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

**(IACD)**

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

 AICD/JD/DE-128/21

 31 March 2021

 Original: Spanish

DECISIONS OF THE MANAGEMENT BOARD

(Adopted at the meeting held on March 15, 2021)

 The Meeting of the Management Board of the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (MB/IACD) was held virtually on Monday, March 15, 2021.

Participants:

 The following members of the Management Board took part in the meeting:

Ambassador Luz Elena Baños Rivas, Permanent Representative of Mexico as Chair of the Management Board;

Members of the Management Board:

* Guido Pierri, Alternate Representative of Argentina
* Jackson Luiz Lima Oliveira, Alternate Representative of Brazil
* Felipe Aravena, Alternate Representative of Chile
* Jenny Caicedo, Alternate Representative of Ecuador
* Maria Fernanda Pineda, Alternate Representative of Honduras
* Salim Ali Modad, Alternate Representative of Mexico
* Yasmin Brea, representing Ms. Yill Otero, Director of International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Panama; along with Gina Castro, Alternate Representative of Panama
* Christina Bruff, Alternate Representative of the United States of America
* Ambassador Lou-Anne Gaylene Gilchrist, Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Kim Osborne, Executive Secretary for Integral Development; as well as the delegations of The Bahamas, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Lucia, Uruguay, and Venezuela as observers.

The meeting got underway with the adoption of the draft order of business, document AICD/JD/OD-63/21 rev. 1 - [Español](http://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD/od&classNum=63&lang=s) - [English](http://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD/od&classNum=63&lang=e)

1. Election of MB/AICD officers for the 2020-2021 term

In the absence of potential candidates for the posts of Chair and Vice Chair of the IACD Management Board for the 2020-2021 term, the delegation of Mexico said that its country had agreed to stay on as Chair until candidates are nominated for the term. The Chair then inquired about candidates for Vice Chair and since there were no candidates for the position, the Board decided as follows:

Decision No. 1: The delegation of Mexico continues to serve as Chair of the IACD Management Board as long as no nomination is received for the 2020-2021 term; and the election of the Vice Chair will be postponed until the nomination of candidates to fill the position is received.

1. IACD Work Plan 2020-2021: Status of implementation, document AICD/JD/INF.71/21 [English](http://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD/INF&classNum=71&lang=e)  - [Español](http://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD/INF&classNum=71&lang=s)

Under this item, the Secretariat gave a presentation on the status of implementation of the 2020-2021 IACD Work Plan, which the Management Board had approved at its June 16, 2020 meeting. The Secretariat reported on the progress made to date in executing the eight activities prioritized in the Work Plan, as well as on the next steps to be taken. In thanking the Secretariat for its presentation, several Board members requested that the necessary adjustments be made to the calendar of activities and underscored the importance of getting the member states to collaborate on establishing new partnerships with other entities.

The Chair concluded this item by acknowledging the Secretariat’s efforts to execute the activities included in the Work Plan despite the constraints imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. In that regard, the Management Board decided as follows:

Decision No. 2: To request the Secretariat to distribute an updated version of the calendar of activities contained in the 2020-2021 IACD Work Plan.

1. Presentation on the MB/AICD 2021 Proposed schedule and work plan, document AICD/JD/doc.186/21 [English](http://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD%20XX.2.18/doc.&classNum=186&lang=e) - [Español](http://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD%20XX.2.18/doc.&classNum=186&lang=s)

In pursuance of one of the priority actions under the Work Plan and in response to the Board’s request to give advance notice of the dates and topics to be discussed at future Board meetings, the Secretariat submitted a proposed schedule for 2021 for the Management Board’s consideration. The schedule includes proposed dates for formal and informal meetings, envisaging the need for more in-depth discussions. After the Secretariat provided clarification on the queries about the presentation and there being no further comments, the Chair moved on to the next item on the order of business.

Decision No. 3: To approve the Proposed 2021 MB/AICD schedule and work plan

4. Development Cooperation Fund (FCD): Programming Cycle, document AICD/JD/INF.70/21 [English](http://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD/INF&classNum=70&lang=e) - [Español](http://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD/INF&classNum=70&lang=s)

The Secretariat gave a presentation with a brief overview of the Development Cooperation Fund (DCF) process, followed by a report on the status of implementation of programs under the 2017-2021 Programming Cycle and the list of confirmed participation from among the 17 eligible member states in the approved programs of the 2021-2024 Programming Cycle, with an approved amount of $1.7 million, in accordance with the provisions of the DCF Statutes and Provisions on other resources for Partnership for Development Cooperation.

The delegations expressed satisfaction with the report and the Chair congratulated and thanked the Secretariat for the report it delivered.

5. Discussion with Mr. Jay Anania, OAS Secretary for Administration and Finance, and the member state delegations, pursuant to the General Assembly mandate on recapitalization and investment for the Capital Fund for the OAS Scholarship and Training Fund, AG/RES. 2957 (L-O/20) – Article 5.e [Español](http://scm.oas.org/doc_public/SPANISH/HIST_21/CIDSC00161S02.docx) -  [English](http://scm.oas.org/doc_public/ENGLISH/HIST_21/CIDSC00161E02.docx)

The Secretariat invited Mr. Jay Anania, OAS Secretary for Administration and Finance, to a dialogue and exchange of ideas to determine what steps should be taken on recapitalization and investment for the Fund and to help ensure the OAS Scholarship and Training Programs remain sustainable. In opening the discussion on this item, the Executive Secretary explained that the topic under discussion had been on the table with the Secretariat for Administration and Finance (SAF) for more than a decade and the Management Board must now fulfill a mandate from the General Assembly and CIDI. Secretary Anania offered ideas and discussed with the Management Board and the delegations the types of investment strategies and other measures used by different funds of the Organization according to the objectives of those funds. That way, the Management Board could have an orientation for defining investment objectives for the Fund.

 Aside from expressing their interest and in order to decide on an investment strategy for the Fund, a number of delegations asked Secretary Anania for some investment options in writing, for the Board to be able to consider and make a decision on the Capital Fund investment. Concluding, the Chair thanked Secretary Anania for sharing his insights and for the information he would be forwarding, which would help the delegations with their decision making.

Decision No. 4: To request the Secretary for Administration and Finance to submit investment options in writing, for delegations of member states to be able to consider and the Management Board to take a decision on the investment strategy for the Capital Fund for the OAS Scholarship and Training Program.

6. OAS Scholarship and Training Programs: Presentation on the budget approved for 2021: (AICD/JD/INF.72/21) - [English](http://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD/INF&classNum=72&lang=e) - [Español](http://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD/INF&classNum=72&lang=s)

Regarding this item, the Director of the Department of Human Development, Education and Employment shared a table containing the estimated expenditure for 2021 and the projections to 2025 for the OAS Scholarship and Training Program. The Director stressed the importance of approval for funds to be released to be able to launch the call for applications for scholarships.

Recognizing the Secretariat’s efforts to implement the academic and scholarship program in 2020, the Board members noted that some of the percentages and amounts shown in the table were not in line with the mandates outlined in resolutions CIDI/RES. 337 (LXXXVIII-O/19) and AG/RES. 2957 (L-O/20) – for example the 80% correction factor; the amount for Professional Development Scholarships (PDSP); and the amount earmarked for the contingency fund. The funds executed the three previous years were not included either.

The Chair requested the Board's approval to authorize the release of funds and to issue the call for scholarship applications. The Board members, however, asked that a corrected table be distributed with the amounts in line with the mandates contained in resolutions CIDI/RES. 337 (LXXXVIII-O/19), and AG/RES. 2957(L-O/20). The Board could also reconsider adjusting the amounts at a later date, if necessary.

The Chair wrapped up this item offering the delegations some thoughts on the purposes of the scholarships and the categories of citizens to be trained in keeping with national priorities.

Decision No. 5: To request the Secretariat to distribute a corrected table of OAS Scholarship and Training Programs with the budget for the 2021 with projections to 2025; as well as information on the funds executed over the preceding three years.

7. III Specialized CIDI Meeting of High-Level Cooperation Authorities (2021): Discussion as to whether the meeting should be held this year

Under this item, the Chair explained that according to the CIDI Ministerial Meetings cycle, the meeting should be held this year. Due to unforeseen circumstances stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic, however, the Secretariat has felt it important to have a discussion on whether the meeting should be held this year. Several members of the Management Board felt conditions in the countries needed to be assessed due to the COVID-19 pandemic or a decision needed to be made to hold the meeting virtually.

The Executive Secretary emphasized that were this year’s meeting to be postponed, the Secretariat would not have funding for next year, as other meetings are scheduled and furthermore the rules do not allow allocated funds to be carried over to the following year. Moreover, in the absence of any country offering to host, the Meeting would have to be held at OAS headquarters hence consideration could be given to holding the meeting virtually in the latter months of this year, thereby fulfilling the ministerial meetings cycle. The Secretary also requested that the delegations help find new forms of cooperation partnerships, especially in the post-COVID-19 pandemic recovery process.

Endorsing the Executive Secretary's proposal, the Chair urged the delegations to consider holding the III Ministerial Cooperation Meeting later this year.

Lastly, the Chair thanked the participants and then declared the meeting adjourned.

 Ambassador Luz Elena Baños Rivas Kim Osborne

 Permanent Representative of Mexico Executive Secretariat for Integral Development

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