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REPORT BY MS. KARLA DE PALMA, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE EL SALVADOR AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION (ESCO), IN HER CAPACITY AS CHAIR OF THE MANAGEMENT BOARD OF THE INTER-AMERICAN AGENCY
FOR COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (IACD)

2021-2022 TERM

(Presented to CIDI at the regular meeting held on September 27, 2022)

*Chair (2021–2022): Karla Majano de Palma, Director General of the El Salvador Agency for International Cooperation (ESCO) (elected November 2, 2021)*

*Vice Chair (2021–2022): Minister Counselor Omari Seitu Williams, Alternate Representative of the Permanent Mission of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, (elected March 23, 2022)*

In my capacity as Chair of the Management Board of the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD), I am pleased to present the following report on the main activities of the past year, including the most significant achievements and agreements reached.

The Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD) is the subsidiary body of CIDI created to promote, coordinate, manage, and facilitate the planning and execution of programs, projects, and activities within the scope of the OAS Charter and, in particular, the framework of CIDI’s Strategic Plan for Partnership for Integral Development.

The functions assigned to the IACD in its Statute (document CIDI/doc.201/16: [Español](http://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=cidi/doc.&classNum=201&lang=s) | [English](http://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=cidi/doc.&classNum=201&lang=e)) include:

* The administration, evaluation, and supervision of the partnership for development activities established within the framework of the CIDI Strategic Plan and its programs;
* the establishment of cooperative relations with permanent observers, other states, and national and international organizations, regarding partnership for development activities; and
* the approval of the method of implementation of partnership for development activities and the determination of their level of financing, endeavoring to target the most pressing needs of the member states, especially the relatively less-developed countries and those with smaller economies.

 **Activities during the 2021-2022 term:**

* **Third Specialized CIDI Meeting of High-Level Authorities of Cooperation**

The meeting was held virtually on December 2 and 3, 2021 under the theme “Cooperation and partnerships as drivers of post-COVID-19 socioeconomic recovery in the region.”More than 230 representatives from 30 member states attended, including government ministers, high-level cooperation authorities, ambassadors, and other partners from different sectors.

On both days, participants held important discussions, with a view to obtaining concrete results through dialogue in different fields, enabling the authorities to identify the potential for enhancing national programs and policies and for fostering regional collaboration, particularly within the OAS framework.

As a result, more than 20 member states made concrete offers of cooperation and identified needs where further assistance was required to recover from the socioeconomic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Another important result of the meeting was the establishment of three Management Board working groups for strengthening the IACD and giving it greater strategic visibility in line with the needs of the countries, in addition to giving impetus to the work of CooperaNet to make coordination processes more visible.

Information on the development and results of the meeting, as well as the working documents and presentations, can be found in the Final Report of Third Specialized CIDI Meeting of High-Level Cooperation Authorities, and document CIDI/RECOOP-III/doc.8/22 rev. 1: [ESP](https://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=XII.4.3%20CIDI/RECOOP/III/doc.%20&classNum=8&lang=s) | [ENG](https://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=XII.4.3%20CIDI/RECOOP/III/doc.%20&classNum=8&lang=e)).

* **Working Groups of the Management Board of the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development**

Based on the decisions adopted during the Third Specialized CIDI Meeting of High-Level Cooperation Authorities, the Management Board of the IACD, at its meeting of March 23, 2022, elected the officers of the working groups below. Likewise, the Chair submitted for consideration of the Management Board proposed guidelines to steer and facilitate the work entrusted to the working groups, including suggestions as to a methodology, procedures, and topics to be considered and developed by them. The Working Groups were constituted as follows:

* + Working Group 1: **Updated Model of the CIDI Ministerial Process and the Role of Cooperation Authorities in the Region**

Members: Uruguay (Chair), Brazil (Co-Chair), El Salvador, and Honduras

* + Working Group 2: **Financing for development cooperation within the OAS/SEDI framework**

Members: Belize (Chair), Peru (Co-Chair), Bahamas, Bolivia, and Guatemala.

* + Working Group 3: **The Role of the IACD in the International Development Cooperation Landscape**

Members: Colombia (Chair), Argentina (Co-Chair), Uruguay, and the Dominican Republic

The working groups met with the Management Board and individually to determine the routes they will follow, formulating proposals in their work plan with objectives and expected results. The work plans were presented and discussed, and the Management Board held an exchange of opinions and ideas with delegations and cooperation authorities in the countries, thus fulfilling its mandate and achieving its primary objective of strengthening cooperation activities in the region.

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

 - Work plan of Working Group 2: document AICD/JD/doc.200/22 - [Español](https://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD%20XX.2.18/doc.&classNum=200&lang=s) | [English](https://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD%20XX.2.18/doc.&classNum=200&lang=e)

- Work plan of Working Group 3: document AICD/JD/doc.201/22 - [Español](https://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD%20XX.2.18/doc.&classNum=201&lang=s) | [English](https://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD%20XX.2.18/doc.&classNum=201&lang=e)

**Functions of the IACD Management Board**

 The Management Board is the organ representing the member states for the promotion of greater efficiency in the management of partnership for development activities, strengthening the capacity of the Organization to benefit from specialized development cooperation knowledge, and enlisting technical support and other resources from member states, other States, and public and private sectors organizations.

 In accordance with the functions entrusted to the Management Board, some of the **administrative decisions** made during the term covered by this report are detailed below:

* + To approve the disbursement of the funds allocated to the OAS Scholarship and Training Programs in the program-budget of the Organization for 2022, document: AICD/JD/INF.81/22 rev. 2: [Español](http://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD/INF&classNum=81&lang=s) | [English](http://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD/INF&classNum=81&lang=e)
	+ To authorize the deposit of unused or deobligated 2021 scholarship funds into the Capital Fund for OAS Scholarship and Training Programs, in accordance with the Organization’s program-budget resolution, document: AICD/JD/DE-135/22: [Español](https://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD/DE&classNum=135&lang=s) | [English](https://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD/DE&classNum=135&lang=e)
	+ To agree on the proposed paragraphs contained in the attached document (AICD/JD/doc.203/22 rev. 2: English - Español), based on the discussions held at this meeting of the Management Board, with the participation of the working groups, delegations of the member states, and cooperation authorities. The paragraphs will be conveyed to CIDI for inclusion in the omnibus resolution that is to be considered at the fifty-second regular session of the General Assembly AICD/JD/DE-135/22) - [Español](https://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD/DE&classNum=135&lang=s)| [English](https://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD/DE&classNum=135&lang=e)

**Development Cooperation Fund (DCF):**

The OAS Development Cooperation Fund (DCF/OAS) was established to contribute to the financing of national and multilateral cooperation programs, projects, and activities (hereinafter "partnership for development activities") carried out under the Strategic Plan (hereinafter "Strategic Plan”). The Statute also identifies the other funds administered by the General Secretariat that may contribute to the financing of partnership for development activities.

The Development Cooperation Fund (DCF) presented an update on the status of program implementation for the 2021-2024 Programming Cycle during the IACD Management Board meeting on June 2, 2022 (document IACD/JD/INF.82/22: [Español](http://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD/INF&classNum=82&lang=s) | [English](http://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD/INF&classNum=82&lang=e) |)

 The Chair took the opportunity to urge member states that had not yet done so to contribute to the Fund so that their countries might benefit from its programs.

**Inter-American Cooperation Network (CooperaNet):**

The Inter-American Cooperation Network (CooperaNet) is the SEDI online platform that offers a consolidated space to foster partnerships between OAS member states, development partners, and experts in the region, in order to encourage the exchange of best practices and experience through technical cooperation to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda. CooperaNet responds to the mandate of the cooperation authorities of the member states to facilitate regional and multisectoral cooperation to advance development and respond to different situations and challenges facing the region.

- CooperaNet has 275 cooperation offers available from Peru, Argentina, Panama, Uruguay, and Guatemala, as well as 11 cooperation offers from two OAS development partners. In addition, there are eight needs from eight different countries aligned with the programs being implemented under the DCF.

- Periodically, training is provided to the focal points of the cooperation authorities in the region on the use of the platform. As a result of this exercise, seven institutional unique accounts have been created, and new cooperation offers uploaded in accordance with updates to member state cooperation portfolios.

- In addition, the SEDI Technical Cooperation Section will conduct a series of webinars entitled "Driving New Partnerships through CooperaNet, the cooperation platform of the Americas" during the second half of 2022. The purpose of the webinars is to share new cooperation offers among member states and development partners and to promote the creation of new partnerships. The new offers will be submitted by the cooperation authorities for the first time.

- As part of CooperaNet's new communication strategy, official SEDI communications began to be distributed to member states and cooperation authorities from August 2022 onwards. Such communications refer to new and recent offers uploaded on the platform for their use and information purposes.

 The Chair urged delegations to visit the platform and participate in the webinars in order to enable the possibility of creating new cooperation partnerships

**Proposed paragraphs for inclusion in the CIDI omnibus draft resolution “Advancing Hemispheric Initiatives on Integral Development: Promoting Resilience”**

 For the purpose of implementing the activities set out in the work plans and achieve the proposed objectives, the working groups drafted paragraphs for consideration by the General Assembly.

The paragraphs were discussed in each working group and at formal meetings of the Management Board. As a result, the Management Board took the decision (AICD/JD/DE-135/22 [Español](https://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD/DE&classNum=135&lang=s) | [English](https://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD/DE&classNum=135&lang=e)) to submit the paragraphs to CIDI, with a view to their consideration at the General Assembly.

 The proposed paragraphs reflect the participatory work of the working groups, which consist of cooperation authorities who have undertaken to strengthen the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development and facilitate exchanges and partnership for development activities. As a result, the IACD, its programs, the DCF, and CooperaNet will benefit. The end result will be development in our countries. In that spirit, the proposed paragraphs contained in the document (IACD/JD/doc.203/22 rev. 2) were submitted for the consideration of the Council with a view to their inclusion in the strategic line "Foster Cooperation for Development and the Establishment of Partnerships." Thank you very much.

**Acknowledgments**

The Chair would like to take this opportunity to thank the Vice Chair, Mr. Omari Seitu Williams, Alternate Representative of the Permanent Mission of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the OAS, and the member states on the Management Board for their support during the period covered by this report. The Chair would especially like to acknowledge the work done by the cooperation authorities of the member states that make up the working groups for their valuable contributions, which are hoped to continue to promote the leadership of the IACD in the area of cooperation in the region.

The Chair is also particularly grateful to the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development, especially Mrs. Kim Osborne and Mrs. Sandra Burns for their valuable support and guidance.

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