court is Pablo Saavedra Alessandri (Chile) and the Deputy Secretary is Emilia Segares Rodríguez (Costa Rica).

Cases, provisional measures and advisory opinions

In 2005, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights filed 10 contentious cases with the Court, namely: *Nogueira de Carvalho v. Brazil*, *Servellón García et al. v. Honduras*; *Sawhoyamaxa Indigenous Community v. Paraguay*; *Dismissed Congressional Employees v. Peru*; *Baldeón García v. Perú*, *Montero Aranguren v. Venezuela*; *Vargas Areco v. Paraguay*; *Goiburú et al. v. Paraguay*; *Claude Reyes et al. v. Chile*, and *Luis Almonacid Arellano v. Chile*.

Eight requests for provisional measures were submitted to the Court in 2005, in the following cases: the “*Mapiripán Massacre*” Case (Colombia); the *Gutiérrez Soler Case* (Colombia); the *Ivcher Bronstein Case* (Peru); the *López Álvarez Case* (Honduras); the *Ramírez Hinestroza et al. Case* (Peru); the *Case of the Children and Adolescents Incarcerated in FEBEM’s “Complejo do Tataupé”* (Brazil); the *Castañeda Gutman Case* (Mexico), and the *Cesti Hurtado Case* (Peru).

Sessions

In the period covered by this report, the Court held four regular sessions and one special session, where it considered the matters described below.

At the Court’s LXVI regular session, held February 28 through March 15, 2005, the Court delivered four judgments: *the Case of the Serrano Cruz Sisters v. El Salvador* (merits, reparations and costs); *the Case of Hilca Tecse v. Peru* (merits, reparations and costs); *the Case of Caesar v. Trinidad and Tobago* (merits, reparations and costs), and the “*Mapiripán Massacre*” Case v. Colombia (preliminary objections and acknowledgment of responsibility). Seven orders were issued on provisional measures in the following cases: *James et al.* (Trinidad and Tobago); *Liliana Ortega et al.* (Venezuela); *Bámaca Velásquez* (Guatemala); *Fermín Ramírez* (Guatemala); *the Communities of the Juguamiandó and Curbaradó* (Colombia); *the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó* (Colombia), and the *Gutiérrez Soler Case* (Colombia). The Court also held seven public hearings in the following cases: *the Yakye Axa Indigenous Community v. Paraguay*; the “*Mapiripán Massacre*” Case v. Colombia; *YATAMA v. Nicaragua*; *Gutiérrez Soler v. Colombia*; the *Communities of the Juguamiandó and of the Curbaradó* (Colombia) (provisional measures); *the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó* (Colombia) (provisional measures); and the *Case of the Yean and Bosico girls v. the Dominican Republic*. Two orders for compliance with judgment were issued in the following cases: *Loayza Tamayo* (Peru), and *Bámaca Velásquez* (Guatemala).

At its XXVI special session, held May 9 through 13, 2005, in Asunción, Paraguay, the Court issued a decision with regard to the Costa Rican State's request for an advisory opinion. The Court also held four public hearings in the following cases: *Palamara Iribarne v. Chile*, *García Asto and Ramírez Rojas v. Peru*, *Mendoza Prisons v. Argentina* (provisional measures), and the *Sarayaku Indigenous Community v. Ecuador* (provisional measures).

During its LXVII Regular Session, June 13 through 30, 2005, the Court issued 6 judgments, namely: *Moiwana v. Suriname* (preliminary objections, merits, reparations and costs); the *Yakye Axa Indigenous Community v. Paraguay* (merits, reparations and costs); the *Fermín Ramírez Case v. Guatemala* (merits, reparations and costs); *YATAMA v. Nicaragua* (preliminary objections, merits, reparations and costs); *Lori Berenson v. Peru* (interpretation of the judgment on the merits, reparations and costs); and *Acosta Calderón v. Ecuador* (merits, reparations and costs). Ten orders were issued on provisional measures in the following cases: *López Álvarez* (Honduras); *Plan de Sánchez Massacre* (*Salvador Jerónimo et al.*) (Guatemala); *Blake* (Guatemala); *Liliana Ortega et al.* (Venezuela); *Boyce and Joseph* (Barbados); *Sarayaku Indigenous Community* (Ecuador); *Mendoza Prisons* (Argentina); "*Mapiripán Massacre*" (Colombia); *Pilar Noriega García et al.* (Mexico), and *Eloisa Barrios et al.* (Venezuela). The Court held three public hearings on the following cases: *Blanco Romero et al. v. Venezuela*; *López Alvarez v. Honduras* and *Eloisa Barrios et al. v. Venezuela* (provisional measures). Finally, the Court issued a decision on the request from the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights seeking an advisory opinion, and an order for compliance in the *Street Children Case* (*Villagrán Morales et al.*) (Guatemala). It also issued a general order on compliance with judgments and a decision on translations.

At its LXVIII Regular Session, held September 7 through 24, 2005, the Court issued five judgments, namely the following: the *Case of the Yean and Bosico Girls v. the Dominican Republic* (preliminary objections, merits, reparations and costs); the *Case of the Serrano Cruz Sisters v. El Salvador* (request for interpretation of the judgment on the merits, reparations and costs); the *Gutiérrez Soler Case v. Colombia* (merits, reparations and costs); the "*Mapiripán Massacre*" *Case v. Colombia* (merits, reparations and costs), and the *Raxcacó Reyes Case v. Guatemala* (merits, reparations and costs). Six orders were issued on provisional measures in the following cases: *Fermín Ramírez* (Guatemala); *Luisiana Ríos et al.* (*Radio Caracas Televisión – RCTV*) (Venezuela); *López Álvarez et al.* (Honduras); *Urso Branco Prison* (Brazil); *Ramírez Hinostroza et al.* (Peru); and *Eloisa Barrios et al.* (Venezuela). The Court also held three public hearings in the case of the "*Pueblo Bellow Massacre*" *v. Colombia*; *Acevedo Jaramillo et al.* (*SITRAMUN*) *v. Peru*, and the *Case of Ituango v. Colombia*. Finally, during this same session the Court issued eight orders for compliance with judgments in the following case: *Juan Humberto Sánchez* (Honduras), *Trujillo Oroza* (Bolivia), *Myrna Mack Chang* (Guatemala), *Herrera Ulloa* (Costa Rica), *Barrios Altos* (Peru), *Maritza Urrutia* (Guatemala), *Ivcher Bronstein* (Peru), and the "*Five Pensioners*" *Case* (Peru).

During the course of its LXIX Regular Session, held November 17 through December 2, 2005, the Court delivered five judgments: the *Case of Palamara Iribarne v. Chile* (merits, reparations and costs); the *Case of Gómez Palomino v. Peru* (merits, reparations and costs); the *Case of García Asto and Ramírez Rojas v. Peru* (preliminary objection, merits, reparations and costs); the *Case of Blanco Romero et al. v. Venezuela* (merits, reparations and costs), and the *Case of Ximenes Lopes v. Brazil* (preliminary objection). The Court also issued Advisory Opinion OC-19 (*Control of Legality in the Exercise of the Authorities of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights* (Arts. 41 and 44 to 51 of the American Convention on Human Rights), requested by Venezuela. Three orders were issued on provisional measures in the following cases: *Pilar Noriega García et al.* (Mexico); *Castañeda Gutman* (Mexico); *Children and Adolescents Incarcerated in FEBEM's "Complexo do Tataupé"* "(Brazil) (provisional measures), and *Ximenes Lopes* (Brazil). Finally, during this period, the Court issued three orders on execution of judgment in the following cases: *Baena Ricardo et al.* (Panama), *Cantos* (Argentina), and *The Gómez Paquiyaauri Brothers* (Peru).

In this reporting period, the Court adopted decisions or opinions that continue to help create and consolidate inter-American case law on human rights. Among the most salient points of this Court's case law in 2005 is the protection of rights in relations between and among individuals, the right to a decent life, the right to life and freedom of association, the death penalty, extrajudicial executions, torture and the investigation of torture, corporal punishment, prison conditions, detention, forced disappearance and *habeas corpus*, the principle of legality and retroactivity, factors precluding criminal responsibility, freedom of thought and expression, rights to nationality, juridical personality and a name, the right to property and intellectual property rights, indigenous communities' right to their ancestral lands, forced displacement of persons, the rights of the child, political rights, military criminal jurisdiction, notification of the accused of the charges against him, consular assistance, the correlation between the charge and the sentence, preventive imprisonment, jurisdictional control of the electoral process, control of legality within the inter-American system for the protection of human rights, and the situation of prisons.

In the five sessions held in 2005, the Court also examined a number of matters it had pending and studied the reports submitted by the Commission, the victims or their representatives and the member States involved in cases in which provisional measures had been adopted or in which judgments were in the compliance stage. Finally, on May 11, 2005, members of the Court and the Commission held a joint meeting in Asunción, Paraguay, where they examined current and future challenges that the inter-American system faces.

OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) functions under the provisions of the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat (GS) (Chapter IX, “Advisory Services, Auditing, and Fiscal Control”), the Budgetary and Financial Rules, and Executive Order No. 05-13 rev. 1.

Audits

During the period from March 1, 2005, to February 28, 2006, the OIG conducted eight audits and three investigations to check operations and ensure compliance with OAS directives and procedures, and for purposes of a systematic review of internal accounting and management controls. The Office focused on the higher-risk operations and on those with the most potential for improved efficiency, economy, and effectiveness. The OIG operated independently and freely, with unrestricted access to all functions, activities, operations, records, properties, and staff of the General Secretariat, both at headquarters and at GS offices in the member states.

Operational audits were conducted at headquarters to evaluate internal and administrative controls and ensure compliance with OAS directives and procedures. The OIG reviewed the performance contract (CPR) mechanisms, Oracle applications, Specific Fund contributions for administrative support and technical supervision, and the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN). The OIG also reviewed the activities of the offices of the General Secretariat in The Bahamas, Bolivia, Ecuador, and Saint Kitts and Nevis to determine whether their activities were carried out in accordance with OAS rules and procedures. The OIG also conducted three investigations, both at and away from headquarters. These were of: (1) building maintenance and expenses in 2004; (2) financial transactions and purchasing procedures at OAS/GS Honduras; and (3) cell phones at OAS/GS headquarters.

The Office also evaluated 19 projects executed in various member states to make certain agreements were being honored and to determine whether objectives had been met. The projects audited were: (1) Program for Comprehensive Action against Antipersonnel Mines (AICMA) in Peru; (2) Strategic Action Program – Binational Basin of the Bermejo River; (3) Design and Implementation of a System for Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Bolivia; (4) Democratic Transition 2004; (5) Generalized Land-Use Evaluation and Management Tool (GLEAM); (6) Tourism Training and Certification Program; (7) Improvement of Legal Metrology; (8) Strengthening of Client Service Management/ Staff Development; (9) Community Development Training Techniques; (10) Geothermic Development of the Eastern Caribbean; (11) AICMA-Ecuador (demining program); (12) Strengthening of Business Management at community SME Jambi Kiwa; (13) Vocational Training for Persons with Physical Disabilities; (14) Learning and Innate Capabilities in Children between Ages 2 ½ and 5 in the Quito Rural Area; (15) Central American Program to Strengthen Democratic Dialogue; (16) Honduras: Let's Save the First Grade; (17) Assisting in Nutraceutical Industry Development in Jamaica; (18) Pedagogical Assistance for the Integration of Minors in Mexico; (19) Initiative to Develop Pedagogical Technique Capabilities in Nicaragua.

Other activities

The OIG continued to evaluate replies and to follow up on corrective actions to ensure that its recommendations were being implemented effectively. The Office continued to provide advice and assistance through analyses, evaluations, research, and recommendations, and participated as an observer on a number of committees of the General Secretariat, and in the presentation of reports to the various established bodies.

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT FUND COMMITTEE

The Human Development Fund Committee (Spanish acronym: CFDH) was established by Executive Order 05-13 Rev. 1. It has a department-level Secretariat and three sections: Scholarships and Professional Training, the Leo S. Rowe Pan American Fund, and the Educational Portal of the Americas

Scholarships and Professional Training

The OAS Scholarships and Training Program continues to cooperate with member states' efforts to achieve their integral development objectives by training their human resources in the priority areas established by the Summits of the Americas, the Strategic Plan for Cooperation for Development of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) and the General Assembly of the Organization. To that end, in 2005, the OAS Scholarships and Training Program awarded more than 900 scholarships for academic studies and professional development to qualified persons in the OAS member states.

The Program has been radically transformed in recent years from passive administrator of its resources to a source of new and innovative ways of expanding educational opportunities in the region.

Thus, it has continued to support capacity-building in the countries of the region by implementing a series of strategies for expanding scholarship services in member states for postgraduate studies and research, graduate studies, and vocational training.

This streamlining process has resulted in a marked increase in the efficiency of the Program, manifested in a nearly 45 percent increase in the number of postgraduate scholarships awarded between 2001 and 2005.

Three strategies in particular were responsible for these achievements: 1) Implementation of innovative mechanisms for improving the Program's cost/benefit ratio and maximizing the number of scholarships granted with the resources available. This was a two-pronged strategy: on the one hand, implementing the OAS-placed scholarships mechanism, and, on the other, the establishment of the OAS Consortium of Universities. There are now almost sixty centers of excellence forming part of that Consortium in 12 countries of the region. ii) The identification and implementation of strategies designed to increase access to higher education and professional and technical training, by stepping up efforts to expand the distance learning option.

In 2005, the Scholarships Program reached an agreement with the Monterrey Institute of Technology and Higher Education on cofinancing distance education for master's degrees; iii) The development of alliances with already existing scholarships programs in member states and permanent observer states by identifying and establishing agreements with national institutions. In addition to the Scholarship Program's joint OAS-Fulbright Ecology Initiative, the OAS General Secretariat, Chile's Ministry of Planning and Cooperation (MIDEPLAN), and the Chilean Government's International Cooperation Agency (AGCI) signed a cooperation agreement on cofinancing scholarships in the President of the Republic Scholarships Program in institutions belonging to the OAS Consortium of Universities. Talks are under way with similar agencies in Argentina, Brazil, and Colombia.

Despite the gains of the past three years, the outlook for continued expansion of educational opportunities includes a series of challenges posed by rising matriculation costs, increases in the cost of living, and dwindling resources. These and other factors are currently being reviewed in the Scholarship Program's current phase of analysis and transition.

In 2005, the Program continued to grant approximately 450 scholarships for long-term academic studies and research at universities throughout the region. The studies are in fields previously established as priorities,

The number of individuals benefiting from scholarships for postgraduate (master's and doctoral-level) studies at the institutes of higher learning in the region totaled 450 (there were 168 new scholarships and 237 extensions of existing grants) (see Appendix F, Table 1).

For undergraduate studies for students eligible to take the last two years of courses leading to a first university degree, scholarships are available for the countries of the English-speaking Caribbean. Resolution AG/RES. 1387 (XXVI-O/96) extended the benefits of this Program to Bolivia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, and Paraguay, provided that external funds can be raised. In 2005, 23 scholarships were awarded for face-to-face (non-virtual) undergraduate studies, of which 14 were new grants and 9 extensions (see Appendix F, Table 2).

Professional development scholarships are also geared to providing refresher courses in specialized areas considered to be OAS and CIDI priorities. These scholarships are provided by the governments of OAS member and observer states, regional or international organizations, public and private agencies, and institutes of higher learning, through the OAS, which also cofinances them. Professional development scholarships are also awarded for specific study program proposed by the OAS inter-American commissions and committees, or by technical units in the General Secretariat in support of their respective activities. These types of scholarship have focused in particular on telecommunications, international law, human rights, and journalism. 571 professional development scholarships were awarded in 2005 (see Appendix F, Table 3).

Leo S. Rowe Pan American Fund

This Fund grants education loans to competent individuals from Latin American and Caribbean countries to finance higher education in the United States, on the understanding that, once their studies are over, the students must return to their respective countries with a view to contributing to their country's development and well-being. The Fund also grants student loans for personnel of the OAS General Secretariat, either for their own studies or those of their dependents, or for emergencies. The latter, unlike the loans to students, are charged interest.

The last few years have seen a gradual improvement in the geographical distribution of the loan portfolio, as well as greater gender equity in the distribution of the Fund's resources. In 2005, 79 loans were granted in the amount of US\$373,232, distributed as follows: There were 54 loans to students, totaling US\$275,570 and 25 loans to staff members, in the amount of US\$97,462. Also in 2005, a number of policies were adopted aimed at striking a better balance between the need to strengthen the Rowe Fund's long-term financial position and the philanthropic objectives that inspired its establishment in 1948. Those policies entailed improvements in some administrative procedures and adjustments to the terms and mechanisms for recovering student loans.

Educational Portal of the Americas

In the period covered by this report, the Portal carried out the following activities, among others: i) Maintenance of the on-line (Virtual Classroom) technical education platform, which provides access to professional training opportunities for individuals who cannot leave their home or work; ii) Development and implementation of 35 distance education courses via the Virtual Classroom, including: "Quality of Basic Education" (English, Spanish, and Portuguese versions), "Introduction to the Formulation of

Electronic Government Strategies (English, Spanish, and Portuguese versions), “Educación Alimentaria” (Spanish, on food education), and “¿Cómo Enseñar Ética, Capital Social y Desarrollo en la Universidad?” (Spanish, on how to teach ethics, social capital, and development at university) iii) Promotion of distance education through strategic alliances with universities, excellence centers, and higher education and university consortia in the Hemisphere; iv) Distribution of almost 100 cost-free journals and monographs through the Virtual Library, including La Educ@ción, the INTERAMER collection, Revista Interamericana de Bibliografía (RIB), and the “Tendencias para un Futuro Común” series.; v) Preparation and publication of the digital version of the La Educ@ción journal; vi) Dissemination of information on 4,500 different programs and courses run by approximately 1,500 accredited universities throughout the region, using a database with a search function; vii) Dissemination on a monthly basis of news and events regarding distance education in the region; viii) Execution of a FEMCIDI teacher-training and capacity-building regional project; ix) Maintenance and dissemination of information regarding the OAS Scholarship and Training Program; x) Development and maintenance of the infrastructure needed to promote virtual meetings, chat rooms, forums, and the installations and tools required for websites; and xi) Preparation and dissemination of editorials and monthly bulletins.

In the framework of the mandates assigned by the political organs a minimal fee is charged for human resource training services via the Portal in order to cover some of its costs and make a partial contribution to its sustainability. Thus, Portal activities have generated over US\$800,000 in revenue from registration fees, voluntary fund contributions, and private sector grants.

As regards its performance, the Portal has contributed to the education, continuing education, and training of almost 14,000 professionals in the region (see Appendix F, Table 4). At the same time, since it was launched in September 2001, the Portal has received 340 million hits from 210 countries and territories in the world (see Appendix F, Table 5). In 2005, the Portal averaged 8.2 million hits per month and each month an average of 1,200 new users register with it. Currently, almost 14,000 different websites post links to the Educational Portal.

The Educational Portal of the Americas is part of the Institute of Advanced Studies for the Americas (INEAM). It was established in 2001 by the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI). INEAM is a virtual MetaCampus to strengthen human resource training and skills-building by using Information and communication technologies (ICTs) with an interdisciplinary and multisectoral approach. Participating in the Institute are universities and centers for higher education in the Hemisphere that, in addition to the services they provide within their own countries, also offer certain education programs through INEAM, using either their own platforms or the Educational Portal’s infrastructure. Activities conducted in 2005 include, in particular: strengthening of the Portal’s activities, programs, and services with other institutions, such as the Inter-American University Organization (OUI), the Union of Latin American Universities (UDUAL), the Ibero-American Science and Technology Education Consortium (ISTEC), the Organization of Ibero-American States (OEI), and others; the constitution of INEAM governing bodies and advisers on an *ad honorem* and voluntary basis; joint efforts with OUI to establish two subregional academic centers to receive the Portal’s Internet signal (Brazil and Mexico) and backup database services; developing a pilot project for wireless access to the Portal’s Internet signal through the Electricity Supply Providers (in Central America, the Caribbean, and the Andean Region); negotiating the establishment of a regional center with ISTEC, at the University of New Mexico, in order to lend complementary and cost-free additional technical support; participating in the establishment of the Institute for Quality Education (Ecuador); the third round of the Education Innovation Prize; and the start of special services for some countries and institutions.

INTER-AMERICAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Established by the General Assembly in 1994, the Inter-American Telecommunications Commission has technical autonomy in the performance of its functions, within the limits set by the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), the CITEL statutes and the mandates of the General Assembly. Its mission is to facilitate and promote the sustained development of telecommunications in the hemisphere.

To follow up on and circulate the Agenda for Connectivity in the Americas and the Quito Plan of Action, in 2005 stock was taken of the connectivity initiatives and the status of their implementation in the region, particularly as regards the use of information and communications technologies (ICTs). Based on that study, concrete measures requiring regional support will be identified that will help pinpoint the priorities and strategies for the Second Phase of the Agenda for Connectivity in the Americas and Quito Plan of Action.

To meet the growing need for personnel trained in telecommunications, in 2005 CITEL has offered 15 courses (10 distance and 5 on-campus courses) on telecommunications policy, regulation, management and technology. More than 249 fellowships were awarded throughout the region. CITEL has 16 Regional Training Centers and coordinates its work with the International Telecommunications Union's Centre of Excellence for the Americas.

The Blue Book on Telecommunications Policies for the Americas was published in 2005. This publication was a collaborative undertaking of CITEL and the ITU, and will serve as a reference to provide objective descriptions and information on telecommunications policies and issues related to regulation, including the difficulties and opportunities that the development of the ICTs presents. CITEL also completed the technical study on Universal Service in the Americas, containing information that will help the countries participate in the world information economy and society.

Studies have also be undertaken on the following strategic topics for the region: *Costs Structure of the Telecommunications Services: a methodological study on the influence that the cost of capital has on the telecommunications services' costs structure; Study on the economic aspects of equipping the handicapped with remote access; why operators should introduce systems that make public access possible; and cyber security.*

Important technical research is also being done on such questions as how to improve access to telecommunications. Prominent here is the work being done to determine the current status of the use of radio electronic frequencies in order to come up with recommendations for harmonizing the use of the spectrum for terrestrial fixed and mobile radiocommunications services. Recommendations were approved on frequency bands for the IMT-2000, on the use of the 400 MHz bands for fixed and mobile services, particularly in low population density areas, and on wireless access devices that operate in the 5GHz range.

As for coordinating technical standards, the Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) was approved. It is the foundation of an Internet-based multimedia communications architecture.

A CD has been prepared on technical and regulatory aspects of the effects of electromagnetic non-ionizing emissions to help the public understand the implications of this important issue. This CD will be released shortly.

The satellite is one of the best means of reaching regions that do not have land-based access and thus allows geographic integration. To facilitate the deployment of satellite services, procedures were

approved for block or generic licensing of earth stations and procedures that the CITEL administrations could use to authorize the use of earth stations on board vessels (ESV) on bands 5925-6 425 MHz and 14.0-14.5 GHz. The regulatory situation of the satellite systems in the region is kept current.

Digital terrestrial television broadcasting offers new ways to have access to information and to share it. Preparation of a “Guide to digital terrestrial television broadcasting in the Americas” was completed. This publication will support the multiplier effect of an orderly conversion from an analogic television system to a digital television system.

To improve the conditions under which products are introduced in the market, both in terms of cost and time required, CITEL continued to work on standardizing procedures for conformity evaluation in the region. In October 2005, an international workshop was held to examine the scope of these procedures. The Yellow Book on this subject is well advanced.

Reports are being prepared on the following priorities for the countries: a White Paper on “Number Portability”; a White Paper on “Broadband Technologies”; Policies on Assigning IPV Addresses; Study on SPAM; Preparation of common hemispheric positions for international meetings.

One of CITEL’s priorities is to assist the process of arriving at common positions in the region. At the present time, preparations are well underway for the World Telecommunications Development Conference (WTDC) (Qatar, March 2006) and the Plenipotentiary Conference (Turkey, November 2006). These international conferences are especially important because their purpose is to adopt the ITU’s development programs, strategies and future direction on a global scale.

In 2003, preparations got underway for the ITU’s World Radiocommunications Conference (WRC) in 2007, which will examine some 30 topics, among them: progress with the new modulation techniques, studies to establish standards for technical sharing, and coordination and notification procedures for satellite networks.

The International Telecommunications Regulations are being studied with a view to the World Conference on International Telecommunications (WCIT), slated for 2007.

As for sharing information and best practices so as to be able to keep pace with changes in telecommunications, 8 workshops were held in 2005 to share specialized know-how on advanced technologies. CITEL’s monthly e-bulletin, “info@CITEL,” continues to be published. As of February 2006, 146 articles and 124 member State news reports had been published. Also, CITEL has a total of 16 cooperation agreements on issues of common concern, with a view to avoiding duplication of effort and reducing the amount of time needed to solve problems.

INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON PORTS

The Inter-American Committee on Ports (CIP) was established by the General Assembly and repositioned structurally by Executive Order No. 05-13 Rev. 1. The purpose of the Inter-American Committee on Ports is to serve as the permanent inter-American forum of the member states of the Organization for strengthening cooperation in the development of the port sector, with the active participation and collaboration of the private sector.

To attain the objectives and rise to the challenges posed by the port sector and to carry out the CIP's 2004-2007 Action Plan, the Secretariat conducted and supported activities geared toward achieving the following:

Strengthening of the inter-American dialogue on ports

The CIP is the only forum where the highest-ranking government port authorities from the countries of the Americas are able to confer. This kind of dialogue is essential to fulfilling the mandates from the General Assembly, the meetings of the Western Hemisphere Transportation Initiative (WHTI), the Summits of the Americas, and other hemispheric meetings in the port sector. To this end, the Secretariat organized and facilitated the holding of the Fourth Meeting of the CIP (Maracaibo, September 2005) and, on the same occasion, the meetings of its three Technical Advisory Groups: Port Security, Port Operations, and Navigation Safety and Environmental Protection. It did the same for the Seventh Meeting of the Executive Board and the meetings of the subcommittees: Policy and Coordination; Port Planning and Management; Statistics, Costs, and Fees; Port Development for Cruise Tourism; River and Lake Port Development; Training; and Regional Port Development (Houston, December 2005). Lastly, it organized and facilitated the holding of an additional meeting of the Subcommittee on Port Planning and Management (Washington, D.C., April 2005).

Cooperation for inter-American port development

The following activities were carried out to help bring about port modernization and development in the Hemisphere:

- **Training.** Training is the Committee's priority cooperation activity. The Secretariat planned, programmed, and implemented activities and arranged for the additional outside funding needed to carry them out: the Seminar on Strategic Port Planning (Manzanillo, Mexico, April 2005); the Regional Seminar on Port Reforms and Modernization (Guayaquil, June 2005); the Seminar on Port Terminal Concessions (Santo Domingo, July 2005); the Seminar on Port Reforms and Fees (Santo Domingo, September 2005); the Seminar on Women's Participation in Port Affairs of the Hemisphere (Maracaibo, September 2005); the Tenth Iberoamerican Course on Port Management (Madrid, September/October 2005); the Sixth Iberoamerican Course on Port Technology, Operations, and Environmental Management (Santander, Spain, September/October 2005), the Seminar on Port Planning and Development (Santa Fe, Argentina, November 2005), the Seminar on Strategic Reforms for Port Modernization (Houston, December 2005), and the Course on Port Management (Santo Domingo, February 2006).
- **Specialized technical assistance.** Specialized technical assistance was provided to the Dominican Port Authority (APORDOM) in the preparation of port cooperation projects for raising external funds, and to the National Port Authority of Peru, in the management of port cooperation projects. Assistance was also provided to the Port Authority of El Salvador in the preparation of terms of reference for a national port project.

- Agreement on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance among Inter-American Port Authorities. The Secretariat has continued to disseminate and promote the Agreement, which establishes the legal framework for this cooperation and was approved by the CIP in 2001. In 2005, Panama and Trinidad and Tobago signed the agreement, bringing the total number of signatories to 19. Likewise, Mexico and Ecuador ratified it, joining Argentina and Peru which had done so earlier, which means that the Agreement is in force for those member countries. It entered into force on March 5, 2004.
- Cooperation with other international agencies. The Secretariat also took measures to increase mutual cooperation with other international agencies involved in port activities. To that end, it kept active the memoranda of understanding signed between the General Secretariat and the government agency *Puertos del Estado de España* and between the Secretariat and the American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA), which made it possible to carry out various regional activities of mutual interest. In addition, memoranda of understanding were signed with the International Association of Ports and Harbors (IAPH) (October 2005) and with the United States Section of the International Navigation Association (PIANC) (December 2005), in order to join forces in training, technical assistance, participation in events, and the exchange of best practices. Lastly, ties of cooperation were established with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), by means of a CIP resolution (December 2005), and efforts are underway for the signing of memoranda of understanding with RETE (Association for the Collaboration between Ports and Cities) and the AIPPYC (International Association of Ports and Coasts Professionals).
- Support for maritime port institutions. The Secretariat has also supported the efforts of other national, regional, and global entities working on port issues and, in that connection, participated in their events by making technical presentations, preparing discussion documents, and helping to promote their meetings and conferences. Noteworthy in this regard are activities carried out with the World Bank, the Central American Commission for Maritime Transportation (COCATRAM), the Andean Community (CAN), the Caribbean Common Market (CARICOM), the Caribbean Shipping Association (CSA), the Andean Development Corporation (CAF), the International Maritime Organization (IMO), and the Meeting of Port Entrepreneurs of the Central American Isthmus (REPICA), among others.

Dissemination and promotion of the ports of the Americas and the CIP

The Secretariat has also disseminated and promoted information on the principal ports of the member countries and the activities of the CIP by the following means: (i) The CIP portal (www.oas.org/cip), which contains a compilation of data on the member states, their port authorities, their ports, and their sectoral development projects, as well as on the CIP projects and activities as a whole; (ii) the *CIP Magazine*, a dual-language publication (English and Spanish) distributed worldwide, with three issues per year, which disseminates and promotes the activities of the Committee and contains essays by port officials and experts on specialized topics and projects of interest to the sector; (iii) the Information Bulletin, an electronic document distributed worldwide five times per year, with information on the main activities of the ports and the CIP, as well as information on the activities of other regional entities with which the Committee has established cooperative ties; (iv) consultation, by responding electronically to requests for information on the ports of the Hemisphere and the activities of the Committee; and (v) documents, studies, and other specialized technical material; preparation of such materials on the ports of the Hemisphere and relevant port sector issues.

VI. PERMANENT OBSERVERS

PERMANENT OBSERVERS

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.

The Office of External Relations and Resource Mobilization (OREMR), which is part of the Department of External Relations, is responsible for the day-to-day management of activities related to the permanent observer countries. Through briefing sessions, the exchange of documents and information, and special events, the OREMR promotes these countries' active involvement and collaboration in the activities of the General Secretariat.

At the present time, the Organization has 60 permanent observers: Algeria, Angola, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, China, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, the European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Georgia, Ghana, Greece, the Holy See, Hungary, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea, Latvia, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Morocco, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and Yemen.

In 2005, the Organization received cash contributions totaling about US\$11.7 million from the following permanent observers: China, Denmark, the European Union, Germany, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Korea, the Netherlands, Norway, Qatar, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, and the United Kingdom. Important in-kind contributions were also made by France, Korea, and Spain, valued at some US\$500,000. Appendix G to this report itemizes those contributions. The main areas that receive support from these countries are democracy, human rights, conflict resolution, the efforts against drug trafficking, and sustainable development and environment, among others. The Office negotiated many of these contributions and organized ceremonies at which public recognition was given to the support provided by observer countries to the Organization's activities.

Likewise, during the period covered by this report, visits were made to the OAS General Secretariat by various high-ranking government officials from the permanent observer countries. Noteworthy among them were the visit of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Poland and Chairman of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, Adam Daniel Rotfeld, and the Minister of Justice of Spain, Juan Fernando López Aguilar. The Office also organized an official visit by the Secretary General to Europe, where he met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Spain, Miguel Ángel Moratinos Cuyaubé. His trip included a visit to Austria, where he signed an instrument of cooperation between the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the OAS, and to Italy, where he took part in a seminar on Latin America organized by the Government of Italy.

**VII. TRAVEL BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL AND THE
ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL**

Travel by the Secretary General

Conference on the Inter-American System
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, June 2-3, 2005

Thirty-fifth regular session of the OAS General Assembly
Fort Lauderdale, FL, USA, June 4-8, 2005

Special mission to Nicaragua
Managua, Nicaragua, June 15-18, 2005

Meeting with the Secretary General of the United Nations
New York, NY, USA, June 20, 2005

Twenty-sixth regular meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)
Castries, Saint Lucia, July 2-5, 2005

Official visit to Haiti
Port-au-Prince, Haiti, July 5-7, 2005

Lecture Series of the Americas
Lima, Peru, July 14-16, 2005

High-Level Meeting of International Organizations
New York, NY, USA, July 24-25, 2005

Official visit to Ecuador
Quito, Ecuador, July 27, 2005

Official visit to Panama
Panama City, Panama, July 28-29, 2005

Fourth Meeting of Ministers of Education
Scarborough, Trinidad and Tobago, August 10-11, 2005

Seminar "Government Spokespersons of the Americas," sponsored by ECLAC
Santiago, Chile, August 17-18, 2005

19th Summit of the Rio Group
Bariloche, Argentina, August 27-29, 2005

Meeting on the Social Charter of the Americas
Caracas, Venezuela, August 30, 2005

Official visit to Colombia
Bogotá, Colombia, August 31, 2005

High-level plenary session of the United Nations
New York, NY, USA, September 12-16, 2005

Meeting with Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada
Ottawa, Canada, September 23, 2003

Fourteenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor
Mexico City, Mexico, September 25-27, 2005

Seminar at Notre Dame University
Chicago, IL, USA, October 7, 2005

General Assembly, Inter-American Press Association
Indianapolis, IN, USA, October 9, 2005

XV Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and of Government
Salamanca, Spain, October 14-16, 2005

Second Annual Conference on Latin America
Milan, Italy, October 17-18, 2005

Signature of agreement with United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
Vienna, Austria, October 19, 2005

Fourth Summit of the Americas
Mar del Plata, Argentina, October 31-November 5, 2005

Conference at Miami University
Miami, FL, USA, November 16-18, 2005

MERCOSUR Summit
Montevideo, Uruguay, January 7-9, 2005

Electoral observation mission
Port-au-Prince, Haiti, December 17, 2005

Meeting with government officials
Buenos Aires, Argentina, January 16, 2006

Induction into office of the President of Bolivia
La Paz, Bolivia, January 21-22, 2006

Annual meeting of the World Economic Forum
Davos, Switzerland, January 23-29, 2006

Conference of the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) on the crisis of
governance in Latin America
New York, NY, USA, February 3-5, 2006

Official visit for the presidential election
Port-au-Prince, Haiti, February 6-8, 2006

Special mission in connection with the electoral process
Port-au-Prince, Haiti, February 15-17, 2006

Foreign Policy Observatory Seminar
Madrid, Spain, February 16-19, 2006

Conference on “Council of the Americas”
New York, NY, USA, February 22-23, 2006

Travel by the Assistant Secretary General

Official visit to Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, and Suriname
June 30-July 7, 2005

Third Ministerial Meeting of IICA, "Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas"
Guayaquil, Ecuador, August 28-31, 2005

SIRG meeting in preparation for the Fourth Summit of the Americas
Buenos Aires, Argentina, September 5-10, 2005

Meeting with the United Nations on Haiti
New York, NY, USA, September 16-17, 2005

"Building a Culture of Peace and Preventing Conflict in the Greater Caribbean"
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, September 21-22, 2005

Official visit to Haiti
Port-au-Prince, Haiti, September 25-26, 2005

Fifth Caribbean Week of Agriculture
Basseterre, Saint Kitts and Nevis, October 4-5, 2005

Sixth meeting of negotiations in the quest for points of consensus: Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
Antigua, Guatemala, October 10-14, 2005

High-level meetings of the United Nations
New York, NY, USA, October 16-17, 2005

"Re-Mapping the Americas: Globalization, Regionalization and the FTAA"
Saint Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago, October 18-19, 2005

Meeting on Haiti
Brussels, Belgium, October 19-22, 2005

Fourth Summit of the Americas, Hemispheric Private-Sector Forum
Buenos Aires, Argentina, October 31-November 2, 2005

Special meeting of the SIRG and Fourth Summit of the Americas
Mar del Plata, Argentina, November 2-6, 2005

Official visit to the Inter-American Children's Institute
Montevideo, Uruguay, November 7, 2005

Workshop on youth in Suriname
Suriname, November 23-29, 2005

Official visit to Haiti
Port-au-Prince, Haiti, November 19-21, 2005

Electoral observation mission
Kingstown, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, December 4-9, 2005

Electoral observation mission
Port-au-Prince, Haiti, December 16-20, 2005

Induction into office of the President of Honduras, Manuel Zelaya
Tegucigalpa, Honduras, January 26, 2006

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

INTER-AMERICAN COUNCILS, COMMITTEES, AND COMMISSIONS

INTER-AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT (CIDI)

Chair of the Tenth Regular Meeting: Izben Williams (Saint Kitts and Nevis)
Vice Chair of the Tenth Regular Meeting: Patricio Powell (Chile)

PERMANENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT (CEPCIDI)

Chair: Gordon Shirley (Jamaica)
Vice Chair: Margarita Riva (United States)

INTER-AMERICAN JURIDICAL COMMITTEE

Chair: Mauricio Herdocia Sacasa (Nicaragua)
Vice Chair: Jean-Paul Hubert (Canada)
Alonso Gomez Robledo Verduzco (Mexico)
João Grandino Rodas (Brazil)
Luis Marchand Stens (Peru)
Eduardo Vío Grossi (Chile)
Galo Leoro Franco (Ecuador)
Antonio Fidel Pérez (United States)
Ana Elizabeth Villalta Vizcarra (El Salvador)
José Delgado Ocando (Venezuela)
Jaime Aparicio Otero (Bolivia)

INTER-AMERICAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

President: Sergio García Ramírez (Mexico)
Vice President: Alirio Abreu Burelli (Venezuela)
Oliver Jackman (Barbados)
Antônio Augusto Cançado Trindade (Brazil)
Cecilia Medina Quiroga (Chile)
Manuel E. Ventura Robles (Costa Rica)
Diego García-Sayán (Peru)

INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Evelio Fernández Arévalos (Paraguay)
Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro (Brazil)
Florentín Meléndez (El Salvador)
Clare Kamau Roberts (Antigua and Barbuda)
Freddy Gutiérrez Trejo (Venezuela)
Paolo G. Carozza (United States)
Víctor E. Abramovich (Argentina)

ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL

President: Morton Sklar (United States)
Vice President: Agustín Gordillo (Argentina)
Albert Mattew (Dominica)
Alma Montenegro de Fletcher (Panama)
José Antonio Arze Aguirre (Bolivia)
Lionel Alain Dupuis (Canada)

INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN

President: Nilcéa Freire (Brazil)
Vice President: María José Argaña de Mateu (Paraguay)
Juliana di Tullio (Argentina)
Florence Ievers (Canada)
Cecilia Pérez (Chile)
Patricia Espinoza (Mexico)
Urmila Joella-Sewnundun (Suriname)

INTER-AMERICAN TELECOMMUNICATION COMMISSION

Chair of COM/CITEL: Pablo Cob Saborio (Costa Rica)
Chair of PCC.I: Mario Guillermo Moreno (Argentina)
Alternate Chair of PCC.I: Sergio Scarabino (Argentina)
Chair of PCC.II: Alván Lezama (Venezuela)
Alternate Chair of PCC.II: Mikhail Marsiglia (Venezuela)

INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE CONTROL COMMISSION

Chair: Mauricio Dorfler Ocampo (Bolivia)
Vice Chair: Paulo Roberto Yog de Miranda Uchôa (Brazil)

APPENDIX B

CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

(March 1, 2005 to February 28, 2006)

March 2-6	Washington, D.C.	Meeting of the Review Subgroups of the Committee of Experts on the Follow-Up Mechanism for the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (MESICIC)
March 7-12	Washington, D.C.	Seventh Meeting of the Follow-Up Mechanism for the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (MESICIC)
March 9-10	Buenos Aires, Argentina	XXXVII Meeting of the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG)
March 9-10	Buenos Aires, Argentina	XIII Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG)
March 11	Buenos Aires, Argentina	Seminar "Democracy and Summit of the Americas" – (SAS)
March 16-18	Washington, D.C.	Special Meeting of the Group of Experts to Control Money Laundering (CICAD)
March 18	Washington, D.C.	Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (CIFTA)
March 28-29	Washington, D.C.	Meeting of Experts on Cooperation with respect to the Denial of Safe Haven to Corrupt Officials and Those Who Corrupt Them, Their Extradition, and the Denial of Entry and Recovery of the Proceeds of Corruption and Their Return to Their Legitimate Owners (DLAS)
April 4	Washington, D.C.	Seminar for Young Foreign Service Officers -INL-CICAD
April 5	Washington, D.C.	IV Meeting of the Subcommittee on Policy and Coordination (CIP)
April 11	Washington, D.C.	XXX Special Session of the General Assembly (OCM)
April 11-12	Washington, D.C.	Civil Society Hemispheric Forum: "Delivering the Benefits of Democracy" (OPC)
April 11-14	Tegucigalpa, Honduras	VI Meeting of Permanent Consultative Committee I: Public Telecommunication Services (CITEL)
April 14	Washington, D.C.	ProVention/OAS Forum "Development as a Natural Hazard Risk Management Tool" (OSDE)
April 14-15	Washington, D.C.	Consultative Committee of CIFTA: Sixth Regular Meeting
April 19-20	Washington, D.C.	Seminar on Women's Access to Justice in Latin America and the Caribbean (IACHR)
April 20-21	Port of Manzanillo, Mexico	Ibero-American Port Forum Seminar (CIP)

April 21-22	Washington, D.C.	First Regular Session of the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM)
April 22	Port of Manzanillo, Mexico	Ibero-American Statistics Workshop (CIP)
April 25	Guatemala City, Guatemala	Workshop on Wireless Broadband (CITEL)
April 25-26	Washington, D.C.	Forum on Confidence and Security Building Measures
April 25-27	Brasilia, Brazil	Special Meeting of the Directing Council of the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN)
April 26-29	Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic	XXXVII Regular Session of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD)
April 26-29	Guatemala City, Guatemala	V Meeting of Permanent Consultative Committee II: Radiocommunications and Broadcasting (CITEL)
April 27-29	Montego Bay, Jamaica	Caribbean Meeting of the Inter-American Forum on Political Parties (OPD)
April 28	Washington, D.C.	X Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI)
May 3-5	Washington, D.C.	VIII Meeting of the Nonpermanent Specialized Committees (CENPES)
May 4-5	Washington, D.C.	Third Scientific Advisory Committee Meeting (CICAD)
May 5-6	Washington, D.C.	Working Group Meeting of Experts in Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters (DLAS)
May 12-13	Washington, D.C.	Preparatory Meeting for the IV Meeting of Ministers of Education (OEST)
May 20-24	Barbados	Meeting of Caribbean Observatories on Drugs (CICAD)
May 24	Washington, D.C.	Panel of Experts on Trade and Sustainability in the Americas (OSDE)
May 25-27	Washington, D.C.	Meeting to Organize the Texts of the Blue Book (CITEL)
May 31	Washington, D.C.	The Educational Development and Research Unit EDIU/CICAD "First Panel Discussion on Money Laundering" (CICAD)
June 1-3	Washington, D.C.	XV Meeting of the Permanent Executive Committee of CITEL (COM/CITEL)
June 1-3	Washington, D.C.	XV Meeting of the Working Group to Prepare for the Meetings of the Council of the ITU (CITEL)
June 1-3	Washington, D.C.	VI Meeting of the Working Group to prepare for Conferences (CITEL)
June 5-7	Fort Lauderdale, Florida	XXXV Regular Session of the General Assembly
June 5-8	Fort Lauderdale, Florida	XXXVIII Meeting of the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG)
June 5-8	Fort Lauderdale, Florida	XIV Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG)

June 13	Washington, D.C.	Strengthening Electoral Processes and Systems - Video Conference - Distance Education (OPD)
June 17	Washington, D.C.	Workshop: Inter-American Human Rights System (IACHR)
June 17	Washington, D.C.	Working Group of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM)
June 20	Washington, D.C.	XVI Regular Meeting of the Management Board of the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD)
June 22	Washington, D.C.	Subregional Cultural Information Systems Workshop (OEST)
July 12-22	Geneva, Switzerland	XVI Meeting of the Working Group to Prepare for the Meetings of the Council of the ITU (CITEL)
July 13-14	Mexico City, Mexico	Preparatory Meeting for the XIV Inter-American Conference for the Ministers of Labor (OEST)
July 13-15	Washington, D.C.	XXXIX Meeting of the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG)
July 21-22	Barbados, Bridgetown	Caribbean Sub-Regional Civil Society Forum (OPC)
August 11-12	Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago	IV Meeting of Ministers of Education (ODSE)
August 22-23	Mexico City, Mexico	80th Meeting of the Directing Council of the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN)
August 22-24	Washington, D.C.	Meeting of Experts of MESECVI (CIM)
August 25-26	Washington, D.C.	II Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Culture (OEST)
September 1-3	Brasilia, Brazil	II Meeting of Central Authorities and other Experts on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters and Extradition (DLAS)
September 7-9	Buenos Aires, Argentina	XL Meeting of the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG) – (OPC)
September 12-16	Maracaibo, Venezuela	IV Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Ports (CIP)
September 13-15	Ottawa, Canada	VII Meeting of the Group of Experts on Demand Reduction (CICAD)
September 14-16	Sao Paulo, Brazil	Second Meeting of Government Cybersecurity Experts (CICTE)
September 18 - October 15	Santander, Spain	VI Ibero-American Course on Port Technology, Operations and Environmental Management (CIP)
September 19-23	Washington, D.C.	VII Meeting of Permanent Consultative Committee I: Public Telecommunication Services (CITEL)
September 21-23	Washington, D.C.	Meetings of the Review Subgroups of the Committee of Experts on the Follow-Up Mechanism for the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (MESICIC) - (DLAS)
September 25 - October 21	Madrid, Spain	X Ibero-American Course on Ports Management (CIP)

September 26-27	Mexico City, Mexico	XIV Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor (OEST)
September 26-28	Washington, D.C.	Costs - Final Meeting of the Pilot Countries for the Cost Program (CICAD)
September 26 - October 1	Washington, D.C.	VIII Meeting of the Committee of Experts on the Follow-Up Mechanism for the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (MESICIC) – (DLAS)
October 1 - June 23	Valencia, Spain	Masters in Port Management and Intermodal Transport (CIP)
October 3-7	Washington, D.C.	XLI Meeting of the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG) – (OPC)
October 3-7	Washington, D.C.	Preparatory Meeting of the Inter-Governmental Working Group (PRE-IWG) (CICAD)
October 3-7	Washington, D.C.	LIII Regular Session of the Administrative Tribunal (TRIBAD)
October 6-7	Washington, D.C.	Consultative Committee of CIFTA - Informal Meeting of States Parties (CIFTA)
October 10-14	Antigua, Guatemala	Working Group to Prepare the Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (VI Meeting of Negotiations in the Quest for Points of Consensus)
October 10-14	Panama City, Panama	Seminar on Special Investigative Techniques against Drug Trafficking (CICAD)
October 10-28	Washington, D.C.	123 Regular Session of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR)
October 24	Washington, D.C.	First Preparatory Meeting of the VI Regular Session of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE)
October 25-27	Mexico City, Mexico	Meeting of the Expert Group on Maritime Narcotrafficking (CICAD)
October 25-28	San José, Costa Rica	VI Meeting of Permanent Consultative Committee II: Radiocommunications and Broadcasting (CITEL)
October 26-28	Recife, State of Pernambuco, Brazil	Third Meeting of Ministers and High Level Authorities Responsible for Policies on Decentralization, Local Government, and Citizen Participation (OPD)
November 4-5	Mar del Plata, Argentina	IV Summit of the Americas (SAS)
November 9-10	Washington, D.C.	REMJA Working Group on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters and Extradition (DASJ)
November 10-21	Washington, D.C.	Working Group on Alternative Development (CICAD)
November 11-17	Costa Rica	VI Meeting of First Ladies of Central America, Belize, Panama, and Dominican Republic (IIN)
November 14-18	Washington, D.C.	Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) - 3rd Evaluation Round, Follow-up of Recommendations - 1st Drafting Session of the Governmental Expert Group (GEG) – (CICAD)

November 21-25	Porto Seguro, Brazil	ITU Regional Radiocommunication Seminar (CITEL)
November 28-29	Washington, D.C.	Special Meeting to Examine and Discuss the Nature of a Future Inter-American Convention against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance
November 28-30	Mexico City, Mexico	First Indigenous Workshop on Information and Communication Technologies (CITEL)
November 28 – December 2	Santa Cruz, Bolivia	Decentralization of Drug Policies in the Andean Countries (CICAD)
November 30 – December 3	Washington, D.C.	XXIV Model OAS General Assembly for Universities (MOAS)
December 2	Washington, D.C.	Second Preparatory Meeting for the VI Regular Session of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE)
December 6-9	Buenos Aires, Argentina	XVI Meeting of the Permanent Executive Committee of CITEL (COM/CITEL)
December 6-9	Buenos Aires, Argentina	XVI Meeting of the Working Group to prepare for Conferences (CITEL)
December 6-9	Buenos Aires, Argentina	XVI Meeting of the Working Group to Prepare for the Meetings of the Council of the ITU (CITEL)
December 6-9	Washington, D.C.	XXXVIII Regular Session of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD)
December 7-9	Houston, Texas	VII Meeting of the Executive Board of the Inter-American Committee on Ports (CIP)
December 8-9	Washington, D.C.	Second Regular Session of the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM)
December 9-14	Washington, D.C.	Training Course on Monitoring and Evaluation (CICAD)
December 9-16	Washington, D.C.	Working Group on the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM)
January 9-10	Washington, D.C.	Planning Meeting of the Authorities of the Inter-American Committee on Culture (CIC)
January 16-20	San José, Costa Rica	Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Conference (OSDE)
January 19-20	Washington, D.C.	CICTE/Informal Working Group on the Draft Declaration of San Carlos (CICTE)
January 30-31	Washington, D.C.	XXXI Special Session of the General Assembly (OCM)
January 29 – February 3	Nicaragua	Anti-Money Laundering courses for Judges and Prosecutors (CICAD)
February 2-4	Iquitos, Peru	First Amazon Scientific Symposium (OSDE)
February 3	Washington, D.C.	Third Preparatory Meeting for the VI Regular Session of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE)
February 5-10	Guatemala	Anti-Money Laundering courses for Judges and Prosecutors (CICAD)

February 6-7	Washington, D.C.	I Meeting of the CIFTA-CICAD Group of Experts to Prepare Model Legislation on the Areas Covered by CIFTA (DASJ)
February 13-26	Washington, D.C.	Meeting of the Inter-Governmental Working Group (IWG) of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) (CICAD)
February 14	Washington, D.C.	Second Forum on Confidence and Security Building Measures
February 20-23	San José, Costa Rica	IV Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL)
February 23	San José, Costa Rica	XVII Meeting of the Permanent Executive Committee of CITEL (COM/CITEL)
February 24	San José, Costa Rica	X Meeting of the Conference Preparatory Working Group (CITEL)
February 24	San José, Costa Rica	Meeting of the Working Group on Preparations for World Conference on International Telecommunications (CMTI) of PCC.I (CITEL)
February 27 – March 17	Washington, D.C.	124 th Regular Session of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR)
February 27-28	Washington, D.C.	IV Meeting of the Group of Government Experts on Cyber-Crime (DLAS)

NOTE: This chronological list of conferences is subject to revisions throughout the calendar year due to the inclusion of new events or the cancellation of events.

APPENDIX C

INTER-AMERICAN TREATIES AND CONVENTIONS

The following list provides a chronological account of all the acts performed during 2005 regarding inter-American treaties:

On **March 1, 2005, Ecuador** appointed the Director of the Departamento de Control de Armas del Comando Conjunto de las Fuerzas Armadas as the national authority in charge of the bestowal of arms authorizations or licenses in regards to the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunitions, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (CIFTA).

On **March 2, 2005, Peru** deposited the instrument of ratification to the Inter-American Convention on the International Return of Children.

On **March 11, 2005, El Salvador** appointed the Minister of Foreign Affairs as the central authority responsible for the delivery and reception of requests of assistance, according to article 3 of the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters.

On **March 16, 2005, the Republic of Korea** signed and deposited the instrument of acceptance to the Agreement Establishing the Inter-American Development Bank.

On **April 12, 2005, Colombia** deposited the instrument of ratification to the Inter-American Convention on the Forced Disappearance of Persons.

On **April 15, 2005, Paraguay** signed the Convention on the Protection of the Archeological, Historical, and Artistic Heritage of the American Nations (Convention of San Salvador).

On **April 27, 2005, Venezuela** deposited the instrument of ratification to the Inter-American Convention on Transparency in Conventional Weapons Acquisitions.

On **May 10, 2005, Belize** signed the Inter-American Convention on Serving Criminal Sentences Abroad.

On **May 26, 2005, Panama** appointed the Dirección Institucional en Asuntos de Seguridad Pública del Ministerio de Gobierno y Justicia as point of contact for the purposes related to the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials.

On **May 31, 2005, Antigua and Barbuda** designated the office of the Attorney General as the central authority under the Inter-American Convention on the International Return of Children.

On **May 31, 2005, Antigua and Barbuda** deposited the instrument of ratification to the Inter-American Convention on the International Return of Children.

On **June 1, 2005, the United States** designated the Permanent Representative of the United States to the OAS to serve as the central authority for the purposes of channeling requests for mutual technical cooperation in accordance with the provisions of articles XIV(2) and XVIII of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption.

On **June 7, 2005, Nicaragua** appointed the Consejo Nacional de Atención y Protección Integral a la Niñez y la Adolescencia (CONAPINA) as the central authority responsible for the compliance of the obligations established in the Inter-American Convention on the International Return of Children.

On **June 14, 2005, the United States** designated the Office of International Affairs of the Criminal Division of the United States Department of Justice as its central authority for purposes of mutual legal assistance pursuant to article XVIII of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption.

On **July 11, 2005, Honduras** deposited the instrument of ratification to the Inter-American Convention on the Forced Disappearance of Persons.

On **July 15, 2005, Belize** deposited the instrument of ratification to the Inter-American Convention on Serving Criminal Sentences Abroad.

On **August 16, 2005, Canada** appointed central authorities regarding the Inter-American Convention against Corruption.

On **September 15, 2005, Jamaica** designated the Minister responsible for Justice and the Director of Public Prosecutions for mutual legal assistance, and the Minister of Justice and the Director of Public Prosecutions for mutual technical cooperation, as required by article XVIII of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption.

On **October 25, 2005, Brazil** deposited the instrument of ratification to the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism.

On **November 15, 2005, the United States**, pursuant to article 4.1 of the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism, designated the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN), United States Department of Treasury, as its financial intelligence unit.

On **November 15, 2005, the United States** deposited the instrument of ratification to the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism subject to an understanding.

On **November 18, 2005, Nicaragua** deposited the instrument of accession to the Inter-American Convention on International Traffic in Minors.

On **December 2, 2005, Trinidad and Tobago** deposited its instrument of ratification to the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism.

On **December 14, 2005, Jamaica** signed and deposited the instrument of ratification to the Inter-American Convention on the prevention, punishment and eradication of violence against women "Convention of Belém do Pará".

On **December 16, 2005, Argentina** deposited its instrument of ratification to the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism.

On **December 21, 2005, Peru** deposited its instrument of accession to the Inter-American Convention on Support Obligations.

On **December 22, 2005, El Salvador** deposited its instrument of accession to the Inter-American Convention on International Traffic in Minors with a reservation and appointed the Instituto Salvadoreño para el Desarrollo Integral de la Niñez y la Adolescencia (ISNA) as its central authority.

APPENDIX D

HUMAN RESOURCES

The following tables contain data on the staff of the General Secretariat from January 1 to December 31, 2005. Personnel are classified by type of appointment and the fund that finances their posts; their category and nationality; years of service; the grade of their posts; their sex; and their duty station; and by whether they are Career Service or not.

TABLE 1

**BREAKDOWN OF STAFF BY TYPE OF APPOINTMENT AND FUND,
JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 2005
(Includes all sources of financing)**

	Career Service	Continuing Contract	Long Term	Short Corto	Other types of appointments	Total
Regular Fund ^{a/}	170 ^{b/}	43 ^{c/}	168 ^{d/}	60	41	482
Other	4	1	52	51	15	123
TOTAL	174	44	220	111	56*	605

a/ Includes the staff of the Secretariat of the IACHR, the IIN, CIM, CICAD, and the national offices.

b/ Includes 5 persons in positions of trust who are Career Service.

c/ Includes 1 person in a position of trust.

d/ Includes 1 person in a position of trust.

** Includes trust personnel not in the Career Service, associate personnel, temporary support personnel, local professional personnel, and special observers.*

TABLE 2

**CHANGE IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF STAFF, BY FUND
DECEMBER 31, 2004, TO DECEMBER 31, 2005
(Includes all sources of financing)**

	December 2004	December 2005	Change	
			Number	%
Regular Fund	490	482	- 8	- 1.6
Other	140	123	- 17	- 12.8
TOTAL	630	605*	- 25	+ 3.9

** Includes associate personnel, temporary support personnel, local professionals, and special observers.*

TABLE 3

**CHANGE IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF STAFF, BY TYPE OF APPOINTMENT
 DECEMBER 31, 2004 TO DECEMBER 31, 2005
 (Includes all sources of financing)**

Type of Appointment	December 2004	December 2005	Change	
			Number	%
Career Service	187	169	- 18	- 9.6
Career Service in positions of trust	8	5	- 3	- 37.5
Continuing Contract	44	44		
Trust personnel not members of the Career Service	32	43	+ 11	- 34.3
Long-term	239	220	- 19	- 7.9
Short-term	83	111	- 28	- 33.7
Other types of appointments*	37	13	- 24	- 64.8
TOTAL	630	605	- 25	+ 3.9

* *Includes associate personnel, temporary support personnel, local professionals, and special observers.*

TABLE 4

DISTRIBUTION OF STAFF BY CATEGORY AND NATIONALITY
(Includes all sources of financing)

Countries	December 31, 2004			December 31, 2005		
	Profess- ional	General Services	Total	Profess- ional	General Services	Total
Antigua and Barbuda				1	2	3
Argentina	26	7	33	29	5	34
Bahamas	-	2	2	-	1	1
Barbados	2	3	5	5	3	8
Belize	1	1	2	1	1	2
Bolivia	8	9	17	8	10	18
Brazil	15	4	19	15	6	21
Canada	15	-	15	16	-	16
Chile	15	6	21	21	11	32
Colombia	32	18	50	33	20	53
Costa Rica	10	3	13	5	3	8
Cuba	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dominica	1	3	4	1	3	4
Dominican Republic	2	6	8	2	5	7
Ecuador	6	12	18	4	11	15
El Salvador	2	15	17	3	15	18
Grenada	5	2	7	3	2	5
Guatemala	8	11	19	5	10	15
Guyana	1	-	1	1	1	2
Haiti	2	2	4	2	3	5
Honduras	4	2	6	2	1	3
Jamaica	6	3	9	4	3	7
Mexico	12	4	16	13	3	16
Nicaragua	2	9	11	2	7	9
Panama	7	2	9	6	2	8
Paraguay	5	1	6	5	1	6
Peru	24	31	55	22	27	49
St. Kitts and Nevis	1	2	3	3	2	5
St. Lucia	2	2	4	2	2	4
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	2	3	5	3	3	6
Suriname	2	2	4	4	2	6
Trinidad and Tobago	14	3	17	11	4	15
United States	110	43	153	92	43	135
Uruguay	28	12	40	23	10	33
Venezuela	20	11	31	21	10	31
Countries not members of the OAS	5	1	6	3	-	3
TOTAL	234	396	630	373	232	605*

* Includes associate personnel, support personnel, local professionals, and special observers.

TABLE 5

**DISTRIBUTION OF THE STAFF OF THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT
FROM JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 2005
BY YEARS OF SERVICE
(Includes all sources of financing)**

Years of Service	Career Service	Non-Career Service	Total Staff	Percentage who are Career Service
Less than 3	0	124	124	0
3 but less than 5	0	90	90	0
5 but less than 10	0	127	127	0
10 but less than 15	6	84	90	6
15 but less than 25	73	7	80	91
25 or more	90	4	94	96
TOTAL	169	436	605*	28

* Includes associate personnel, support personnel, local professionals, and special observers.

TABLE 6

**DISTRIBUTION OF THE STAFF OF THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT,
JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 2005
BY NATIONALITY
(Career Service vs. Non-Career Service)
(Includes all sources of financing)**

Country	Career Service	Non-Career Service	Total Staff	Percentage who are Career Service
Antigua and Barbuda	0	3	3	0
Argentina	10	24	34	29
Bahamas	0	1	1	0
Barbados	2	6	8	25
Belize	0	2	2	0
Bolivia	9	9	18	50
Brazil	6	15	21	29
Canada	0	16	16	0
Chile	7	25	32	22
Colombia	10	43	53	19
Costa Rica	2	6	8	25
Dominica	0	4	4	0
Dominican Republic	3	4	7	43
Ecuador	9	6	15	60
El Salvador	8	10	18	44
Grenada	0	5	5	0
Guatemala	7	8	15	46
Guyana	0	2	2	0
Haiti	1	4	5	20
Honduras	1	2	3	33
Jamaica	3	4	7	43
Mexico	5	11	16	31
Nicaragua	4	5	9	44
Panama	3	6	9	33
Paraguay	1	5	6	17
Peru	15	34	49	31
St. Kitts and Nevis	1	4	5	20
St. Lucia	1	3	4	25
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	1	5	6	17
Suriname	1	5	6	16
Trinidad and Tobago	1	14	15	6
United States	39	97	136	28
Uruguay	16	17	33	48
Venezuela	3	28	31	10
Countries not members of the OAS	0	3	3	0
TOTAL	165	440	605*	27

* Includes associate personnel, support personnel, local professionals, and special observers.

TABLE 7

**DISTRIBUTION OF THE STAFF OF THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT,
JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 2005
BY GRADE
(Includes all sources of financing)**

Staff member's grade	Career Service	Non-Career Service	Total Personal	Percentage who are Career Service
Unclassified posts *	0	2	2	0
D-1	0	9	9	0
P-5	30	63	93	32
P-4	20	61	81	25
P-3	16	61	77	21
P-2	21	48	69	30
P-1	2	23	25	8
G-7	3	6	9	33
G-6	35	40	75	46
G-5	21	48	69	30
G-4	8	31	39	20
G-3	11	17	28	39
G-2	2	3	5	40
G-1	0	3	3	0
<i>Other posts **</i>	0	11	11	0
TOTAL	169	436	605	28

* *Secretary General and Assistant Secretary General.*

** *Associate personnel, temporary support personnel, local professionals, and special observers.*

TABLE 8

**DISTRIBUTION OF THE STAFF OF THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT,
JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 2005
(MEN-WOMEN)
(Includes all sources of financing)**

Sex	Career Service	Non-Career Service	Total Staff	Percentage who are Career Service
Women	92	232	324	28
Men	77	204	281	27
TOTAL	169	436	605*	28

* Includes associate personnel, support personnel, local professionals, and special observers.

TABLE 9

**COMPOSITION OF THE STAFF OF THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT,
JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 2005
BY DUTY STATION
(Includes all sources of financing)**

Duty Station	Career Service	Non-Career Service	Total Staff	Percentage who are Career Service
Headquarters	142	360	502	28
Away from headquarters	27	76	103	26
Total	169	436	605*	28

* Includes associate personnel, support personnel, local professionals, and special observers.

TABLE 10

DISTRIBUTION OF STAFF BY CATEGORY AND NATIONALITY
(Includes all sources of financing)

Country	December 2004			December 2005		
	Career Service	Non-Career Service	Total	Career Service	Non-Career Service	Total
Antigua and Barbuda	0	3	3	0	3	3
Argentina	11	22	33	10	24	34
Bahamas	0	2	2	0	1	1
Barbados	2	3	5	2	6	8
Belize	0	2	2	0	2	2
Bolivia	10	10	20	9	9	18
Brazil	6	15	21	6	15	21
Canada	0	15	15	0	16	16
Chile	9	13	22	7	25	32
Colombia	11	37	48	10	43	53
Costa Rica	2	11	13	2	6	8
Dominica	0	4	4	0	4	4
Dominican Republic	4	4	8	3	4	7
Ecuador	10	8	18	9	6	15
El Salvador	8	10	18	8	10	18
Grenada	0	7	7	0	5	5
Guatemala	10	9	19	7	8	15
Guyana	0	1	1	0	2	2
Haiti	2	2	4	1	4	5
Honduras	1	5	6	1	2	3
Jamaica	3	6	9	3	4	7
Mexico	6	10	16	5	11	16
Nicaragua	7	4	11	4	5	9
Panama	3	6	9	3	6	9
Paraguay	1	5	6	1	5	6
Peru	21	34	55	15	34	49
St. Kitts and Nevis	1	2	3	1	4	5
St. Lucia	1	3	4	1	3	4
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	1	4	5	1	5	6
Suriname	1	3	4	1	5	6
Trinidad and Tobago	1	16	17	1	14	15
United States	42	109	151	39	97	136
Uruguay	16	19	35	16	17	33
Venezuela	4	27	31	3	28	31
Countries not members of the OAS	1	4	5	0	3	3
TOTAL	195	435	630	165	440	605*

Category	December 2004	December 2005	Change	
			Absolute	%
Professionals	353	365	+ 12	- 3
General Services	277	231	- 46	- 16
TOTAL	630	605	- 25	- 4

* Includes associate personnel, temporary support, local professionals, and special observers.

APPENDIX E

FINANCIAL SITUATION OF THE OAS

TABLE 1

**REGULAR FUND
OPERATING AND RESERVE SUBFUNDS
COMBINED STATEMENTS OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES, AND BALANCES
(in thousands)**

	As of December 31	
	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>
Assets		
Cash and deposits with the OAS Treasury Fund	\$ 9,260	\$ 4,215
Advance payments to employees	20	-
Other assets	4,519	6,550
Current value of GS/OAS annual payments	7,201	4,980
Equity in fixed assets fund	59,270	57,014
<i>Total assets</i>	<u><u>\$ 80,270</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 72,759</u></u>
Liabilities and balances		
Obligations outstanding	\$ 1,698	\$ 1,128
Quotas pledges collected in advance	89	-
Appropriations to charge in future years	7,201	4,980
Accounts payable and other liabilities	1,852	2,061
long-term mortgage	24,235	24,550
<i>Total liabilities</i>	<u>35,075</u>	<u>32,719</u>
Fund Balances:		
Set-asides for supplemental appropriations	-	865
Allocated pursuant to CP/RES. 894 (1516/05)	1,552 ¹	-
Reserve subfund	8,608	6,711
<i>Total Fund Balance</i>	<u>10,160</u>	<u>7,576</u>
Equity in fixed assets	35,035	32,464
<i>Total Liabilities and Fund Balances</i>	<u><u>\$ 80,270</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 72,759</u></u>

¹ Allocated to supplement the Capital Fund of the OAS fellowships and training programs in order to cover overdraft obligations incurred by the Fellowships Department.

TABLE 2
COMBINED STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN BALANCE OF FUNDS
(in thousands)

	Further years ended December 31	
	2005	2004
Increases		
Collection quotas/pledges	\$ 76,278	\$ 67,051
Less credits for prompt payment	309	246
	75,969	66,805
Contributions for administrative and technical support	1,181	1,223
Earnings of Treasury Fund	397	173
Leases	500	-
Other income, refunds, and deobligations	1,733	145
<i>Total Increases</i>	79,780	68,346
Decreases		
Expenses and obligations corresponding to appropriations:		
General Assembly and Permanent Council	12,561	12,764
Executive Office of the General Secretariat	9,799	11,109
Specialized units and offices	11,113	11,907
Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI)	10,939	11,243
Offices away from headquarters	5,915	5,561
Activities of the Secretariat for Legal Affairs	3,073	2,102
Activities of the Secretariat for Management	12,030	12,520
Common administrative and personnel-related costs	7,752	8,396
Contributions to other agencies	4,014	4,266
<i>Total Decreases</i>	77,196	79,868
Net increase /(decrease) for the year	2,584	(11,522)
Fund balance at the start of the year	7,576	19,098
<i>Fund balance that year's end</i>	\$ 10,160	\$ 7,576

TABLE 3

**SPECIFIC FUNDS RELATED TO
ACTIVITIES OF THE REGULAR FUND**

COMBINED STATEMENTS OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES, AND BALANCES
(in thousands)

	As of December 31	
	2005	2004
Assets		
Cash and equity in the OAS Treasury Fund	\$ 67,832	\$ 71,037
Advances to employees and other receivables	430	272
<i>Total assets</i>	<u>\$ 68,262</u>	<u>\$ 71,309</u>
Liabilities and funds balances		
Obligations outstanding	\$ 13,908	\$ 10,041
Accounts payable and other liabilities	7,054	8,039
Fund Balance		
Specific Funds	48,500	57,963
Service Funds	3,153	1,611
Tax Reimbursement Fund	(4,353)	(6,345)
<i>Total liabilities and fund balances</i>	<u>\$ 68,262</u>	<u>\$ 71,309</u>

TABLE 4
STATEMENTS COMPARING VARIATION IN FUND BALANCES
(in thousands)

	For the years ended December 31	
	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>
Increases		
Specific Funds Contributions	\$ 61,732	\$ 101,197
Service Funds Contributions	1,584	3,058
Contributions for reimbursement of taxes	9,205	8,443
Transfers	1,937	441
Other income and interest earned	9,502	7,784
<i>Total Increases</i>	<u>83,960</u>	<u>120,923</u>
Decreases		
Specific Funds expenditures and obligations	67,614	80,321
Service Funds expenditures and obligations	17,473	18,835
Transfers	712	-
Reimbursement to donors	4,090	381
<i>Total Decreases</i>	<u>89,889</u>	<u>99,537</u>
Net (decrease)/increase for the year	(5,929)	21,386
Fund balances at start of year	53,229	31,843
<i>Fund balances at year's end</i>	<u>\$ 47,300</u>	<u>\$ 53,229</u>

TABLE 5
INTER-AMERICAN AGENCY FOR COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT
COMBINED STATEMENTS OF FUNDS' ASSETS, LIABILITIES, AND BALANCES
(in thousands)

As at December 31, 2005	Operations Fund	FEMCIDI	Specific Funds	Trust for the Americas	Combined
Assets					
Cash and equity in the OAS Treasury Fund	\$ 211	\$ 9,836	\$ 17,122	\$ 908	\$ 28,077
Other receivables	1	-	-	-	1
Fixed Assets	12	-	-	-	12
Total assets	\$ 224	\$ 9,836	\$ 17,122	\$ 908	\$ 28,090
Liabilities and fund balances					
Obligations outstanding / Accounts payable	\$ 105	\$ 2,048	\$ 1,626	\$ 332	\$ 4,111
Pledges collected in advance	-	31	-	-	31
Accounts payable and other assets	1	1	84	12	98
	106	2,080	1,710	344	4,240
Fund balances					
Operations Fund not appropriated	106	7,718	15,412	564	23,800
Reserve sub-fund	-	38	-	-	38
	106	7,756	15,412	564	23,838
Equity in fixed assets	12	-	-	-	12
Total liabilities and fund balances	\$ 224	\$ 9,836	\$ 17,122	\$ 908	\$ 28,090

TABLE 6

COMBINED STATEMENT OF CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES
(in thousands)

For the year ended December 31, 2005

	Operations Fund	FEMCIDI	Specific Funds	Trust for the Americas	Combined
Increases					
Subsidy from the OAS Regular Fund	\$ 425	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 425
Contributions	-	-	3,277	3,013	6,290
Pledge collections	-	1,270	-	-	1,270
Interest income	6	343	557	18	924
Funds transfers	1	-	12	76	89
Other income, refunds, and deobligations	14	162	-	3	179
Contributions in kind	-	-	-	231	231
SEDI Contributions in kind	-	-	-	354	354
Total increases	446	1,775	3,846	3,695	9,762
Decreases					
Expenditures and obligations	385	-	7,340	2,084	9,809
Project disbursements and obligations	-	4,047	-	-	4,047
Transfers to other funds	-	391	-	258	649
Technical and administrative support to the GS/OAS	-	1,206	-	-	1,207
Reimbursements from previous years	-	-	14	-	13
Returns to donor	-	-	-	2	2
Expenditures in kind	-	-	-	231	231
Trade unit expenditures in kind	-	-	-	354	354
Total decreases	385	5,644	7,354	2,929	16,312
Net increase/ (decrease) for the year	61	(3,869)	(3,508)	766	(6,550)
Fund balances at start of year	57	11,625	18,920	(202)	30,400
Fund balances at year's end	\$ 118	\$ 7,756	\$ 15,412	\$ 564	\$ 23,850

APPENDIX F
SCHOLARSHIPS

**Table 1: Scholarships Awarded for Graduate Academic Studies
(January 1 to December 31, 2005)**

Country	Self-placed	OAS-placed	Ecology (OAS/Fulbright)	Number of scholarships	Other programs announced	Total New Scholarships	Extensions	Total number of scholarships
Antigua & Barbuda	2	2	0	4	0	4	5	9
Argentina	2	5	1	8	0	8	9	17
Bahamas	1	1	1	3	0	3	7	10
Barbados	2	1	1	4	1	5	3	8
Belize	2	2	1	5	0	5	6	11
Bolivia	2	4	0	6	0	6	10	16
Brazil	2	4	1	7	0	7	7	14
Canada	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	2
Chile	2	6	1	9	1	10	8	18
Colombia	2	4	1	7	0	7	7	14
Costa Rica	3	3	1	7	0	7	10	17
Dominica	0	2	0	2	0	2	6	8
Dominican Republic	2	3	1	6	0	6	9	15
Ecuador	1	4	1	6	0	6	10	16
El Salvador	3	3	0	6	0	6	9	15
Grenada	2	2	0	4	0	4	4	8
Guatemala	2	3	1	6	1	7	10	17
Guyana	1	2	0	3	0	3	5	8
Haiti	2	3	1	6	0	6	6	12
Honduras	1	3	1	5	0	5	10	15
Jamaica	1	3	1	5	1	6	4	10
Mexico	1	4	1	6	0	6	7	13
Nicaragua	3	3	0	6	0	6	9	15
Panama	1	3	1	5	0	5	7	12
Paraguay	1	3	0	4	0	4	12	16
Peru	1	4	1	6	0	6	10	16
St. Kitts & Nevis	1	0	0	1	0	1	7	8
St. Lucia	2	2	0	4	0	4	5	9
St. Vincent & the Grenadines	2	2	0	4	0	4	5	9
Suriname	1	0	0	1	0	1	5	6
Trinidad & Tobago	2	2	0	4	0	4	5	9
United States	3	0	0	3	0	3	2	5
Uruguay	3	3	1	7	0	7	11	18
Venezuela	0	3	0	3	0	3	6	9
Specials								0
TOTALS	56	89	19	164	4	168	237	405

Table 2: Undergraduate Scholarships Awarded in 2005

Country	New scholarships	Total number of extensions	Total number of scholarships
Antigua & Barbuda	1	1	2
Bahamas	1		1
Barbados	1		1
Belize	1		1
Dominica	1	1	2
Granada	1	2	3
Jamaica	1		1
St. Kitts and Nevis	2	1	3
St. Lucia	2	1	3
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	1	2	3
Trinidad and Tobago	2	1	3
TOTALS	14	9	23

Table 3: Professional Development Scholarships Awarded in 2005

Country	Program with Permanent Observers		Program with OAS Member States	Financing from other areas of the GS/OAS		Number of scholarships
	On-campus	E- scholarships	On-campus	On-campus	E- scholarships	
Antigua & Barbuda	-	-	-	1	1	2
Argentina	4	-	5	6	18	33
Bahamas	-	-	-	2	-	2
Barbados	1	-	1	7	5	14
Belize	-	-	-	2	2	4
Bolivia	1	2	2	1	9	15
Brazil	-	-	4	3	1	8
Canada	-	-	-	2	-	2
Chile	2	-	6	1	5	14
Colombia	2	-	4	4	17	27
Costa Rica	2	1	5	9	12	29
Dominica	-	-	-	4	2	6
Dominican Republic	-	-	-	1	-	1
Ecuador	2	1	2	4	16	25
El Salvador	-	-	2	4	9	15
Grenada	-	-	-	4	4	8
Guatemala	2	-	6	7	19	34
Guyana	-	-	-	-	1	1
Haiti	-	-	-	1	4	5
Honduras	3	1	7	6	16	33
Jamaica	1	-	2	4	7	14
Mexico	-	-	2	6	3	11
Nicaragua	5	1	1	6	25	38
Panama	2	1	3	4	21	31
Paraguay	4	-	2	6	9	21
Peru	4	1	5	7	11	28
St. Kitts & Nevis	-	-	-	1	2	3
St. Lucia	-	-	-	4	3	7
St. Vincent & the Grenadines	-	-	-	2	-	2
Suriname	-	-	-	3	1	4
Trinidad & Tobago	-	-	-	2	1	3
United States	-	-	-	-	-	-
Uruguay	2	-	3	4	14	23
Venezuela	3	1	8	3	7	22
TOTALS	40	9	70	121	245	485

**Table 4: Educational Portal of the Americas
Total Number of Persons Trained, 2001-2005**

Country	2001-02	2003	2004	2005	TOTAL
Antigua and Barbuda	0	5	2	5	12
Argentina	64	397	1093	840	2394
Bahamas	7	7	4	0	18
Barbados	7	3	3	5	18
Belize	2	4	6	0	12
Bolivia	24	78	91	121	314
Brazil	53	522	2381	206	3162
Canada	0	33	1	0	34
Chile	24	34	183	162	403
Colombia	43	68	297	276	684
Costa Rica	34	47	54	194	329
Cuba (*)	0	0	0	0	0
Dominica	2	2	0	10	14
Dominican Republic	14	152	137	314	617
Ecuador	26	103	102	266	497
El Salvador	20	7	35	51	113
Grenada	11	3	0	15	29
Guatemala	24	22	36	71	153
Guyana	5	2	2	3	12
Haiti	5	6	9	5	25
Honduras	18	8	53	46	125
Jamaica	5	4	2	38	49
Mexico	44	27	183	372	626
Nicaragua	35	9	27	82	153
Panama	16	17	35	60	128
Paraguay	10	80	47	45	182
Peru	1627	1003	384	465	3479
St. Kitts and Nevis	1	3	0	0	4
St. Lucia	0	4	4	23	31
St. Vincent	1	5	4	1	11
Suriname	10	1	2	1	14
Trinidad and Tobago	2	8	12	74	96
United States	4	47	30	6	87
Uruguay	52	19	91	84	246
Venezuela	82	113	153	195	543
Other	30	7	40	26	103
TOTAL	2302	2850	5503	4062	14717

**Table 5: Educational Portal of the Americas
Traffic: Number of Visits, by Country**

Country	Number of visits
Argentina	56,649,743
Antigua and Barbuda	678,778
Bahamas	310,539
Barbados	671,392
Belize	180,096
Bolivia	6,124,964
Brazil	66,042,796
Canada	4,302,806
Chile	11,908,704
Colombia	17,606,733
Costa Rica	6,539,153
Cuba	166,137
Dominica	371,915
Dominican Republic	8,157,670
Ecuador	6,061,577
El Salvador	3,630,403
Guatemala	3,562,338
Grenada	444,288
Guyana	134,744
Honduras	1,556,937
Haiti	73,730
Jamaica	479,710
Mexico	18,832,479
Nicaragua	1,616,558
Panama	3,495,957
Paraguay	1,462,441
Peru	32,159,377
St. Kitts and Nevis	34,859
St. Lucia	357,612
St. Vincent	65,650
Suriname	27,158
Trinidad and Tobago	3,044,802
United States	45,047,144
Uruguay	7,113,188
Venezuela	10,845,571
Total number of visits	319,757,949

APPENDIX G

CASH CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED FROM PERMANENT OBSERVERS IN 2005

Country	Recipient Area/Project	Cash	Total
Sweden	IACHR – Follow-up of the Demobilization Process in Colombia	181,922	4,707,846
	IACHR- Rapporteurship for Freedom of Expression	65,537	
	DDPA – Electoral Observation Mission, Bolivia 2005	100,276	
	DDPA –Electoral Program Support	953,721	
	DDPA – MAPP OAS Colombia	92,559	
	DDPA – Modernization and Legislative Agenda of Congress	634,100	
	DDPA – Political Management Guatemala	421,734	
	DDPA –Electoral System Guatemala 2005-2007	350,834	
	DDPA – Modernization of Electoral System in Guatemala	59,024	
	DDPA – Support for Rural Judicial Facilitators	1,438,393	
	DMS – Demining PADCA Nicaragua	409,746	
Norway	OSF – Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples	39,749	2,112,651
	DDPA – Conflict Resolution Program Guatemala	542,205	
	DDPA – Electoral Observation Mission, Venezuela 2005	107,159	
	DDPA – Political Management, Guatemala	542,081	
	DDPA – Special Mission to Strengthen Democracy in Haiti	157,376	
	DMS – Demining AICMA/PADCA NI F04	506,969	
	DMS – Demining PADCA Guatemala	214,136	
	SEDI – Special Ports Program	976	
	IIN – Children’s Rights Videos	2,000	
Netherlands	DDPA – Inter-American Forum on Political Parties	10,004	1,744,109
	DDPA – Electoral Observation Mission Bolivia	94,955	
	DDPA – MAPP OAS	1,500,000	
	DDPA – Political Management Guatemala	139,150	
European Union	IACHR – Strengthening Access to Justice in the Americas (Phase II)	512,414	913,917
	DMS – AICMA/PADCA NI F04 & SP -EACO	293,232	
	OSDE – Integration of Sustainable Development	108,271	
Spain	IACHR – Strengthening the IACHR Individual Case System	238,790	540,682
	DMS – CICAD- Decentralization of National Drug Plans	237,440	
	OEST – Development of Micro and Small Business	48,987	
	SEDI – Special Ports Program	15,465	
United Kingdom	DDPA – Fund for Peace - Belize/Guatemala Subfund	492,140	492,140
Italy	IACHR – Promoting Human Rights Education in the Caribbean	61,950	317,555
	IACHR – Rapporteurship Rights Indigenous People	61,950	

	IACHR – Rapporteurship Rights Persons Deprived of Freedom	61,950	
	IACHR – Strengthening the IACHR Individual Case System	22,618	
	DDPA – Political Party Focus on Haiti	61,985	
	DDPA – Special Mission to Strengthen Democracy in Haiti	19,455	
	DMS – Demining	27,647	
Ireland	DDPA – MAPP OAS Colombia	155,996	311,971
	IACHR – Support to Colombia	155,975	
China	DCER – Americas Magazine	3,200	200,000
	DCER – Art Museum of the Americas	20,000	
	IIN – Children’s Videogame Project	25,000	
	DCER – Lecture Series of the Americas	40,000	
	DCER – Meeting of Government Spokespersons of Americas	60,000	
	CIM – Gender Training Course	30,000	
	CIFTA – Experts Meeting	21,800	
Denmark	DDPA – Electoral Observation Mission Bolivia 2005	100,000	150,000
	DDPA – Electoral Observation Mission Honduras 2005	50,000	
Korea	DDPA – Electoral Observation Mission Honduras 2005	20,000	50,000
	DDPA – Electoral Observation Mission Venezuela 2005	30,000	
France	DMS – CICAD General Fund	47,468	47,468
Greece	DCER – Lecture Series of the Americas	15,000	30,000
	DCER – Meeting of Government Spokespersons of Americas	15,000	
Turkey	DCER – Art Museum of the Americas	6,000	12,200
	DCER – Americas Magazine	3,200	
	DMS – CICTE	3,000	
Qatar	DCER – Art Museum of the Americas	10,000	10,000
Germany	OEST –PBT	9,500	9,500
Total:			11,650,039

IACHR: Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
 DDPA: Department of Democratic and Political Affairs
 DMS: Department of Multidimensional Security
 OSF: Office of Summits Follow-Up
 SEDI: Executive Secretariat for Integral Development
 OEST: Office of Education, Science, and Technology
 DCER: Department of Communications and External Relations
 CIM: Inter-American Commission of Women
 CIFTA: Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials
 IIN: Inter-American Children's Institute
 OSDE: Office for Sustainable Development and Environment

IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS FROM PERMANENT OBSERVERS IN 2005

Country	Recipient Area/Project	Equivalent Amount in US\$	TOTAL
Spain	OEST: Fellowships and Training	\$270,400 Fellowships, Training and Experts	270,400
Korea	DDPA: MAPP/OAS Colombia	110,000 in Equipment	110,000
France	DMS: CICAD: Anti-Money Laundering Support	96,000 provision of a Money Laundering Specialist	96,000
China	OEST: Fellowships and Training	\$40,000 Language Programs	40,000
TOTAL:			516,400

APPENDIX H

PROGRAM-BUDGET: LEVELS OF EXECUTION

