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NOTE FROM THE PERMANENT MISSION OF ECUADOR FORWARDING THE OFFICIAL LETTER FROM THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND HERITAGE ON ECUADOR’S CANDIDACY FOR CHAIR OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON CULTURE (CIC)

***REPUBLIC OF ECUADOR***

***PERMANENT MISSION TO THE OAS***

***WASHINGTON, D.C.***

No. 4-2-207/2022

 The Permanent Mission of Ecuador to the Organization of American States presents its compliments to the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) and has the honor to forward a copy of the letter sent by Ms. María Elena Machuca, Minister of Culture, to Ms. Kim Osborne, Executive Secretary of SEDI, which officially submits Ecuador’s candidacy for pro tempore Chair of the Inter-American Committee on Culture.

 The Permanent Mission of Ecuador to the Organization of American States avails itself of the opportunity to renew to the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) the assurances of its highest and most distinguished consideration.

Washington, D.C., September 8, 2022

To the

Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI)

Organization of American States (OAS)

Washington, D.C.

***REPUBLIC OF ECUADOR***

***MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND HERITAGE***

**Official letter no. MCYP-MCYP-2022-0841-O**

**Quito, D.M., September 6, 2022**

Subject: Ecuador’s candidacy for pro tempore Chair of the CIC, in connection with the Ninth Inter‑American Meeting of Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities

Mrs. Kim Osborne

# Executive Secretary for Integral Development

# Organization of American States (OAS)

Dear Madam:

Please accept my warmest greetings. It is my honor to address you regarding the Ninth Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities, which will take place in the city of Antigua, Guatemala, on October 27 and 28, 2022.

Specifically, I wish to address the election of authorities of the Inter-American Committee on Culture, the technical-political body for discussion on the area of culture, made up of representatives of the ministries of culture and highest appropriate authorities in the Hemisphere. The Committee’s function, as you well know, is to follow up on the mandates of the declarations and action plans that issue from the Summit of the Americas and the Meetings of Ministers of Culture.

In this regard, it is my pleasure to officially submit Ecuador’s candidacy for pro tempore Chair of the Inter-American Committee on Culture (CIC). Ecuador is well aware of the responsibility involved in this position, and will work towards fulfillment of the forthcoming declaration and action plan to be approved at the aforementioned meeting, with a view to positioning culture as a fundamental pillar for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. It will be an honor to lead this process in coordination with the member states of the OAS Inter-American Committee on Culture.

Ecuador sees culture, social memory, and heritage as essential components of comprehensive, inclusive development. Its “Government of Meeting,” led by Mr. Guillermo Lasso Mendoza, President of Ecuador, conceived of culture in this way in the economic and social pillars of the country’s National Development Plan 2021-2025, known as the “*Plan for creating opportunities,*” in recognition of the sector’s contribution to the country’s economic and human development.

Furthermore, and in line with the very topic of the next Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities (“*Technology, creativity, and innovation as opportunities for developing and strengthening culture*”), Ecuador recognizes the importance of adapting the sector to new technologies as a way to further disseminate our cultural industries and increase their access to global markets, as well as to conserve and protect our heritage and memory for future generations.

Ecuador guarantees its commitment to this regional challenge, just as it did as pro tempore Chair of the Andean Committee on Cultural Affairs of the Andean Community in the 2021-2022 period, during which the Loja Declaration was approved. This declaration seeks to foster policies and actions geared towards promoting the development of the Andean countries’ cultural and creative industries. As such, Ecuador hopes to be given the opportunity to lead the Inter-American Committee on Culture for the next three years.

I avail myself of this opportunity to express my highest regard and consideration.

 Sincerely,

 Ms. María Elena Machuca Merino

#  Minister of Culture and Heritage

Copy:

Juan Carlos Holguin Maldonado

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility

Ambassador Fabián Enrique Valdivieso Eguiguren

Director of Cultural, Heritage, and Tourism Affairs

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility

Dr. Denys Toscano Amores

Ambassador, Director of the Inter-American System

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility

Ms. Paulina Elizabeth Salazar Beltran

Director of International Relations and International Cooperation

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