INTER-AMERICAN AGENCY FOR COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

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WORKING GROUP 1 - UPDATED MODEL FOR THE CIDI MINISTERIAL PROCESS AND THE ROLE OF THE REGION’S COOPERATION AUTHORITIES

(Introductory minutes supporting and justifying the proposal presented by Working Group 1
at the June 22, 2022 meeting of the Management Board

(document (AICD/JD/doc-202/22 rev.1) - [English](http://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD%20XX.2.18/doc.&classNum=202&lang=e) |[Español](http://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD%20XX.2.18/doc.&classNum=202&lang=s))

**Introductory minutes to the proposal (AUCI, ABC) submitted to WG - 1**

The objective of the proposal prepared by Working Group 1 is to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the international cooperation activities of the Organization of American States (OAS) by reformulating its current management structure, including organizational and operational aspects. In this regard, the following points should be clarified:

1. International cooperation remains an important aspect of international relations insofar as it provides the necessary means for the implementation of agendas of collective interest, such as the eradication of poverty and the promotion of sustainable development. At the hemispheric level, international cooperation relations among OAS member states are one of the pillars of the organization.
2. Despite the fact that international cooperation is one of the areas in which the OAS is most active, the current mechanisms deployed by the Organization in this area do not allow it to take full advantage of the potential for partnerships that could be developed in the Hemisphere. One result of that is that the institutional impacts achieved by the international cooperation initiatives supported by the Organization attract less attention than they deserve. An important aspect to consider in this regard is the existence of several parallel bodies in the OAS engaging in international cooperation. The absence of a focal point to plan, execute, and supervise the OAS cooperation agenda limits its ability to apply a strategic vision of what to do, where to do it, and how to do it, and the adoption of a common approach to guide its operators, even taking into account the Organization's limited capacity to mobilize financial resources.
3. The first dimension that needs to be reformulated is organizational. Given that the OAS international cooperation agenda is relatively modest in terms of number of initiatives and budget compared to other international organizations, the first conclusion is that all OAS cooperation activities should be centralized in the IACD. This measure would require, on the one hand, strengthening the IACD's planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation structure. To that end, it is suggested that the General Assembly approve a regulation to address that need.
4. The second conclusion is that the distinction between the responsibilities of the ministerial cycles and the management of international cooperation within the OAS lacks clarity. The ministerial cycles pursue a political function: to discuss the progress of thematic agendas of common hemispheric interest, based on the convergence of priorities set by the high-level sectoral authorities of the member states. Transforming the thematic priorities defined in the OAS political forums into concrete initiatives in the field should be a task to be carried out outside the ministerial cycles and one that should, therefore, be assumed by the IACD. In this regard, the ministerial cycle approved by the OAS General Assembly should not include stages in the implementation of cooperation actions, but should be limited, as far as this matter is concerned, to the transmission of priority issues to the IACD (through the pertinent institutional channels) and, subsequently, to the receipt of reports prepared by the IACD containing information and analysis on the results achieved, difficulties encountered, and possible recommendations.
5. A third conclusion would be that the IACD should have its own cycle, composed of strategic management, planning, implementation, follow-up, and accountability stages, in line with the practice adopted by other international organizations with similar functions. This cycle of international cooperation within the OAS, construed as a cycle complementing the ministerial cycles, would require the following measures to strengthen the IACD so that the Agency can serve as a true instrument of international cooperation for the OAS: approval by OAS General Assembly of a regulatory norm providing that all OAS cooperation activities be processed and executed within the framework of the IACD; the IACD should prepare an annual planning document for OAS cooperation activities, with programmatic reference to the thematic priorities established during the ministerial cycles. Initiatives outside the scope of ministerial priorities would be considered on a case-by-case basis, on an exceptional basis.

The planning document should cover and articulate the project requests submitted to the CDF, the trust funds maintained by the OAS, and the project proposals that may be indicated by the Organization's thematic secretariats, as well as the proposals for trilateral partnerships submitted by external actors (governments or other international organizations).

The IACD annual planning document would have to be presented to the IACD Management Board for approval, so that the representatives of the member states can be informed and express their views on (i) the composition of the OAS international cooperation agenda; (ii) the sources of funding available to the OAS; (iii) the proposals for partnerships with external actors; and (iv) the instruments of execution, monitoring, evaluation of results, and accountability that the IACD would use to implement the initiatives contained in the planning document.

Reformulation of the composition of the IACD Management Board to include, to the extent possible for the member states, representatives from the capitals, in addition to the permanent delegates in Washington DC; strengthening (or creation) of IACD units for (i) programming (in charge of collecting and systematizing cooperation requests from various sources: CDF, trust funds, secretariats, external partners, etc.); (ii) operations (contracts, services, travel and per diem expenses, etc.); (iii) monitoring and evaluation ("M&E", including database operation, preparation of manuals, standards and project reports, quality control of projects and technical reports, etc.); periodic dialogue sessions between the IACD-MB, SEDI, and CIDI on strategic or institutional issues to be submitted to higher levels of the OAS.); periodic dialogue sessions between the IACD-MB, SEDI, and CIDI on strategic or institutional issues to be submitted to higher levels of the OAS.

1. To translate the conclusions presented above into concrete actions that can be undertaken by the competent sectors of the OAS, WG-1 prepared a proposal that was presented at the June 22 meeting of the IACD Management Board regarding the cycle for international cooperation of the OAS, which includes a Work Plan indicating the actions to be carried out and suggestions for the responsible bodies. Finally, the members of WG-1 reaffirm their readiness to discuss with the members of the IACD what they think of the proposal, in order to exchange and jointly contribute to the development of a model adapted to the new international cooperation scenario.

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