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 Original: Spanish

RECOMMENDATION OF THE MANAGEMENT BOARD OF THE

INTER-AMERICAN AGENCY FOR COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT REGARDING THE APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS FOR EXTERNAL AUDIT OF THE

DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FUND (DCF)

(Approved by CIDI during the regular meeting held April 28, 2020)

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

**(IACD)**

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

 AICD/JD/DE-124/20

 13 March 2020

 Original: Spanish

DECISIONS OF THE MANAGEMENT BOARD

(Adopted at the meeting of March 12, 2020)

 The meeting of the Management Board of the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD) was held at OAS headquarters on March 12, 2020.

Participants:

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

Minister Mariana Olivera West, Alternate Representative of Mexico to the OAS, Chair of the Management Board

Members of the Management Board

* Maximiliano J. Alvarez, Alternate Representative of Argentina
* Carlos Cuenca, Alternate Representative of Brazil
* Laura Pizarro, Alternate Representative of Costa Rica
* Jenny Caicedo, Alternate Representative of Ecuador
* Alex Campos, Alternate Representative of El Salvador
* Miguel Ángel Guerrero Lechón, Alternate Representative of Mexico
* Gina Castro, Alternate Representative of Panama

Kim Osborne, Executive Secretary for Integral Development, and the delegations of Canada, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Honduras, Paraguay, Peru, and Saint Lucia in their capacity as observers.

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

(AICD/JD/OD-60/20 corr. 1) – [Español](http://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD/od&classNum=60&lang=s) – [English](http://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD/od&classNum=60&lang=e)

1. Cooperation for development:
	* Consideration of priorities for the Management Board’s 2020–2021 Work Plan.

The Secretariat prepared and gave a presentation based on the document “Suggested 2020–2021 MB/IACD Work Plan Priorities” (AICD/JD/doc.175/19 rev. 2) – [Español](http://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD%20XX.2.18/doc.&classNum=175&lang=s) – [English](http://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD%20XX.2.18/doc.&classNum=175&lang=e).

The members of the Management Board expressed their satisfaction with the progress set out in the presentation and asked the Secretariat to take note of the document and to use it, along with the presentation’s methodology, as the basis for drawing up a draft work plan for the IACD, with general and specific objectives organized by priority, including their cost and sources of financing, together with indicators for following up on the specific actions suggested. That proposed work plan should be submitted to the member states for their consideration in a week. On this point, the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development noted that although the Secretariat had already begun work on topics such as CooperaNet, there were other areas where urgent actions were needed, such as “Strengthening the Development Cooperation Fund (DCF).” The Secretariat also suggested that once the draft work plan was ready, it could be finalized at an informal meeting of the Management Board or by means of electronic consultations. On this agenda item, the Management Board adopted the following decision.

Decision No. 1: To request that the Secretariat prepare a draft work plan for the IACD based on the document “Suggested 2020–2021 MB/IACD Work Plan Priorities,” for distribution to the member states for their consideration.

1. Development Cooperation Fund (DCF):
* Presentation of the Balance of the DCF

This discussion began with a detailed presentation by the Executive Secretariat of each of the items contained on the Development Cooperation Fund’s balance sheet as of March 2, 2020 (document CIDI/JD/INF.62/20 – [English](http://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD/INF.&classNum=62&lang=e)). In their remarks, the delegations noted that there were items with significant amounts not earmarked for cooperation, and they requested the addition of a supplementary table with the forecasted deductions and the possibility of holding an informal meeting between the Management Board and the financial officers, in order to better understand the recording method and how the Fund’s accounts and sub-accounts were designed. It was also said that with a new programming cycle due in the future, it was important to itemize the contribution amounts the Fund was receiving and for the Secretariat to provide a long-term forecast of its sustainability. To that end, the Executive Secretary emphasized the importance of determining if there was another way to secure contributions for the Fund or if every possible effort had been made to obtain the engagement of all the member states with the Fund, in order to assess its long-term sustainability and make decisions for the future. It was agreed that the Secretariat would schedule informal meetings of the Management Board to address the topics related to the DCF’s finances.

* + Approval of the costs of the external audits of the accounts of the Development Cooperation Fund (DCF) for 2019, 2020, and 2021

 The Executive Secretary explained that the General Secretariat required each of the funds managed by Organization to finance the cost of the external auditing of those funds’ Thus, as in previous years, the Secretariat for Administration and Finance (SAF) has asked SEDI to pay for the cost of auditing the DCF in fiscal years 2019, 2020, and 2021 (document CIDI/JD/INF.60/20 – [Español](http://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD/INF.&classNum=60&lang=s) – [English](http://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD/INF.&classNum=60&lang=e)). The Management Board adopted the following decision, based on Article 10.d of the DCF Statutes, regarding the use of other resources for partnership for development funded by the DCF for special appropriations expressly authorized by the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) (document CIDI/doc-99/14 – [Español](http://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=cidi/doc.&classNum=99&lang=s) – [English](http://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=cidi/doc.&classNum=99&lang=e)).

Decision No. 2: Recommend CIDI to approve the cost of the external audits of the Development Cooperation Fund (DCF) for the fiscal years from 2019 to 2021 (document CIDI/JD/INF.60/20 – [Español](http://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD/INF.&classNum=60&lang=s) – [English](http://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD/INF.&classNum=60&lang=e)) with the understanding that payment for 2019 will be made immediately and the payments for the following two years will be made at the start of the corresponding audits for the 2020 and 2021 financial years. Those costs will be met with the balance in the DCF budget line – *“reimbursements for amounts not executed during the 2014–2017 programming cycle*.”

This recommendation is based on the provisions of Article 10.d of the DCF Statutes regarding appropriations intended for unplanned activities. Once approved by CIDI, SEDI shall begin the administrative processes to transfer the funds to SAF for the payment of the costs of the 2019 audit and to secure the funds for the payments corresponding to the years 2020 and 2021.

* + Presentation of the execution status of programs in the 2017–2021 DCF programming cycle

The Secretariat gave a general presentation that included an overview of the purpose for which the DCF was created and its programming process, together with its execution status and the results achieved to date. It also reported on the cooperation activities identified in the projects in each of the participating countries. Additionally a status of the voluntary contributions received as of March 2, 2020 was presented (document AICD/JD/INF.64/20 – [Español](http://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD/INF&classNum=64&lang=s) – [English](http://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD/INF&classNum=64&lang=e)). The Secretariat emphasized that due to various circumstances, some participating member states have been delayed in the implementation of projects. The Secretariat informed that it was in the process of undertaking the mandatory mid-term evaluation of projects under execution for 2017-2021 programming cycle. The Secretariat urged those countries that have not yet done so to submit that information, or to request the reprogramming of the activities, in order to keep those activities from being reported as not executed in the midterm evaluation report.

* + Discussion on the approach for defining the area of action for the 2021–2024 programming cycle of the OAS Development Cooperation Fund (DCF/OAS)

The Executive Secretary took the floor to underscore the need to define the priority area for the next programming cycle and suggested aligning the priority area with the topic of resilience and for the projects presented by the member states to focus on the three dimensions of resilience (economic, social, and environmental). Some delegations said they would inform their capitals about the Secretariat’s suggestion and about the usefulness of aligning the topic of resilience with the topic of reconstructing resilience as a response to disasters that the Executive Secretary had been discussing with the member states. Other delegations said their countries were more focused on the areas of education, scientific development, and the exchange of technological transfers. The Management Board concluded this item on the agenda with an agreement to continue informal discussions within the Management Board in order to reach consensus on the area of action to be defined for the 2021–2024 programming cycle and to present it to a formal meeting for consideration.

1. Budget Allocation to the Scholarship Program – Executed budget in 2019 and projections for 2020

The final item on the meeting’s order of business began with a presentation by the Director of the Department of Human Development, Education, and Employment on the status of the Scholarships Program Fund, with information on the budget executed in 2019 and the projections for 2020, in keeping with the request made by the Management Board at its meeting of December 9, 2019. After thanking the Director for his presentation, the delegations shared their remarks, including the observation that it would be useful, at some juncture and as a basis for future decision-making, for the Secretariat to update the projections table of the Scholarships Program’s budget up to the year 2025. They also again raised the possibility of allowing scholarships not used by certain countries to be used by other countries. The Director spoke of the amount that has not yet been disbursed to a number of fellows accepted in 2019 because of delays in those students’ school starting dates. Accordingly, the Secretariat underscored the need for discussions to enable the Management Board to adopt a firm decision to ensure that the dates of the awarded fellowships are in line with the Organization’s budgetary cycle and that students do not delay their university entry dates.

The Chair concluded the Management Board’s meeting by offering all those present her wishes for good health during the coronavirus pandemic crisis (COVID-19).

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| Ambassador Luz Elena Baños RivasPermanent Representative of Mexico | Kim OsborneExecutive Secretary for Integral Development |

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