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PRESENTATION OF THE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE ON PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT POLICIES, MS. LILIA SANCHEZ DE MOREHEAD, TO THE   
INTER‐AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT ON STATUS OF   
THE WORK ON THE PREPARATION OF THE DRAFT OMNIBUS RESOLUTION   
FOR THE FIFTIETH REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

GIVEN AT THE REGULAR MEETING OF APRIL 28, 2020

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Good morning, Chair,

Esteemed colleagues,

Madam Executive Secretary for Integral Development:

I am very pleased to see all of you this morning at our first CIDI virtual meeting.

Thank you, Mr. Chair, for offering me the opportunity to share with the Inter-American Council for Integral Development the status of the work of the Committee on Partnership for Development Policies, which I am honored to chair, with regard to the preparation of the draft omnibus resolution that CIDI, in due course, will transmit to the General Assembly for consideration at its next regular session.

Mr. Chair,

In December 2019, the Committee on Partnership for Development Policies adopted a work plan which, among other things, included the start, in February 2020, of discussions for crafting the above-mentioned draft resolution.

In accordance with the agreed work schedule, on March 3 this year the Committee adopted a procedure for the submission and negotiation of the draft omnibus resolution and a schedule of meetings that set May 22, 2020 as the target date for the completion of the work, on the understanding that the fiftieth regular session of the General Assembly would be held in the first or second week of June 2020.

The agreed procedure establishes guidelines for the presentation and negotiation of the draft omnibus resolution and, as appropriate, other draft resolutions or declarations on issues within the competence of CIDI and consistent with the strategic lines for the development pillar in the Comprehensive Strategic Plan.

In that regard, it was agreed that the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee, with support from the Secretariat, would submit a draft omnibus resolution based on the resolution adopted in 2019 and in line with the thematic areas of the Strategic Plan. Thus, the preliminary version of the draft resolution "Advancing Hemispheric Initiatives on Integral Development" was distributed on March 13, 2020.

According to the agreed schedule of meetings, discussions on the text distributed should have begun on March 18 this year and formal and informal meetings to negotiate texts should have taken place from April 14 to May 20 this year. It was also agreed that April 28, 2020, would be the deadline for the submission of proposals by member states.

Mr. Chair, I wish to advise that on April 16, 2020, the Secretariat received the comments and observations of the Permanent Mission of Ecuador on the preliminary draft resolution distributed.

Since March 13, we have been forced to revise how we work and look for new ways to continue our activities amid the quarantine imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since that date, the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee have been in constant communication and contact with many of the delegates present at this meeting today, in order to consider options that will allow us to keep our work up to date in the hopes of setting a target date for the conclusion of the work on the draft resolution, among other matters envisioned in our work plan.

In that regard, on the April 21, we held an informal virtual meeting of the Committee, at which member states expressed their views on the draft resolution:

1. The Committee needed guidance from CIDI on the priority areas that the draft resolution to be presented to the General Assembly should cover, given the situation that the OAS member states are facing because of the pandemic.

That is, whether it would be a draft resolution relating to the mandates in force as of April 13; whether, on the contrary, it would be a draft containing new mandates, bearing in mind the current crisis; or whether it would be a joint draft that follows up on mandates that require further attention and that addresses needs that have arisen as a result of the pandemic. Furthermore, another suggestion was to extend the existing mandates.

1. Member states considered that it was premature to resume work and set a date for meetings without CIDI having decided on a methodology for holding virtual meetings equivalent to face-to-face ones, and without knowing the proposed date for holding the General Assembly.
2. Similarly, member states said that it was necessary to bear in mind that the Organization's budget would be affected by the current situation and that the mandates to be adopted should be implementable within existing resources.

In this regard, Mr. Chair, although the theme to be adopted for the next regular session of the General Assembly has not been defined, the member states are willing to move forward while calling for caution in order to work slowly and to monitor closely how the situation develops.

It was also considered that instructions from capitals would probably not be obtained as quickly as desired because our countries are facing, at this unusual time, so many health, social, and economic situations to deal with simultaneously.

Finally, after this meeting of the Council, the Committee on Partnership for Development Policies aims to continue carrying out the activities on its schedule—although more spaced out in time—and to hold our meetings in an informal manner, as far as we can, in order to incur as little expense as possible, and likewise, to conclude the deliberations on other topics that are awaiting attention, as mentioned or agreed to by a number of member states in the CIDI Committee on Partnership for Development Policies.

That concludes my report, Mr. Chair.

Thank you very much.

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