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

**(IACD)**

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

 AICD/JD/DE-138/23

 6 October 2023

 Original: Spanish

DECISIONS OF THE MANAGEMENT BOARD

(Adopted at the meeting of September 21, 2023)

 The meeting of the Management Board of the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD) was held virtually on September 21, 2023.

Participants:

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

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

Members of the Management Board

* Daniela Rey, General Directorate of International Cooperation, Argentine Ministry of Foreign Affairs
* Marcio Lopes Correa, Brazilian Cooperation Agency
* Minister Juan Manuel Escalante, Director of International, Bilateral, Multilateral, and South-South Cooperation, Ecuador
* Ernestina Reyes, Alternate Representative of El Salvador
* Julianna Ayness-Neville, Alternate Representative of the United States
* Ambassador Luz Elena Baños, Permanent Representative of Mexico
* María Fernanda Caballero, Alternate Representative of Panama
* Shirnaya Stephen, Alternate Representative of Saint Lucia
* Ambassador Lou-Anne Gaylene Gilchrist, Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Kim Osborne, Executive Secretary for Integral Development; and by the delegations of Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Peru, and Uruguay.

The meeting began with the approval of the draft agenda

Document: (AICD/JD/OD-72/23) – [Español](https://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD/od&classNum=72&lang=s) | [English](https://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD/od&classNum=72&lang=e)

1. MB/IACD Working Groups:
* Progress report on the execution of the actions proposed for implementing the mandates of the General Assembly

   Document: MB/IACD 2023-2024 Work Plan: (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 of 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 2: Fundraising for partnership for development activities within the framework of OAS/SEDI.
* Mapping of potential funding mechanisms for the Development Cooperation Fund (DCF):

Document: (AICD/JD/doc-215/23) – [English](http://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD%20XX.2.18/doc.&classNum=215&lang=e) | [Español](http://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD%20XX.2.18/doc.&classNum=215&lang=s)

* Working Group 3:  Proposed actions: Positioning 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)

 In addressing this issue, the representatives of the three working groups described their progress with the work they have been carrying out and the activities still pending to implement the mandates of the General Assembly and the objectives set in the 2023-2024 work plan.

The representative of Working Group 1 reiterated the importance of the cooperation authorities being able to hold exchange sessions with the IACD Management Board, the different SEDI bodies involved in the ministerial meetings process, and the members of the Management Board, and to foster closer ties among the member states’ cooperation authorities, in order to prepare a diagnostic assessment of the current situation of partnership for development in the OAS and make recommendations to the IACD Management Board. He also said that Working Group 1 expected to continue to hold joint meetings with Working Groups 2 and 3 to discuss overlapping activities in the Working Groups’ work plans and to identify concrete actions to strengthen cooperation and development within the OAS.

The representative of Working Group 2 then set out the proposals for moving forward with the implementation of the planned actions; she also reported on the informal meeting of the three Working Groups held in August to identify and work together on overlapping issues included in the work plans and suggested holding another meeting in October. Additionally, she urged the delegations to submit their comments and contributions to the document “Mapping of potential funding mechanisms for the Development Cooperation Fund (DCF)” (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)), which was prepared with the support of the Secretariat to establish a roadmap for identifying solutions and mechanisms to strengthen the DCF.

The representative of Working Group 3 said that the actions proposed to undertake the tasks of the 2023-3024 IACD work plan included the execution of a pilot work plan to coordinate cooperation actions with the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB) and the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) and to strengthen CooperaNet as a venue for exchanging cooperation experiences and connecting supply with demand. He also explained the guidelines and initiatives the Working Group has been developing and reiterated its commitment toward working hand in hand with the Secretariat to achieve the objectives set. In connection with the SEGIB, the delegation of Ecuador indicated its willingness to collaborate in its capacity as Pro-Tempore Secretary of SEGIB.

At the end of the presentations, the Executive Secretary urged the delegations to join the Working Groups in order to advance the preparatory process for the Fourth Specialized CIDI Meeting of High-Level Cooperation Authorities.

 The Chair thanked the Working Groups for their work and reiterated her willingness to assist the groups in their activities.

1. Language Cooperation Program:
* Progress report on implementation of the Language Proficiency Training and Certification Program.

Document: 2023 Approved Budget [(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)

 Next, the Executive Secretary of SEDI described the actions that the Secretariat has been taking to implement the mandate in General Assembly resolution AG/RES. 2988 (LII-O/22), which instructs SEDI to support the member states in developing language exchange and immersion programs among the member states, and in resolution AG/RES. 2985 (LII-O/22), which authorizes the Management Board of the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development to use the US$75,000 allocated to the Professional Development Scholarship Program (PDSP) within the OAS Scholarships and Training Program to implement a program for training and certification of proficiency in the four OAS languages. The Secretary explained that an area had been created on the CooperaNet platform to offer online language training to citizens of the member states. The platform provides access for the general public, students, and teachers, with the idea that they can access different course options. She also spoke about the pilot program to provide Spanish language courses for Caribbean citizens during the course of this year. For that purpose, a Uruguayan institution specialized in teaching Spanish and issuing certifications had been identified. The pilot plan includes 200 slots available to the general public, 150 slots for students who have studied Spanish as a second language, and 50 slots for teachers who wish to study Spanish as a second language. In addition, the Secretariat was in discussions with the observer missions with a view to establishing partnerships that will help allow courses to be offered in other languages. The Executive Secretary concluded by calling on the member states to join this initiative in order to expand the possibility of offering a greater number of courses in the region.

1. Call for experts for CooperaNet: Criteria for the selection of experts
	* Final document including contributions submitted by the member states:

Under this agenda item, the Chair spoke about the initial list proposed by the Secretariat containing the criteria for selecting and calling on experts that had been prepared to promote the “Ask an Expert” section of the OAS CooperaNet platform, to enable those experts to support the region’s development by providing direct technical assistance and expertise in response to the needs expressed by the member states and/or South-South and triangular cooperation projects at a specific time or on an ongoing basis. The delegations provided their comments and input to the list during and after the meeting held on May 23. The Secretariat amended the document to include the member states’ comments and contributions. As a result, the Chair made the following decision:

**Decision No. 1:** To appove the document “Call for Experts for CooperaNet” with the list of criteria for selecting experts.

 Document: (AICD/JD/doc-208/23 rev.2 ) – [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).

1. Development Cooperation Fund (DCF):
	* 2023 contributions to the DCF – Updated as of September 7, 2023.

Document: (AICD/JD/doc-214/23) - [Español](https://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD%20XX.2.18/doc.&classNum=214&lang=s) | [English](https://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD%20XX.2.18/doc.&classNum=214&lang=e)

At this juncture, the Chair reported that in compliance with the terms the Statute of the Development Cooperation Fund (DCF), the Secretariat circulated, for the information of the member states, the status of the 2023 contributions to the fund, updated as of September 7, 2023, and contained in document AICD/JD/doc-214/23 – [Español](https://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD%20XX.2.18/doc.&classNum=214&lang=s) | [English](https://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD%20XX.2.18/doc.&classNum=214&lang=e).

1. Preparations for the Fourth Specialized CIDI Meeting of High-Level Cooperation Authorities:
	* Discussions on the following topics:
* Preliminary Draft White Paper
* Location (host country)
* Preparatory meeting to prepare for the High-Level Cooperation Authorities (November 2-3, 2023, OAS Headquarters)

In addressing this issue, the Chair explained to the delegations that further to the agreements reached at the meeting of May 23 and in preparation for the Fourth Specialized CIDI Meeting of High-Level Cooperation Authorities, the Secretariat prepared and distributed to the member states a Preliminary Draft White Paper with the title “Building bridges for optimizing cooperation and partnerships in the Americas” (document IACD/JD/doc-213/23:  [English](https://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD%20XX.2.18/doc.&classNum=213&lang=e) | [Español](https://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD%20XX.2.18/doc.&classNum=213&lang=s)). That document represents an essential foundation for CIDI’s ministerial cycle with proposals for strategies to build the meeting’s agenda. The SEDI Executive Secretary also urged the delegations and cooperation authorities to engage with the process and submit their comments and contributions to the document with proposals for strengthening partnership for development in the context of the OAS and the Hemisphere. This would provide the Secretariat with inputs to prepare the agenda for the preparatory meeting to be held in November, which would include an opportunity for the Working Groups to present the results of their work and recommendations and for defining the proposed agenda for the Fourth Specialized CIDI Meeting of High-Level Cooperation Authorities, scheduled for April 18 and 19, 2024. The Executive Secretary also called on the delegations to consider offering to host the meeting in April 2024. The Chair concluded by thanking the Secretariat for preparing the white paper and the delegations for their comments.

1. OAS Scholarship and Training Programs:
	* Request for the IACD Management Board to approve the awarding of a second round of Academic Program scholarships to member states with a low human development index

 Document: (AICD/JD/doc-216/23) – [Español](https://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD%20XX.2.18/doc.&classNum=216&lang=s) | [English](https://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD%20XX.2.18/doc.&classNum=216&lang=e)

To address this point, the Chair gave the floor to the Director of the Department of Human Development, Education, and Employment. In his presentation, the Director explained that in June 2020, the delegations had discussed the proposal to award the unused Academic Program scholarships to other students and had presented some concerns, including: the possible impact that its implementation could have on the approved budget of the Scholarships Program; the importance of not altering the current regulations; ensuring that scholarships were widely distributed and not concentrated in a few countries; and ensuring that the beneficiaries met the applicable selection criteria.

Through document [AICD/JD/INF.90/23](https://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD/INF&classNum=90&lang=s), the Management Board approved the 2023 budget for the awarding of 47 scholarships under the Academic Scholarship Program: 34 for postgraduates and 13 for undergraduates. At this time, and according to Note Verbale OEA/DDHEE/NV/029/23, the DHDEE is in the process of awarding 30 postgraduate and 8 undergraduate scholarships, leaving 9 scholarship offers still available. Accordingly, the Department of Human Development, Education, and Employment asked the Management Board to consider approving the implementation of a second round of Academic Program scholarships to be awarded to those member states with low human development index scores. The Management Board then adopted the following decision:

Decision No. 2: To authorize the implementation of the awarding of a second round of Academic Program scholarships among those member states with low human development index scores, as specified in document AICD/JD/doc-216/23 rev. 1 – [Español](https://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD%20XX.2.18/doc.&classNum=216&lang=s) | [English](https://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD%20XX.2.18/doc.&classNum=216&lang=e).

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 Palma Director General of the El Salvador Agency for International Cooperation (ESCO) | Kim OsborneExecutive Secretary for Integral Development |
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