**INTER-AMERICAN AGENCY FOR COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

**(IACD)**

**MEETING OF THE MANAGEMENT BOARD** OEA/Ser.W/XX.2

 AICD/JD/DE-137/23

 25 May 2023

 Original: Spanish

DECISIONS OF THE MANAGEMENT BOARD

(Adopted at the meeting of May 23, 2023)

 The meeting of the Management Board of the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD) was held virtually on May 23, 2023.

Participants:

 The meeting was attended by the following members of the Management Board:

Ms. Karla Majano de Palma, General Director of the El Salvador Agency for International Cooperation (ESCO), Chair of the Management Board;

Members of the Management Board

* Daniela Rey, General Directorate for International Cooperation, Argentine Ministry of Foreign Affairs
* Marcio Lopes Correa, Agencia Brasileira de Cooperacion
* German Herrera, Alternate Representative of Colombia
* Sebastian Fonseca, Alternate Representative of Ecuador
* Ambassador Agustin Vasquez, Permanent Representative of El Salvador
* Julianna Ayness-Neville, Alternate Representative of the United States
* Socorro Jorge, Alternate Representative of Mexico
* Bruno Sotomayor, Peruvian Agency for International Cooperation
* Omari Seitu Williams, Deputy Permanent Representative and Alternate Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Kim Osborne, Executive Secretary for Integral Development, together with the delegations of the Bahamas, Belize, Bolivia, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Paraguay, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uruguay.

The meeting began with the approval of the draft order of business

Document: (AICD/JD/OD-71/23) - [Español](https://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD/od&classNum=71&lang=s) - [English](https://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD/od&classNum=71&lang=e)

1. Working Groups of the IACD:
* Updates on the proposals for the implementation of the General Assembly mandates

Document: 2023-2024 Work Plan of the MB/IACD: (AICD/JD/doc-205/23) - [Español](https://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD%20XX.2.18/doc.&classNum=205&lang=s) - [English](https://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD%20XX.2.18/doc.&classNum=205&lang=e)

* Working Group 1: Updated model for the CIDI ministerial process and the role of the region’s cooperation authorities:

Document: (AICD/JD/doc-211/23) **-** [English](http://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD%20XX.2.18/doc.&classNum=211&lang=e) | [Español](http://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD%20XX.2.18/doc.&classNum=211&lang=s)

* Working Group 3:  Proposed actions: Position the IACD in the international development cooperation landscape.

Document: (AICD/JD/doc-210/23) - [Español](https://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD%20XX.2.18/doc.&classNum=210&lang=s) - [English](https://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD%20XX.2.18/doc.&classNum=210&lang=e)

 At this point, the Chair gave the floor to the representatives of the three working groups to present their proposals for implementing the mandates of the General Assembly and the 2023-2024 plan.

The representative of Uruguay, Chair of Working Group 1 (Updated model for the CIDI ministerial process and the role of the region’s cooperation authorities) began her presentation by describing the lines of work proposed to achieve the intended objectives and actions (Document: (AICD/JD/doc-211/23- [English](http://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD%20XX.2.18/doc.&classNum=211&lang=e) - [Español](http://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD%20XX.2.18/doc.&classNum=211&lang=s)). The list begins with a proposal to hold a face-to-face meeting between the members of the three working groups to identify synergies and enhance the role of the IACD through the other actions included in the list of proposals. The delegation of Brazil (Co-Chair) of the Working Group then expressed its support for the proposals and stressed the importance of the in-person meeting so that the working groups can meet and interact with the different SEDI entities that participate in the ministerial meetings process, as well as with the members of the Management Board to foster closer ties between the cooperation authorities in the respective member states and prepare a questionnaire to analyze the processes for planning, identifying and approving projects, in order to prepare a diagnosis of the current situation of solidarity cooperation in the organization and make recommendations to the IACD Management Board.

Working Group 2 (Fundraising for partnership for development activities within the framework of OAS/SEDI), represented by its Co-Chair, then presented the proposals for moving forward with the implementation of its mandates. Some relevant points included in the proposal are the importance of generating a space for dialogue with group 3 in order to contribute to devising a communication strategy and avoiding duplication of efforts; and taking advantage of the Fourth Meeting of the High- Level Cooperation Authorities in 2024 to hold a parallel event that includes round tables, meetings, and presentations to promote dialogue with the private sector, organized at the regional level, to identify a collaboration mechanism aimed at project financing.

The presentation of Working Group 3 (Proposed Actions: Position the IACD in the international development cooperation landscape) was made by the delegate of Colombia (Chair of the Working Group). The actions proposed for implementing the work in the framework of the IACD work plan 2023-3024 include the execution of a working pilot to articulate cooperation actions with the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB) and the Common Market of the South (Mercosur) and the strengthening of CooperaNet as a space for exchanging cooperation experiences and a link between supply and demand (IACD/JD/doc.210/23) [English](https://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD%20XX.2.18/doc.&classNum=210&lang=s) - [English](https://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD%20XX.2.18/doc.&classNum=210&lang=e)).

Comments and responses to the Working Groups' proposals touched on the importance of identifying communication complementarities in the Organization and the need for a standardized format for annual reporting on cooperation that reflects concrete results.

 The Executive Secretary of SEDI took the floor to congratulate the working groups for their work and proposed that they continue working virtually. She set a meeting date to discuss and prepare a holistic or integrated cooperation plan for the Fourth Meeting of the High-Level Cooperation Authorities so that the conclusions and outcomes could be submitted for the consideration of the General Assembly in 2024.

 The Chair thanked the Working Groups for their contributions and presentations and indicated that the Secretariat had duly taken note of the comments and inputs, and she encouraged further progress towards the Fourth Meeting of the High-Level Cooperation Authorities in 2024. She also invited delegations to share any additional information they might have by forwarding it to the secretariat for consolidation.

1. Report by the Department of Financial services (DFS/SAF) on the status of the investment strategy under implementation for the Capital Fund for the OAS Scholarship and Training Programs

Document: Decisions of the Management Board of the IACD (Adopted at the meeting held on June 8, 2021) AICD/JD/DE-129/21 [Español](https://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD/DE&classNum=129&lang=s) - [English](https://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD/DE&classNum=129&lang=e)

 In addressing this topic, the Chair referred to the mandates in General Assembly resolutions AG/RES. 2971 (LI-O/21) and AG/RES. 2985 (LII-O/22) on defining an investment strategy for the Capital Fund for the OAS Scholarship and Training Programs in order to ensure the sustainability of those programs. She then gave the floor to the representative of the Department of Financial Services (DSF) of the Secretariat for Administration and Finance (SAF) to present the status of the fund's investment strategy, as selected by the Management Board.

 The DSF representative explained that at its meeting held on June 8, 2021, the Management Board made the decision to instruct the Department of Financial Services to invest the money from the Capital Fund for the OAS Scholarship and Training Programs following investment strategy #1 of the options presented by the SAF in the document (AICD/JD/INF.74/21) by investing 70% in stocks and 30% in bonds, which, in addition to the investment’s security, aims for a higher long-term return on capital, with low commission costs, investing all of the capital.

 Some highlights of the investment status of the fund as of March 31, 2023 are as follows: a) since inception, total dividends and capital gains earned and reinvested in the portfolio amount to US$83,582; b) The portfolio is monitored to ensure balances are within the targets allowed by investment guidelines (+/- 3%); no need to rebalance since inception; c) 2022 was a challenging year, with seven federal funds rate increases. Three additional rate hikes in 2023 with the objective of reducing inflation to 2%. Higher rates impact borrowing costs, earnings and stock prices, and; d) the value of the portfolio rose during the fourth quarter of 2022. This upward trend continues during the first quarter of 2023.

 At the conclusion of the presentation, both the Board members and the Executive Secretary expressed their satisfaction with the investment status of the fund, and the Chair thanked the representative of the Department of Financial Services.

1. Language Cooperation Program:
* Discussion on initial thoughts for the implementation of the Language Proficiency Training and Certification Program

Document: Approved budget 2023 [(AG/RES. 2985 (LII-O/22)]:

[Español](http://scm.oas.org/doc_public/SPANISH/HIST_23/CIDSC00209S02.docx) - [English](http://scm.oas.org/doc_public/ENGLISH/HIST_23/CIDSC00209E02.docx)

 This item has to do with the mandate in General Assembly resolution AG/RES. 2988 (LII-O/22) instructing SEDI to support the member states in developing language exchange and immersion programs among the member states, and resolution AG/RES. 2985 (LII-O/22) authorizing the Management Board of the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development to use the US$75,000 allocated to the Professional Development Scholarships Program (PBDP), under the auspices of the OAS Scholarship and Training Programs, to implement a training and competency certification program in the four OAS languages. The Executive Secretary of SEDI took the floor to explain some of the Secretariat's initial considerations and actions to fulfill this mandate and indicated that implementation will involve establishing a space for linguistic cooperation on the CooperaNet platform in order to provide language training to the citizens of the member states. She also explained that in exploring the issue with member states, she noted that language training was structured for small classes. Additionally, she indicated that the Secretariat would also approach the private sector with a view to obtaining its collaboration in this process.

 The delegation of Mexico requested the floor to express its government's willingness to join this initiative and made the services of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México available for this program, offering 90% scholarships for online language courses and 30% scholarships for certification programs.

 Both the Chair and the Executive Secretary of SEDI thanked the Mexican delegation and called on all delegations to take advantage of the language cooperation program, a topic that will be discussed at a later date.

1. Development Cooperation Fund (DCF): Presentation of the Mid-Term assessment report on the DCF program implementation - Programming Cycle 2021-2024

 At this point in the order of business, the Technical Cooperation Section presented the report on the mid-term assessment report on implementation of the current 2021-2024 programming cycle of the Development Cooperation Fund programs, entitled "Inclusive Resilience for an Effective Recovery, with a Focus on Science and Technology" (document IACD/JD/doc.209/23 - [Español](https://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD%20XX.2.18/doc.&classNum=209&lang=s) - [English](https://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD%20XX.2.18/doc.&classNum=209&lang=e)). To comply with the provisions of Article 17(t) of the Development Cooperation Fund (DCF) statutes, the Secretariat conducted the mid-term evaluation using an electronic survey that was sent to the implementing agencies to evaluate the program in the following six priority areas. A total of 18 countries were eligible to participate in the 2021-2024 Cycle under four recommended program themes for a total amount assigned of seed funding of $1,800,000.

During the presentation, it was emphasized that implementation challenges vary widely from program to program, and that the key to overcoming challenges and moving toward solutions for program implementation is effective communication among all parties involved. It was also indicated that in order to overcome the challenges associated with administrative processes and based on lessons learned from previous implementation cycles, the suggestion is for program coordinators and the corresponding authorities to get involved with the DCF process from the program's inception.

Reference was also made to information distributed to member states on the pledges and payments of 2022 contributions to the 2022 fund, updated as of May 16, 2023, and circulated for the information of the member states (document (AICD/JD/doc-207/23) - [Español](https://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD%20XX.2.18/doc.&classNum=207&lang=s)-[English](https://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD%20XX.2.18/doc.&classNum=207&lang=e)).

 At the conclusion of the presentation, the Chair thanked the Secretariat for keeping the delegations informed of the implementation status of the DCF programs.

1. Development of the Call for experts for CooperaNet: Criteria for selection of Experts

To address this issue regarding the call for experts to be included in the CooperaNet Platform and the criteria to be established for the selection of these experts, the Chair gave the floor to the Executive Secretary of SEDI, who referred to the proposal in the document (AICD/JD/doc.208/23) - [Español](https://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD%20XX.2.18/doc.&classNum=208&lang=s) - [English](https://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD%20XX.2.18/doc.&classNum=208&lang=e)). The Secretary explained the initial list of eligibility in the call for experts, aimed at promoting the "Ask an Expert" component of the OAS CooperaNet platform. The idea is for these experts to support the region’s development by providing direct technical assistance and expertise in response to expressed needs from member states and/or to horizontal South-South and Triangular cooperation projects on a time- specific or ongoing basis. The services by the experts connected through the platform are to be provided on a voluntary basis except in cases where member states or project activities provide payment for work. The Executive Secretary also invited the delegations to send their contributions and comments by June 2, 2023, in order to enrich the document with their contributions and circulate a final version of the proposal.

After the Executive Secretary answered questions, the Chair expressed her appreciation for the presentation of the initiative and for the comments received.

1. Preparation for the Fourth Specialized CIDI Meeting of High-Level Authorities on Cooperation:

At the beginning of this item, the Chair explained to the delegations that, in accordance with the cycle of CIDI Ministerial Meetings, the meeting would be held in 2024. In this regard, in order to begin preparations for the meeting, a discussion must be held to establish some key points, such as dates and location. In this regard, the Colombian delegation expressed its interest in offering its country to host the meeting and indicated that it would be making the corresponding consultations with its capital. The Chair urged interested delegations to consult with their respective capitals and inform the Secretariat whether they were willing to host the meeting.

 At the conclusion of the discussions and responses to questions on the subject, the Board of Directors reached the following decision:

Decision No. 1: a) Hold the Fourth Specialized CIDI Meeting of High-Level Authorities on Cooperation on **April 18 and 19, 2024**. In this regard, the Secretariat will draft a schedule for preparing the documents related to the meeting.

b) Hold the preparatory meeting for the Fourth Specialized CIDI Meeting of High-Level Authorities on Cooperation on **November 2, 2023**, at the organization's headquarters in Washington, D.C., in an **in-person format** with the participation of the cooperation authorities.

At this meeting, the working groups will present the conclusions of their work and set the topics to be submitted for consideration by the General Assembly in 2024. Likewise, the cooperation authorities will have the opportunity to interact with the different SEDI entities participating the ministerial meetings process, as well as with the members of the Management Board to foster closer ties between the cooperation authorities in the respective member states.

c) Set **June 23, 2023**, as the deadline for receiving offers to host the Fourth Specialized CIDI Meeting of High-Level Authorities on Cooperation.

At the conclusion of the discussions on this last item on the agenda and having attended to other matters, the Chair thanked the participants and declared the meeting adjourned.

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| Karla Majano de PalmaDirector General of the El Salvador Agency for International Cooperation (ESCO) | Kim OsborneExecutive Secretary for Integral Development |
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