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13 May 2020

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PREPARATIONS FOR THE FIFTIETH REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN THE CONTEXT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

(Adopted by the Permanent Council at its virtual regular meeting of May 13, 2020)

THE PERMANENT COUNCIL OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES,

REITERATING its deep concern over the unprecedented impact on the societies and economies of the Americas of the COVID-19 pandemic, which particularly affects health systems; the productive, financial and services sectors; transportation, logistics, trade and multidimensional security; and the normal functioning of the Organization of American States;

BEARING IN MIND Article 57 of the Charter of the Organization of American States;

 RECALLING Articles 43 and 44 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly concerning the holding of regular sessions of the General Assembly and the determination of the date and place for those sessions;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

 Article 72 of the Rules of Procedure of the Permanent Council concerning the power of the Permanent Council to agree on a site for a regular session when the General Assembly has not selected one; and

 That the General Assembly of the Organization of American States shall hold a regular session each year, preferably during the second quarter;

CONSIDERING that, according to resolution AG/RES. 2940 (XLIX-O/19), the General Assembly instructed the General Secretariat to submit to the Preparatory Committee a proposed overall budget level for 2021, as well as the tentative overall budget level for 2022, including the adjustment for cost of living and inflation, as necessary, in accordance with the current rules;

UNDERSCORING resolution CP/RES. 1151 (2280/20), “The OAS Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic,” operative paragraph 9 of which resolves “[t]o continue to address, as a matter of priority, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in its work and in preparation for the fiftieth regular session of the OAS General Assembly”; and

RECALLING resolution CP/RES. 1150 (2280/20) “Virtual Meetings of the Permanent Council Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic,” adopted by the Permanent Council at its virtual special meeting of April 16, 2020,

RESOLVES:

1. That the fiftieth regular session of the General Assembly will be held at the headquarters of the Organization of American States in Washington, D.C., United States of America, in October 2020.

2. That the Permanent Council will in due course decide on the exact date on which the fiftieth regular session of the General Assembly will be held, doing so at least 60 days in advance, in accordance with Article 46 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly.

3. To install the Preparatory Commission in order to come to agreement on the theme of the General Assembly and other aspects of the preparations for its fiftieth regular session that require a decision, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure.

4. To present the program-budget of the Organization of American States for 2021, as well as the tentative overall budget level for 2022, for consideration by the General Assembly at its fiftieth regular session.

5. To instruct the Secretariat to prepare, for consideration by the Permanent Council, a contingency plan in the event that it should prove necessary to hold the General Assembly by remote means, whether totally or partially. That contingency plan is to be presented to the Permanent Council for consideration no later than the third week in June.

6. To request the Secretary General to forward this resolution to the organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization.

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