



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

JANUARY – DECEMBER 2007

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Washington, DC

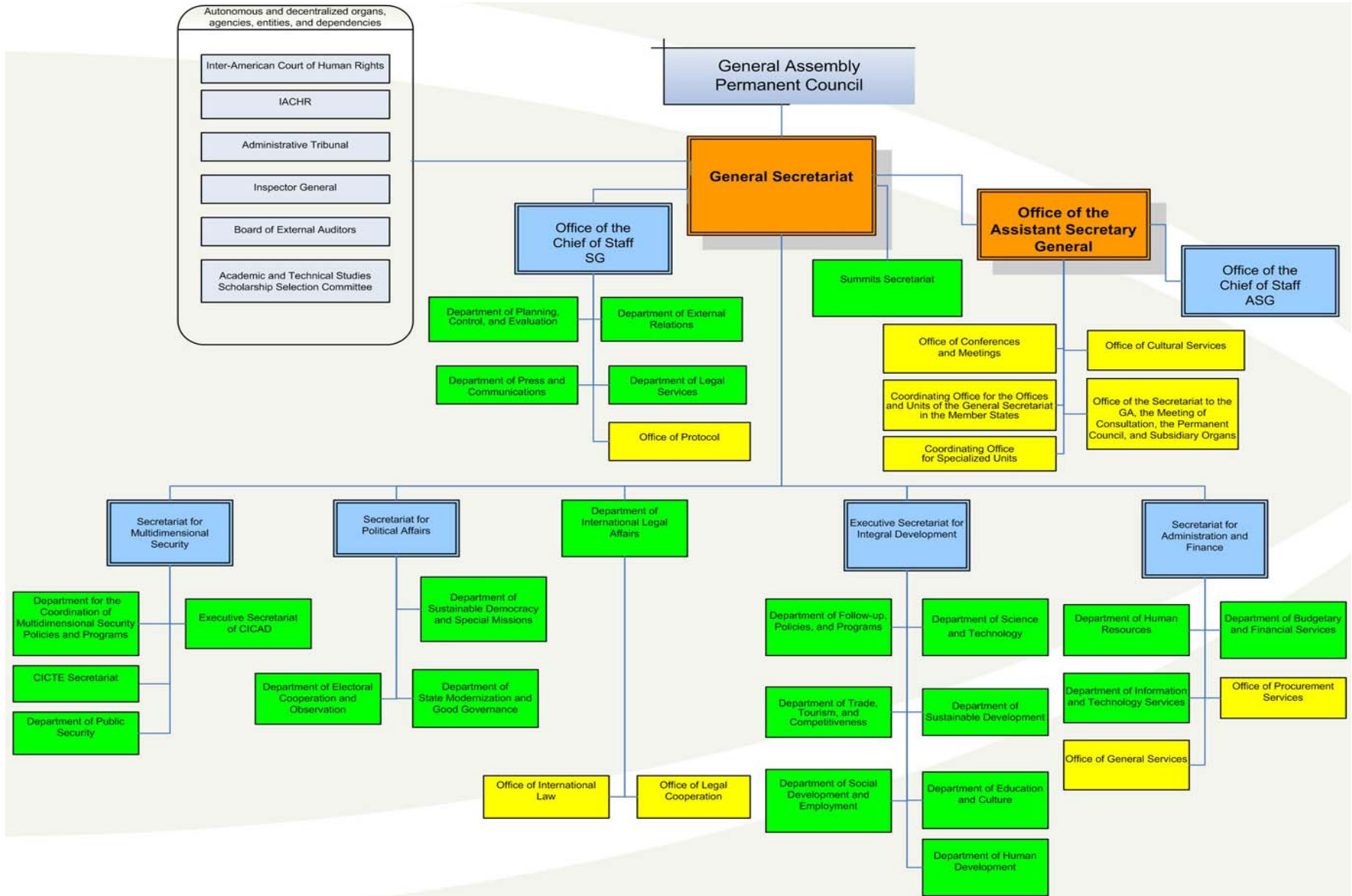
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ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



I. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND COUNCILS

1.1 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly is the supreme organ of the Organization of American States and is composed of the delegations of all the member states, which have the right to be represented and to vote. The mechanisms, policies, actions, and mandates of the Organization are determined by the General Assembly. Its functions are defined in Chapter IX of the Charter, which states, in Article 57, that the Assembly shall convene annually during the period determined by the Rules of Procedure and at a place selected in accordance with the principle of rotation. In special circumstances and with the approval of two thirds of the member states, the Permanent Council shall convoke a special session of the General Assembly. All member states have the right to be represented in the General Assembly and each has the right to one vote.

Thirty-seventh regular session of the General Assembly

The General Assembly held its thirty-seventh regular session in Panama City, Republic of Panama, June 3 through 5, 2007. There, it approved 5 declarations and 95 resolutions. The results of the General Assembly are published in the document titled “Proceedings” (OEA/Ser.P/XXXVII-O.2) which is divided into two volumes: Volume I, containing the certified texts of the declarations and resolutions approved, and Volume II, containing the *verbatim* minutes of the plenary sessions of the General Committee and other documents from this regular session.

Declarations

At its thirty-seventh regular session, the General Assembly approved the following declarations:

- **AG/DEC. 52 (XXXVII-O/07) Declaration of Panama: Energy for Sustainable Development:** The General Assembly recognizes the fundamental importance of the availability of energy resources for the promotion of the member states’ economic and social development in an environmentally sustainable manner.

In the Declaration, the member states underscore that democratic governance, strong democratic institutions, the rule of law, and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms are essential elements in advancing the energy and sustainable development goals of member states and the region, combating social exclusion, and fostering the public good.

- **AG/DEC. 53 (XXXVII-O/07) The Question of the Malvinas Islands:** In this Declaration, the General Assembly welcomes the reaffirmation of the will of the Argentine Government to continue exploring all possible avenues towards a peaceful settlement of the disputes and its constructive approach towards the inhabitants of the Malvinas Islands. It also reaffirms the need for the Governments of the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to resume, as soon as possible,

negotiations on the sovereignty dispute, in order to find a peaceful solution to this protracted controversy. It therefore decides to continue to examine the Question of the Malvinas Islands at its subsequent sessions until a definitive settlement has been reached.

- *AG/DEC. 54 (XXXVII-O/07) Declaration on the Peace Efforts in Colombia:* In this declaration, the member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) express their support for the efforts being made by the Colombian state to achieve a conclusive peace and security in that country and urge outlaw groups to release those they have kidnapped. Lastly, they reiterate their support for the verification work being carried out by the Mission to Support the Peace Process in Colombia (MAPP/OAS).
- *AG/DEC. 55 (XXXVII-O/07) Coordination of Volunteers in the Hemisphere in Response to Natural Disasters and the Fight against Hunger and Poverty – White Helmets Initiative:* In this Declaration, the member states affirm their continued support for the White Helmets Initiative as a hemispheric mechanism providing human and technical resources for dealing with humanitarian, social, and developmental emergencies in the region, as well as for providing and facilitating effective responses to disaster situations.
- *AG/DEC.56 (XXXVII-O/07) Declaration against the Restriction on International Soccer Matches in Cities at Altitudes of More Than 2,500 Meters Above Sea Level:* The General Assembly declares the deep concern of the member states of the OAS over the decision of the Executive Committee of the International Federation of Association Football (FIFA), which states that “for medical reasons and to better protect the players’ health international matches should not be played at altitudes of more than 2,500 meters above sea level,” since said decision does not foster sporting practices and affects tourism, integration, and the spirit of fraternity.

Resolutions

At its thirty-seventh regular session, the General Assembly approved important decisions on issues like democracy, human rights, juridical development, social development, hemispheric security, terrorism, corruption, civil society, clearing of antipersonnel landmines, natural disasters, trade, tourism, fellowships, women, children, and indigenous peoples. The Assembly also adopted resolutions on matters that are the province of the organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization, and on matters pertaining to the administration of the General Secretariat.

The following were the resolutions adopted:

- AG/RES. 2259 (XXXVII-O/07) Strengthening Hemispheric Cooperation in the Framework of Efforts by the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission to Promote Telecommunication Development in the Region
- AG/RES. 2260 (XXXVII-O/07) Disarmament and Nonproliferation Education
- AG/RES. 2261(XXXVII-O/07) Support for Action against Antipersonnel Mines in Ecuador and Peru

- AG/RES. 2262 (XXXVII-O/07) Protocol of San Salvador: Composition and Functioning of the Working Group to Examine the Periodic Reports of the States Parties
- AG/RES. 2263 (XXXVII-O/07) Support for the Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities
- AG/RES. 2264 (XXXVII-O/07) Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law
- AG/RES. 2265 (XXXVII-O/07) Observations and Recommendations on the Annual Report of the Inter-American Juridical Committee
- AG/RES. 2266 (XXXVII-O/07) Meeting of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas: Support for the REMJA Process
- AG/RES. 2267 (XXXVII-O/07) Right to the Truth
- AG/RES. 2268 (XXXVII-O/07) Inter-American Convention on Transparency in Conventional Weapons Acquisitions
- AG/RES. 2269 (XXXVII-O/07) The Americas as an Antipersonnel-Land-Mine-Free Zone
- AG/RES. 2270 (XXXVII-O/07) Confidence- and Security-Building in the Americas
- AG/RES. 2271 (XXXVII-O/07) Protecting Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms While Countering Terrorism
- AG/RES. 2272 (XXXVII-O/07) Support for the Work of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism
- AG/RES. 2273 (XXXVII-O/07) Inter-American Support for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty
- AG/RES. 2274 (XXXVII-O/07) Follow-up to the Special Conference on Security
- AG/RES. 2275 (XXXVII-O/07) Follow-up on the Inter-American Convention against Corruption and the Inter-American Program for Cooperation in the Fight against Corruption
- AG/RES. 2276 (XXXVII-O/07) Draft Inter-American Convention against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance
- AG/RES. 2277 (XXXVII-O/07) Internally Displaced Persons
- AG/RES. 2278 (XXXVII-O/07) Social Charter of the Americas: Renewal of the Hemispheric Commitment to Fight Poverty in the Region
- AG/RES. 2279 (XXXVII-O/07) Promotion of the International Criminal Court
- AG/RES. 2280 (XXXVII-O/07) Human Rights Defenders: Support for the Individuals, Groups, and Organizations of Civil Society Working to Promote and Protect Human Rights in the Americas
- AG/RES. 2281 (XXXVII-O/07) Strengthening the Activities of the Justice Studies Center of the Americas
- AG/RES. 2282 (XXXVII-O/07) Amendment of Article 4 of the Statutes of the Inter-American Juridical Committee
- AG/RES. 2283 (XXXVII-O/07) Study of the Rights and the Care of Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment
- AG/RES. 2284 (XXXVII-O/07) Situation of the Inter-American Indian Institute
- AG/RES. 2285 (XXXVII-O/07) Seventh Inter-American Specialized Conference on Private International Law
- AG/RES. 2286 (XXXVII-O/07) Inter-American Program for a Universal Civil Registry and “the Right to Identity”

- AG/RES. 2287 (XXXVII-O/07) Right to Freedom of Thought and Expression and the Importance of the Media
- AG/RES. 2288 (XXXVII-O/07) Access to Public Information: Strengthening Democracy
- AG/RES. 2289 (XXXVII-O/07) The Human Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families
- AG/RES. 2290 (XXXVII-O/07) Observations and Recommendations on the Annual Report of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
- AG/RES. 2291 (XXXVII-O/07) Strengthening of Human Rights Systems pursuant to the Mandates Arising from the Summits of the Americas
- AG/RES. 2292 (XXXVII-O/07) Observations and Recommendations on the Annual Report of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights
- AG/RES. 2293 (XXXVII-O/07) Promotion of and Respect for International Humanitarian Law
- AG/RES. 2294 (XXXVII-O/07) American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- AG/RES. 2295 (XXXVII-O/07) Persons Who Have Disappeared and Assistance to Members of Their Families
- AG/RES. 2296 (XXXVII-O/07) Protection of Asylum Seekers and Refugees in the Americas
- AG/RES. 2297 (XXXVII-O/07) Addressing Illicit Trafficking in Small Arms and Light Weapons: Stockpile Management and Security
- AG/RES. 2298 (XXXVII-O/07) Consolidation of the Regime Established in the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco)
- AG/RES. 2299 (XXXVII-O/07) Promotion of Hemispheric Cooperation in Dealing with Criminal Gangs
- AG/RES. 2300 (XXXVII-O/07) Support for the Activities of the Inter-American Defense Board
- AG/RES. 2301 (XXXVII-O/07) Free Trade and Investment in the Hemisphere
- AG/RES. 2302 (XXXVII-O/07) Amendment of Articles 78 and 80 of the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat
- AG/RES. 2303 (XXXVII-O/07) Strengthening Mechanisms for Policy Dialogue for Integral Development
- AG/RES. 2304 (XXXVII-O/07) Strengthening Technical Cooperation for Integral Development
- AG/RES. 2305 (XXXVII-O/07) Strengthening Substantive Policy Dialogue in the Framework of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development
- AG/RES. 2306 (XXXVII-O/07) Support for the Strengthening of Democratic Institutions and Socioeconomic Development of Haiti
- AG/RES. 2307 (XXXVII-O/07) Poverty, Equity, and Social Inclusion: Follow-up to the Declaration of Margarita
- AG/RES. 2308 (XXXVII-O/07) Eradicating Illiteracy and Fighting Diseases That Affect Integral Development
- AG/RES. 2309 (XXXVII-O/07) Report of the Third Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities within the Framework of CIDI
- AG/RES. 2310 (XXXVII-O/07) Increasing and Strengthening Civil Society Participation in the Activities of the Organization of American States and in the Summits of the Americas Process
- AG/RES. 2311 (XXXVII-O/07) Hemispheric Cooperation for the Promotion of Social Development: Second Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Social Development and First Meeting of

- Ministers and High Authorities of Social Development within the Framework of CIDI
- AG/RES. 2312 (XXXVII-O/07) Report of the First Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development within the Framework of CIDI
- AG/RES. 2313 (XXXVII-O/07) Continuing Participation in the Inter-American Council for Integral Development by Member States That Have Not Ratified the Protocol of Managua
- AG/RES. 2314 (XXXVII-O/07) Natural Disaster Reduction, Risk Management, and Assistance in Natural and Other Disaster Situations
- AG/RES. 2315 (XXXVII-O/07) Participation of Workers' Representatives in Activities of the Organization of American States
- AG/RES. 2316 (XXXVII-O/07) XV Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor
- AG/RES. 2317 (XXXVII-O/07) Fifth Meeting of Ministers of Education within the Framework of CIDI
- AG/RES. 2318 (XXXVII-O/07) Implementation of the Declaration of Recife
- AG/RES. 2319 (XXXVII-O/07) Celebration of the Centennial of the Headquarters of the Organization of American States
- AG/RES. 2320 (XXXVII-O/07) Inter-American Program on Education for Democratic Values and Practices
- AG/RES. 2321 (XXXVII-O/07) Proposal to Incorporate Human Rights Education into Formal Education for Schoolchildren Aged 10 to 14, in accordance with the Protocol of San Salvador
- AG/RES. 2322 (XXXVII-O/07) Inter-American Year of Women
- AG/RES. 2323 (XXXVII-O/07) Strengthening of the Inter-American Commission of Women
- AG/RES. 2324 (XXXVII-O/07) Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality
- AG/RES. 2325 (XXXVII-O/07) Special Security Concerns of the Small Island States of the Caribbean
- AG/RES. 2326 (XXXVII-O/07) Migrant Populations and Migration Flows in the Americas
- AG/RES. 2327 (XXXVII-O/07) Promotion and Strengthening of Democracy: Follow-up to the Inter-American Democratic Charter
- AG/RES. 2328 (XXXVII-O/07) Commemoration of the 80th Anniversary of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History
- AG/RES. 2329 (XXXVII-O/07) Establishment of the Oliver Jackman Voluntary Capital Fund to Finance the Inter-American Human Rights System
- AG/RES. 2330 (XXXVII-O/07) Mechanism to Follow Up on Implementation of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, "Convention of Belém do Pará"
- AG/RES. 2331 (XXXVII-O/07) Fifth Biennial Report on Fulfillment of Resolution AG/RES. 1456 (XXVII-O/97), "Promotion of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, 'Convention of Belém do Pará'"
- AG/RES. 2332 (XXXVII-O/07) The Importance of Nutrition for Achieving Healthier Populations and Integral Development

- AG/RES. 2333 (XXXVII-O/07) Support for Implementation at the Hemispheric Level of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004)
- AG/RES. 2334 (XXXVII-O/07) Execution of the Hemispheric Plan of Action against Transnational Organized Crime
- AG/RES. 2335 (XXXVII-O/07) Appointment of Women to Senior Management Positions at the Organization of American States
- AG/RES. 2336 (XXXVII-O/07) Promotion of Corporate Social Responsibility in the Hemisphere
- AG/RES. 2337 (XXXVII-O/07) Modernization and Use of Electoral Technologies in the Hemisphere
- AG/RES. 2338 (XXXVII-O/07) Support for and Follow-up to the Summits of the Americas Process
- AG/RES. 2339 (XXXVII-O/07) Program of Action for the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities (2006-2016)
- AG/RES. 2340 (XXXVII-O/07) Election of Two External Auditors at the Thirty-seventh Regular Session of the General Assembly
- AG/RES. 2341 (XXXVII-O/07) Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials
- AG/RES. 2342 (XXXVII-O/07) Prevention of the Diversion and Illicit Distribution via the Internet of Controlled Pharmaceutical Products and Other Internationally Controlled Substances
- AG/RES. 2343 (XXXVII-O/07) Observations and Recommendations on the Annual Report of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission
- AG/RES. 2344 (XXXVII-O/07) Citizen Participation and Strengthening of Democracy in the Americas
- AG/RES. 2345 (XXXVII-O/07) Strengthening of the National Human Rights Systems of the Member States and Support for the Work of Defenders of the People, Defenders of the Population, and Human Rights Attorneys or Commissioners (Ombudsmen)
- AG/RES. 2346 (XXXVII-O/07) Support for Efforts to Eradicate Child Malnutrition in the Americas
- AG/RES. 2347 (XXXVII-O/07) Inter-American Meeting on the Economic, Social, and Environmental Aspects of the Availability of, and Access to, Drinking Water
- AG/RES. 2348 (XXXVII-O/07) Hemispheric Cooperation Efforts to Combat Trafficking in Persons and Second Meeting of National Authorities on Trafficking in Persons
- AG/RES. 2349 (XXXVII-O/07) Water, Health, and Human Rights
- AG/RES. 2350 (XXXVII-O/07) Obligation of the Member States to Respect the Rules, Principles, and Essential Purposes Contained in the Charter of the Organization of American States and International Law in order to Preserve and Strengthen Peace in the Hemisphere
- AG/RES. 2351 (XXXVII-O/07) Civil Society Organizations and the Protection of Human Rights and Promotion of Democracy
- AG/RES. 2352 (XXXVII-O/07) Vote of Appreciation to the People and Government of Panama

AG/RES. 2353 (XXXVII-O/07) Program-Budget of the Organization for 2008, Quotas and Contributions to FEMCIDI for 2008

Thirty-third special session of the General Assembly

The thirty-third special session of the General Assembly was held at Organization headquarters in Washington, D.C., October 3, 2007. The purpose of the session was to determine the financing of the Regular Fund program-budget of the Organization for 2008.

The following resolution was adopted:

AG/RES. 1 (XXXIII-E/07) Financing of the Regular Fund Program-Budget of the Organization for 2008

Thirty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

The General Assembly held its thirty-fourth special session at Organization headquarters in Washington, D.C., on November 13, 2007, to determine the method for calculating the scale of quota assessments to finance the Regular Fund of the Organization for 2008.

The following resolution was adopted:

AG/RES. 1 (XXXIV-E/07) rev. 1 Methodology for Calculating the Scale of Quota Assessments to Finance the Regular Fund of the Organization.

1.2 PERMANENT COUNCIL

The Permanent Council is one of the organs by means of which the Organization accomplishes its purposes (Article 53 of the Charter). It reports directly to the General Assembly and is composed of one representative of each member state, especially appointed by the respective government, with the rank of ambassador. Its functions and authority are defined in Chapter XII of the Charter. The Permanent Council takes cognizance of any matter referred to it by the General Assembly or the Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs. It serves provisionally as the organ of consultation in conformity with the provisions of the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance (Rio Treaty). It keeps vigilance over the maintenance of friendly relations among the member states and assists them in the peaceful settlement of their disputes. It also acts as the Preparatory Committee of the General Assembly, unless the General Assembly should decide otherwise.

Chair and Vice Chair

The office of chair of the Permanent Council is held by each of the principal representatives in turn, following the Spanish alphabetical order of the names of their respective states. The office of vice chair is filled in the same way, in reverse alphabetical order. The chair and vice chair hold office for a term of three months. The terms begin automatically on the first day of each calendar quarter.

During this reporting period, the following ambassadors served as Chair and Vice Chair of the Permanent Council:

- January-March 2007, Chair: Ambassador María del Luján Flores, Permanent Representative of Uruguay. Vice Chair: Ambassador Izben C. Williams, Permanent Representative of Saint Kitts and Nevis.
- April-June 2007, Chair: Ambassador Jorge Valero Briceño, Permanent Representative of Venezuela. Vice Chair: Ambassador Roberto Álvarez Gil, Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic.
- July-September 2007, Chair: Deborah-Mae Lovell, Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda. Vice Chair: Ambassador Antero Flores Araoz, Permanent Representative of Peru.
- October-December 2007, Chair: Ambassador Rodolfo H. Gil, Permanent Representative of Argentina. Vice Chair: Ambassador Manuel Cáceres Cardozo, Permanent Representative of Paraguay.

Presentations

During this reporting period the Secretary General and the Assistant Secretary General addressed the Permanent Council on a number of occasions, to keep it informed of facilitation measures taken in the countries of the region and of the electoral observation missions that the General Secretariat conducted in the OAS member states.

Visits to the Permanent Council

The Permanent Council received the following distinguished guests: Jacqui Quinn-Leandro, Minister of Labor, Public Administration and Empowerment, in charge of Gender-related Issues in Antigua and Barbuda and President of the CIM; David Choquehuanca Céspedes, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bolivia; Peter Gordon MacKay, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada; Samuel Lewis Navarro, Vice President and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Panama; Fernando Araújo Perdomo, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia; Matilde Ribeiro, Minister of Brazil's Special Secretariat for Promotion of Racial Equality; Elías Antonio Saca, President of El Salvador; Celinda Sosa Luna, Minister of Justice of Bolivia; Héctor Enrique Arze, Vice Minister of Governmental Coordination of Bolivia; and Francisco Santos, Vice President of Colombia.

Resolutions and Declarations

In 2007, the Permanent Council approved the following declarations and resolutions. Their complete text is available online at the Council's web page:

<http://www.oas.org/consejo/sp/resoluciones/Resoluciones2007.asp>

Declarations

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| CP/DEC. 36 (1567/06) | Declaration on Strengthening Cooperation in the Fight against Terrorism and the Impunity of Its Perpetrators |
| CP/DEC. 37 (1601/07) | Declaration on the Assassination of the Colombian Deputies Kidnapped by the FARC |

Resolutions

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| CP/RES. 924 (1623/07) | Regulations for the Operations of the Oliver Jackman Voluntary Capital Fund to Finance the Inter-American Human Rights System |
| CP/RES. 923 (1611/07) | Commemoration of the 65 th Anniversary of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) |
| CP/RES. 922 (1610/07) | Place and Date of the Thirty-Fourth Special Session of the General Assembly |
| CP/RES. 921 (1605/07) rev.1 | Convocation of the Thirty-Third Special Session of the General Assembly |
| CP/RES. 920 (1602/07) | Convocation of the Fifth Meeting of the Group of Governmental Experts on Cyber-Crime, Pursuant to Resolution AG/RES. 2228 (XXXVI-O/06) and the Recommendations of the Sixth Meeting of Ministers of Justice or of the Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA-VI) |
| CP/RES. 919 (1597/07) | Proposed Amendment to Articles 78 and 80 of the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat |
| CP/RES. 918 (1595/07) | Permanent Lifting of the Pause in the Awarding of OAS Scholarships |
| CP/RES. 917 (1596/07) | Convocation of the Third Meeting of Central Authorities and Other Experts on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters and Extradition, |

in Fulfillment of Resolution AG/RES. 2228 (XXXVI-O/06) and the Recommendations of the Sixth Meeting of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA-VI)

- CP/RES. 916 (1590/07) Invitations to the Thirty-Seventh Regular Session of the General Assembly
- CP/RES. 915 (1587/07) Commemoration of the 200th Anniversary of the Abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade
- CP/RES. 914 (1577/07) Place and Date of the Special Meeting of the OAS/REMJA Working Group on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters and Extradition
- CP/RES. 913 (1577/07) Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities

1.3 INTER-AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT (CIDI)

The Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) is an organ of the Organization that is directly answerable to the General Assembly. It has decision-making authority in matters related to partnership for development and was established when the Protocol of Managua entered into force on January 29, 1996 (Chapter XIII). It has the following subsidiary bodies: the Permanent Executive Committee (CEPCIDI), the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD), the nonpermanent specialized committees (CENPES), and the inter-American committees.

The Inter-American Council for Integral Development

The Twelfth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) was held at OAS headquarters on May 17, 2007. The Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Ambassador Ellsworth I.A. John, and Mr. Patricio Powell, Alternate Representative of Chile, were elected chair and vice chair of the Meeting, respectively. The delegations of Argentina, Canada, Brazil, and the United States were elected to the Style Committee for the meeting.

Participating in the meeting were the following permanent observers: Spain, France, Italy, and the European Union. They gave a presentation concerning their priorities vis-à-vis cooperation and the activities they are conducting in the OAS framework. Future possibilities for cooperation were explored. Also underscored was the importance of triangulating cooperation projects in order to create larger platforms and maximize resources and their impact.

As the delegations were still in consultations, CEPCIDI was instructed to elect the Chair and Vice Chair of CEPCIDI. It was also instructed to elect the four members of the Management Board of the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD).

Similarly, taking into account the recommendations of the CENPES and of the independent FEMCIDI project evaluators to improve the quality of the project proposals and given the requests from member states for support from SEDI in project design and development and SEDI's need to have additional time in the schedule to provide the necessary support, CIDI approved resolution CIDI/RES. 204 (XII-O/07) "Modifications of the Deadlines Established in the Programming, Obligation, and Execution Schedule of the Special Multilateral Fund"(FEMCIDI).

CIDI received voluntary contribution pledges from a number of member states. In keeping with the terms established for the new deadlines in the programming, obligation, and execution schedule of FEMCIDI approved at that same meeting, the deadline set for the pledges was July 31, 2007.

The twelfth regular meeting of CIDI considered and approved resolutions within the framework of the Council and presented others to the General Assembly for consideration at its thirty-

seventh regular session. The General Assembly considered and approved those resolutions in June 2007. The following are some of the matters addressed in those resolutions: strengthening mechanisms for policy dialogue for integral development; strengthening technical cooperation for integral development; strengthening substantive policy dialogue in the framework of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development; poverty, equity, and social inclusion: follow-up to the Declaration of Margarita; eradicating illiteracy and fighting diseases that affect integral development; Report of the Third Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities within the Framework of CIDI; hemispheric cooperation for the promotion of social development: Second Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Social Development and First Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Social Development within the Framework of CIDI; continuing participation in the Inter-American Council for Integral Development by member states that have not ratified the Protocol of Managua; participation of workers' representatives in activities of the Organization of American States; Fifteenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor, and Fifth Meeting of Ministers of Education within the Framework of CIDI.

- Nonpermanent Specialized Committees (CENPES)

The nonpermanent specialized committees are technical bodies that lend support to CIDI in dealing with specialized matters or in developing specific aspects of inter-American cooperation in the priority cooperation areas of the Strategic Plan. There are eight committees, one for each priority area in the Strategic Plan: Education, Economic Diversification, Trade Liberalization and Market Access, Social Development and Creation of Productive Employment, Scientific Development and Exchange and Transfer of Technology, Strengthening of Democratic Institutions, Sustainable Development and Environment, and Sustainable Tourism Development.

CEPCIDI convened the annual meeting of the CENPES corresponding to the FEMCIDI 2006 programming cycle for February 7 to 9, 2007. The members of the eight committees evaluated the projects and submitted to the Management Board of the IACD their recommendations as to which projects should be financed and the amount of financing for each project.

The following is the number of projects recommended by the CENPES, by sector account:

Account	Number of Recommended Projects	Recommended Amount (US\$)
Education	25	2,238,403
Social Development	15	942,469
Sustainable Development	13	743,250
Science and Technology	13	1,237,370
Trade	10	1,042,758
Culture	2	33,319
Democracy	6	351,602
Tourism	9	992,406
Integral Development	0	0
TOTAL	93	7,581,577

On March 2, 2007, the Management Board of the IACD held its twentieth meeting and, as agreed at the previous meeting, elected as its Chair Mr. Jesús Velásquez, in charge of the Office of the Director General of Technical and Scientific Cooperation with Mexico's Secretariat for Foreign Affairs. It also decided that his term would last until CIDI's thirteenth regular meeting, scheduled for 2008. The Management Board approved the 93 projects recommended by the CENPES, through document AICD/JD/doc.104/07 rev .1, "FEMCIDI 2006 Partnership for Development Activities Programming." In the course of the year, the Management Board conferred via e-mails to decide issues related to the programming and projects of FEMCIDI.

- Programming of the Special Multilateral Fund of CIDI (FEMCIDI) 2007

SEDI prepared the document titled "Preliminary Proposed FEMCIDI 2007 Partnership for Development Activities Programming", which includes 121 project proposals presented by 33 member countries. Of the 121 projects, 47 are continuing and 74 are new proposals; 56 are multilateral projects and 65 are national projects. The amount for the projects requested is US\$12,676,822. The total contributions to FEMCIDI 2007 are US\$6,528,330.30.

The proposed Programming document, together with the documents pertinent to the included projects (the complete project proposal, progress reports, work plans, and so on) will be sent to the members of the nonpermanent specialized committees (CENPES). According to the modified schedule, the CENPES meeting for the FEMCIDI 2006 cycle will take place February 6 through 13, 2008. The members of the eight committees will evaluate the projects and present the Management Board with their recommendations on the projects that should be funded and the level of funding for each project.

The following is a list of the number of projects included in the Preliminary Proposed Programming, by account and the distribution of the requested amounts:

• Trade:	9 projects totaling US\$1,091,016
• Social Development:	17 projects totaling US\$1,456,661
• Education:	33 projects totaling US\$ 3,253,869
• Culture:	6 projects totaling US\$517,629
• Science and Technology:	19 projects totaling US\$2,397,738
• Democracy:	8 projects totaling US\$744,109
• Tourism:	13 projects totaling US\$1,324,850
• Environment:	16 projects totaling US\$1,890,950

The FEMCIDI 2007 Programming process involved SEDI's detailed examination of the profiles of projects presented by the member states. SEDI selected a specific number of profiles that fit the selection criteria in force, and also based on such factors as the need to reflect a proper thematic and regional balance.

In a second phase, SEDI provided careful technical and administrative support to the institutions involved in the selected profiles, to ensure that the final project proposals were prepared properly and on time. Any final proposals that were either incomplete or unsatisfactory were withdrawn from the Preliminary Proposed Programming. This support included trips to the following countries: Bolivia, Colombia, Honduras, Nicaragua, Haiti, and Saint Kitts and Nevis.

II. GENERAL SECRETARIAT

2.1 OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

Chapter XVI of the Charter describes the functions and attributes of the General Secretariat, the OAS' central and permanent organ headquartered in Washington, D.C. Elected by the General Assembly, the Secretary General directs the General Secretariat, serves as its legal representative and participates in all meetings of the Organization with voice but without vote. The Secretary General has the authority to bring to the attention of the General Assembly or the Permanent Council any matter that, in his judgment, could affect the peace and security of the Hemisphere or the development of the member states. It is the Secretary General's responsibility to establish whatever offices he deems necessary within the General Secretariat, to determine the number of staff members, appoint them, and regulate their duties and functions. The Assistant Secretary General, also elected by the General Assembly, is the Secretary of the Permanent Council and an advisory officer to the Secretary General, whose functions he performs during the latter's temporary absence or permanent disability. The Assistant Secretary General also acts as the Secretary General's representative in all matters which the latter entrusts to him.

Office of the Secretary General

In furtherance of Article 111 of the OAS Charter and the measures and policies determined by the General Assembly and the pertinent resolutions of the Councils, the Office of the Secretary General performs high-level management functions related to the promotion of economic, social, legal, educational, scientific, and cultural relations in the member states of the Organization.

In exercise of its functions, during this reporting period the Office of the Secretary General supported and complemented the activities carried out by the various organs, secretariats, departments, offices and units of the Organization. Its efforts focused on three main areas.

In the area of external affairs, it sought to support the Organization's activities to enhance its status as the principal inter-American multilateral political body and its image on the world stage. In terms of the Organization's substantive activities, it concentrated on building and strengthening democracy and governance; broadening and stepping up human rights protection activities; promoting development while ensuring inclusiveness and equity; and developing a multidimensional security policy to deal effectively with the major problems affecting the people of the Americas.

As for internal affairs, the Office's activities were aimed at strengthening and reinforcing administrative and communications mechanisms of the General Secretariat, to enable it to meet its responsibilities with greater efficiency, transparency, and accountability.

The Office also conducted research, prepared drafts for the Secretary General's speeches, and served as liaison with the permanent missions, government agencies and civil society. It also organized the Secretary General's attendance at the presidential inaugurations in Nicaragua,

Ecuador and Argentina; his participation in the XVII Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government; his official visits to the heads of state and of government of the member states, and his participation in ministerial and other international conferences and events, including the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

In the area of financial management, the General Secretariat was pleased that the process of putting the bases of financing of the Regular Fund on a sound footing continued. The most important development in this area was the adoption of a new method for assessing quotas to the member states, which the General Assembly decided at the special session it held in November 2007. This was an important decision because it testifies to the progress that the Organization is beginning to achieve in the analysis of its financial situation.

Finally, the Office of the Secretary General and the Secretariat for Administration and Finance prepared the proposed budget for 2009, which the Secretary General presented to the Preparatory Committee of the General Assembly.

2.1.1 Chief of Staff to the Secretary General

2.1.1.1 Department of Planning, Control, and Evaluation (DPCE)

The Department of Planning, Control, and Evaluation (DPCE) has two sections: Operational Planning and Control and Project Management. In 2007, the Department achieved the following results:

The Department introduced adjustments and improvements to the annual operational planning procedure, published the first Annual Operational Plan (POA) 2008 in August and prepared the preliminary version of the Annual Operational Plan (POA) 2009 for all areas of the General Secretariat. This Operational Plan was delivered to the Department of Budgetary and Financial Services for inclusion in the Proposed Program-Budget.

In partnership with the Office of the Chairman of the Inter-American Defense Board and the Executive Secretariat of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, the Department launched a training and technical assistance process to organize their operational planning procedures and generate budgetary data by the same method used for the other areas of the General Secretariat.

A quarterly operational control process was instituted in the General Secretariat with systematic registry of achieved results and executed resources for the third quarter of 2007 in virtually every area of the General Secretariat.

Further progress was made on the comprehensive design of the planning and operational control system, including the Control Dashboard, working with the Department of Information and Technology Services. Similarly, it continued to develop tools and guides for formulating and monitoring projects, which are being used to formulate, execute, and monitor projects financed by the Spain Fund.

In its role as Technical Secretariat of the Project Evaluation Committee, the DPCE organized 15 meetings of the Committee and 14 meetings of the Working Group. It also provided advisory services to the offices of the GS, on preparing profiles of projects that the Project Evaluation Committee will examine. It did the preliminary relevancy evaluation of 111 profiles.

The DPCE continued the project management training program started in 2006. Five workshops in project formulation were conducted: three in Washington, one in San José at the request of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, and one in Lima at the request of the Peruvian Government. In May 2007, a pilot workshop on monitoring and evaluating results was conducted in coordination with the Executive Secretariat of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD). Two more workshops were held thereafter for staff of the GS.

2.1.1.2 Department of Legal Services (DLS)

In 2007, the Department of Legal Services (DLS) received approximately 1,812 inquiries from the General Secretariat, the governing bodies and the delegations of the member states. Of these, 1,338 were seeking legal opinions, while another 474 involved agreements that needed to be reviewed. The main institutional clients were the Secretariat for Administration and Finance, the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development – SEDI, the Secretariat for Political Affairs, the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security, the Office of the Assistant Secretary General and the Office of the Secretary General.

The Department also collaborated on the drafting of regulatory instruments such as the comprehensive modification of the Staff Rules, and on the drafting and review of the Executive Orders on the “Restructuring of the General Secretariat,” on the Policy on Indirect Cost Recovery, on the Prohibition against Workplace Harassment, on the Procedures for the Negotiation, Preparation, Review, Signature and Registration of Agreements of the General Secretariat, on Performance Contract (“CPR”) Rules, and on Procurement Contract Rules.

The Department participated in meetings held by the Assistant Secretary General in preparation for the session of the General Assembly in Panama, and reviewed the corresponding agreement. It also participated in meetings related to the OAS Special Mission in Haiti. It reviewed a number of lease contracts for the Offices of the General Secretariat in various member states.

Within the General Secretariat, the Department provided advisory services to the Secretary General’s Chief of Staff, the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development, the Department of Sustainable Development, the Executive Secretariat of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the Secretariat for Political Affairs, the Department of Sustainable Democracy and Special Missions, the Secretariat for Administration and Finance, the Department of Human Resources, the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security, particularly the Department for the Prevention of Threats against Public Security (DSP), the Executive Secretariat of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (ES/CICAD), the Inter-American Children’s Institute (IIN), the OAS Special Mission in Haiti, the Office of the Inspector General, “Trust for the Americas” and “Young Americas Business Trust.”

It cooperated with the Department of Human Development in editing a new Fellowship Manual, pursuant to a request from the member states. It also provided legal counsel at meetings of the CEPACIDI Subcommittee on Partnership for Development Policies regarding the manual and drafted the forms necessary to implement the OAS Fellowship Program.

The Department of Legal Services cooperated in reviewing agreements for execution of projects and on electoral observation, including those related to elections in Argentina, Colombia, Ecuador, and Guatemala, and Costa Rica's referendum process. It advised the MAPP/OAS in Colombia on contractual, labor-related matters and on privileges and immunities.

The Department also provided advisory services in connection with the preparation and review of instruments associated with execution of the project on "Resettlement of the Santa Rosa community in the Belize-Guatemala Adjacency Zone," including the establishment of a trust for the transfer of the lands and construction of the housing where the members of that community will be located.

The Department advised on the preparation of the resolution on the Program-Budget of the Organization for 2008; the resolution on the Financing of the Regular Fund Program-Budget of the Organization for 2008; the resolution on the Methodology for Calculating the Scale of Quota Assessments to Finance the Regular Fund of the Organization; the resolution on the Election of Two External Auditors at the Thirty-Seventh Regular Session of the General Assembly; the resolution on the Regulations for the Operations of the Oliver Jackman Voluntary Capital Fund to Finance the Inter-American Human Rights System; the resolution on the regular adjustments to the quotas assessed to the member states to finance the Program-Budget of the Organization; the resolution on the Proposed Amendment to Articles 78 and 80 of the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat concerning "Banking deposits, interest, and indirect costs" and on "Direct costs and recovery of indirect costs," approved by the General Assembly.

The Department provided advisory services on issues related to gun control and organized crime, and provided representation services at a number of meetings. It also presented draft model legislation criminalizing the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials (CIFTA, Article IV). The Department also participated in the establishment of a secretariat for the Inter-American Coalition for the Prevention of Violence.

It participated in and advised the Joint Committee on Insurance Matters, the Selection Committee, the Contract Award Committee, the Publications Committee, the COVENT (Sales Committee), the Working Group for Haiti, the Medical Benefits Trust Fund Committee and the Committee of the Leo S. Rowe Memorial Fund.

The Department participated in the meetings of the specialized organizations and entities of the OAS held in the various member states, such as the General Assembly of Delegates of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), the Regular and Special Meetings of the Directing Council of the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN) and the meetings and Assembly of the Inter-American Telecommunications Commission (CITEL).

It advised the Office of IICA's Director General on institutional, administrative, and labor-related matters and the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA). It also advised the Inter-American Board of Agriculture, the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues of IICA, and the Directorate on Administrative, Budgetary, and Institutional Matters of IICA.

The Department advised the Retirement and Pension Committee and its Secretary-Treasurer on tax-related matters, the Plan's limitations, and the rights of pensioners and participants in the Fund. It participated in the review and negotiation of the contracts between the Committee and its financial consultants and auditors. It represented the Retirement and Pension Fund at the Forum of Pension Managers and presented a paper on the tax implications of the OAS Pension Fund.

The Department represented the Secretary General in cases before the Administrative Tribunal and assisted the hearing officers and the Reconsideration Committee.

2.1.1.3 Department of External Relations

The Department of External Relations was organized in 2007 and discharged its functions in accordance with Executive Orders 05-13 (Rev. 4) on the Restructuring of the General Secretariat, and 05-14 corr. 1 on the Creation of the Committee on Fundraising. Accordingly, the Department was organized into two sections: the Institutional Relations Section and the Public Relations Section. These two sections performed the Department's various functions.

In 2007, the Secretary General, Assistant Secretary General, and high ranking Organization officials had more than 15 meetings with members of the United States Congress, thereby opening up new channels of communication. Communications were sent to members of Congress in support of bilateral and multilateral initiatives in the region; OAS participation was promoted in debates, hearings and other events in the Congressional buildings. One result of this effort was that representatives of the United States Congress participated in activities conducted as part of the thirty-seventh regular session of the OAS General Assembly in Panama City.

A document was prepared analyzing legislative issues and contains pertinent information concerning members of Congress and their interest in the region. Similarly, OAS events were widely publicized through communications sent to more than 150 members of the Congressional staff.

The Department of External Relations developed and implemented the OAS' special briefings program, which in 2007 received 4,017 persons, among them diplomats, government officials, military, students, political analysts, and the general public. This program highlights the Organization's work and also features tours conducted of the historic Main Building. In 2007, a public opinion survey was introduced that has been instrumental in enhancing the program.

During this reporting period, the DER launched the "Policy Roundtable" Series to create links between policy analysts and the diplomatic community. Five roundtables were held: "Surveying the Americas: Indicators and Perceptions"; "International Law: The U.S. Perspective";

“Democracy and the Army in the 21st Century”; “Building a Consensus on Trade Policy in an Era of Globalization”; and “Constitutional Reform in the Americas.”

The DER also made arrangements for speakers from the OAS and the member states to participate in various events staged by public and private institutions in the area. The DER organized a trip for the Secretary General to Los Angeles and La Jolla (California) and San Antonio (Texas) to publicize the mission and work of the OAS.

Among inter-American organizations and international financial institutions, the DER organized and promoted U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon’s participation in the thirty-seventh regular session of the OAS General Assembly.

During this reporting period, the Committee on Fundraising met three times to prepare and improve quality control and institutional standards to be followed in the case of the fundraising proposals that the General Secretariat presents to potential donors.

The DER encouraged active involvement and collaboration on the part of the 60 permanent observers through daily working meetings with representatives from the embassies and in the capital cities, exchanges with the technical areas and special events. Of particular note here was the dialogue between the permanent observers’ representatives and the foreign ministers of the member states during the regular session of the General Assembly in Panama City in 2007.

The DER coordinated meetings with officials of the permanent observers, both in their own capitals and in Washington. Noteworthy here were the missions by the Secretary General and the Director of the Department to Spain, Italy, and Germany, and the visits to the Netherlands, France, Switzerland, Sweden, and Denmark. The talks held resulted in a sizeable increase in the contributions made by the Netherlands, Denmark, and Switzerland.

The Second Meeting of Government Spokespersons of the Member States of the Organization of American States (OAS) was held in Montevideo, organized by the OAS’ Department of External Relations in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay.

The Americas Project is a joint effort involving the OAS and Rice University’s James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy, bringing together young leaders each year to discuss priority issues in the region. Graduates from seven years of the program gathered at the Baker Institute in Houston, Texas, to celebrate the project’s tenth anniversary. The central theme of the meeting was “Building Opportunities and Managing Challenges in the Americas.”

In April 2007, the DER and the Inter-American Institute of Diplomacy co-sponsored the Washington Model General Assembly of the Organization of American States (WMOAS) for universities. In December 2007, the DER held the XXV MOAS for university students in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in partnership with Argentine institutions such as *Asociación Conciencia*, *Universo Agora*, *Fundación Universitaria del Río de la Plata (FURP)*, the *Universidad del Salvador* and the *Universidad de La Matanza*. In late November, OAS headquarters in Washington, D.C. was the venue for the XXVI Model General Assembly for high schools. Thanks to these model general assemblies, hundreds of high-school students in the

United States, over 500 university students across the Hemisphere, and their teachers and professors have learned about the mission of the OAS to promote democracy and about the importance of diplomacy, negotiation, and compromise in seeking consensus solutions to regional issues.

The basic cost of the Model OAS General Assembly program (MOAS) is covered by the enrollment fees paid by the participating institutions. In 2007, the Government of China and the Government of Korea made contributions to the program.

In 2007, the DER coordinated eight events in the Lecture Series of the Americas, featuring distinguished guest speakers: Chilean Senator Soledad Alvear; Dr. Oscar Santamaría and Dr. Fidel Chávez Mena, both former Ministers of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador; Mrs. Trinidad Jiménez, Spain's Secretary of State for Ibero-America; former Chilean President Ricardo Lagos; the Honorable Wan Exiang, Vice President of the Supreme People's Court of the People's Republic of China; Mr. Kemal Dervis, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme; Mrs. Matilde Ribeiro, Brazil's Special Secretary for the Promotion of Policies on Racial Equality; and the distinguished Dr. Joseph Stiglitz, Nobel Laureate in Economics and Professor of Economics at Columbia University. These lectures were broadcast either live or taped, via EDUSAT, Venevisión, Voice of the Americas, and HITN, among others. The presentations in the second phase of the Lecture Series for the June 2006-December 2007 period were published in the second edition of the "*Libro de la Cátedra de las Américas*".

The Lecture Series of the Americas continued to enjoy the support of the *Universidad de San Martín de Porres* (USMP) which extended the agreement it signed with the General Secretariat for an additional 12-month period. Other sponsors included the People's Republic of China, France, and Spain.

2.1.1.4 Department of Press

The principal mission of the Department of Press and Communications is to publicize the political and policy discussions in the OAS Permanent Council, the Office of the Secretary General, the Office of the Assistant Secretary General, and the other organs of the Organization. Without straying from its mission, the Department has for two years devoted itself to projecting an image of an organization that is becoming an increasing presence within the Hemisphere and whose opinion is heard and respected on the international scene.

The journalism practiced by the Department consists mainly of publicizing official communiqués on the activities of the Office of the Secretary General, the Office of the Assistant Secretary General, the Permanent Council, and other OAS bodies, and broadcasting both via webcasts and radio.

The Organization's strategic goals, which are about democracy, development, human rights, legitimate electoral processes, and good and transparent government, are so much a part of the news the Department reports that in many countries of the Hemisphere the OAS is either criticized or applauded because of its association with the defense of those ideals. The OAS' role in the elections held during this reporting period is indelibly etched in the memories of

political analysts and the public, and OAS electoral observation missions are directly associated with election legitimacy. And if the OAS is associated with the protection and defense of human rights and settlement of political crises, it is in large part because the message coming out of the OAS has been so well received.

How can one gauge the effect of the journalism practiced at the OAS? By determining how much of the news generated in the OAS Department of Press and Communications makes its way into the general media and the extent to which the public regards the OAS as a dynamic organization. There is no way to disguise what the OAS accomplishes: OAS news either appears or does not appear in daily reporting. The conclusion is that the news gathered by the press is both quantitatively and qualitatively superior to previous years. The daily news summary (*Newsclips*) that the Department's team of journalists puts together is drawn from the major news outlets in the 34 member countries, and reflects the quantity and quality of the news reported by the Department of Press and Communications.

The General Secretariat's work on democratic sustainability, against drug trafficking, in defense of human rights, and electoral observation missions is getting more and more press in the media and international news agencies. News of the OAS' political position about events in the Hemisphere is anticipated and reported.

The work routine has gradually been improved until the right formula of day-to-day operations (weekends included) was found, one that fits the pattern typical of the traditional media. The journalism practiced at the Department, which includes news reporting and photographic journalism, is at the core of the daily news distributed to an ever increasing number of media outlets across the Hemisphere, which demand quality and timely content.

As it constantly interacts with the media, between May 2006 and May 2008 the Department increased its mailing list by 200%, and this was just the list for the print media. This increase is attributable not just to the quality of the material being circulated, but also to the image of the Organization being projected. Newspapers and news agencies in the Hemisphere are demanding more and more press releases and news, which means that the list of news outlets and addresses has to be constantly updated to achieve the wide circulation that will satisfy users.

Accordingly, the number of press communiqués increased significantly, to keep pace with the news that political actors at the OAS are generating. The result was a virtuous circle: the more news appeared in the media, the greater the interest in generating news; and as the amount of news being reported increased, so did the OAS' presence in the media.

The Department of Press and Communications does balanced reporting of all OAS activities, distributed to the media via communiqués. However, not all its reports are picked up by the news media. In order to project the Organization's image, news about the OAS has to make its way into a highly competitive news market, and not every piece of news that the Department of Press and Communications reports is of interest to that market. The Organization's need to communicate its message and the media's news interests are not always a perfect fit.

The systematic effort made to get out the OAS' political message, however, has had a positive effect, to the point that the Organization now figures more prominently in the media. The news reported is orderly and transparent. And the more transparent that reporting in terms of circulation and in getting news of its activities out, the more the OAS will become a fixture in the minds of the citizens of the member states, who will come to regard themselves as part of the decision-making process. This is the connection between OAS news and the legitimacy of OAS action: the more and better informed a society is, the more relevant will be the institutions that represent it, in this case the Organization of American States.

The photography work at the OAS, which is done by two professionals, has tripled or even quadrupled. An image, coupled with an explanatory text or as part of a press release, is still a good formula, and is sought after and well received by large and small news outlets. The photographs on display every day at the OAS' Web page, following every official activity, are fed on a daily basis to newspapers in the northern, central, and southern reaches of the Hemisphere. This service, which is more and more in demand within the Organization, is drawing the attention of the foreign ministries and other institutions in the member states, which often use this material in their own news reports.

Américas Magazine is gradually introducing political topics. The views of the prime ministers and presidents now appear in the pages of a publication that the OAS community holds in its affection and whose list of subscribers is growing by the day. Its articles are also appearing in newspapers.

The WebCast service deserves special mention. It provides live broadcasts of many events held at OAS headquarters, like meetings of the Permanent Council and special events (forums, workshops, seminars, lectures, and so on). The broadcasts of these events are used fundamentally by the news media. Thanks to the WebCast service, radio and television outlets are able to get live feeds of the Organization's activities.

2.1.1.5 Office of Protocol

The Office of Protocol plans and coordinates the official ceremonies of the governing bodies of the Organization, the Permanent Council, the Secretary General, the Assistant Secretary General, and the departments of the General Secretariat. It serves as liaison between the U.S. Department of State and the permanent missions on matters related to registration and visas for staff of the missions and to the privileges and immunities of diplomats accredited to the Organization. It also organizes and coordinates the use of the Main Building for protocolary or social-cultural functions and prints and keeps current the Directory of Permanent Missions on the Organization's intranet.

During this reporting period, protocolary meetings were organized for the visit from El Salvador's Head of State and support was provided for the special meetings the Permanent Council convoked to receive vice presidents and ministers. Ceremonies and protocolary meetings were held for Pan American Day, to mark the birth of Simón Bolívar, and to commemorate the Discovery of America-Encounter of Two Worlds. The Office coordinated the ceremonies at which the Permanent Representatives of Bolivia, Peru, Suriname, Nicaragua, Ecuador, Mexico,

and the Bahamas presented their credentials, and the courtesy visits by various permanent observers. Farewell receptions were organized to honor the ambassadors of Saint Lucia, Jamaica, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Mexico and Costa Rica.

Under the Office of Protocol's coordination, two "Country Weeks" were held. This is a program in which the member countries and permanent observers stage a week of cultural or academic events.

During this reporting year, the Office of Protocol organized fifty-two ceremonies at which protocols and agreements between the Organization and the member countries or other entities were signed or instruments of ratification were deposited. Similarly, the Office reviewed and processed around 4,000 requests from the permanent missions and their personnel. These included accreditations, visa changes and renewals, extensions of stays, work permits and their renewal, importation and purchase of duty-free goods, work permits for dependents, issuance and renewal of tax-exemption cards and driver's licenses, and requests related to vehicle registration, renewal of registration, insurance, and sale or exportation of vehicles.

During the regular session of the General Assembly held in Panama, the Office of Protocol worked closely with the host country on planning the opening ceremony and other events.

2.1.2 Summits Secretariat

The Summits Secretariat renders technical and logistical support to the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG); manages the Summit of the Americas Information Network; preserves the institutional memory of the Summit process; follows up on mandates issued by the Heads of State and Government; chairs the Joint Summits Working Group; and coordinates participation by civil society and indigenous peoples in OAS activities and in the Summits process.

The Summits Secretariat compiled the necessary information concerning the implementation, within the OAS framework, of the mandates from the Mar del Plata Summit. At the XLV meeting of the SIRG, held at OAS headquarters on March 29, 2007, the national coordinators of the 34 member states analyzed the progress made with execution of the mandates from the IV Summit of the Americas and discussed the challenges facing the region in preparation for the V Summit.

The XLVI Meeting of the SIRG at the Ministerial Meeting was held in Panama City on June 5, 2007, during the XXXVII regular session of the OAS General Assembly. On behalf of the JSWG, the Secretary General presented to the SIRG Ministerial the book entitled "*Towards the Fifth Summit of the Americas: Regional Challenges,*" a collection of various perspectives on the challenges that the Hemisphere faces. The book was put together by the Summits Secretariat.

The Secretariat has devised a method for presenting the member states' reports on the implementation of the Summit mandates to enable effective monitoring of the progress made in terms of concrete achievements and the next steps to take.

During the thirty-seventh regular session of the General Assembly, the Summits Secretariat organized a dialogue between the ministers of foreign affairs and representatives of civil society and coordinated the participation of 78 civil society organizations and 16 presentations from civil society. On the eve of this event, the Summits Secretariat coordinated an informal dialogue between the OAS Secretary General and over 120 representatives of civil society.

Prior to the General Assembly session, on May 10 and 11 the Summits Secretariat organized a roundtable with civil society on the hemispheric agenda, which was held at OAS headquarters in Washington, D.C., in conjunction with the Special Meeting of the SIRG. Forty-four representatives of civil society took part in the event and prepared a document titled *Civil Society Recommendations from the Roundtable with Civil Society on the Hemispheric Agenda*, in which five issues are examined: energy for sustainable development; promotion of democracy and good governance; promotion and protection of human rights; hemispheric security; social development and the fight against poverty. The recommendations were presented to the OAS member states at the Special Meeting of the SIRG held on May 11, 2007, and were also conveyed to the ministers of foreign affairs of all the member states.

At its ministerial meeting during the General Assembly session held in Panama City, the Summit Implementation Review Group prepared and presented a report on its work on the implementation of the Summit mandates, titled "*Achievements of the Summits of the Americas. Progress since Mar del Plata.*"

Nine civil society organizations were selected to receive a total of US\$100,000 in funds to conduct projects under the "Inter-American Initiative for Cooperation with Civil Society, 2006-2007", with the support of the Open Society Institute. The organizations selected to conduct projects under the Initiative were active in the following areas: promoting and disseminating the Inter-American Democratic Charter; cultivating the capacity of civil society and governments to prevent torture; promoting women's human rights in order to tackle the problem of domestic violence; the human rights of immigrants in border areas; the fight against racial discrimination; promoting the human rights of the indigenous peoples of the Americas; promoting women's political participation in the Americas; progress made in the application of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption; facilitating the creation of civil society networks; and overseeing fulfillment of the mandates from the Summits of the Americas.

In 2007, the Secretariat obtained external funding of approximately US\$875. The Secretariat is also in negotiations with the Governments of Canada and Germany to finance projects to strengthen the Summits Secretariat (US\$1,200,000) and to promote the participation of indigenous persons in OAS activities and in the inter-American system (€500,000).

2.2 OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL

In accordance with Article 115 of the OAS Charter and in keeping with measures and policy decided by the General Assembly and the pertinent resolutions of the Councils, the Office of the Assistant Secretary General serves as Secretary of the Permanent Council, provides advisory services to the Secretary General, and is responsible for all activities the latter may entrust to him.

Office of the Assistant Secretary General

In 2007, the Office of the Assistant Secretary General provided advisory services to the Secretary General, supported the activities of various offices of the General Secretariat, and made efforts to assist the member states in the search for solutions to issues of critical importance to them.

As Secretary of the General Assembly, the Assistant Secretary General coordinated the technical and operational services required to stage the thirty-seventh regular session of the General Assembly, which was held in Panama City, Panama, in June 2007. He also oversaw the technical services in preparation for the thirty-eight regular session of the General Assembly, slated to be held in Medellín, Colombia, in June 2008.

The Office of the Secretariat of the General Assembly, the Meeting of Consultation, the Permanent Council and Subsidiary Organs assisted the permanent representatives of the member states and the permanent observers with the preparations for and holding of regular and special meetings of the Permanent Council, and the protocolary meetings held to receive Heads of State and Government. It also provided support to the joint meetings that the Council held with the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CEPCIDI) and to the meetings of the Joint Working Group of the Permanent Council and CEPCIDI on the Draft Social Charter of the Americas. The Office of the Assistant Secretary General also continued to work with the Office of the Chair of CEPCIDI on the possible creation of a Permanent Commission on Integral Development.

When Executive Order 05-13 Rev.1 took effect in 2007, the Office of Conferences and Meetings, the Office of Cultural Services –which includes the Columbus Memorial Library and the Art Museum of the Americas-, the Coordinating Office for the Offices and Units of the General Secretariat in the Member States, and the Coordinating Office for Specialized Units (which includes the Permanent Secretariat of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), the Office of the General Director of the Inter-American Children’s Institute (IIN), the Secretariat of the Inter-American Telecommunications Commission (CITEL), and the Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee on Ports (CIP), also came under the authority of the Office of the Assistant Secretary General.

Similarly, during this reporting period, the Office of the Assistant Secretary General coordinated special and private meetings of the Permanent Council, joint meetings of the Permanent Council

and CEPCIDI, and periodic coordination meetings between the Chair of the Council and the regional coordinators.

The Office also provided its support and coordination in other instances, such as meetings of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE), the Conference of the States Party to the Inter-American Convention Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (CIFTA) and the meetings of the CIFTA Consultative Committee, the Special Committee against Transnational Organized Crime, the Working Group to prepare the Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Working Group to prepare a Draft Inter-American Convention against Racism and all Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance, and the Joint Consultative Body of the Committee on Hemispheric Security and the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development on Natural Disaster Reduction and Risk Management.

On instructions from the Secretary General, the Office of the Assistant Secretary General has also been coordinating the Secretariat's activities in the area of natural disasters. Here it has been working with the Department of Sustainable Development and the pertinent organs, agencies and entities of the inter-American system. Special attention was devoted to specific disasters in certain countries, which led to meetings of the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction. Likewise, measures were taken to obtain contributions from the Inter-American Emergency Aid Fund for countries hit by natural disasters.

The Assistant Secretary General represented the Secretary General at a number of international meetings where the issue of Haiti was discussed. He reconstituted the Group of Friends of Haiti in Washington, D.C., and travelled to the country several times to meet with government officials and interested parties.

2.2.1 Chief of Staff to the Assistant Secretary General

2.2.1.1 Office of Conferences and Meetings

The mission of the Office of Conferences and Meetings (OCM) is to identify, modernize, integrate and manage the resources earmarked for the conference services that the General Secretariat provides to the Organization's governing bodies. The OCM is divided into three sections, responsible for delivering the various conference services, language services, and documents production and distribution and information.

The OCM continued to build out and integrate its support infrastructure and services to meetings of the governing bodies and helped with the planning, organization, logistical structure and services needed to hold 725 OAS meetings. The semiannual and annual schedule of meetings was updated and more efficient use made of resources for conference services. In supporting the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs (CAAP). The OCM successfully monitored and managed Subprogram 21-C of the Regular Fund for financing unscheduled OAS meetings, and provided the support needed to hold two special sessions of the General Assembly, one in October and the other in November 2007.

A system of computerized registration was introduced for the General Assembly. The OCM continued to modernize the conference services facilities, outfitting them with more sophisticated technological equipment. Renovation of the Simón Bolívar Conference Room was completed as part of this effort.

In the area of conferences, the Office provided logistical support for the organization and holding of 725 meetings, which was a 9% increase over the previous period. A total of 685 meetings of the governing and technical bodies were held at headquarters. Then, too, 40 high-level meetings were held in the member states.

The OCM provides translation and simultaneous interpretation services in the four official languages, at all meetings of the organs, agencies and entities of the Organization, both at headquarters and in the member states. During this reporting year, more than 55,000 pages were translated into the four official languages, which is a 25% increase over last year. The policy of modernizing equipment and building out programs to support and improve the language services continued. Salient here was TRADOS, a specialized master program, and the four-language glossary called MultiTerm. The OCM kept up institutional contacts to exchange glossaries and terminology with other international organizations. The electronic library of documents and other OAS references was expanded.

The OCM produced and distributed official documents of the Organization, including master copies and their photocopying, distribution, and electronic storage. It also assisted with the program to constantly improve the archives of the Columbus Memorial Library. Among the principal activities carried out in this area are: printing and distribution of over 5,400 individual documents, together representing a print-run of over 4,500,000 pages; printing and distribution of 12,860 invitations for the Art Museum of the Americas and the Office of Protocol, which represents an increase of approximately 38% over the previous year; distribution of over 2,400 copies of minutes; modernization of equipment; data storage and documents management through the IDMS data system; in cooperation with the Department of Press and Communications, giving a wider audience in the member states access to the meetings of the governing bodies and other important events by means Webcast online transmission.

2.2.1.2 Office of Cultural Services

Columbus Memorial Library

The Columbus Memorial Library was created by the First International Conference of American States on April 18, 1890. The Library serves as an information and documentation center, providing essential information to the OAS General Secretariat, the permanent missions, the diplomatic community, and the general public interested in the Organization's work and the work of the inter-American system.

The Library is the repository of the institutional memory of the OAS, the Pan American Union, and the inter-American system. To that end, it has continued the Preservation and Digitalization Project, which will provide digital images of a select group of Permanent Council resolutions and declarations and proceedings and documents of the General Assembly. Some 50,000 images

have been identified for digitalization. In 2007, 2,548 images of OAS documents were scanned and checked for quality control. This project provides online access, via the Web, to the complete text of the OAS documents, which means that they must be converted into a digital object and machine-readable text.

Recently the Columbus Memorial Library acquired the “Library Solution” software to facilitate the creation of an Integrated Library Automation System. This system will provide services that will automate all the functions of the library.

The staff of the Library placed 9,100 bar codes –provided by “The Library Corporation”- on materials already in the database of the On Line Public Access Catalogue (OPAC). These bar codes identify each individual article and are used to link materials, users, and administrative files. The Acquisitions Unit received and processed 2,463 books and periodicals.

The Library continues to assign the International Standard Book Number (ISBN), which ensures that new OAS publications and documents are immediately available in the online catalogue.

The Reference Unit circulated 15,013 books and 1,002 periodicals and answered 5,973 information requests. Of the latter, 1,073 were received via the “Ask a Librarian” system, a service the Library provides at its Web site. Some 171 cubic meters of historical photographs were used to answer those requests, and 505 OAS documents were sent out online. The Unit also processed 721 inter-library loan requests. The Documents Control Unit answered some 1,235 requests for information, while the Archives Management Unit answered some 300 queries.

The reference service’s capability has improved with the use of a number of databases. The Library subscribes to “First Search” and can access information in 70 databases covering a wide array of issues, with access to thousands of libraries worldwide, to 5.9 million articles in electronic format, taken from 9,000 periodicals, including 3,500 e-zines.

The online search version of the “Hispanic American Periodicals Index” (HAPI) provides global information on Central and South America, Mexico, the Caribbean, the border region between Mexico and the United States, and Hispanics in the United States. The Library continues to have access to “WorldCat”, which contains over 88 million bibliographical records and over one billion items. It also subscribes to “Lexis Nexis” and “The Economic Intelligence Unit – Selected Country Profiles and the Official Document System of the United Nations OnLine”.

A total of 14,740 documents were received and processed and search aids were prepared to assist with retrieval of these documents. The Documents Collection has 324,055 historical records in paper format, from the years 1960 to 2007.

A total of 23 new classifications were provided for OAS documents and 75 OAS publications were sent to Repository Libraries and to institutions that requested donations or that have an exchange arrangement with the Columbus Memorial Library.

The Unit received 7,350 publications from various offices of the General Secretariat, some of which were added to the collection.

The Library processed and microfilmed the OAS Official Records Series and then sent it to university and specialized libraries. Proceeds from sales helped the Library fulfill its mandate of seeking external sources of funding. With those proceeds a total of \$19,752 was deposited in the Hipólito Unanue account.

The Columbus Memorial Library staged six exhibits featuring books from Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Panama, Peru, Spain, and Uruguay, donated by the Group of Friends of the Library; books donated by the *Universidad San Martín de Porres*, Lima, Peru; the Exhibit on Youth in the Americas on the occasion of the OAS Youth Symposium; Caribbean/US Relations, staged in conjunction with the Conference on the Caribbean; Places of Worship in the Americas, and Jewels from the Rare Books Collection.

The Group of Friends of the Library deserves special mention. Established in 1994, it is mainly composed of the ambassadors with the permanent missions and permanent observer missions. The purpose of the Group is to help the Columbus Memorial Library conduct some of its activities and promote its programs. Ambassador Aristides Royo, Permanent Representative of Panama, currently chairs the Group.

Art Museum of the Americas

The Art Museum of the Americas was created in 1976 by a resolution of the Permanent Council. Its purpose is to promote artistic output, understanding, and cultural cooperation in the Hemisphere. The museum collects and preserves works of artistic and historical merit for the permanent collection as well as documentary material for the art archives. It organizes exhibits at headquarters and away from it, engages in educational events and stages public programs and cultural events, some in partnership with other like institutions. It also provides reference services.

In 2007, the Museum mounted the following exhibits at its headquarters: “*!Merengue! Ritmos Visuales*” in collaboration with the Dominican Republic’s *Centro Cultural León Jiménez*; “Landings 5,” a cultural project of Belize’s National Institute of Culture and History; “Imagining Guatemala, Photographs from the CIRMA Collection, 1850-2006,” in collaboration with the *Centro de Investigaciones Regionales de Mesoamérica*; and “Mexico Festival of Toys,” an interactive exhibit staged in cooperation with the *Museo del Niño Papalote* and the Instituto Cultural de México.

Exhibits were also on view at the “Terrace Level” of the GSB Building. These included: “Landmines and Children in Nicaragua,” done in cooperation with the Office of Humanitarian Mine Action; “Forty-Eight States,” images by U.S. photographer Candace Gaudani; and a photographic exhibit documenting the humanitarian work of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and staged with its cooperation.

Thanks to a generous grant from the Government of Brazil to equip a screening room, in 2007 the Museum ran 14 films as part of its Cine-Americas program: “*O Caminho das Nuvens*,” “*Eu Tu Eles*,” “*Central do Brasil*,” and “*Peoes*” (the Brazilian Series); “*Donde acaban los caminos*,” “*Lo que soñó Sebastián*,” and “*Las Cruces: Poblado próximo*” (the Guatemalan Series); “*Bolívar Soy Yo*,” “*Confesión a Laura*,” “*Maria Cano*,” “*Los Colombianos, Tal como Son*,” and “*En Busca de Gabo*” (the Colombian Series); and “*Sé que me vienen a Matar*” and “*Mientras llega el Día*” (the Ecuadoran Series).

The Museum also organized the following exhibits from the Permanent Collection in 2007, which were staged away from headquarters: “The Art of the Print,” which went to the Cultural Center in Dallas, Texas, and “Outstanding works by artists from the English, French, and Dutch-speaking Caribbean,” presented at the Inter-American Development Bank’s Cultural Center. Works from the collection were also loaned to the Italian-Latin American Institute in Rome for the exhibit “Chromatic Structures of Fanny Sanin” and to the IDB Cultural Center for the exhibit on “Artful Diplomacy: Art as Latin America’s Ambassador in the U.S.” For the Conference on Youth organized by the YABT, the Museum displayed a selection from its collection Images of Children and Families.

As part of its “in-office art” loans, some 235 works from the collection are on loan to designated offices and public areas in the buildings at headquarters.

During this reporting period, 14 works were donated to the permanent collection, including paintings by Bolivia’s Fernando Montes and El Salvador’s Ernesto "San" Avilés; prints by Uruguay’s Ignacio Iturria, Mexico’s José Luis Cuevas, Brazil’s Antonio Poteiro, Argentina’s Raúl Soldi, Peru’s Fernando de Szyszlo, and Ecuador’s Galo Galecio; photographs by the United States’ Candace Gaudiani and a drawing by Colombia’s Carlos Duque. Works from the permanent collection were reprinted in various academic publications in 2007, including *Art History* by Marilyn Stokstad (Prentice Hall); *Memorias de Pedro Friedebeg* by James Oles; *Avancemos 2007* (Nivel 3) from McDougal Little; and *Imágenes Proyectadas* from the *Centro Cultural Muros de México*.

In 2007, the Museum offered six lectures in connection with the Museum’s exhibits: “The visual rhythms of the *merengue* in Dominican art,” delivered by Sara Hermann, curator of the *Centro Cultural León Jiménez*; “Nationalism in Dominican Music,” delivered by musicologist Floralba Del Monte; “Playing Life” by percussionist Fellé Vega; “Images and Realities in Society and Culture in Guatemala,” delivered by Tani Marilena Adams, former Director of CIRMA; “Reflections on contemporary photography in Guatemala,” delivered by photographer José Manuel Mayorga; “Guatemala’s Paradox: Political Pursuits, Ethnic Diversity, and Warring Images,” delivered by Dr. Deborah J. Yashar, Director of the “Latin American Studies” Program at Princeton University. The Museum also presented 16 art workshops on issues related to immigration and community, the Dominican *merengue*, Guatemalan kites, and Mexican toys. Similarly, 1,820 persons from universities, high schools, and other educational or cultural institutions took guided tours and participated in informative sessions. Another 654 attended lectures, films and workshops supported in part by the Charles Delmar Foundation.

In 2007, the following catalogues were prepared for their exhibits, all financed by external sources: “*¡Merengue Ritmos Visuales!*,” a 92-page color catalogue; “Landings 5,” a 128-page color catalogue, and “Imagining Guatemala,” a 134-page catalogue in black and white.

In 2007, the Museum participated in “artDC,” Washington’s first art fair held in the Washington Convention Center. The Museum had its own booth at the three-day fair, where Museum staff provided information on the Museum’s exhibits and programs, handing out brochures and showing videos. An estimated 10,000 people visited artDC.

In collaboration with the Friends of the Museum and the Association of Ibero-American Cultural Attaches, “RemArte 2007” was organized, an art auction to raise funds and to attract new members to the Friends of the Museum. In collaboration with the National Museum of Women in the Arts, the Center for Latin American Studies of Georgetown University and Editorial Televisa, a special program was presented in the Hall of the Americas, titled “A Night with Isabel Allende.” The Museum also cooperated with the *Galería La Sala* in Chile to organize a national art competition. As a result a mural painting was donated to the Museum’s collection. The winning work, by Chilean artist Rodrigo Cabezas, was selected by a prestigious panel and put on display in the GSB Building in 2008. The Chilean competition will be the model for similar competitions in other member countries.

Around 19,000 people attended the Museum’s programs at headquarters, which was a 30% increase over 2006. The Museum’s web page registered 359,259 hits.

2.2.1.3 Coordinating Office for the Offices and Units of the General Secretariat in the Member States

The Coordinating Office has made efforts to improve the Offices’ cost structures and operating efficiencies and to evaluate how the new strategies and management guidelines are being implemented to improve efficiency and productivity.

Similarly, with a view to optimizing on-site representation, and in coordination with the Department of Human Resources, the functions and responsibilities of the OAS representatives in the member states have been updated to reflect more active team work that is more responsive to OAS priorities and mandates. The Coordinating Office and the Department of Human Resources have also prepared Spanish language courses for some English-speaking offices.

During this reporting period, obsolete vehicles at the offices were replaced and they were supplied with 17 computers and over 13 new scanners.

2.3 SECRETARIAT FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS

Established by Executive Order 05-13 Rev. 1, the Secretariat for Political Affairs has three departments: the Department of Sustainable Democracy and Special Missions, the Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation, and the Department of State Modernization and Good Governance.

2.3.1 Department of Sustainable Democracy and Special Missions

The Department of Sustainable Democracy and Special Missions (DSDSM) of the Secretariat for Political Affairs embodies the OAS' institutional capacity for political analysis and crisis prevention, management, and resolution. Its principal function is to assist the Secretary General and Assistant Secretary General in their efforts to address and prevent the political-institutional challenges, situations, and crises that arise or may arise in the region. As part of that mission, the DSDSM uses a multiple scenario method to do political assessments of a variety of situations, using political, economic, and social indicators. The ultimate goal is to recommend courses of action to officials of the General Secretariat. The Department also provides technical advice and support to the special missions established by the Permanent Council and/or the Secretary General in response to a political-institutional crisis or at a member state's request.

In the area of political analysis and institutional-capacity building, the Department organized two international forums in 2007 to continue discussion of issues vital to the sustainable democracy of the member states and the prospects for strengthening the OAS' response capability. The speakers at each of the two forums were recognized figures in the political and/or academic realms or in specific sectors, depending on their specific topic. Among them were members of the Democracy Practitioners Network. The Santiago Forum held in January 2007 was a discussion of political-institutional structures that affect democratic governance. The Lima Forum, in December 2007, examined, from the standpoint of state and non-state actors, the institutional role of the OAS and of the states vis-à-vis the need for a fully engaged citizenry that tackles the challenges that extreme poverty and inequality pose for democracy. Both activities were conducted with support from the Canadian Government and were attended by government officials, delegations representing the OAS member states, political leaders, representatives from civil society organizations, the academic sector, journalists, and members of the diplomatic corps.

In 2007, the Department of Sustainable Democracy and Special Missions conducted a series of roundtables for the Department's staff designed to enhance their understanding and knowledge of key issues that affect democratic sustainability in the region. Specialists from various sectors (academia, politics, journalism, and so forth) and from various countries of the region participated in these roundtables. The presentations and discussions emanating from these events shed light on the implications that the chosen issues have for democratic governance. The first roundtable was held on August 20 and titled "The Impact of (In) Security on Democratic Governance in Mexico, Central America, and the Dominican Republic." The roundtable was divided into three panels: Central America and Mexico; the Northern Triangle, and the Southern Triangle (including Panama and the Dominican Republic).

The Department also created a database of experts from throughout the region, on issues considered in the Inter-American Democratic Charter, such as electoral reform, access to justice, citizen participation, constitutional reform, good governance, transparency, and others. The database is intended to facilitate the work of the Secretariat for Political Affairs, to enable it to find experts on specific topics and persons able to participate in Electoral Observation Missions, forums and workshops organized by the GS/OAS. The database now lists around 80 experts in government, the private sector, and the academic world, from all the member states.

Special Missions

The Secretary General continued to provide his support to the Ecuadorian Government's efforts to foster democratic stability and to develop the constituent process. In response to the Ecuadorian authorities' request for support, the OAS Secretary General confirmed the appointment of José Antonio Viera-Gallo as his Personal Envoy for Ecuador. When Mr. Viera-Gallo was subsequently appointed a Minister of State, the Secretary General named Mr. Enrique Correa to replace him. In 2007, Mr. Correa maintained contact with the authorities and a broad spectrum of stakeholders in the country. He did an *in situ* follow up on the political, legal, and technical aspects of the constituent process (convocation, election, and installation of the Constituent Assembly) and headed the electoral observation mission deployed for the popular referendum on convocation of the Assembly and the election of its members. These activities were conducted in close coordination with government authorities, in keeping with the provisions of the Inter-American Democratic Charter and the OAS Charter. The GS/OAS also facilitated an exchange of international experience in constituent processes and offered the Assembly's new officers its support in carrying out the process.

In 2007, in the post mobilization of the Colombian United Self-Defense Forces (AUC), the OAS Mission to Support the Peace Process in Colombia (MAPP/OAS) focused on verification of the dismantling of this illegal group's armed structure and the reintegration of the more than 30,000 former combatants, monitoring the law and order situation in areas where the AUC were a presence, and ensuring enforcement of the Justice and Peace Law. Within this framework, in 2007 the MAPP/OAS checked on the communities that had been victims of the violence and pivotal subjects in the process. It also supported local peace initiatives. The Mission has also been instrumental in orchestrating the measures taken by the various state institutions, and has partnered with and helped build confidence in the communities affected by the violence.

Through the Fund for Peace, the Department continued its international political facilitation, especially in connection with the *differendum* between Belize and Guatemala. Through the Secretary General's Special Representative for Belize and Guatemala, the GS/OAS was facilitating the negotiations in progress under the "Agreement on a framework of negotiation and confidence-building measures" that the governments of Belize and Guatemala signed on September 5, 2005. In the course of the negotiations, the Secretary General suggested recourse to the International Court of Justice or a court of arbitration to settle various aspects of the territorial dispute. At the request of both parties, the OAS will continue to help carve out a compromise agreement whose terms will be submitted to the appropriate body for a decision.

The Office of the OAS General Secretariat in the Adjacency Zone is conducting a series of verifications and activities to assist institutions in Belize and Guatemala, including the Armed Forces. In 2007, the Project for Resettlement of the Santa Rosa Community got underway, in which a community of 17 Guatemalan families in the Adjacency Zone administered by Belize are being voluntarily relocated to Guatemalan territory. Once land was acquired, 11 of the 17 families were moved. The project is expected to be completed by mid March 2008.

The International Forensic Commission was created at the request of the Colombian Government, for the purpose of helping with the investigations into the June 2007 killings of 11 deputies in Valle del Cauca Department and with identification of their remains. Under the terms of the agreement concluded between the Colombian Government and the OAS General Secretariat, the Commission: i) provided technical assistance and advisory services; ii) examined and studied the evidence to arrive at independent findings as to the identification of the remains and then reported its findings to the Colombian Government, thereby making it possible for the remains to be handed over to the next of kin; and iii) used autopsy observations and other important information made available to the Commission to find possible answers to the questions at the heart of the investigation, such as the cause and manner of death. The Commission's presence was an additional guarantee to ensure that proper procedure was followed in identifying the bodies and establishing the cause of death. The Commission's official findings were presented in a report that the Secretary General presented to the Permanent Council.

As for technical assistance, the Department is participating in the exercises conducted as part of the Peacekeeping Operations North and the Peacekeeping Operations South, supported by the United Nations and sponsored by the United States Southern Command. The purpose of these exercises is to sharpen the skills and knowledge of those who participate in the PKO and foster cooperation between and among Latin American military, nongovernmental organizations, international organizations, and governmental organizations. In conjunction with the United States Institute for Peace, the Department is also a co-facilitator/instructor in the Inter-American Defense College's module on Crisis Management Mechanisms.

2.3.2 Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation

The Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation was created by the General Secretariat in 2007 and coordinates the special measures taken to promote and support improved electoral systems and institutions and the holding of clear, fair, and equitable elections in the member states.

One of the Department's basic activities is to organize, coordinate, and conduct the electoral observation missions requested by the member states. In 2007, the OAS deployed 8 electoral observation missions in 6 member states. Participating were over 650 observers and experts on election-related matters. The electoral observation missions conducted were the following:

- Ecuador: Popular referendum on the installation of a Constituent Assembly (April 15, 2007)
- Jamaica: Parliamentary elections (September 3, 2007)

- Guatemala: General elections (September 9, 2007)
- Ecuador: Constituent Assembly (September 30, 2007)
- Costa Rica: Referendum on the Free Trade Agreement with the Dominican Republic, Central America, and the United States (October 7, 2007)
- Colombia: Elections for governors, mayors, deputies, city council members, and members of the local administrative boards (October 28, 2007)
- Guatemala: Second round of presidential elections (November 4, 2007)
- Paraguay: Internal elections of the National Republic Association (ANR) – Colorado Party (December 16, 2007)

Electoral Technical Cooperation

As for electoral technical cooperation, the Department continued to work on initiatives focusing on modernizing and upgrading the quality of the services that the electoral bodies provide and strengthening their institutional capacity to hold free, fair, and transparent elections. In 2007, the Department worked with election officials in various member countries on such topics as: institutional-administrative reorganization; modernization of election systems; audits of voter rolls, promotion of horizontal cooperation, and others. The following activities were carried out:

El Salvador

A comprehensive audit was done of the Electoral Register to check procedures, actors, sources of information and data used or forming part of the Electoral Register. This audit determined the technical tools that El Salvador's Supreme Electoral Tribunal needs to use to ensure a clean and reliable voter roll for the 2009 elections.

Guatemala

In 2007, the last year of the project, the Department continued to assist Guatemala's Supreme Electoral Tribunal with updating and purging the register of citizens, decentralization of the voting stations, and logistics for the 2007 elections. Decentralization of the voting stations was one of the project's chief activities. The result was an increase in voter turnout in the first and second rounds of the 2007 presidential election.

Furthermore, inter-institutional meetings and workshops were held to instruct permanent and temporary officials and staff of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal about the reforms to the Law on Elections and Political Parties.

Haiti

Training sessions were held for the staff of the Electoral Council, to develop information systems and manage portals and operating systems. Software for political organizations was developed and introduced, allowing the Electoral Council to save time when processing and checking information and to improve the procedures used to check the information on parties and candidates; generate lists of candidates, ballots, and verbal procedures; implement security,

control, and monitoring measures to completely eliminate the risk of data manipulation and to decentralize activities through the Electoral Council's regional offices.

With the OAS' technical cooperation, manuals and procedures were developed that can be used to good effect in the Electoral Council's communications department. The voter roll that will be used in the upcoming senatorial elections was produced.

A pilot plan with electoral and educational content was executed, to provide services to 10% of the electorate through the use of cellular telephony.

Honduras

In 2007, the Electoral System Support Program in Honduras worked with the Supreme Electoral Tribunal on an analysis of the amendments to the electoral law and on identifying possible administrative reforms at the institutional level. The Department provided its cooperation in preparing rules to ensure a better-run election process. A handbook was put together that establishes four basic procedures for the Voter Registration System. With a view to the elections scheduled in Honduras in 2008, the Department helped the Supreme Electoral Tribunal put together the General Plan for Primary Elections, which consists of 11 projects that identify the procedures and activities that should be implemented.

Studies and development of methodology

The Project on Strategic-Electoral Analysis in the Americas was conducted in 2007. It examined the elections conducted in what was the most election-intensive period in the history of the countries of this Hemisphere (2005-2006) and the OAS electoral observation missions. The findings of that analysis were presented in the publication titled "The 2005-2006 Election Cycle in the Americas: An Assessment by the OAS General Secretariat." The results were also presented at an International Forum held in Panama City on June 2, 2007, within the framework of the OAS General Assembly.

In 2007, the Department continued to work on standardizing the criteria and the method of the Organization's electoral observation, an initiative formally launched in 2006. In October 2007, a publication was released titled "Electoral Observation Method of the Organization: A Manual for the Electoral Observation Missions of the OAS." That Manual was introduced for the first time at the Second International Meeting on the Implementation of the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation, which the Department for Electoral Cooperation and Observation organized at OAS headquarters in Washington, D.C. Representatives of 33 organizations that monitor elections around the world were present at the meeting.

2.3.3 Department of State Modernization and Good Governance

The Department of State Modernization and Good Governance was established by Executive Order No. 05-13 Rev. 3 of March 30, 2007, which spells out its assigned mission and the functions it is currently performing. While some of those functions are related to programs and activities that the Secretariat for Political Affairs has been conducting for some time, others are

activities and issues that, although not unrelated to the work of the GS/OAS, introduce a new angle on state modernization and good governance.

Decentralization Section

The local milieu is a fundamental economic and political space in which to promote economic and social development, strengthen democracy, and enhance good governance. This section works on decentralization, local government and citizen participation, on the premise that all three are closely interrelated.

The Decentralization Section is technical secretariat of the High-Level Inter-American Network on Decentralization, Local Government and Citizen Participation (RIAD), which the OAS established to help achieve the commitments of the Inter-American Summits. In this reporting period, the Section provided assistance to the RIAD authorities for their planning and coordination meetings, such as the meeting that the RIAD Executive Committee held at OAS headquarters in January 2007. There, the committee decided to implement the project on “The consequences of decentralization in the Americas and the challenges of democratic governance.” On that basis, and in compliance with General Assembly resolution AG/RES. 2119 (XXXV-O/05), the Section has completed six studies on social, economic, financial, and political aspects of decentralization and good governance. These studies were conducted with the financial support of the Open Society Institute and with cooperation and input from other institutions and offices of the General Secretariat. On February 28, 2008, a seminar was held on this theme which will further the dialogue among stakeholders in these fields and will provide input for the section’s future work.

The Section has also been actively working to find funding for specific RIAD topics, such as citizen participation. It has partnered with the Transparency and Good Governance Section to find funding for a project on access to public information called “Promoting a culture of institutional transparency at the local level.” It is also working with the Transparency and Good Governance Section and with the Office of Legal Affairs on implementation of resolution AG/RES. 2288 (XXXVII-O/07 “Access to Public Information: Strengthening Democracy.”

Section for Support to Legislative Institutions

In September 2007, with the support of the Public Administration Development Section and in cooperation with the Permanent Secretariat of FOPREL (*Foro de Presidentes de los Poderes Legislativos de Centro América y República Dominicana*) and the House of Deputies of the Dominican Republic, the Section on Support to Legislative Institutions staged a seminar for Central American lawmakers: “The role of legislatures in battling corruption.” The seminar was particularly concerned with developing and circulating practical recommendations on how best to foster greater knowledge and understanding of the Inter-American Democratic Charter and the Inter-American Convention against Corruption.

With funding from the Government of Sweden, in 2007 the Project to Support the Strengthening of Guatemala’s Congress continued to assist authorities and staff of the Guatemalan Congress with their efforts to modernize and strengthen its affairs and coordinate its various offices.

Assistance was provided to the Citizens' Affairs Office with a view to bringing its officials and staff up to date on the latest methods that can be used to improve relations with society overall and the delivery of services to the public. Advisory assistance was also provided to bring about better coordination between the Citizens' Affairs Office and the Office of the Director of Protocol, the Legislative Affairs Office, the Security Department, the Technical Support Unit and the Office of the Director of Legislative Modernization. Training and refresher seminars were organized for staff of the Public Communications Office and the Editorial and Media Analysis Office. That office was advised on how to develop and monitor an institutional communications strategy.

Support was provided to the Office of the Director for Legislative Modernization to conduct a diagnostic study of how secure the legislative information system is. It found that the data processing equipment, software, and procedures were out of date. The support will continue so that the latest equipment and software can be acquired. Advisory services were also provided to the Unit of Transparency and Auditing of Public Revenues and Expenditures and support was provided to enable it to acquire proper equipment.

Support continued to be provided to the Women's Commission and the Indigenous Communities Commission, facilitating inter-party dialogue on bills pertaining to both topics. Efforts were made to promote and enable the creation of space for dialogue and greater interaction with diverse institutions in civil society.

Public Administration Development Section

Democracies in the region require states that are capable of rising to the complex demands from the public, of fostering a fully democratic citizenship, and of reducing poverty and inequality. It is therefore imperative that the public sector's human and institutional capacity be cultivated.

Drawing on the OAS' decade of experience in educating political and social leaders in democratic good governance through the Program for the Promotion of Democratic Leadership and Citizenship–PROLIDEM and the Training Program for Democratic Leaders–CALIDEM, the area cooperated with social, academic, and political institutions to build capacities in the public sector.

With a view to creating an inter-American center for training in public administration, which will teach and instill the values and practices of democratic governance in public officials and civil servants, the section designed a series of participatory workshops and new methods, and executed agreements with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Ibero-American Youth Organization (OIJ).

The section enhanced the capacities of the other sections of the Department to design and execute courses, workshops, and seminars. The Public Administration Development Section assisted the Section for Support to Legislative Institutions with design and execution of the "Seminar/Workshop for Lawmakers in Central America and the Dominican Republic: The Role of the Legislative Branch in Combating Corruption." It assisted the Decentralization Section by collaborating on two events conducted under the Project on the Consequences of Decentralization in the Context of the Challenges of Democratic Good Governance:" the

Project's Technical Workshop on October 4, 2007, and the Hemispheric Forum, held February 28, 2008, both at OAS headquarters. The Public Administration Development Section also provided technical assistance to the Transparency and Good Governance Section.

The section also provided technical advisory assistance to the Inter-American Program on Education in Democratic Values and Practices, in coordination with the OAS Department of Education and Culture.

Transparency and Good Governance Section

The persistence and scale of corruption in the countries of the Hemisphere and the significant toll it takes on society necessitate a redoubled effort and resolve to encourage transparency and integrity in the institutions of the State. Therefore, to build on the efforts being made by the member countries of the OAS to adopt domestic and international legal instruments, the OAS General Secretariat, through the Department of State Modernization and Good Governance (DSMGG), has set about promoting initiatives in partnership with the governments and institutions in the public sector, to map out strategies by which to effectively implement mechanisms to prevent and correct corruption and encourage integrity, transparency, and accountability on the part of public servants. The idea is to strengthen the instruments the inter-American system already has to combat corruption.

In addition, during this reporting period, the DSMGG's Transparency and Good Governance Section made progress on the following initiatives:

Design of the Guide to Mechanisms for Combating Corruption was completed, as was its first phase, which involved compiling, analyzing, and organizing information on five countries in the Hemisphere: Bolivia, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, and Venezuela. The purpose of the guide is to serve as a reference on various matters related to the fight against corruption in the Americas, including general information on context; analytical tools, such as various indicators, surveys, and indices; a compendium of international instruments; public institutions, national anti-corruption initiatives and mechanisms; civil society initiatives; possible solutions, among them the use of new technologies to support government activities—e-government. Under its Program "Democracy Practitioners," the United States Government has provided financial support to help fund the design and first phase of the Guide.

Through the General Secretariat's established institutional channels, progress was made on preparation and approval of the following projects, which are expected to get underway during the first quarter of 2008:

The project on "Support for prevention or management of conflicts of interest in public service" through development of preventive, motivational, and educational strategies, with the cooperation of the Public Administration Development Section: the goal of this project is to build up the institutional capacities of state institutions to prevent and manage conflicts of interest by offering ways to discourage such conflicts, determine how to handle them when they emerge, and establish clear definitions of what constitutes proper conduct and what it is not.

The project on “Promoting interparliamentary cooperation on matters related to access to public information,” in collaboration with the section for support to legislative institutions: the purpose of this project is to encourage cooperation among national legislatures in order to adopt and put into practice proper standards to ensure access to public information and to cultivate a culture of transparency in the countries’ legislative institutions.

The program on “Access to Public Information: Promoting a Culture of Transparency at the Subnational Levels” is being conducted jointly with the Decentralization Section and is intended to encourage horizontal cooperation and a sharing of information and successful experiences in access to public information among local governments. Other objectives of the project are to strengthen institutional mechanisms, promote innovative strategies and instruments, and encourage implementation of existing ones.

In furtherance of resolution AG/RES. 2288 (XXXVII-O/07) “Access to Public Information: Strengthening Democracy,” as part of the working group composed of the Department of International Law, the Rapporteurship for Freedom of Expression, the Trust for the Americas, and the Department of State Modernization and Good Governance, progress was made on preparing the DSMGG’s contribution to the document containing recommendations on access to information, especially from the standpoint of democratic good governance.

2.4 EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT FOR INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT

The mission of the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) is to assist the member states with their efforts to reduce poverty and achieve greater economic and social development. It does this by implementing programs, projects, and activities in partnership and by supporting dialogue at the highest levels to define policies and set priorities in the areas of action established in the Strategic Plan for Partnership for Integral Development 2006-2009 (hereinafter the “Strategic Plan”): Social development and the creation of productive employment; Education; Economic diversification and integration, Trade liberalization and market access; Scientific development and exchange and transfer of technology; Strengthening of democratic institutions; Sustainable development of tourism; Sustainable development and environment; and Culture.

As the Strategic Plan states, the partnership it envisages can be on two levels. The first is the policy level, where the goal is to strengthen the dialogue and the institutional arrangements and mechanisms that are critical for the governments and the General Secretariat to be able to implement the Plan. The second level is programmatic and involves identification of a number of priority areas to ensure a focused and effective partnership. These priority areas are those that are of particular concern to the member states and in which the OAS enjoys comparative advantages.

The Executive Secretariat for Integral Development serves as a catalyst so that policy agreements materialize into concrete measures either through new activities or by reinforcing or bolstering existing activities. These are intended to generate and implement policies and programs to reduce poverty and inequality and to follow up on the mandates of the General Assembly, the Summits of the Americas, the sectoral meetings in the framework of CIDI, and the inter-American committees.

Office of the Executive Secretary (OES)

Through the Office of its Executive Secretary, in 2007 SEDI continued to support the CIDI policy-making bodies, through active coordination with the various offices of the Secretariat. It also continued to promote implementation of programs and to marshal external resources to support the countries’ own development efforts. In so doing, it helped strengthen democratic governance in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The gains made this year with implementation of the two main programs of the Office of the Executive Secretary, both of which are supported by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), are around specific themes whose goal is to set clear and innovative guidelines for projects in partnership for development.

- New Programming Approaches Program (NPA)

In 2007, the NPA Program, which is based on principles of horizontal cooperation, strategic partnership and efficient use of information and communication technologies (ICTs), successfully completed four projects: (i) Efficient and Transparent Municipalities (MuNet); (ii) Computers for Schools/Communities (CFS/CFC); (iii) the Best Practices Forum of the Americas, and (iv) Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). These projects helped to accelerate modernization of the public sector in the region, which is vital to improving that sector's efficiency and transparency and to promoting citizen participation.

Three new projects were launched during the year: (i) Improving democratic governance in Latin America and the Caribbean: e-learning to build up institutional capacity and involving 10 online courses for over 1,000 government officials from Latin America and the Caribbean; (ii) Education for a Democratic Citizenry in the Caribbean, whose purpose is to better equip school teachers to impart democratic values and practices in the classroom, and (iii) E-Government Service Centers that promote sharing of the infrastructure of information and communication technologies so that these technologies are incorporated into municipal management, thereby bringing e-Government solutions and services to the citizenry.

The municipal development and modernization area was centered in the activities of the Efficient and Transparent Municipalities (MuNet) project, which features an e-government component and a cadastre and property registry component. In 2007, 17 municipalities in Latin America began to introduce e-government solutions, which the OES developed and passed along in the e-Muni applications platform. This platform, which includes three technological support tools—namely, MuniPortal (municipal portals), MuniCompra (municipal procurement), and MuniServi (municipal services for citizens)—enabled the participating municipalities to join the information society.

MuNet became so well established in 2007 that horizontal cooperation between and among participating municipalities increased and the OAS was able to strengthen its alliances with other organizations. The World Bank's International Finance Corporation (IFC) invited MuNet to join the *Municipal Scorecard* (www.municipalscorecard.org) initiative, a program focusing on the Caribbean that provides comparative data on the quality and efficiency of municipal-level private sector regulation. MuNet also succeeded in leveraging the resources of the Institute for Connectivity in the Americas (ICA/IDRC) which has decided to support a second phase of the e-government component that will benefit another 300 municipalities in the region in 2008 and 2009.

This year, MuNet successfully concluded the projects in cadastre, property registry, and property taxation. The participating municipalities instituted their cadastre and property taxation procedures using geographic information systems (GIS). Support was provided to create and circulate 500 copies of the CD containing the self-study course in "Cadastre Management." The IACD has approved a second phase of MuNet Cadastre, to be funded in 2008. In this second phase the Office of the Executive Secretary will work directly with national authorities to introduce other countries to the geographic information system (GIS). To that end, the OES began implementing a project in cooperation with the *Environmental Systems Research Institute*

(ESRI), in which municipalities in four countries have received software licenses and specialized training.

The project on Computers for Schools/Communities (CFS/CFC), implemented with the support of the IACD, ICA/IDRC and *Industry Canada*, provided seed capital to projects presented by El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Jamaica, and Paraguay. These countries had successfully planned programs to refurbish computers and obtained the needed funding. In 2007, they began to implement their programs and did much to narrow the digital divide.

In 2007, the Office also completed the latest edition of the “Best Practices Forum of the Americas.” The forum, which is open to all the countries of the Americas and coordinated jointly by the OES and the OAS Department of Sustainable Development, focused on the importance of mitigating the social, environmental, and economic impact of natural disasters. The Forum examined experiences, best practices, and lessons learned in how to reduce vulnerabilities to natural disasters by encouraging the use of new technologies in government affairs. The institutes invited were Jamaica’s Office of Disaster Preparedness (ODPEM), the Secretariat of the Center for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America (CEPREDENAC), and the head of the Division of Risk Management and Environmental Education of Peru’s Ministry of Education. As happened at previous forums, this event was recorded in an English-Spanish bilingual publication that will be distributed throughout the region.

In the area of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), with the support of the IACD and the MIF/IDB the OES continued to support training and awareness activities that FORO EMPRESA conducted in four countries. In 2007, 50 consultants were trained to promote CSR practices in the small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) that are within their supply chain, and 41 SMEs participated in the implementation of the CSR practices. A new phase of the project was launched in the Caribbean, financed by the Hemispheric Program for Integral Development.

- Hemispheric Program for Integral Development

For its part, in 2007 the Hemispheric Program for Integral Development received a second contribution of two million Canadian dollars, to strengthen the technical assistance provided to the member states by way of SEDI. The purpose of this program is to strengthen democratic governance, build institutional capacity and create opportunities for partnership in the region, and in so doing promote its human, social, and economic development.

In 2007, partial or total funding went to the following projects:

- Inter-American Partnership Networks: e-Government (Red GEALC), Government Procurement, Disaster Mitigation (coordinated by SEDI’s Department of Sustainable Development) and the Regional Network of Journalists (coordinated by the *Trust of the Americas*);
- Promoting Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the Caribbean;
- Partnership in Opportunities for Employment through Technologies in the Americas (POETA) – Eastern Caribbean Initiative (coordinated by the *Trust of the Americas*).

- Network-Based Capacity Building on Social Protection in the Caribbean (coordinated by SEDI's Department of Social Development and Employment).

Of these, the following are directly coordinated by the OES:

- Network of e-Government Leaders of Latin America and the Caribbean (Red GEALC). E-government workshops were conducted in Chile, Costa Rica, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, and Jamaica. The OES was also instrumental in the preparatory work that led to the transfer of Jamaica's OnLine Customs Service to Antigua and Barbuda.
- Inter-American Government Procurement Network. The network continued activities to raise awareness within the public and private sectors about the importance of government procurement that is both efficient and transparent, and to provide training in those sectors.
- Promoting Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the Caribbean. In 2007, the training and awareness seminars previously given under the NPA Program were expanded to the Caribbean through a new cooperative venture that SEDI entered into with ECLAC/UN, the Young Americas Business Trust (YABT), the Caribbean Association for Industry & Commerce (CAIC) and the MIF/IDB.

- Universal Civil Identity Program in the Americas

The Universal Civil Identity Program in the Americas (PUICA) was added to the OES' activities in 2007. Its mission is to eradicate under-registration in the region so as to ensure every individual's right of civil identity, which is essential for the exercise of civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights; to work to identify best practices, criteria, and standards for civil registry systems; and to provide the OAS member states with assistance in their efforts in this area.

During this reporting period, the PUICA has conducted a number of activities to strengthen the member states' systems for civil registry and identity, as part of the Identity, Registration and Participation Project," financed by the Spanish Fund. A set of concepts has been devised regarding the scope of the right to identity, as have criteria that will be used to put together a basic guide that member states can use to build up and modernize civil registry systems. A diagnostic study was prepared that describes the condition of civil registries in the region.

Under this program, a workshop was planned to bring together experts on multiculturalism in relation to civil identity. The workshop will be held in 2008. Similarly, the program planned three campaigns calculated to register persons in multicultural settings. These will create models for dealing with similar situations elsewhere in the region. A project was prepared whose objectives are to strengthen civil registry systems, promote civil identity, and develop practical tools with a view to developing public policies on the subject. Contributions have already been received from the Spanish Fund for this project.

In 2007, the Program had an opportunity to represent the General Secretariat at two very important events: the IV Meeting of Directors of Civil Registry, Identification, and Vital

Statistics of Latin America and the Caribbean and the First Regional Conference on the Right to Identity and Universal Birth Registration in Latin America. At these two events, the PUICA shared its success stories in technical assistance to member states in this area and presented a set of criteria for civil registry and identification systems that facilitate the adoption of public policies and measures aimed at universalizing civil identity in the region. Finally, the General Secretariat signed a Memorandum of Understanding with UNICEF and the IDB in August 2007 to promote partnership in the area of civil registration.

Given the mandate contained in resolution AG/RES. 2286 (XXXVII-O/07), approved by the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session, since September 2007 the PUICA has been serving as a technical support and advisory body to the Permanent Council's Working Group to Prepare an Inter-American Program for Universal Civil Registry and "the Right of Identity." PUICA provided its assistance for a special meeting of that Working Group, which was held to receive contributions to the Proposed Program. Participating in that special meeting were government experts and experts from multilateral organizations, intergovernmental organizations, and civil society organizations.

As for projects to modernize civil registries in the member states, with support from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the first phase of the project on Modernization of Haiti's National Registration and Identification System was completed. Another step taken in 2007 was to reopen the registration campaigns first launched in 2005. The process of opening up Identity Registration was completed with the registration of 445,000 new citizens. The inventory of the historical records in the National Archives has been completed and 100% of those records have been entered into an electronic database. Technological training sessions were held for the civil registration personnel.

In 2007, the OAS completed a series of initiatives under the Project to Modernize the Civil Registry in Paraguay. Funded by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the purpose of the project was to equip the institution with a modern and comprehensive registry management system, so that it would be able to quickly and accurately enter civil records and data and reliably certify them. The electronic database covered 8,594,533 records, representing 98% of all births, 79% of deaths, and 32% of marriages on file with Central Records. Under the project 377 registry officials were trained; other activities involved technology transfer, optimization of procedures, and training for civil records personnel so that they are able to continue to carry on this work in the future.

With financial support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), in 2007 Honduras' Registry Assistance Project introduced procedures and systems to improve security in registry entries. By introducing technologies with which to manage the documentary images of the records, a database has been put together containing images of 5 million records. The registration forms were updated and improved to comply with the new legal requirements and the official Internet site for the National Registry of Persons was developed. Training and workshops were held to enhance the performance of vital statistics personnel so that they are able to provide better service.

Under the Memorandum of Understanding that the OAS General Secretariat signed with the Government of Chile on technical cooperation for Caribbean countries, plans were completed for a project for modernization and institutional strengthening of civil registry in the member states of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States. The project, which SEDI will execute, draws on the states' previous efforts in this area and will begin with a pilot project in Saint Kitts and Nevis in 2008.

2.4.1 Department of Follow-up, Policies, and Programs

This Department coordinates and provides support to the process whereby decisions in the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) or its subsidiary bodies are either arrived at or implemented, as the case may be. The Department's principal activities are geared toward enabling decision-making on the part of the governing bodies and following up on their mandates. The Department is also responsible for promoting, supporting, coordinating, and facilitating the design and execution of programs, projects, and activities in partnership for development, particularly through the Special Multilateral Fund of CIDI (FEMCIDI). To perform these functions, the Department has grouped its activities into two sections: a) Ministerial Meetings Follow-up, which serves as Secretariat of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) and its subsidiary bodies, and b) Program and Project Evaluation, responsible for administering and evaluating the Special Multilateral Fund of CIDI (FEMCIDI) and other projects and activities in partnership for development.

The Ministerial Meetings Follow-up Section provides technical, substantive, and logistical support, coordinating the preparation, staging, and follow-up of ministerial and technical meetings held within the CIDI framework and meetings of the Permanent Executive Committee of CIDI (CEPCIDI), its subsidiary bodies, and the Management Board of the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD). It also assists the Agency's Executive Secretary/Director in the Agency's relations with the permanent missions, international organizations, and offices of the General Secretariat. It is also responsible for preparing (or, where appropriate, coordinating preparation of) the draft resolutions, declarations, statutes, rules of procedure, and reports that it submits to the corresponding governing bodies, and for advising their authorities and the representatives of the member states in general.

Among the partnership for development activities that the Program and Project Evaluation Section administers are partnership funds created with contributions received from countries to implement specific projects. The bulk of the Section's business centers on administering FEMCIDI. Every year, FEMCIDI has around 100 projects in progress. The projects are in all the member states, in the areas of education, science and technology, culture, social development, democracy, tourism, sustainable development and environment, and trade. The countries themselves present the project proposals, which can be for either national or multinational (regional or hemispheric) projects lasting up to four years.

The Fund is made up of voluntary contributions from the member states, which as a rule total 7 million dollars annually. In order for a country to qualify to receive cooperation from this fund, it must be a contributor to it.

- Secretariat of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development and Its Subsidiary Bodies

During this reporting period, the Secretariat coordinated the activities conducted in furtherance of the mandates emanating from the General Assembly, the Twelfth Regular Meeting of CIDI, and those adopted at the various sectoral ministerials and meetings of the inter-American committees.

In a collaborative effort with other offices of the General Secretariat, the Secretariat of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development planned, coordinated, and assisted with the preparatory work for and holding of the following sectoral meetings: the Fifteenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor, the Fifth Meeting of Ministers of Education, the Third Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Culture; and the Fifth Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Science and Technology.

As Secretariat of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI), it planned and coordinated CIDI's Twelfth Regular Meeting, which was attended by various permanent observers who gave presentations on the opportunities they offer for partnership in the activities being carried out within the OAS, particularly those within the framework of CIDI.

It is worth noting that in resolution AG/RES. 2257 (XXXVI-O/06) the General Assembly resolved to establish an immediate and temporary pause in the awarding of new 2006 graduate (PRA) and undergraduate (SPECAP) scholarships and that the pause was to remain in effect until the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) and the Permanent Council approved, in a joint meeting, the new scholarship mechanism. In resolution CEPCIDI/RES. 137 (CXXXII-O/07) CEPCIDI approved the Manual of Procedures for the Scholarship and Training Programs of the Organization of American States. In resolution CP/RES. 918 (1595/07), the Permanent Council and CEPCIDI lifted the temporary pause. The DSPP has also supported the Subcommittee on Partnership for Development Policies in the work involved in working out the provisions of the new Manual.

During the second half of 2007, CEPCIDI agreed upon a Work Plan for 2007-2008, which is responsive to the mandates from the thirty-seventh regular session of the General Assembly and to CEPCIDI's own functions of coordinating and following up on the ministerial meetings and monitoring the Department of Human Development's implementation of the new Scholarship Manual. During this reporting period, particular emphasis was placed on the mandates contained in General Assembly resolutions AG/RES. 2303 (XXXVII-O/07), AG/RES. 2304 (XXXVII-O/07), and AG/RES. 2305 (XXXVII-O/07) pertaining to strengthening the mechanisms for policy dialogue and technical cooperation within the CIDI framework, and the substantive dialogue at CIDI's regular meeting.

Finally, the Department was responsible for assisting the work of the Management Board of the IACD, processing e-mail inquiries and organizing meetings on management of technical cooperation projects financed with funds from the Special Multilateral Fund of CIDI (FEMCIDI).

- Evaluation of programs and projects: Programming of the Special Multilateral Fund of CIDI (FEMCIDI) 2007

SEDI prepared the document titled “Preliminary Proposed FEMCIDI 2007 Partnership for Development Activities Programming”, which includes 121 project proposals presented by 33 member countries. Of the 121 projects proposed, 47 are continuing and 74 are new; 56 are multilateral projects and 65 are national projects. The amount for the projects requested is US\$12,676,822. The total contributions to FEMCIDI 2007 are US \$6,528,330.

The proposed Programming document, together with the documents pertinent to the included projects (the complete project proposal, progress reports, work plans, and so on) will be sent to the members of the nonpermanent specialized committees (CENPES). According to the modified schedule, the CENPES meeting for the FEMCIDI 2006 cycle will take place February 6 through 13, 2008. The members of the eight committees will evaluate the projects and present the Management Board with their recommendations on the projects that should be funded and the level of funding recommended for each project.

The FEMCIDI 2007 Programming process involved SEDI’s detailed examination of the profiles of projects presented by the member states. SEDI selected a specific number of profiles that fit the selection criteria in force, and also based on such factors as the need to reflect a proper thematic and regional balance. In a second phase, SEDI provided careful technical and administrative support to the institutions involved in the selected profiles, to ensure that the final project proposals were prepared properly and on time. This support included trips to Bolivia, Colombia, Honduras, Nicaragua, Haiti, and Saint Kitts and Nevis.

2.4.2 Department of Education and Culture

The mission of the Department of Education and Culture (DEC) is to support the member states’ efforts to ensure a quality education for everyone and to protect and use their rich cultural heritage as a vital contribution toward achieving their economic, social, and human development. The Department discharges this mission by promoting dialogue on policy, knowledge sharing, and technical cooperation and by strengthening alliances with international organizations and civil society organizations.

- Education

In 2007 the DEC made headway with implementation of the *Inter-American Program on Education for Democratic Values and Practices*. It launched the *Inter-American Journal of Education for Democracy*. The Ministers of Education received a report analyzing the member states’ policies on civic education; the internet portal was expanded (www.educadem.oas.org); four e-bulletins were issued and assistance was provided for the organization of an international workshop on education in conflict settlement. A short video was produced on the experience of 750 teachers in Peru who participated in the pilot phase of the Hemispheric Course for Teachers: the Inter-American Democratic Charter and the teaching of democratic values and practices. The project titled ‘Education for Democratic Citizenship in the Caribbean: An On-Line Course for Educators’ was launched, convoking a meeting of “stakeholders” to make recommendations on

how this course should be designed and implemented in Caribbean territories. The “Young Scholar Program” was also launched, intended to engage young leaders from the region to work in the area of education for democracy, affording them the opportunity to make their contribution through research, reports, and other products done from their own countries or in Washington.

In 2007, the DEC supported a hemispheric effort to expand and improve early childhood policies. A hemispheric project was launched called “*Policies and strategies for a successful transition to socialization and school.*” This project is intended to complement the member states’ efforts to design, enhance, and evaluate policies to improve coverage, quality, and equity in the integral growth and development of children from ages zero to eight. In Albacete, Spain, in April, the DEC provided technical advisory assistance on the organization of the *World Congress of Infant Education for Peace*. The 58 countries attending approved the *Declaration of Albacete*. In partnership with Venezuela, Barbados, and international organizations and institutions, the symposium on *Understanding the State of the Art in Early Childhood Education and Care (the first three years of life)*” was held in May. A total of 25 member states participated (see <http://www.sedi.oas.org/dec/documentos/simposio/default.htm>).

In June and December the DEC held technical workshops to continue execution of the OAS/Van Leer Foundation project for Childhood Education and Care in rural, indigenous and border communities. In October, as part of the *Universal Forum of Cultures- Monterrey 2007*, and in coordination with the state of Nuevo León and government and civil society institutions, the DEC provided advisory assistance for holding the *First World Congress: Science, Knowledge and Early and Preschool Education*, which brought together 31 countries and 4,000 participants, reaching another 3,000 via live broadcast. Finally, the DEC partnered with the Government of Colombia to hold the Fifth Meeting of Ministers of Education. Deliberations focused on the Lessons Learned and Hemispheric Commitments for Early Childhood Education and the Joint Working Agenda. This and other priorities will serve as a reference for determining the Work Plan of the Inter-American Committee on Education. During this reporting year, the policy dialogue on education was furthered with the preparations for the Seventh Meeting of Officers of the CIE and the Executive Committee and the Preparatory Meeting of Ministers of Education.

The DEC continued to be part of the group coordinating the *Regional Educational Indicators Project (PRIE)*, whose objective is to track the progress that the 34 member countries are making in achieving the educational goals set by the Summits of the Americas, to build capacity in the statistics offices and units attached to the ministries of education, and to encourage greater reliance on data when crafting policy. The PRIE published the *Educational Panorama 2007* containing the analysis of the progress made in accomplishing the goals set by the Summits.

- Culture

As Technical Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee on Culture (CIC), the DEC assisted with the holding of the Third Regular Meeting of the CIC, and with the two meetings that the officers of that Committee held to follow the implementation of the Work Plan approved by the ministers of culture. The Plan has five thematic areas that fit the priorities established for culture at the IV Summit of the Americas and in CIDI’s Strategic Plan for Partnership for Development: (i) preservation and protection of cultural heritage; (ii) culture and the creation of decent jobs and

the overcoming of poverty; (iii) culture, diversity, and identity; (iv) culture and the role of indigenous peoples; and (v) cultural information systems.

Apropos the preservation and protection of cultural heritage, a workshop was held on “Case Studies in Combating Illicit Trafficking and Looting of Cultural Heritage” (Mexico, March 21-23). This event was the first in a series of subregional workshops to build partnerships and share experiences in protecting archeological and historic sites and goods against looting and trafficking in the Central American countries.

Salient among the horizontal cooperation activities contained in the Work Plan and intended as a means to share experiences and build institutional capacities, in April 2007 Colombia was the site of an Inter-agency Synthesis Meeting based on the results of the three sub-regional workshops held in 2006 in the Caribbean, Central America, and South America. The results of the subregional workshops were examined and analyzed, enabling the participants to coordinate follow-up and additional activities intended to strengthen and build out their cultural information systems.

The Central American Educational and Cultural Steering Committee (*Coordinadora Educativa y Cultural Centroamericana* -CECC), El Salvador’s CONCULTURA and the DEC organized a Forum Workshop in San Salvador to look at how art and culture can become elements in a strategy for social change, to prevent violence, especially organized gang violence. Participating in the event were the ministers, vice ministers, and other high-ranking authorities of culture, sports, and youth of the Central American countries, including Belize and Panama. Also present were public safety officials, and officials of NGOs, subregional, regional, and international organizations.

In June 2007, the DEC helped stage the International Seminar on Cultural Diversity in Brazil. The focus of the seminar was on sharing successful public programs, capable of being replicated elsewhere, to promote and protect cultural diversity. The seminar also looked at the most recent theoretical developments in the area, presented by guest experts from Africa, the Americas, and Europe. A visit was organized to one of the “Culture Points,” a key concept in Brazilian cultural policy that could well become a topic of horizontal cooperation in 2008.

With support from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Global Foundation for Democracy and Development (GFDD), a seminar was held in Washington in October, titled “Culture as an Engine of Economic Growth and Social Inclusion in the Americas,” which reflected upon the impact that culture has on the region’s economic and social development and on possible avenues to take to support cultural development initiatives through international cooperation. In attendance were those responsible for crafting cultural policy and representatives of international organizations.

On the issue of culture and the role of indigenous peoples, the Canadian Conservation Institute (CCI) organized a seminar on “Preserving Aboriginal Heritage: Technical and Traditional Approaches.” The DEC was the co-sponsor of the discussion group on the theme of: “Experiences from the Americas,” in which experts from Latin America shared knowledge of the conservation of tangibles and intangibles in indigenous communities.

The DEC assisted the Office of the Chair of the CIC in developing the “Plan of Action to Increase Cultural Partnership in the Americas (2007-2009),” a strategy to increase the appreciation of the contribution that culture makes to economic growth and social inclusion in the Americas. It contains concrete initiatives and activities to be carried out in the next two years. Its purpose is to provide a strategic approach to the CIC’s activities to support the member states’ implementation of policies that attach greater importance to the role that culture plays in the region’s economic, social, and human development.

2.4.3 Department of Science and Technology

Taking into account the recommendations and mandates of the member states and the priorities and forms of cooperation offered by the principal donors, the Department of Science and Technology (DST) regrouped the existing and new DST projects into three main interrelated areas: applied physical sciences and engineering, life sciences, public policies, and governance.

As Technical Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee on Science and Technology (COMCYT), the DST provided its assistance in the holding of the Fifth Regular Meeting of COMCYT in Washington, D.C., September 20 and 21, and the preparatory work of the First Meeting of that Committee’s Working Group, held in February 2008.

To advance “Engineering for the Americas,” the DST conducted a planning exercise. It advised Jamaica, Panama, and the Dominican Republic on the preparation of a project designed to improve engineering education. The project was submitted to the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) to apply for funding from the Regional Public Goods Program. The DST also advised the MERCOSUR engineering schools on establishment of a program in *entrepreneurship*. The Department has also started to put together a new program on industrial engineering and logistics, with Panama’s participation and cooperation from the Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech). It will also involve the participation of the Young Americas Business Trust (YABT).

Metrology is vital to improving businesses’ competitiveness and citizens’ quality of life through the creation of good quality jobs, especially in the import-export sector. With technical and financial support from the German Metrology Institute (PTB) a seven-year project on metrology was completed in Chile, planned and tailored to match local conditions. The DST also presented a project to the German Government that is intended to equip Bolivian and Peruvian metrology institutes with gas-measurement capability. The PTB approved the project and will provide financing on the order of one million Euros. This project will ensure the long-term energy supply that is crucial to the economic development of Argentina, Brazil, and Chile. The DST also advised the Central American countries on preparation of a subregional project to establish an integrated system of metrology services for that subregion. The project was presented to the IDB, which will help finance it through the Knowledge Partnership Korea Fund for Technology and Innovation (KPK). Also, as Executive Secretariat of the Inter-American Metrology System (SIM), the DST continued to provide assistance and technical guidance to the System and participated in its most recent General Assembly, held in Ottawa, Canada, in September. Similarly, with the PTB’s support, it published “The answer to the global quality challenge: A

national quality infrastructure,” a guide to improving the competitiveness of the businesses in the region.

In the life sciences program, the biotechnology and biosecurity program was reorganized with contributions from the Mexican Government, FEMCIDI, and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). Here, the DST is creating a new network of experts in biotechnology in which the countries of the Caribbean, Central America, Mexico, Colombia, Canada and the United States are participating. The goal of this program is institution building and cooperation among governments, universities, and research institutions and the private sector. In cooperation with the engineering and energy projects and in partnership with *CIATEJ, A.C. de México*, the Department organized the “First International Forum on Cooperative Innovation in Renewable Energy and Biotechnology,” held in Guadalajara in December. Clearly, biotechnology represents one of the most important potential resources for biofuels in the future. To create a climate conducive to innovation, the Department teamed up with Guadalajara University and George Washington University (GW) to prepare a series of three symposia for researchers and entrepreneurs from Mexico and Central America.

As part of its effort to promote development of modern networks, the DST is a member of the Executive Committee of the Latin American Federation for Cooperative Research, organized as a virtual institute to allow Latin American scientists to cooperate with each other. It was launched by Microsoft Research in Chile last May. The hope is that this initiative will revolutionize the use of information technologies in the region, enabling local solutions to be developed through the use of resources and more broad-based cooperation.

Women’s presence and participation are essential in science and technology and in our democratic institutions. Women’s perspective is basic to achieving better governance and representative democracy. As part of its efforts to continue to promote the integration of the gender perspective into science and technology, the DST participated in meetings of the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM). In the framework of the *EftA*, it encouraged deans of engineering schools to increase the number of women in engineering programs, and provided advisory assistance to the World Bank on the preparation of a session on gender in a global forum on science and technology. In partnership with the IDB, it prepared the “Workshop on Promoting the Role of Women in the Area of Science, Technology, Engineering and Innovation in the Southern Cone,” co-sponsored by Chile’s CONICYT and conducted in that country in December.

The DST also participated in a symposium on gender leadership and training at the Fogarty International Center of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and in the Conference in Bellagio, Italy, sponsored by the Rockefeller Foundation. As part of the V COMCYT, the Department organized a special session devoted to gender, in which distinguished experts from the region participated.

In conjunction with the World Federation of Science Journalists, the DST prepared a program for the growth and support of science journalism in Latin America and the Caribbean. It participated in a symposium on the social appropriation of science, organized by the Andrés Bello Agreement in Caracas, Venezuela. To be instrumental in cultivating a scientific culture, the DST also

collaborated in a project of the Inter-American Network of Academies of Sciences (IANAS), geared to improving the quality of science education from the early years of schooling. Thousands of young people from the Americas are currently participating in that project.

2.4.4 Department of Social Development and Employment

The main mission of the Department of Social Development and Employment (DSDE) is to assist member states with their efforts to further development with equity, by promoting policies and programs to reduce poverty, create decent jobs, and generate employment. It achieves these objectives through integrated activities in the following areas: i) promotion of inter-American dialogue on social development, labor, and employment; ii) promotion of partnership for development, and iii) coordination of activities with other international organizations, academics, the private sector, and civil society.

- Social Development

In furtherance of the efforts in connection with negotiation of the Social Charter of the Americas and its action plan, the DSDE provided technical advisory services to the Permanent Council/CEPCIDI Joint Working Group responsible for this topic. The Secretariat continued to offer its assistance at the negotiation meetings and with preparation of technical documents ordered by the governing body. This year, the work focused on negotiation of the provisions of the draft Social Charter.

As technical secretariat, in October the Department coordinated the Second Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Social Development (CIDES) at OAS headquarters, in response to the convocation issued by the Ministry of Planning of Chile, the Committee's chair. The principal reason for the meeting was to advance preparations for the First Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Social Development, scheduled to be held in Santiago, Chile, in July 2008. Participating in the meeting were delegations from 31 member states. The delegations included ministers and vice ministers of social development or high-ranking national authorities. Also in attendance were representatives of international organizations like the IDB, the UNDP, ECLAC, CAF, the ILO, the WFP and PAHO.

In response to the mandate from the IV Summit concerning the sharing of successes in combating poverty, the Department launched and executed the program on "Network-Based Capacity Building on Social Protection Strategies in the Caribbean," with financial support from CIDA. The purpose of the project is to strengthen the social protection strategies in the Caribbean, by analyzing and learning from the principles, lessons, and operations of Program *Puente – Chile Solidario*. In this reporting year, the Department of Social Development and Employment, in partnership with Chile's Partnership and Social Investment Fund (*Fondo de Solidaridad e Inversión Social* [FOSIS]), coordinated a training workshop in Jamaica, an internship in Chile, and engaged in constant monitoring with counterparts in Jamaica, Saint Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago using virtual communication mechanisms. For the year ahead, plans are to add new sources of funding and expand the project to other Caribbean countries.

With the World Bank taking the lead, the Department of Social Development and Employment, the IDB, and ECLAC continued to work on a second phase of an initiative on the impact of a

rights-based approach to the design and implementation of social policies. In addition to the four studies selected the previous year (Chile, Guatemala, Peru, and Uruguay), in this reporting year the case studies will be on Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, and Paraguay. The officers of the Inter-American Committee on Social Development requested that the research be expanded to include the Caribbean countries.

As technical secretariat of the Social Network for Latin America and the Caribbean, the DSDE continued to administer the network's voluntary fund and coordinated the holding of the XIV Annual Conference, held in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, in October.

- Labor

Coordinated by the Department of Social Development and Employment, the XV Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor (IACML) was held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, September 11 through 13. Participating in the conference were 27 national delegations and 25 representatives of the major labor and entrepreneurial trade unions in the Hemisphere. Also present at the meeting were OAS Secretary General José Miguel Insulza and ILO Director General Juan Somavía, who signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the Promotion of the Gender Perspective in Labor and Employment Policies. High-ranking officials of the Inter-American Development Bank, the Pan American Health Organization, CARICOM, and other international organizations were also present.

As Technical Secretariat of the IACML, the Department coordinated negotiation of the Declaration and Plan of Action of Port of Spain, which included two preparatory meetings (Costa Rica, May 2007, and Port of Spain, July 2007); it also set in motion and moderated the Virtual Forum and arranged convocation of the meeting. All these activities made for excellent participation in the IACML. The Department also prepared the technical documents for the meeting.

Paralleling the activities involved in preparation for the ministerial meeting, the Department coordinated the Inter-American Network for Labor Administration (RIAL), which is a cooperation mechanism to build up the institutional and human capacities of the ministries of labor in the Hemisphere. RIAL was launched in 2006, and further consolidated in 2007. During this reporting period, the following activities stand out:

1. The Hemispheric Workshop on Technical Assistance in San José, Costa Rica, which had 55 participants, including donor institutions and executing countries.
2. The Hemispheric Workshop on the Labor Dimension of the Free Trade Agreements and Regional Integration Processes.
3. Preparation of RIAL's first technical study on "Gender Equality for Decent Work." This paper's strategic lines of action at the hemispheric level were approved during the XV Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor.
4. Creation of the RIAL Cooperation Fund to promote bilateral cooperation between and among the ministries of labor and eight exchange and training activities.

5. Updating of the RIAL Portfolio of Programs, which includes over 80 programs carried out by the ministries of labor, offered as vehicles of horizontal cooperation.

The Department of Social Development and Employment has successfully negotiated successive agreements with the Labour Program of Human Resources and Social Development Canada, for US\$530,000, which funded the RIAL in 2006 and 2007.

By now, RIAL has provided training to 227 officials of the ministries of labor and 20 representatives of unions and employers. Ten international organizations and eleven research centers and NGOs have participated.

2.4.5 Department of Sustainable Development (DSD)

SEDI's Department of Sustainable Development is responsible for advising and assisting the member states with the design and implementation of partnership policies, programs, and projects designed to combine environmental priorities with reduction of poverty and socioeconomic development goals.

In 2007 the Department of Sustainable Development provided its assistance to the special meeting the Permanent Council held on Opportunities for Cooperation in the Development of Legal and Institutional Frameworks for Addressing Environmental Challenges in the Region. The dialogue between the member states and experts was geared toward identifying priority activities to promote cooperation, development of regional legal instruments on environmental matters, and institution building. The Department of Sustainable Development provided technical assistance to the Permanent Council/CEPCIDI Joint Working Group on the Follow-up of the Declaration of Panama: Energy for Sustainable Development, adopted by the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session (AG/DEC. 52 XXXVII-O/07). The Department continued to publish the policy series with three new issues, including one devoted to the thirty-seventh regular session of the General Assembly.

The programs and projects that the Department executes are conducted within the framework and in furtherance of the mandates contained in the Strategic Plan for Partnership for Development 2006-2009, the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development (2006–2009) (PIDS), the Declaration of Santa Cruz [AG/RES. 2312 (XXXVII-O/07)], and the Declaration on Energy for Sustainable Development, among others. These activities also seek to promote the principles of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, including public participation and democratic governance. In 2007, the Department's portfolio numbered 40 projects underway, for a total of approximately US\$60 million, in the following areas:

- Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)

The Department continued to support the member states' efforts at integrated and sustainable water resource management, mainly focusing on transboundary watersheds, by facilitating the partnerships between countries to work jointly to solve and/or prevent shared problems and to define priority activities geared to sustainable use of resources and development. Through

specific projects carried out with financial support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and under agreements concluded with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Bank, support is being provided to build up institutional capacities for management of water resources, development and consolidation of the legal and institutional framework necessary for effective management of water resources, design and implementation of measures to protect and restore ecosystems, development of data systems and implementation of programs involving public participation and environmental education. The principal projects underway include the following: the La Plata River Basin; the Amazon River Basin; the Chaco; the Guarani Aquifer, the Bermejo River Basin, the Artibonite River Basin and others.

The Department cooperated in the preparations for and holding of the VI Inter-American Dialogue on Water Management in Guatemala City. It also organized the Meeting of National IWRM Focal Points, thereby facilitating the identification of potential areas of technical cooperation and information exchange. In cooperation with UNESCO, the first volume of the series “*Transboundary Aquifers of the Americas – A Preliminary Assessment*” was published.

- Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency

The DSD promotes the use of renewable energy and efficient energy technologies and systems. Through its program Renewable Energy in the Americas (REIA), the DSD provides the member states with technical assistance in crafting policy and regulatory reforms, creating and/or building capacity, and the channeling and assessment of resources. In 2007, the DSD did a study of the viability of bioenergy in Saint Kitts and Nevis and furthered negotiation of cooperative activities in sustainable energy policy and regulatory reform in Mexico, Guatemala, and the Dominican Republic. A study on the feasibility of geothermal energy in the eastern Caribbean was done and a technical assistance project was launched in the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and El Salvador, to promote bioenergy. The DSD also continued its activities as Regional Secretariat for Latin America and the Caribbean in the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP) and the Global Village Energy Partnership (GVEP).

- Natural Hazards Risk Management

The Department’s mission in this area is to assist the member states in designing and carrying out measures geared to factoring in risk management when crafting sustainable development policies and plans. In 2007, projects were carried out under the Caribbean Hazard Mitigation Capacity Building Programme, Central American School Retrofitting Program, and Flood Early Warning and Resilience Capacity Systems Program. Other projects include the White Helmets Initiative, the Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment Program in Central America, analysis of the legalities of natural hazard risk management and preparation of a manual on the benign effects on coastal areas. The Department also continued to work to strengthen the Inter-American Network for Disaster Mitigation (INDM).

The Department assisted the Office of the Secretary General with preparations for the First Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction (CIRDN) and offered technical assistance to the Committee on Hemispheric Security, the Office of the Assistant Secretary General and other offices of the GS/OAS on the subject of natural disaster policy.

- Environmental Law, Policy, and Governance

The goal of the DSD in this area is the growth and development of environmental institutions and law in the member states on the subject of the environment and sustainable development. In 2007, the Department encouraged member states to share experiences and information on environmental challenges and potential legal and institutional responses. The platforms used for that purpose were the Inter-American Forum on Environmental Law and the Advisory Group on environmental legislation, composed of ten high-level experts from the Hemisphere. The Department also worked with the member states on preparing environmental assessments of the regulatory effects of economic integration and trade liberalization in the region, working with three MERCOSUR countries to assess the repercussions of soy production on that region's sustainable development. Progress was also made with the trade and environment in the Americas initiative, whose purpose is to build capacities for environmental management within the framework of trade.

- Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity

The purpose of this program is to foster information sharing thereby making more information available for decision making and heightening public awareness of the importance of preserving biological diversity in the Americas. Its two main projects –the Inter-American Biodiversity Network (IABIN) and the Amazon Protected Area Network (RANPA) foster the creation and standardization of national and subnational databases on species/specimens, invasive species, ecosystems, protected areas and pollinators, thus enabling interoperability and creating computerized products with value added. Through IABIN, grants totaling US\$320,000 were made to generate data that countries can use in training sessions on information technologies. Within the RANPA framework, a data system was created to maintain an online database on the situation of the protected areas in the eight countries within the Amazon River Basin. Other initiatives conducted in this area are the Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative and Sustainable Development and Bio-Cultural Conservation in the Brazil/Suriname Border Region.

- Initiatives in other areas

In 2007, the Department launched a series of seminars on the Caribbean and held a workshop on Climate Variability and Climate Change for the member States, in which the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre participated. The Department also worked with the World Bank and the Commonwealth Secretariat on Managing Climate Risk in Small-Island Developing States, as part of the Annual Forum on Small States.

In the health area, the DSD supported the member states with activities calculated to ensure sound chemicals management. In 2007, an inventory and database of chemical products in the member states were created, which include information on toxicity levels, danger to human health and the environment and the use of the chemical substances. Regional workshops for capacity building were held in Central America and the Caribbean and were attended by over 100 public officials working in this area. In a related topic, the DSD also conducted an informative session for the member states on the subject of the bird flu. The DSD also worked on innovative mechanisms for financing conservation, including the development of a database

with information on the Payment for Ecological Services (PES) system implemented in the Hemisphere.

2.4.6 Department of Trade, Tourism and Competitiveness (DTTC)

The Department of Trade, Tourism, and Competitiveness (DTTC) is composed of the Trade Section, Competitiveness Section, the Tourism Section, and the Foreign Trade Information System (SICE).

- Trade and Competitiveness

The Trade and Competitiveness Section continued to assist the member states—particularly the smaller economies—in their efforts to take on the challenges associated with the administration of trade agreements and the inclusion of productive sectors, especially the SMEs, and marginalized groups so that they reap the benefits of trade and investment as integral components of development strategies.

The Section continued the programs to hone the institutional capacities of the public agencies responsible for designing and managing trade policies. In the Caribbean, the Masters Program in International Trade was finalized and conducted in conjunction with the University of the West Indies, targeting government officials and the private sector. For the tenth year, the Department partnered with the WTO and George Washington University to offer the advanced course on trade for the Latin American countries. Under the CAFTA-DR agreement, the Department responded to training requests from the Central American countries and the Dominican Republic. With Mexico’s Secretariat of the Economy, the Department continued the Program on Successful Practices in the Administration of Trade and Integration Agreements in the Americas, which allowed the beneficiary countries to learn the lessons gained in the areas of services, intellectual property, and settlement of investor-State disputes.

To ensure that the benefits of trade reach the marginalized sectors, assistance was provided to Panama and the countries of CAFTA-DR to prepare the project on “Institution Building to Promote the Inclusion of Poor and Disadvantaged Groups in the Benefits of Trade.”

As part of the strategies to improve competitiveness, the investment procedures simplification program was expanded in the countries of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and Haiti. In cooperation with the Caribbean Association of Small and Medium Sized Enterprises, the Department continued to implement the project to make the SMEs more competitive on international markets. It concluded the research program with the World Bank on regulatory reforms in services sectors in Andean countries. The results could be used to design policies in an area that is vital to competitiveness.

Efforts were made to encourage civil society to participate more in the dialogue on trade. The approach here was to organize meetings with journalists, academics and NGOs. Support was also provided to information and dialogue initiatives, including a seminar for parliamentarians in the Caribbean. Then, too, technical assistance was provided in connection with the Secretary General’s negotiations with the United States Congress in favor of extending the preferential

treatment programs for Andean countries and CARICOM, and approval of the free trade agreements signed by Colombia, Panama, and Peru.

Recognizing the role that the private sector plays as an engine of the kind of growth that creates jobs and aware of the importance of public-private partnerships in promoting development and competitiveness, the DTTC fosters links with that sector by organizing the OAS Private Sector Forum held prior to the sessions of the General Assembly and the Summits of the Americas. In 2007, the Department teamed up with business leaders from the Hemisphere and the Government of Panama to organize the Fourth Private Sector Forum, this one on “Energy for Development in the Americas: The Role of Public-Private Partnerships” which was held on the occasion of the thirty-seventh regular session of the General Assembly in Panama. As a result of the Forum’s recommendations, the project on “Best Practices of Public-Private Partnerships in Education and Skills Training” was undertaken, the goal of which is to organize successful experiences in Latin America and the Caribbean to promote a work force that is qualified to take on the global challenges, by stimulating job creation and helping to make the region more productive and competitive.

- Tourism

In 2007, the Tourism Section continued to support individual and institutional capacity building among small tourism businesses, in keeping with the mandates set out in CIDI’s Strategic Plan for Integral Development (2006-2009). Another essential mission of the Tourism section is to facilitate the holding of the Inter-American Travel Congress. With that end in mind, discussions and consultations took place with the member states, especially Peru, The Bahamas, and Saint Lucia, to settle on the dates and agenda for the next Inter-American Travel Congress.

The “Multi-Hazard Contingency Planning Manual” was completed, in conjunction with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA), the Caribbean Hotel Association (CHA), and the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO).

Small tourism businesses continue to be an essential part of the Tourism Section’s work. A significant number of training programs were conducted in the Caribbean in the areas of revenue management and quality client services. In Latin America, assistance to small hotels continued and the Latin American Network for tourism development was expanded and institutionalized among the member states. Also, the job of expanding and updating the virtual resource center for small tourism businesses was an important part of the Section’s work in 2007. Assistance was provided to the Central American countries to put together a project on human resource capacity building and training, with particular emphasis on micro-, small- and medium-sized tourism enterprises in that region. The countries of the Andean region were assisted with preparation of the proposed program to assist small hotels in that region. Both projects were submitted to FEMCIDI for consideration and financing.

An important component of the work that this section is doing is to build out the alliances between public and private sectors. To that end, a Cooperation Agreement was concluded with the Association of International Business through Arts & Culture (IBAC) to promote cultural tourism.

To help ensure that the member states take full advantage of the advances and benefits that the new technologies offer, the section participated in the V Forum of Small Hotels of Central America, held in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, where discussion of the use and application of technology in tourism continued.

The needs of the tourism sector in Haiti were discussed and analyzed. On that basis, a program was undertaken on public attitudes and knowledge, designed to make the Haitian population more aware of the socioeconomic benefits of tourism.

- **Foreign Trade Information System (SICE)**

The purpose of the Foreign Trade Information System (SICE) is to compile and disseminate information on trade and economic integration at the SICE Website (www.sice.oas.org). SICE provides complete, up-to-date information on trade in the Hemisphere, in the four official languages of the OAS. It features documents on the following: bilateral trade agreements and investment agreements between member states of the OAS; the FTAA process; news on trade negotiations; anti-dumping; competition policy; e-commerce; intellectual property rights; investment; services, technical obstacles to trade, and trade and gender.

In 2007, SICE's interface was redesigned and new sections and tools were added. The trade policy news section was expanded, amplifying the context in which the information is presented. The section on trade agreements was reorganized, updating it and adding navigation tools to the indices of the trade agreements. SICE also continued to update the databases in the Caribbean Trade Reference Centre, which serves the entire Caribbean and was developed to make information available on the issues being discussed in the trade negotiations in which member countries of CARICOM are participating.

2.4.7 Department of Human Development

The mission of the Department of Human Development (DHD) is to promote and support the development of human capital in the member states by coordinating, administering, and executing its programs: the OAS Scholarships Program for Academic Studies and Professional Development, the Leo S. Rowe Pan American Fund, and the Educational Portal of the Americas.

- **Scholarship Program for Academic Studies and Professional Development**

During this reporting period, a new Manual of Procedures for OAS Fellowship and Training Programs was approved, aimed at a more transparent, responsible, and objective program. With that, the temporary pause that the Department had been under since 2006 was lifted.

The Secretary General appointed the Selection Committee for Scholarships for Academic Studies of the OAS (CSBEAT) to make recommendations to the General Secretariat concerning candidates for scholarships for undergraduate and graduate studies. Two selections were conducted for scholarships for academic studies. The Department of Human Development provided the CSBEAT with technical and logistical assistance throughout the complex process involved in preparing, reviewing, analyzing, and selecting the new scholarship recipients. The

committee met for the first time from June 11 through 15, awarding over 170 scholarships for the 2007-2008 academic period. The recipients have until March 2008 to begin their studies (Annex F, Table 1). In keeping with the mandates from the governing bodies, one self-placed scholarship per country was awarded; at least two scholarships per country were awarded and no single member state's universities received over 40% of the total number of fellowships awarded for graduate studies.

The total cost of the direct benefits awarded to the OAS fellowship recipients during this period came to five million twenty seven thousand six hundred twelve dollars (\$5,027,612), which breaks down into 776,970 for undergraduate studies and \$4,250,642 for graduate studies. The total cost of the direct benefits awarded to the graduate fellowship recipients placed by the OAS was \$3,253,131 (76.53%) and \$997,511 (23.47%) for self-placed scholarships.

The average per-student cost, by level of studies and method of placement for the entire period of studies, breaks down as follows:

Scholarship for undergraduate studies	\$36,999
Scholarships for OAS-placed graduate studies	\$28,044
Scholarships for self-placed graduate studies	\$33,250

For this reporting period, nine (9) students are still pending whose placement will affect the above results in one way or another. (Annex F, Table 2).

The CSBEAT met again from December 10 through 14, 2007, for the second round of selections for scholarships for the period 2008/2009. This selection process was done in accordance with the new Manual of Procedures and introduced a new criterion, which was that at least two thirds of the available Regular Fund would be for fellowships placed by the OAS. On that basis, the decision was that there would be no limit for the scholarships placed by the OAS, beyond those that the budget dictates. A total of 301 students were selected to receive a scholarship (Annex F, Table 3). The result of the placement of the scholarship recipients selected for the 2008-2009 academic year is not yet available. The DHD is currently engaged in the placement process.

For this second round, the second module of the automated management system for the scholarship program—the Fellowship Management System or FMS—was used. That module can handle the process of awarding fellowships, competition announcement, application online, and electronic transfer to the financial management module. The financial management module makes it possible to track and manage costs and monitor, update, and adjust the estimated costs, compare them with third-party estimates, and reconcile cost estimates with actual expenditures.

In 2007, the DHD worked hard to expand the OAS' Consortium of Universities. Universities in eight countries were visited to promote not just the Academic Scholarships Program but also the Rowe Fund loans program and the Educational Portal of the Americas. By year's end, 53 educational institutions in 15 member states were part of the Consortium (Annex F, Table 4), which share the funding of the OAS scholarships.

With the Consortium's expansion, new contacts were established, as was a fluid relationship with the institutions. The DHD took on the responsibility for directly placing over half of the

fellowship recipients in recognized universities (Annex F, Table 5), thus achieving a savings of over \$500,000 in tuition and placement costs.

- Professional Development Scholarships Program (PDSP)

The Professional Development Scholarships Program offers the citizens of the OAS member states opportunities to increase or update their professional experience in areas of specialization related to the OAS' priority areas. A total of 724 scholarships were awarded for Professional Development courses in 2007 (Annex F, Table 6). These scholarships were awarded to participate in courses offered by the governments, universities, institutions or organizations in the following member states and permanent observers: Argentina, Barbados, Brazil, Mexico, the United States, Venezuela, Spain, and Korea. The Inter-American Telecommunications Commission (CITEL), the Department on Trade, Tourism and Competitiveness, the International Center for Advanced Studies in Communications for Latin America (CIESPAL), the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) and the Inter-American Juridical Committee—in conjunction with the Department of Legal Affairs—offered courses in professional development in 2007, in telecommunications, trade, human rights, and international law.

- Leo S. Rowe Pan American Fund

The Leo S. Rowe Pan American Fund makes loans to persons from Latin America and the Caribbean to help finance their studies in the United States. It also makes educational and emergency loans to staff of the GS/OAS.

The Fund's total assets in 2007 were \$14.7 million; of that amount, 91.3% were in financial investments, 7.3% were loans to students and 1.4% was loans to OAS employees. The Fund continued to administer the active loans by checking for academic performance, return to country and repayment, for a total of \$1,314, 257. Lending was up 10.5% over the previous year.

For a better geographic distribution of the loans and to increase their number and size, the Fund launched a massive promotional campaign, completed the Web page in the four official languages of the OAS (www.oas.org/rowe) and conducted a survey of former beneficiaries. A total of 91 persons answered the survey. The findings indicate that 49.5% of the students returned to their country of origin. Many said that their experience in the United States had helped their professional growth, and also enabled them to contribute to their countries' development. Furthermore, 92.3% are currently employed and 53.9% say that their current position is related to the studies they pursued in the United States.

Women's ever increasing participation in all levels of education is reflected in the statistics compiled by the Fund. In 2007, 70% of the Rowe Fund loans went to women, as compared to just one third in 1995.

- Educational Portal of the Americas

The main purpose of the Educational Portal (www.educoas.org) is to promote the development and training of human resources in the Americas through the use of new information and

communications technologies, providing information on distance education, and offering training courses online, through the Virtual Classroom or in partnership with other academic institutions.

In 2007, the Portal focused on using its Virtual Classroom's Web platform to offer high-quality interactive courses. A total of 22 courses were offered online, to provide Spanish- and Portuguese-language instruction to teachers, professors, and government officials on topics like quality in basic education, e-government, training of virtual tutors, ethics and development in universities, strategy for teaching mathematics, and so on. To offer online courses, partnerships were established with government institutions, universities, and specialized units of the OAS

Support was provided to the infrastructure that offers virtual meetings and forums, and articles and quarterly bulletins were prepared and circulated. The Portal also offers access to databases with information on educational programs and courses online. Journals and monographs were circulated free of charge by way of the Digital Library.

Following the mandates from the governing bodies, the services are offered at little cost. In 2007, 3,046 professionals from the region were trained (Annex F, Table 7). Visits to the Website averaged 6.78 million per month and 1,143 new users were registered (Annex F, Table 8).

2.5 SECRETARIAT FOR MULTIDIMENSIONAL SECURITY

The Secretariat for Multidimensional Security was created by Executive Order 05-13 Rev. 1 and is composed of the following areas: the Executive Office of the Assistant Secretary for Multidimensional Security and the Departments of the Coordination of Multidimensional Security Policies and Programs; Public Security; the Executive Secretariat of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission, with the rank of department; and the Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism, with the rank of department.

Executive Office of the Assistant Secretary for Multidimensional Security

When the Assistant Secretary joined the Secretariat on January 29 and its Deputy Assistant Secretary in October, the Executive Office of the Assistant Secretary for Multidimensional Security began to advise the General Secretariat and the OAS' governing bodies on all matters related to multidimensional security. The Executive Office performed the coordination work associated with the cooperative missions between and among the member states to deal with threats to national security and citizens, acting on directives received from the General Assembly. It actively coordinated with the various member states in support of the measures to implement the Declaration on Security in the Americas and carry out its functions, which involved assistance to the governing bodies, within the framework of the Committee on Hemispheric Security. The Executive Office coordinated the effort to raise external resources to support the efforts that the countries are making through programs and projects in institutional and human capacity building, including 14 new projects approved in 2007.

- Inter-American Defense Board

Through the Executive Office of the Assistant Secretary, cooperative ties with the Inter-American Defense Board and the Inter-American Defense College were undertaken and maintained in furtherance of the mandate contained in CP/RES. 900 (1532/06), which orders that the Inter-American Defense Board (IADB) be established as an "entity" of the Organization under Article 53 of the OAS Charter.

- Technical Secretariat of the Permanent Council's Committee on Hemispheric Security and other committees whose business is related to multidimensional security

Through its Executive Office, the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security planned and coordinated the activities to efficiently comply with the directives emanating from the Permanent Council's Committee on Hemispheric Security (CSH). It began orchestrating the member states' preparations for commemoration of the "Fifth Anniversary of the Declaration on Security in the Americas."

- Cooperation with other public and private, national, regional, and international organizations

Activities associated with the peace and security missions in the Hemisphere were planned and coordinated. Particular mention should be made of the work done in cooperation with the United Nations, to help put together the National Drug Control System (NDS) of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Drug Abuse Control System coordinated by CICAD. It cooperated with the terrorism-related financial control activities, the cooperation between scientists and academics on implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540, in partnership with the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UN-LiREC). It also teamed up with institutions to organize CICTE-coordinated crisis management activities in the member states.

Through its Executive Office, the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security had meetings with UN-LiREC in which it discussed the issue of small arms and light weapons, with a view to promoting conventions and agreements. It represented the Secretary General in the coordination of the activities of the Inter-American Convention against the Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (CIFTA) to create an international trade agreement covering all conventional weapons, small arms, light and heavy weaponry. It also participated in the annual meeting of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs in Vienna, Austria; the First Technical Group on Transnational Organized Crime, in Mexico; the Second Terrorist Financing Workshop, in Lima Peru; in the Seminar /Workshop on National Legislation on Trafficking in Persons, Bogotá Colombia; and in the informal meeting on principles of small arms and light weapons transfers, in Switzerland.

The Executive Office has also organized, participated in, given presentations at and, in some cases, supported the following events:

- Presentation at the OAS by the Director of the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) on “Crime and Development in Central America,” May 23.
- Presentation at the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) on multidimensional security, April 2.
- Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Commission of Women, April 20.
- Meeting with the Assistant Secretary General and the President of CIDA to discuss the current security situation in Haiti, May 18.
- Seminar “Crime and Violence in the Central American Isthmus,” organized jointly with the IDB, May 23.
- Meeting between the Secretary General and the Dean of the Harris School of Public Policy Studies of the University of Chicago, May 24.
- Lecture “Conference on the Caribbean – A 20/20 Vision” organized by the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), June 15.
- Meeting with representatives of the “Canadian Counter-Terrorism Capacity Building Program,” July 12.
- Lecture on “The Latin American Security Sector Reforms and the Impact of Irregular Threats” organized by the Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies, September 10.

- Meeting with officials from the Canadian Embassy to discuss the theme of the Eighth Conference of Ministers of Defense of the Americas, October 24.
- Seminar on “Crime, Violence and Security in the Caribbean,” organized by the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, October 30.
- Presentation by Iñaki Urdangarin on the “Culture, Sport and Social Integration Foundation,” November 2.
- Meeting with the Secretary General of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) to talk about the topic of multidimensional security and explore possible cooperative ties.
- Presentations delivered to students of various universities in Brazil and Chile’s *Universidad del Desarrollo*.

In coordination with the Department of External Relations, the Executive Office of the Secretariat delivered presentations to delegations visiting the OAS from the following institutions: the National Defense College of Mexico, the Naval War College of Mexico, El Salvador’s CAE, the *Universidad del Desarrollo* of Chile, the School of the Americas, the *Escuela Superior de Guerra Aérea del Perú*, the Armed Forces of the Dominican Republic, the *Escuela de Guerra de Colombia*, the Armed Forces of Guatemala, and Chile’s Joint Centre for Peacekeeping Operations (CECOPAC).

- Cooperation with permanent observer countries

Through the Executive Office, the Assistant Secretary had meetings with high-ranking officials of the Governments of Spain and Russia, to strengthen the cooperative ties having to do with the multidimensional security of the countries of the Hemisphere.

2.5.1 Department of Coordination of Multidimensional Security Policies and Programs

The Department of Coordination of Multidimensional Security Policies and Programs was established in 2007 by Executive Order 05-13 Rev. 4 and is responsible for conducting the Secretariat’s technical and administrative programs and for assigning resources for all the programs. Once he came on board in October, the Department Director advised the Secretary General and Assistant Secretary General on all matters related to issues of defense and security in the Americas and coordination of the SMS’s units in respect of cross-cutting security- and defense-related matters and the programs on hemispheric policies to strengthen security in the region. In consultation with the other offices of the SMS, the Department prepared the proposed program-budget of the Regular Fund and came up with projections of external resources in 2009. Similarly, in coordination with the Assistant Secretary for Multidimensional Security, the Department established and maintained cooperative relations with the Inter-American Defense Board and the Inter-American Defense College.

- Committee on Hemispheric Security

As Technical Secretariat of the Committee on Hemispheric Security, the Department planned and coordinated the Committee’s meetings and prepared reports and technical papers on the issues being discussed, all as a means of assisting the Committee’s officers.

- Coordination of programs and projects

In coordination with the Assistant Secretary for Multidimensional Security, the Department orchestrated the programming of project proposals that the departments of the Secretariat presented, and the activities conducted to follow through on the mandates emanating from the General Assembly and those adopted at the various meetings of CICTE, CICAD, and the DPS. In particular, it coordinated the evaluation of Secretariat projects financed by Spain and Canada.

2.5.2 Executive Secretariat of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission

The General Assembly created the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) in 1986. It is based on the principles and objectives spelled out in the Inter-American Program of Action of Rio de Janeiro against the Illicit Use and Production of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and Traffic Therein, adopted in 1986, and the Anti-Drug Strategy in the Americas, adopted in 1996. Under CICAD's Statute and Executive Order 05-13 Rev. 4, it has an Executive Secretariat with the rank of department.

CICAD's anti-drug program is divided into the following areas: the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM); Demand Reduction; Supply Reduction and Alternative Development; Institutional Development; Educational Development and Research, and the Inter-American Observatory on Drugs.

- Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM)

CICAD published *The Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism Achievements, 1997-2007*, as a way of evaluating what the MEM accomplished in its first three evaluation rounds, both at the regional level and for each individual country. The Fourth Round of Evaluation began with two meetings of the Governmental Expert Group (GEG) to prepare country reports. The Commission approved the Group's 453 recommendations in November 2007. These publications will go to the regular session of the OAS General Assembly slated for June 2008.

CICAD works directly with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in the evaluation of the ten years of global progress made toward the objectives of the international drug problem that the United Nations General Assembly adopted at its twentieth special session (UNGASS 1998) and the use of information obtained from the regional organizations in that evaluation process. The UNODC will use MEM's evaluation reports as an additional source complementing its own data system and thus provide a more thorough evaluation of the progress made in each UNGASS thematic area, so that the UNODC data more accurately reflect actual trends. It is important to note that for the first time data from the MEM's evaluation reports are being used to support the United Nations' own analysis and data. This is an important affirmation by the international community of the Mechanism's accomplishments and efficacy.

- Demand Reduction

In response to the need for trained professionals in the Caribbean, CICAD formed an alliance with the University of the West Indies (UWI) to launch an online certificate program in substance abuse prevention and treatment. The UWI accredited the CICAD-supported program. It recruited the first students and began classes in September for a one-year certificate program. CICAD also formed an alliance with the European Commission to develop an ambitious three-year initiative among local governments in Europe, the Americas, and the Caribbean, to share experiences and municipal programs in the area of drug abuse treatment and rehabilitation. Under the terms of a horizontal cooperation agreement that CICAD and the Government of Chile signed in 2005, Chile's National Council for Narcotic Drugs Control (CONACE) provided training and technical assistance on specialized issues in substance abuse prevention and treatment, to professionals from 14 member states. CICAD launched a two-year project through the Group of Experts in Demand Reduction, to draft hemispheric guidelines on substance abuse prevention in the workplace.

- Supply Reduction

The Supply Reduction section's training program organized 37 national and regional training seminars for some 1,000 police and customs officials on issues such as controlling chemical substances, officer safety, maritime cooperation, profile of suspect containers and passengers, port security, inspection of vessels, synthetic drugs and private sector participation in port and airport security. In response to the increase in Internet sales of illicit or internationally controlled substances, CICAD partnered with Microsoft to provide training to inspectors and police officers, so that they would have the tools and knowledge necessary to investigate this new type of crime. Over 150 investigators were trained in six months.

- Alternative Development

As part of the Alternative Development program, the first cycle of the farmer field schools under the Andean Countries Cocoa Export Support Opportunity (ACCESO) was completed and a manual of best practices was prepared that will be used as the program moves into Peru and other Andean countries. The Commission also established a Group of Experts on Alternative Development to assess how to deal with the development-related issues in CICAD's mandate, including programs to promote demand for alternative products from the Andean region.

- Money Laundering

The Money Laundering Section has developed a specialized online database on money laundering typologies. This database will pull together information from across the Hemisphere to create a single classification system that will help law enforcement to detect, investigate, and prosecute this type of crime and win convictions. An online professional development program was launched in partnership with the University of Salamanca (Spain), which will be accessible to a wide audience composed of judges, prosecutors, and law enforcement officials in charge of investigating and prosecuting money laundering. In partnership with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the UNODC, CICAD sponsored a series of mock trials so that

prosecutors and judges might have better tools to investigate and prosecute money laundering crimes. A new line of action will be technical assistance to the member states to help them develop and improve the administration of confiscated assets, as under-utilized tools in the fight against drug trafficking and money laundering (BIDAL Program).

- Educational Development and Research

After more than a decade of activities, the Educational Development and Research Section has broadened the approach taken in its program of partnerships with universities in Latin America, to get them to introduce drug-related content in their programs, research, and community outreach. The approach of working individually with schools of nursing, public health, education, and medicine will be substituted in favor of efforts to promote networks of interdisciplinary collaboration that use multiple approaches and perspectives, while at the same time working more closely with the national anti-drug commissions.

- Institutional Development

In the institution-building area, CICAD has continued to provide the national anti-drug commissions with support in modernizing laws, plans, and programs and upgrading their professional staff. With support from the Government of Spain, the Andean region has been the beneficiary of an initiative aimed at decentralizing anti-drug programs and policies to the regional and municipal levels, so that the approach will be more responsive to the emerging dangers and trends.

- Inter-American Observatory on Drugs

By coordinating surveys of secondary school students, households and other segments of the population, the Inter-American Observatory on Drugs is on the verge of establishing a baseline of drug use in the Americas, which will make it easier to do regional comparative studies. This joint initiative owes much to the financial and institutional support received from the UNODC in the region. The comparative studies prepared by the Central American countries (households and secondary school students) and the Caribbean (secondary-school students) were the first to be done. The purpose of the 2006 study comparing drug use among secondary school students, done in nine countries of South America, is to build a regional research and information system that enables a general evaluation of drug use in the participating countries. It will be published in early 2008. The Observatory is also developing an Internet-accessible database with profiles of countries and featuring relevant and accurate information on drug abuse and supply.

2.5.3 Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism

In 2007 the Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) conducted 77 training courses and technical assistance benefiting over 2,500 participants. The courses and technical assistance were provided through ten programs in six areas: border controls, financial controls, critical infrastructure protection, legislative assistance and consultations, crisis management exercises, and policy development and coordination.

- Border controls

Through the five projects in the Aviation Security Program, training was provided on the security-related provisions of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to some 393 officials. This was accomplished through the seven fellowships awarded to attend ICAO courses and 22 CICTE training courses that the United States' Transportation Security Administration (TSA) conducted in 12 countries. After focusing for two years on the nine countries that hosted games in the Cricket World Cup, the Secretariat is now focusing on Latin America, where the first course on crisis management for Spanish-speakers was held in Colombia, in August. In 2007 a new feature was added to these training courses, this one on program evaluation.

The Port Security Program continues to be the Secretariat's largest and most complex. Training sessions were organized on the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code (ISPS) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), benefiting 1,400 officials. Some 682 participated in the training sessions for security guards at port facilities, customs training courses and simulations of crisis management. Another 768 received training in port security. In February CICTE teamed up with two other OAS departments (CICAD and the ICP), the United States Coast Guard and Transport Canada to form the port security assistance program (PSAP). The latter now features three projects: 1) evaluation of the training needed in IMO's International Ship and Port Facility Security Code (ISPS) and follow-up training; 2) crisis management exercises, and 3) workshops on best practices.

Following the evaluations, training sessions were held in five ports of the Dominican Republic in April and May and in Grenada in October. For the first time, the evaluation and training contract in Jamaica and Guyana went to a British firm. A total of 14 firms submitted proposals for the evaluation and training project in The Bahamas. In September, the first *Crisis Management Exercise* was held successfully in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Participating were observers from the United States, Mexico, and Uruguay.

The Secretariat is conducting two projects under the Immigration and Customs Program. The United States Customs and Border Protection Service (CBP) conducted evaluations and training sessions in late 2006 and early 2007 in three of the nine countries that hosted games in the Cricket World Cup. It completed another five evaluations between September and December. Under the Memorandum of Understanding signed with the Secretariat in 2004, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) did evaluations in three Caribbean countries with a view to making the border management systems and immigration procedures more efficient.

As part of the Document Security and Fraud Prevention program, the Secretariat organized a workshop in Asunción, Paraguay, July 30 to August 3, for 25 customs, immigration, and law enforcement officials from Argentina and Paraguay, with technical experts from the Forensic Document Laboratory of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Immigration and Customs Enforcement Service (DHS/ICE). The purpose of the workshop was to improve the capability to detect fraudulent travel documents, strengthen border controls, and increase the institutional links between customs and border control personnel. The Secretariat began preparation of a series of subregional workshops on security in travel documents. It will be held in 2008, in cooperation with the ICAO and INTERPOL.

- Legislative assistance and terrorist financing

As part of the Counter-Terrorism Legislative Assistance Program, in March the Dominican Republic was the site of the Ministerial Conference for Caribbean Countries on International Cooperation against Terrorism and Transnational Organized Crime, prepared and conducted in conjunction with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). In cooperation with UNODC, the Secretariat conducted legislative technical assistance missions in seven countries; four specialized training courses on legislation for prosecutors, judges, and law enforcement officials (one in cooperation with the Government of Spain); and two subregional workshops: an Ibero-American Seminar held in Cartagena, Colombia, in cooperation with the Government of Spain, and a workshop on extradition of terrorists, conducted in Peru in October for nine South American countries.

CICTE and CICAD jointly organized two training workshops as part of the Terrorism Financing Program: the first in Bogotá in February and the second in Peru in August. Both were for South American countries. These events were attended by 80 prosecutors, judges, lawmakers, and law enforcement officials. In October, the CICTE training module: “Practical Guide to the Prevention, Detection and Suppression of Terrorist Financing,” which is used in all CICTE events on legislative assistance and terrorist financing, was updated and circulated in an interactive CD, in English and Spanish, to our international partners and the financial intelligence units in the member states.

- Critical infrastructure protection

Under the Cyber Security Program, the Secretariat made significant headway in implementing the mandates of the OAS’ Inter-American Strategy to Combat Threats to Cyber Security: it helped the OAS member states establish Computer Security Incident Response Teams (CSIRT), provided training to designated CSIRT personnel, and facilitated creation of the Inter-American Network of CSIRTs. As of April, eleven OAS member states had officially designated their CSIRTs. The First OAS Course on the Creation and Management of CSIRTs was held in Brasilia in June, thanks to the cooperation and contributions in kind from the Government of Brazil. In conjunction with the United States Secret Service, in November the Secretariat organized the Second Workshop on Cyber Security and Cyber Crime, held in Miami with 102 attendees from 31 member states. The OAS Department of Information and Technology Services offered to conduct a pilot project on a secure server to begin to set up the Inter-American Network of CSIRTs. The results of this pilot project will be presented at CICTE’s eighth meeting in March 2008.

Within the Inter-American Tourism and Recreational Security Program (ITRS), the Secretariat trained 253 security officials from both the public and private sectors, over the course of five training courses conducted from August 2006 to February 2007 in the nine countries hosting games in the Cricket World Cup. The CICTE training program on tourism security drew the attention of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) and the United Nations Working Group on the Protection of Vulnerable Targets. Owing to the decision taken by CICTE in 2006 in connection with a Meeting of Experts to evaluate the pilot project and the idea of expanding it to reach the entire Hemisphere, in 2007 the activities were

confined to making contact with other OAS entities, experts in the public and private sectors, and tourism organizations in the Caribbean. The Meeting of Experts will be held March 4, 2008.

- International cooperation and alliances

Since CICTE's February approval of the "Declaration of Panama on the Protection of Critical Infrastructure in the Hemisphere in the Face of Terrorism," the Secretariat has helped make possible two instances of horizontal cooperation among the member states. The Secretariat has also answered a number of requests for assistance and has referred them to other service providers. As the United Nations and other international organizations begin to highlight the support that the regional organizations can provide in implementing international standards, the Secretariat has been asked to represent the OAS at the events related to promotion of international cooperation, with the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, including a conference of the UNODC and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) which will be held in Vienna in March, and a meeting of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee (UNCTC) in Nairobi in October, with international, regional, and subregional organizations attending. The Secretariat has endeavored to strengthen relations with other regional organizations, such as the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and the Council of Europe, and to achieve a higher level of technical coordination with international organizations like INTERPOL and the ICAO.

Canada, Trinidad and Tobago, the United States, and Spain continue to be the major donors. In 2007, Canada tripled its financial support of CICTE programs. The increased technical cooperation from Spain has resulted in the holding of three Ibero-American Seminars for the member states of CICTE at the Training Center of the Spanish International Cooperation Agency in Cartagena, Colombia. The Secretariat is cooperating more and more with other entities, among them the European Commission, the Commonwealth Secretariat and CARICOM.

2.5.4 Department of Public Security

The activities that the Department of Public Security conducted in its three main sections concerned Integral Action against Antipersonnel Mines, Transnational Organized Crime (human trafficking, illicit trafficking in handguns, ammunition and explosives, and forensic investigation) and Public Security Policies (gangs, police training, and prison and jail systems).

Given the multidimensional nature of the security problems and threats in the region, the Department of Public Security has helped by advancing public policies, legislative modernization, training for police, judges, and prosecutors, better quality basic information, and production of additional information.

- Office of Humanitarian Action against Antipersonnel Mines (*Comprehensive Action against Antipersonnel Mines - AICMA*)

Within the framework of the AICMA Program, the DPS was instrumental in carrying on the various components of action against antipersonnel mines and implementation of innovative initiatives such as the destruction of obsolete ammunition and light weapons.

The Portfolio of Projects was updated in order to showcase the Program's success stories to donors at the Eighth Meeting of States Parties to the Ottawa Convention, held in November 2007, and to ensure that the necessary resources to mitigate the impact of mines are available.

With technical advisory assistance from the Inter-American Defense Board, the Office cooperated in removing over 13,000 antipersonnel mines and unexploded munitions, clearing 398 thousand square meters of land for productive activity. Particularly worthy of note was the mutual cooperation between Ecuador and Peru to clear the Cordillera del Cóndor. The efforts in Nicaragua have succeeded in achieving 94% of the objectives in its national plan.

Campaigns were carried out and supported to make the public aware of the dangers and consequences of landmines. The prevention component continued to expand and partnerships with national institutions furthered the physical and psychological rehabilitation of more than 600 survivors and their reintegration into society.

Projects were organized to support plans to destroy arms and ammunition belonging to the Governments of Nicaragua and Colombia. Assistance was also provided to the operations in which over 400 tons of Nicaragua munitions were destroyed. In coordination with the Mission to Support the Peace Process in Colombia (MAPP-OAS), assistance was provided to destroy over 18,000 weapons that illegally armed paramilitary groups had handed over to the Colombian Government.

- Transnational Organized Crime

At a "Witness Protection Workshop" that the UNODC organized in Panama, the Transnational Organized Crime section introduced the Hemispheric Plan of Action against Transnational Organized Crime. Also in partnership with the UNODC, the section evaluated *in situ*, the law and practice as regards witness protection in Guatemala. In Tegucigalpa, Honduras, it organized the "First Subregional Workshop on the Public Prosecutor's Office, the Police and Investigation of Transnational Organized Crime: Challenges in the Reform of Criminal Procedure."

In Tegucigalpa, Honduras, it participated in a working group convened to draft the final version of the Witness Protection Law, which the Honduran Congress ultimately approved.

The section collaborated in and was Technical Secretariat for organization of the "First Meeting of the Technical Group on Organized Crime," held in Mexico City.

The section participated in a UNODC-organized seminar on Witness Protection in Guatemala and, with the UNODC, jointly organized a workshop to draft a protocol on relocation of witnesses testifying in cases involving transnational organized crime. At the Brazilian Government's invitation, the section participated in the Sixth National Seminar on Assistance to and Protection of Victims and Witnesses, held in Salvador, Brazil.

- The Fight against Human Trafficking

The Anti-Human Trafficking section organized six seminars-training workshops attended by government officials, members of civil society and international organizations. Their main purpose was to create an awareness of and provide training in issues related to the prevention and criminalization of human trafficking and the protection of victims. Activities were conducted on “Transnational Organized Crime in the Caribbean Region,” “The Trafficking in Asian Persons in the Western Hemisphere” and “Combating Human Trafficking in Bolivia and Neighboring Countries.” The issues addressed were all related to the crime of human trafficking, the gaps in domestic laws, the importance of creating mechanisms for cooperation, the need to implement government policies against this crime, new routes between Asia and the Western Hemisphere, public policies set in motion on both continents, and presentation of a preliminary report containing statistics on victims of human trafficking in La Paz and El Alto, Bolivia.

It staged workshops whose objectives were as follows: (i) to highlight principles and international legal framework; (ii) the importance of legislating and cooperating on a regional basis; (iii) preparation of guidelines for the creation of a Regional Model Law against Human Trafficking in Central America, the Dominican Republic and Belize; (iv) Human Trafficking in the Southern Cone: Regional Cooperation, Challenges and Links to Other Regions.”

A paper on “The Crime of Human Trafficking in the Americas, mechanisms for prevention and protection of victims” was delivered in Florida in March, in Mexico City in June, and at the Embassy of Sweden in Washington, D.C. in November.

- Firearms

As Technical Secretariat of the Inter-American Convention against the Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (CIFTA), the Department of Public Security provided assistance to the Consultative Committee and the OAS Group of Experts with preparation of a model law on “Legislative measures to establish as criminal offenses the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials.” The Department continued to urge the seven member states not party to the CIFTA to consider ratification of the Convention and adoption of the measures needed to enforce it.

The DPS organized the seminar on “Organized crime: a threat to the Caribbean,” which was held in Jamaica to identify recommendations to be undertaken in the region. It also participated in events organized by the Government of Canada in Geneva, Switzerland; in an informal meeting on the principles for small arms and light weapons transfers; and in the CARICOM-U.S. Partnership to Combat Illicit Trafficking in Arms (Nassau, Bahamas, December 11 to 12, 2007). Through the Office of Humanitarian Action against Antipersonnel Mines, close to 900 tons of excess, obsolete, or expired ammunition from the arsenals of the Nicaraguan Army were destroyed. The advice it gave to the Government of Colombia, in cooperation with the MAPP/OAS Mission in Colombia, resulted in the destruction of approximately 18,000 weapons handed over by paramilitary groups.

- Public Security Policies

The DPS prepared the document: “Public Security: Situation and Policies in the Americas,” spelling out its position on the subject and laying out a proposed agenda for the next three years, with projects that will make it possible to prepare a regional diagnostic study; establish security observatories; create training programs for police, judges, and prosecutors; develop a model of public policy on security; and conduct a pre-feasibility study for a synthesis of the issue of public security.

As part of the project for a “Regional Diagnostic Study of Public Security in the Americas,” two research studies were started: one on the institutionality of public security, and the other a diagnostic study of private security in eight countries (MERCOSUR, Andean Region, the Caribbean, and Central America).

Following up on the Secretary General’s proposal to hold the First Ministerial Conference on Crime and Violence in the Americas, a number of preparatory meetings were scheduled with the academic sector, civil society, and international organizations participating. The purpose was to craft a regional strategy for reducing crime levels and the prevailing violence. The first, held in Chile, laid the foundation for the proposed process.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed with Georgetown University’s Center for Latin American Studies to promote cooperation between the two institutions on research and activities on the issue of public security.

- Police Training

The First International Course “Police Development in the XXI Century” was convened by Chile’s Office of the Assistant Secretary for Uniformed Police Officers and the General Secretariat of the OAS, as part of the Inter-American Police Training Program (PICAP).

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the GS and the Chilean Investigating Police (PICH) to promote training, horizontal transfer, and stronger police forces as part of the DSP’s Inter-American Police Training Program.

- Gangs

The Technical Secretariat of the Inter-American Coalition for the Prevention of Violence (IACPV) became part of the OAS General Secretariat.

The following research was done: “Definition and classification of gangs” in Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Honduras, El Salvador, Jamaica, and the United States, to establish the need for preventive and control interventions in the established categories.

2.6 SECRETARIAT FOR ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

Established by Executive Order 08-01, the SAF is composed of the Office of the Assistant Secretary; the Departments of Budgetary and Financial Services, Human Resources, and Information and Technology Services; the Office of Procurement Services and the Office of General Services.

Office of the Assistant Secretary

During this reporting period, the Office of the Assistant Secretary continued to provide its support to the Organization's political bodies, chief among them the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs (CAAP). The Office of the Assistant Secretary was the principal nexus between the CAAP and the General Secretariat.

The Office of the Assistant Secretary also coordinated with the various areas of the General Secretariat to assist them with their programs' administrative and financial affairs. Finally, the Office spearheaded a number of reforms aimed at modernizing the General Secretariat and making its financial and administrative management more transparent.

The progress achieved on these fronts has been reported to the member states and to the executive ranks through the "*OAS Quarterly Resource Management Report*," which recounts the SAF's activities and the results achieved. It is also responsive to the recommendations made by the OAS' Board of External Auditors.

2.6.1 Department of Budgetary and Financial Services (DBFS)

In 2007, the DBFS focused on laying the groundwork to achieve its immediate and long-term goals: 1) improving the quality, utility, and transparency of financial reporting; 2) providing client-tailored financial services, and 3) motivating the Department by creating synergies and encouraging in-house innovation.

The following are some of the important steps the DBFS took in 2007:

- Implementation of a new indirect cost recovery policy (ICR, by its English acronym)
Some of the advantages gained:
 - Greater transparency, sustainable ICR levels, contribution to the program-budget of the Regular Fund and less exposure to the risk associated with the interest rate.
 - Improved communication with the secretariats regarding financial management of projects.
- Financial Portal on OASConnect

Introduced on a preliminary basis in 2007, the DBFS' Financial Portal was created to provide users with information on the services provided and documents and reports published by the Department, in a dynamic and easy-to-use format.

- Financial Handbook for Specific Fund Agreements

The Financial Handbook figures into the agenda for modernizing and transforming the OAS General Secretariat (GS/OAS). It is also part of a framework for Service Level Agreements (SLA, by the English acronym) between the GS/OAS, functional areas and donors. An SLA spells out the parties' mutual understanding as to the services level expected of them, their responsibilities and financial compliance guarantee in terms of project delivery. A more systematic and streamlined approach will enable the GS/OAS to focus more heavily on measuring results and performance, and spend less of its energy to the day-to-day handing of routine transactions.

Budgetary and financial performance of the GS/OAS

- Budgetary matters

Important developments transpired in 2007 having to do with budgetary services. The DBFS and the other offices of the Secretariat for Administration and Finance teamed up to continue to reconcile the accounting structure, financial statements and reports, personnel and other records, to ensure that all the information comported with Executive Order 05-13 issued in December 2005, and revised twice in 2007, once in March and again in October. The idea was to ensure compliance with the required periodic reporting on the status of execution of the 2007 budget of the Regular Fund and Specific Funds.

The proposed program-budget for 2008 was presented in 2007, with a ceiling of \$87.5 million, which included statutory salary adjustments and increases in the General Secretariat's operating expenses resulting from losses in purchasing power. In real terms, this budgetary ceiling was equivalent to the ceiling of US\$84.5 million set by the General Assembly in resolution AG/RES. 2257 (XXXVI-O/06).

In furtherance of resolution AG/RES. 2353 (XXXVII-O/07), the General Assembly was convoked twice in 2007 to deal with budgetary matters.

At its thirty-third special session, held October 3, 2007, the General Assembly approved the mechanism for financing the program-budget for the January-December 2008 fiscal period, for a total of US\$87.5 million. In resolution AG/RES. 1 (XXXIII-E/07), the General Assembly authorized the General Secretariat to use US\$5.4 million in resources not spent out of the 2007 program-budget, to complete the financing of the 2008 program-budget.

At its thirty-fourth special session, held November 13, 2007, the General Assembly approved resolution AG/RES. 1 (XXXIV-E/07), in which it adopted a methodology for calculating the scale of quota assessments of the Organization of American States (OAS). That method will be applied to quota percentage assessments assigned to the member states for the Organization's Regular Fund starting in 2009 and thereafter.

Financial Matters

As for the OAS' financial condition, its audited combined financial statements appear as Appendix E at the end of this report and include the following:

- a. The Operating and Reserve Subfunds of the Regular Fund, whose budget is approved by the General Assembly;
- b. The Special Multilateral Fund of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (FEMCIDI) funded through voluntary contributions received from the member states to finance activities that the governing bodies have approved;
- c. The Specific Funds financed through unilateral or multinational contributions made to finance specific activities, and
- d. The Service Funds for the internal administrative business necessary for the Organization to function properly, such as the Tax Reimbursement Fund, Parking Services, and the Fund for Conferences Abroad.

In 2007, total collections of Regular Fund quotas, including quotas in arrears from previous years, was \$78.9 million, which was US\$1 million or 1.3% less than the amount collected in 2006 (US\$79.9 million). While the improvement in the financial condition of the Regular Fund (US\$1.9 million) was modest by comparison to the improvement seen in 2006 (US\$3.7 million), the seasonal situation is due in part to a decline in quota collections. The 2007 quota assessments were US\$3.6 million higher than in 2006, but total collections were down by the figures mentioned above.

The net increase in the Regular Fund was considerably less in 2007 than it was in 2006, when it was approximately US\$1.8 millions. This change is due mainly to the fact that quota collections were down by some US\$1 million and to the fact that special funds were received in 2006 (ICR and LASPAU reimbursement). Those special funds did not recur in 2007.

The balance of the Regular Fund as of December 31, 2007, was US\$15.8 million, which was US\$1.9 million higher than the previous balance of US\$13.8 million. The Regular Fund's Reserve Subfund has an unrestricted balance of US\$6.3 million.

2.6.2 Department of Human Resources (DHR)

In 2007, the DHR undertook a series of measures intended to provide efficient service and to upgrade the performance of the staff of the GS/OAS. The following were some important areas of activity:

- New Performance Evaluation System

The General Secretariat began implementation of a new Performance Evaluation System whose purpose is to establish individual objectives that match the Organization's goals and are appropriate for the staff member's specific area of work. The DHR worked with the Committee of the Staff Association in order to ensure that the performance evaluation system developed was one that met the Organization's needs.

As part of the Performance Evaluation program, two training courses were offered on “How to set individual objectives” and “How to make performance-related conversations effective.” A total of 937 people attended these training sessions, with the result that 77% of the staff has now entered their objectives into the system.

In addition to these sessions, the Training Area also offered 12 courses involving 77 sessions. A total of 1,392 staff members participated in the various training courses and sessions offered in 2007. The Department partnered with the Office of Procurement Services to train and certify 33 staff members in the use of the OASES system to prepare, approve, or receive requisitions.

- Review of staff job descriptions

In keeping with the recommendation made by the Board of External Auditors, the DHR hired the services of an outside consultant with expertise in the rules and standards governing classification of posts at the United Nations. The expert was to review the job descriptions of the staff of the GS/OAS, in order to match the staff member’s grade level to the description of the functions of his or her post.

As a result, 25 posts were reclassified and 16 remained at the same level.

- Simplification of employment mechanisms

To analyze and simplify the employment mechanisms and respond to the Organization’s needs, persons hired as Local Professionals (LPs) and Temporary Support Personnel (TSPs) were identified. The type of contract was established, its duration, the staff member’s years of service, salary level, nationality, and the benefits that go with each contract. An analysis was also done of the hiring practices of other international organizations.

- Improvements in internal communications

With the introduction of OASCONNECT (intranet) in 2007, the Department continued to update documents in the Human Resources area to keep useful, current information available to staff members.

The DHR continued to publish circulars on matters of interest to staff members, such as news about health insurance, post reclassifications, vaccination campaigns, selection of staff for Continuing Contracts, internal and external vacancies, and other business.

New this year, the Department began circulating its own bulletin called “HR NEWS” to keep staff members informed of the various initiatives the area is conducting.

- Updating of the Staff Rules

In cooperation with the Department of Legal Services and the Staff Association Committee, a full review was done of the staff rules to ensure that they are consistent with and conform to the General Standards to govern the operations of the General Secretariat.

- Active role in the STAMP project

The DHR participated in the STAMP (the SAF's Transformation and Modernization Project), which the Secretariat for Administration and Finance launched in 2007. The area has been actively involved in STAMP since its inception. The Department of Human Resources' role has been to examine its procedures and identify potential solutions to problems that come up on a day-to-day basis, so as to thereby improve the way the Department delivers its services to the Organization's technical areas.

- Vigilant staff protection

The health services unit continued to work to protect health and prevent illness among the staff through programs like: the flu vaccine campaign, allergy shots, blood drives, the Health Fair—in which 300 people participated—and two new health programs to educate staff about cancer prevention. The Health Unit received over three thousand visits and the physician on duty, hired through Johns Hopkins University, conducted some 170 medical check-ups.

The Health Insurance Office provided services to over 1,100 participants (active and retired) by processing medical claims, conducting the procedures involved in enrollment, arranging advances for staff in the national offices and processing life insurance claims.

The DHR also served as Secretariat of the Joint Insurance Committee and the Medical Benefits Trust Fund Committee, providing technical support, preparing materials for meetings, and acting on the decisions taken.

- Improvements in the Internship Program

More than 200 interns had an opportunity to work at GS/OAS, thereby furthering their professional growth and development. In 2007, the number of interns was up 19% over the previous year. Weekly meetings, orientation sessions, and new methods of promoting the program helped to make it stronger.

It is interesting to note that starting in 2007 the young professionals are setting objectives, so that their performance can be evaluated.

- Inclusion of the DHR's regular reports in the "OAS Quarterly Resource Management Report."

In order to combine the DHR's reports with the rest of management, the DHR added a series of reports to the quarterly report that GS/OAS presents to the member states. These reports are intended to support decision-making by the member states and the executive offices. The DHR also presents weekly, monthly, or quarterly reports on such topics as:

- Description and status of various staff cases within the DHR (a weekly report on staff-related situations);
 - Staff headcount and distribution, and monitoring of personnel actions in the General Secretariat;
 - The current geographic distribution and gender breakdown of staff at the General Secretariat (report on geographic and gender distribution);
 - Information on staff members, governed by the Staff Rules and prepared for the permanent missions, assistant secretaries, and directors (Personnel Register);
 - Reports on the internship demographics and measuring the effectiveness of training, among other topics.
- Regular business in 2007

Efficiencies can begin to be measured with the increase in regular business:

- DHR processed over 1,700 personnel action notifications and executed some 1,700 performance contracts. It also presented some 50 vacancies for the Advisory Committee on Selection and Promotion to evaluate and approve, and effected some 30 internal staff transfers.
- 120 new contracts were processed for various secretariats.
- 54 continuing contracts were awarded to comply with Article 19 of the General Standards, which provides that the target percentage that the General Secretariat is to maintain for personnel financed by the Regular Fund, either with career appointments or on continuing contracts, is to range between 40% and 50%. The percentage resulting from the computation spelled out in the General Standards is 41.21%.
- The Department kept up the ongoing process of automatic visa renewal and employment certification, working in conjunction with the United States Department of State. In 2007, more than 1,200 visas were processed. In the summer of 2007, visas began to be given to interns. Almost 70 G-4 visas were processed in 2007.
- To help staff members pursue continuing education, 60 requests for educational reimbursements were processed.

2.6.3 Department of Information and Technology Services (DOITS)

As part of the "Technological Modernization" project being conducted by the Secretariat for Administration and Finance, all the work required to equip the Main Building with state-of-the-art data processing and communications infrastructure was completed. Now that this phase has been completed in all Organization buildings, the latter have the modern technological

infrastructure with which future projects can be planned, such as using the existing data network to provide other telephony services (Voice over IP), wireless internet access (WIFI) in all the buildings, and use of local and international videoconferencing. The first “Multimedia Room” was installed and is one room that houses all the existing technologies in multi-media conferencing (audio conferencing, videoconferencing, WIFI, Smart Boards, etc.). Plans are to equip other rooms with these technologies in 2008.

The modernization process did not stop at the physical infrastructure. DOITS also embarked upon a server consolidation plan and has been able to reduce the number of servers the Organization has, while improving the existing systems’ overall performance and lowering maintenance costs. As part of this process, data storage was also centralized using state-of-the-art technology with respect to both storage and backup of existing data. In 2008, plans are to consolidate the existing data structures for optimum performance in terms of storage, reduced operating costs and better and more secure data access.

New security policies have been crafted and put into practice both for the entire network and at individual work stations, notebooks, and cell phones, to ensure the integrity and security of the Organization’s data.

In the services area, the Help Desk answered over 7,000 user queries. New software tools were introduced to provide remote access to work stations and over 200 requests for transfer/installation of data processing equipment were answered. In 2008, plans are to renew the help desk concept by adding new tools and working methods that make it possible to solve routine problems more quickly.

In the telephony area, a new voice mail system was put into operation, to which new functionalities will gradually be added. This “Modular Messaging System” not only replaces the old voice mail system, but also lowers maintenance costs, features automatic call routing, searches callers by area, surname, function, service schedules, and re-routing of calls to cell phones, among other functionalities.

In an effort to respond to the growing use of “Blackberry”- type smart phones and to further improve the security of our information system, a cell phone management system was installed which, among other functions, avoids the need to synchronize the smart phones with the workstations, ensures the privacy of mail, and makes it possible to view, in a secure way, any type of file these devices contain. In 2008, the plan is to make all these devices part of the system so that they are service-ready.

In 2007, the Department worked with the Inter-American Court of Human Rights on systems support and Court personnel received training. In 2008, the plan is to fully integrate the two institutions’ information technology systems.

A redefinition of the Organization’s administrative/financial systems got underway in 2007. In the project to modernize the OASES system (Oracle’s Electronic Business Suite), all its component parts were updated to the latest available version that meets the Organization’s needs. The second phase will be carried out in 2008 and will include resolution of any inconsistencies

detected, training of all personnel who interact with the new system and the introduction of new procedures and operating modules. The goal is to have the system fully operational by the end of 2008. The project's progress can always be checked at <http://oasconnect/>.

The Development area helped launch management support systems in various areas of the Organization, trying to align the information technology to the OAS' strategic plan. A number of systems are already operational, among them the following: the Fellowship Management System (for the scholarship area), the Performance Evaluation System (for Human Resources—in its initial phase), the Protocol Management System (for the Protocol area), OASES MailManager to use mass mailings to maximum effect by using distribution lists. Since OAS Mail Manager was introduced, mass e-mailings have operated using a database of 170,000 addresses; an average of 15,000 e-mails is sent each day without disrupting the Organization's central e-mail system.

In cooperation with the Department of International Law and with the support of the *Fondo España*, DOITS maintains/trains and provides support to a secure network for sharing documents on extradition matters. That system networks 28 member countries. In partnership with the Department of Human Development/Portal of the Americas, a course was designed based on e-learning techniques. The goal was to increase support to the network. This project is being extended for a pilot phase of the CICTE-run "Cyber Security" network. Plans are to extend the concept to other areas of the Organization.

In cooperation with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and with the support of *Fondo España*, the Department began to examine a number of proposals from software providers to begin to develop a software solution that will systematize and digitalize the Commission's procedures.

In 2007, the necessary adjustments were made to the Department's operating structure to adapt it to the Organization's constant demand for new information technology tools.

2.6.4 Office of Procurement Services (OPS)

On the whole, 2007 was a year of change, which included a revision of the procedures in use in order to modernize them and carry operations to a new level. The Office of Procurement Services (OPS) readily adapted to the challenges that the increased number of transactions in 2007 posed, while maintaining the level of existing internal controls constant.

As a means to deal with the increased number of transactions, the OPS continued the "cross training" between the procurement section and the inventory section. Staff from the two sections coordinated to divide their time to cover the various activities. The Department also continued to train OPS personnel to perform functions of other sections of the OPS and thus maximize the return on existing resources.

- Activities of the Inventory Section

The Inventory Section performs the following functions: receiving and coding goods, recording their receipt in the database, delivering them to users, taking inventory and removing obsolete or damaged goods from the inventory.

Following up on the recommendation made by the Board of External Auditors, the OPS installed the new inventory control module as part of the OASES system. The new module will be operational in the first half of 2008 and will computerize management of OAS inventory and simplify the accounting and settling of accounts, enabling the section to keep an up-to-date and accurate tally of inventory.

- Activities of the Procurement Section

Oracle Enterprise System (OASES)

In 2007, the number of transactions continued to increase and was, on average, 23% higher than in 2005 (see table below). It is interesting to note that 5 fully-dedicated computers and 2 partially-dedicated computers are used to create the purchase orders. The transactions include those required to purchase goods or retain services, and involve over 100 million dollars.

	Requisition Lines	Requisition Headings	Purchase Order Lines	Purchase Order Headings
2005	31,008	18,361	31,988	22,449
2006	38,764	21,522	39,463	29,020
2007	37,566	20,999	39,250	29,884

As for the system’s maintenance and administration, the inventory section answered over 1,750 queries through the HelpDesk. Likewise, procurement transactions continued to be checked regularly and over 10,000 transactions (requisitions and purchase orders) were purged from the system. Also, given the decision taken this year not to disrupt operations when the books were closed at the end of the fiscal year, the OPS coordinated with the rest of the Secretariat and the technical areas for a full review of obligations. This gradual review, combined with the periodic checks year-round, made it possible to close out the fiscal period ahead of time.

In the training area, the OPS, in collaboration with the Department of Human Resources, certified 33 users on the OASES system in how to prepare, review, receive and approve purchase actions. Similarly, it continued to certify users in the OAS offices in the member states, away from headquarters. With this, staff members are properly trained and the additional workload created by improperly executed transactions is avoided.

Management of the system for purchasing office supplies continues to improve. Constant technical support was provided, by phone and in person, to over 120 users, and more than 800 requests were authorized after checking the balances on the purchase orders. The OPS also arranged the necessary receipts, deliveries and returns, and used the OASES system to authorize payment of each order.

- Contracts, Insurance, Bid Solicitations

The OPS coordinated and solicited bids on procurement contracts. It then selected the suppliers and executed the purchase contracts. A total of 24 solicitations were conducted, salient among them those for the following products or services: installation of dedicated access services, without video conferencing, for the Mission to Support the Peace Process in Colombia; analysis of the security-related training needed for port facilities in Jamaica and Guyana; the cleaning services for the GS/OAS buildings; leasing of vehicles for the electoral observation missions; webcast services, television recording services, editing services and satellite broadcasting of the GS/OAS' Lecture Series of the Americas; and consulting services for the financial audit of the GS/OAS for the years ended December 31, 2007, 2008 and 2009.

Two solicitations were also conducted in connection with the administration of the GS/OAS Health Insurance, one to retain consulting services to assist GS/OAS in the competition to select an administrator of the GS/OAS' Medical Insurance Plan and another to select an administrator of the GS/OAS' Medical Insurance Plan (this second solicitation process has not yet concluded).

The OPS also collaborated on 11 solicitations conducted by various projects in the member states.

The OPS continued to administer the GS/OAS business insurance policies, both at headquarters and at the offices of the OAS General Secretariat in the member states. These included insurance for property, casualty, official travel, accidental death and dismemberment, fine arts, terrorism and kidnapping. As for the insurance policy for accidental death and dismemberment, the OPS had a number of meetings with various areas of the GS/OAS to improve the coverage process.

- Activities related to the Travel Section

In keeping with the program launched in 2006 to overhaul the travel section, the OPS arranged more than 700 visas with the consulates of over 20 countries. It also conducted the following facets of the program:

- In January, the contract was signed with the new travel agency, Omega World Travel (Omega).
- In February 2007, the travel-related services began to be delivered on a centralized basis and offsite, from the Omega office itself. In other words, reservations are arranged and tickets issued by telephone and e-mail.
- This changed reduced the direct operating cost by approximately \$75,000, thanks to the revenue stream created by the ability to lease the freed-up space and a simplified staffing structure.
- Over three thousand tickets were issued, for a total of three million dollars.
- In keeping with the policy and rules on Organization travel, the Omega Travel Services have made it possible to obtain a number of monthly statistical reports that create greater transparency and allow for close oversight and measurement of travel expenses.

- The new arrangement also features a 24/7 travelers aid service and dedicated phone lines for VIP travelers.
- In November 2007, an agreement was signed with American Express whereby the latter will serve as central financial entity for the purchase of tickets. The agreement will take effect in January 2008.

CPR Report

The OPS again answered the Permanent Council's queries regarding the quarterly report on performance contracts (CPR's).

Audit responses

The procurements section complied with the recommendations and comments received as a result of the internal and external audits.

Preliminary assistance to the Electoral Observation Missions

The SAF and the Secretariat for Political Affairs partnered to actively assist with procurements for the electoral observation missions conducted in Guatemala, Colombia, Ecuador and Costa Rica. Procurements personnel traveled to the host country in advance of the election process, to identify each mission's specific needs and to establish personal contact with potential suppliers of goods and services. These trips provided an opportunity to go over specific features of each good or service with the prospective supplier, thereby keeping the errors in quotations at a minimum and expediting the process.

STAMP (SAF Transformation and Modernization Project)

The procurement section played an active role in reviewing such procedures as the use of CPRs, registration of requisitions, purchase orders, receipts, bids and proposals, among others.

2.6.5 Office of General Services

The Office of General Services focused on maintenance of the General Secretariat's buildings and completion and continuation of capital investment and remodeling projects. It also implemented plans having to do with the lease of office space in the F Street Building, the physical security of staff members, duplication of documents, transport of official mail and documents, the fleet of vehicles and parking areas.

- Maintenance, Operations and Investments in the Buildings

The Office of General Services invested \$6 million in maintaining the buildings of the General Secretariat. Maintenance includes, for the most part, the basic services, contracts for maintenance, repairs and purchase of supplies, and payment of the mortgage on the F Street Building. Some 88.3% (US\$5.3 million) was spent on three items: maintenance contracts, 34.2% (US\$2.1 million); mortgage, 32.1% (US\$1.9 million); and basic services, 22% (US\$1.3 million). The remaining 11.7% (US\$0.7 million) went toward the purchase of products, services, repairs and materials in general. The amounts enumerated above include capital investments totaling \$232 thousand, consisting of projects to modernize buildings, new mechanized and security equipment, as well as furniture and heavy-duty filing cabinets.

- Studies on the Condition of the General Secretariat's Buildings

In order to determine the condition of the buildings, preserve their value and set up a long-term maintenance and investment program, the General Secretariat retained two consulting firms. The firm of John Milner & Associates was awarded the contract to study the structure, architecture, mechanics, security and grounds of the four buildings on Constitution Avenue: the Main Building, the Administrative Building, the Museum and the Casita. The study found that all four buildings on Constitution Avenue are in good condition. Cagley & Associates was retained to study the structural soundness and water leakage at the property known as *Casa del Soldado* and the F Street parking garage. The firm found that the *Casa del Soldado* is in urgent need of substantial repair work. The building's façade and exterior show serious signs of deterioration, and water has leaked in at various places in the building's interior.

- Lease of office and storage space

The Office of General Services collected US\$1.9 million in rent, the proceeds from leasing some 50,000 square feet of office and storage space in the F Street Building. This is an increase of 900 space feet and US\$87 thousand over the previous year. The current lessees on the third floor are the Inter-American Institute of Cooperation for Agriculture (IICA) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO); on the second floor, the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF), the Albert Sabin Institute and the Development Gateway Foundation; and in the lobby, the OAS Staff Federal Credit Union and the National Association of Coffee Growers of Colombia (Juan Valdez coffee shop).

- Security

The Office of General Services continues to modernize the security equipment to upgrade access and surveillance controls. To that end, it purchased a second 16-channel DVR recorder and four cameras. One camera (a color device operated by remote control) covers the front of the Main Building, while the other three cover the interior.

- Modernization and Maintenance of Photocopying Equipment

The Office of General Services modernized the General Secretariat's inventory of photocopy equipment and pursued its policy of replacing those that have been in service the longest. Accordingly, it obtained 4 new machines in 2007, at a cost of US\$37 thousand.

- Mail, Messenger Service and Transportation Section

The Mail, Messenger Service and Transportation Section sent out some 96,000 packages, at an estimated total cost of \$200 thousand. In-house, over 300,000 pieces of mail were distributed, which included an estimated 8,000 pieces of certified mail. This Section invested over US\$56 thousand in maintaining the fleet of vehicles, which included repairs, gasoline, washing and leasing. The fleet made an estimated 5,500 trips. Half were the daily trips made between buildings, while the other half were service-, visa- and chauffeur-related.

2.7 DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL LEGAL AFFAIRS

The Department of International Legal Affairs supports the organs of the OAS in preparing and developing public and private international law, in follow-up mechanisms on compliance with the various inter-American conventions, in legal and judicial cooperation activities, and in matters related to training, information, and dissemination of inter-American law. The department collaborates with member states in the preparation of treaties, declarations, and other international instruments by preparing studies, expert legal opinions, and documents. It is also in charge of ratification and deposit procedures. It provides technical and secretariat services to the Inter-American Juridical Committee. The Department of International Legal Affairs was established by Executive Order 05-13 Rev.1. It is composed of the Office of International Law and the Office of Legal Cooperation (Technical Secretariat for Legal Cooperation Mechanisms).

Office of the Director of the Department

The Office of the Director directed, planned, and coordinated the programs, activities, and actions of the Department. In particular, in its support functions for the bodies charged with the development of inter-American law, it participated in advisory services for the General Assembly and the Permanent Council. It also participated in sessions of the Inter-American Juridical Committee and in the Course on International Law that the Committee and the Department organize jointly. It also participated in the Meeting of Central Authorities and Other Experts on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters and Extradition, and in the meetings of the Ministers of Justice of the Americas.

In 2007, the Director of the Department represented the Secretary General and explained the juridical activities of the Organization when he addressed the Forum of Government Consumer Protection Agencies (Lima), the First Meeting of International and Regional Courts of Justice of the World (Managua), the Ibero-American Assembly of Public Prosecutors (Madrid) and the Meeting of the Supreme Courts of MERCOSUR (Brasilia).

On the subject of the dissemination of inter-American law, he was a guest professor at the Consejo Argentino para las Relaciones Internacionales [Argentine Council of International Relations] and at the Instituto del Servicio Exterior de la Nación [National Foreign Service Institute] (Buenos Aires), at the Conference on Regional Economic Integration and Consumer Protection in the Americas and in Europe (Montreal), and at the International Law Workshops that the General Secretariat organizes every year (in Managua this time). He was invited to participate in the Colloquium on the Centennial of the 1907 Peace Conference at The Hague Academy of International Law in the Netherlands. He was elected to the Institut de Droit International. The following articles and papers figure prominently among those published on the inter-American system: “Organization of American States” and “Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance of Rio de Janeiro” for the new edition of the “Encyclopedia of International Law” published by the Max Planck Institute and Oxford University Press.

Finally, it is worth noting that the web page of the Secretariat for Legal Affairs now features a link titled “Support for Establishment of the National Service of Judicial Facilitators.”

2.7.1 Office of International Law

In 2007 the Office of International Law provided services in international law to the General Assembly and to the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP) and its working groups, drafting resolutions, organizing special meetings and meetings of experts on such subjects as the International Criminal Court, migrants, persons with disabilities (the Committee and Program of Action), indigenous peoples, international humanitarian law, the Protocol of San Salvador, the Draft Convention on Discrimination and Intolerance, refugees, access to public information and the principles contained in the OAS Charter. By preparing reports, it also provided advisory services to the delegations.

In private international law, the Office cooperated with the states in drafting three instruments: a draft inter-American convention on the applicable law on consumer transactions; a draft model law on monetary restitution, and a draft inter-American convention on jurisdiction for consumers.

As Secretariat of the Inter-American Juridical Committee (CJI), the Office provided technical and administrative support during the Committee’s two regular sessions. It prepared annotated agendas, helped prepare draft resolutions, edited the reports presented by the Committee’s members, drafted the summary minutes and prepared its Annual Report. During the period between the sessions of the CJI, the Office assisted the CJI rapporteurs and complied with the mandates contained in the Committee’s resolutions.

As Technical Secretariat of the Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities, the Office coordinated the holding of the Committee’s first meeting and supervised follow-up to the reports presented by the States Party.

In furtherance of AG/RES. 1471 (XXVII-O/97), Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law, the Office was instrumental in organizing three events:

- The First Course on International Humanitarian Law, held January 31, 2007;
- The XXXIV Course on International Law, held from July 30 to August 24, 2007. The central theme was “Legal Aspects of Regional Development,” and
- The Workshops on International Law held in Managua, Nicaragua, November 19 to 23, 2007.

The Office edited, published, and distributed the following volumes:

- XXXIII Course on International Law, held in 2006.
- The Workshops on International Law, held in Buenos Aires in 2006.

- The Inter-American Juridical Committee (International Law in the Americas: 100 years of the Inter-American Juridical Committee).

In the past year, the Office continued to update the content, design, management, and control of its web page and that of the Inter-American Juridical Committee. Its online store features a catalogue of 23 publications.

The Office of International Law serves as depository of the inter-American multilateral treaties and bilateral agreements concluded by the organs of the OAS. In 2007, the Office participated in eight deposits of instruments of ratification and accession and nine designations of central authorities. The Office's web page contains a section on designation of central authorities (organized by member state and by name of the Convention). The Office also handled Canada's withdrawal of the statement it made at the time it ratified the Inter-American Convention on Serving Criminal Sentences Abroad. In August 2007, two amendments were received to the Dominican Republic-Central American-United States Free Trade Agreement. Certifications were prepared and up-to-date and complete information was supplied on those treaties. As for bilateral agreements, 56 cooperation agreements were registered in various areas and their full text was published online in PDF format. The current details on inter-American treaties and bilateral cooperation agreements can be viewed at the Office's website.

As in the past, the Office of International Law assisted with two Model General Assemblies held in Washington, D.C. in 2007. Its attorneys participated in a variety of forums to report on the activities conducted with the OAS framework and the most important issues on the Organization's legal agenda.

2.7.2 Office of Legal Cooperation

- Meetings of Ministers of Justice or Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJAs)

Advisory and technical secretariat services were provided to the following the meetings:

- Meeting of the Working Group on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters and Extradition, May 24 to 27, 2007
- (Private section <https://www.oas.org/juridico/mla/private/activities/index.html>)
- Third Meeting of Central Authorities and Other Experts on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters and Extradition, held in Bogota, Colombia, September 12 to 14, 2007 (http://www.oas.org/juridico/MLA/sp/sp_colombia_2007.html)
- Fifth Meeting of the Group of Government Experts on Cyber Crime, held at Organization headquarters, November 19 and 20, 2007 (http://www.oas.org/juridico/spanish/cybersp_expertos.htm)

A number of recommendations came out of these meetings, as did activities on the issues the meetings discussed. They will be presented to REMJA VII for consideration and can be viewed at the following Web addresses:

(<http://www.oas.org/juridico/spanish/reunione.html>;
<http://www.oas.org/juridico/MLA/sp/index.html>;
<http://www.oas.org/juridico/spanish/cybersp.htm>;))

- Anti-corruption

The Office continued to serve as Technical Secretariat of the Follow-up Mechanism for the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (MESICIC). The Committee of Experts created as one of the Mechanism's two organs, successfully held its Eleventh Regular Meeting at OAS headquarters, June 14 to 30, 2007. At this meeting, six reports were adopted corresponding to the second group of countries examined during the Second Round of Analysis (Bolivia, Peru, Costa Rica, Venezuela, Mexico and Trinidad and Tobago).

The Committee of Experts held its Twelfth Meeting at OAS headquarters from December 3 to 8, 2007, as part of the Second Round. There, the third group's reports were discussed (Colombia, Panama, Chile, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, and The Bahamas). These reports are available at the website of the Office of Legal Cooperation of the Department of International Legal Affairs, at http://www.oas.org/juridico/spanish/mesicic_II_inf.htm

Once the pilot project to implement the recommendations of the MESICIC Committee was finished, the project was launched in other member states of the MESICIC, with financial support from the Anti-Corruption Fund established at the initiative of the United States Government, and with financial assistance from the Canadian International Development Agency. Workshops are planned for Honduras and Peru (January and February, respectively) and the work on Ecuador and Uruguay is in various stages of development. Panama, Suriname, Belize, Trinidad and Tobago, and El Salvador have signed agreements with the General Secretariat to participate in the project, while as of the writing of this report, the Dominican Republic, Grenada, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines were forwarding the necessary documentation. The General Secretariat is already in contact with The Bahamas, Guyana, and Jamaica, which have also expressed an interest in participating.

The Office works in close partnership with other international organizations like the United Nations, the IDB, the Council of Europe and the OECD, and with subregional organizations as well.

III. SPECIALIZED ORGANIZATIONS

SPECIALIZED ORGANIZATIONS

Chapter XVIII of the Charter defines the specialized organizations as intergovernmental organizations established by multilateral agreements and having specific functions with respect to technical matters of common interest to the American states. They enjoy the fullest technical autonomy, but are to take into account the recommendations of the General Assembly and the Councils. This chapter contains a summary of the reports that the following specialized organizations submitted pursuant to Articles 127 and 91(f) of the Charter:

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO);
The Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN);
The Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM);
The Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH);
The Inter-American Indian Institute (III); and
The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).

3.1 PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Established in 1902 by the Second International Conference of American States, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) is the inter-American system's specialized organization in health matters and the World Health Organization's Regional Office for the Americas (AMRO/WHO). Its mission is to "lead strategic collaborative efforts among member states and other partners to promote equity in health, to combat disease, and to improve the quality of and lengthen the lives of the peoples of the Americas."

In the last five years, the Pan American Sanitary Bureau's management was framed within the broad context of the great humanitarian and social development ideals articulated at the global and hemispheric summits of the last fifteen years, which have put health at the center of the world and regional policy agenda. The Millennium Declaration, ratified by 189 states in September 2000, synthesized those ideals into the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

PAHO's management was based on a series of platforms approved by its governing bodies. The first platform is PAHO's *Strategic Plan 2003-2007*, structured around priority issues, countries and groups. To achieve the goals envisaged in the plan and to meet the countries' needs, the management practiced since 2003 has been based on strengthening technical cooperation and a program of institutional strengthening and transformation.

PAHO's institutional strengthening

The changes and adaptations undertaken to transform PAHO were calculated to improve governance, planning, results-based planning, accountability and transparency. Examples include the *Regional Program Budget Policy*, the subregional work plans, knowledge management, the *Regional Public Health Plans* and the accountability systems.

These changes included identification of new skills and competencies needed from human resources, and development of a training program for the entire staff on ethics, gender, security, HIV/AIDS, and leadership at the management levels.

Health on the Agenda of the Americas

The technical cooperation in this reporting period made strategic headway by positioning health at the highest tier of the region's political agenda. Special care has been taken to include the major topics discussed by PAHO's governing bodies at meetings of ministers of other sectors' ministers and heads of state. This was evidenced in the declarations of the Summits of the Americas, the Ibero-American Summit and Subregional Summits of Heads of State in Central America, the Caribbean, MERCOSUR and the Andean Community.

One important mandate from the most recent Summit of the Americas, held in Mar del Plata in 2005, concerns the preparation of preparedness plans to fight the influenza pandemic. We can

now report that all the member states are actively engaged in preparedness activities to be ready for such emergencies.

CARICOM's Summit on Chronic Non-Communicable Diseases was held on September 15, 2007. There, the heads of state and government of the Caribbean agreed on activities and measures to prevent and control the epidemic of chronic non-communicable diseases in this subregion.

Vaccination in the Americas

Pursuing a common strategy of immunization in the region, PAHO promoted Vaccination Week in the Americas. In 2007, 45 countries and territories participated in the fifth annual week of simultaneous vaccination, in which over 47 million people were vaccinated. Other WHO regions, Europe among them, have decided to replicate the experience and conduct their own vaccination weeks.

In wiping out rubella and congenital rubella syndrome in the Americas by June 2007, 41 countries and territories had strategies to inoculate adolescents and adults, with coverage of 95% or more. By mid 2007, over 125 million people had been vaccinated; when the campaigns planned for 2008 are finished, another 108 million will have been vaccinated against those viral illnesses.

One key factor in achieving these results was the revolving fund for the purchase of vaccines. As of 2006, 37 countries had made regular use of the Revolving Fund to purchase up to 45 vaccination products; the purchase orders exceeded \$160 million dollars.

Disaster response

In disaster preparedness, management and response, the region has taken major steps to mitigate the impact of disasters on the population. At the countries' request, PAHO formed a regional emergency and disaster response team. In recent years, 111 national experts in 15 countries have received training and guides and technical materials for emergency and disaster management in the area of health have been produced. With the support of the Regional Disaster Information Center (CRID), a number of countries have developed health-focused data systems.

Fight against tobacco

In the campaign against tobacco, 32 countries have signed the Framework Convention for Tobacco Control. However, since only 21 countries have ratified it, the necessary measures should be taken to hasten the instruments' implementation.

Healthy cities

In 2007, 19 of 35 countries and 3 territories have actively participated in the healthy municipalities, cities and communities initiative; 10 countries have created national or regional networks that have helped introduce 'healthy spaces' initiatives in their national work plans.

Faces, Voices and Places

"Faces, Voices and Places" is a PAHO initiative for the neediest communities in the region. Its purpose is to promote sustainable improvements in public health, reduce inequality and help achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Its targets are the most vulnerable communities in the region, which it supports through inter-institutional interventions and a progress tracking system. This initiative is underway in 30 communities/municipalities in 16 countries of the region (Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay).

Health Agenda for the Americas

In the 2003-2007 period, PAHO's technical cooperation was geared toward achievement of the Millennium Development Goals most closely related to health. With respect to the goals of preserving equity and remedying persistent disparities, PAHO's member states have defined and collectively articulated their public health priorities in the so-called Health Agenda for the Americas, introduced in Panama City on June 3, 2007, in a ceremony attended by Panamanian President Martín Torrijos, Panama's Minister of Public Health Dr. Camilo Alleyne, United Nations Secretary-General Bank Ki-moon, OAS Secretary General José Miguel Insulza and the Director of PAHO. Also present at the ceremony were a number of ministers of foreign affairs and ministers of health. The Agenda is a statement of political resolve in the Region in the area of health, undertaken at the highest level.

Working from this agenda and other reference documents, PAHO mapped out the Strategic Plan 2008-2012, which the 27th Pan American Sanitary Conference approved. The new Plan sets out the Organization's goals and objectives for the next five years.

Primary health care in the Americas

Another important marker in the road that PAHO will follow in the years ahead is the declaration titled "Towards a Health Strategy for Equity, Based on Primary Health Care," issued by the International Conference on Health for Development: "Rights, Facts and Realities." The conference was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in August 2007, on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Alma Ata Declaration. The Buenos Aires conference brought together representatives and delegates from over 60 countries. There they renewed their commitment to work toward the goal of health for all, reaffirming the importance of primary health care.

These are just some of the most important facts discussed in the Quinquennial Report 2003-2007 from the Director of the Pan American Health Organization.

3.2 INTER-AMERICAN CHILDREN'S INSTITUTE

The Institute is a specialized organization that helps create public policy on children in the Americas, promotes the partnership between the State and civil society, and cultivates a critical awareness of the problems affecting children and adolescents in the region.

The Secretariat of the Inter-American Children's Institute (III), a specialized organization of the OAS, was headed by Mrs. María de los Dolores Aguilar Marmolejo of Mexico, whose four-year term began on April 16, 2007.

2007 was the 80th anniversary of the Institute's founding (June 9, 1927). In 2007, the Institute underwent far-reaching administrative and organizational changes, as well as changes in its technical *modus operandi*, all geared toward repositioning it as a center of technical excellence and as a nexus within the inter-American system through which the governments build consensus and undertake commitments on issues relating to children and adolescents.

Salient here was the Directing Council's approval of the Action Plan 2007 – 2011. Equally noteworthy was the important thematic content developed in the member states' public policies, such as strategies for institutional modernization, child participation, prevention and eradication of commercial sexual exploitation of children, preventing the abduction of children and adolescents, promoting the right to identity and universal birth registration, protecting the rights of migrant children, promoting and cultivating the civic spirit in youth, including prevention of violence, cultivating a culture of peace and recovery of best practices; sharing information on the issue of the juvenile criminal justice system or the family or community approach to caring for children deprived of parental care.

A number of activities were conducted in 2007 to help cultivate public policies that will ensure promotion, observance, and exercise of children's rights, as part of the movement to strengthen democratic governance within the OAS member states, promote cooperation with civil society, and the family and community approach to building a culture that respects the rights of children and adolescents and protects their welfare. Prominent here were the following:

- Formulation of the Action Plan 2007-2011 (mandates received from the governing bodies of the OAS and the Institute and under the Strategic Plan 2005-2008). During his visit to IIN headquarters on June 13, the OAS Secretary General offered valuable input for the preliminary version. The Directing Council approved the Plan at its 82nd Meeting (July 26-27, Cartagena de Indias, Colombia). Under resolution CD/RES. 11 (82-R/07) the Plan is to take effect on the thirtieth day following its adoption. Member states were invited to propose additional contributions, following the procedure set forth in that resolution. The priorities for 2008-2009 have already been established.
- The new organic and functional structure of the Institute's Office (approved by the Office of the OAS Assistant Secretary General by note ASG /337 /2007, dated September 25, 2007) is responsive to the recommendations made by the OAS

General Assembly and Councils and will efficiently and effectively serve the purposes and scope of the Action Plan 2007-2011.

- Under the leadership of the Office of the Director General and with the Office of Area Director supervising, the organizational structure was divided into three technical areas: Promotion and Protection of Rights, Legal, and Communication and Information, each backed up by a support level.
- One of the commemorative activities took place at a ceremony held during the 82nd Meeting of the Directing Council, to introduce the song “Children for the Americas.” The book titled “*Public Policies and Children’s Human Rights*” was published in conjunction with the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.
- The Special Meeting of the Directing Council on “Analysis of the implementation of the new laws on children’s issues, public policies, and institutional reforms within the framework of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (November 29-30, Quito, Ecuador) emphasized dialogue and sharing of highly specialized know-how in various areas, among them the law, public policy, and investment in childhood and adolescence.
- Negotiations have advanced with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) in connection with the project “Strengthening Governance in the Inter-American System for the Promotion and Protection of Children’s Rights”, which the IIN prepared and the OAS General Secretariat’s Project Evaluation Committee approved at its meeting of April 3, 2007.
- Participation in and presentation of documents at the IX Ibero-American Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials in Children’s Affairs “Social Cohesion: Social Protection Systems for Equal Opportunities in Childhood” (Pucón, Chile, May 28-29, and an inter-agency preparatory meeting in March).
- Cooperation with the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, examining the cooperation and coordination mechanisms between the two institutions. The IIN will offer technical assistance to the OAS member states for presentation of initial and periodic reports on the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its two Optional Protocols. The Institute contributed to the General Discussion Day, which was held in Geneva on September 21.
- Second Meeting of Government Experts on International Abduction of Children by One of Their Parents (agreement with The Hague Conference on Private International Law), held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, September 19-21 to promote the implementation of the “Inter-American Program of Cooperation to Prevent and Remedy Cases of International Abduction of Minors by One of Their Parents,” and to consider the proposed Work Plan prepared by the IIN.

Participating were central authorities, judges and public policy representatives from the OAS member states.

- Through its Legal Area, the IIN gave the (September-December) course for central authority attorneys and specialists on International Abduction of Minors. This was a virtual course in which 42 people from 17 member states participated.
- The Office of the Director General of the IIN helped organize the meetings the Directing Council held in 2007 (82nd Regular Meeting in Colombia and the Special Meeting in Ecuador). It also helped organize the upcoming meetings (83rd Regular Meeting to be held in Canada in 2008, and the 84th Regular Meeting to be held in Peru in 2009); the Pan American Child Congress (planned for Peru in 2009) and the First Inter-American Meeting on the Exchange of Experience and Programs in Child Care (Mexico, 2008), in close collaboration with the Chair of the governing body and the respective government representatives.
- The Directing Council approved IIN's active membership in the Latin American Regional Chapter of the Global Movement for Children (GMfC). Recently, the Institute was invited to formally join the Working Group on Follow-up of the United Nations World Study on Violence against Children.
- The "Comprehensive Study on Legislation and Public Policy against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents in Latin America" was conducted. The research study, which covered 18 member states, began to put together the Strategic Communicational Plan (Save the Children-Sweden Agreement).
- Work got underway to develop a Regional Observatory to build the capacities of governments and organized civil society to protect minors from sexual exploitation and other forms of violence (Agreement with ECPAT International and Save the Children-Sweden, November).
- The Institute participated in meetings organized by the Childwatch International Research Network in Jamaica, with the English-speaking member states of the Caribbean participating (October).
- The IIN participated in the Subregional Conference on "Culture of Peace and Prevention of Juvenile Violence: Central America; Mexico and the Dominican Republic, "organized by the Ministry of Justice of Costa Rica; the UNDP; UNICEF; SEGIB and the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (November).
- Active participation in the meetings of the MERCOSUR Permanent Working Group - Iniciativa Niñ@Sur.

- The *Eighth Report to the Secretary General of the OAS on Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in the Americas* was presented and recounts the measures that the member states have taken.
- While continuing to circulate materials prepared to promote the rights of children, the Institute's response to inquiries received in cases of violations of children's basic rights has been to prepare "Institutional Technical Guidelines" as a mechanism for dialogue with the authorities of the member states and for their consideration.
- The IIN participated in activities of the General Secretariat and the Specialized Organs and Entities of the OAS. It did this through technical contributions and participation in events on such topics as the following:
 - The human rights of all migrant workers and their families
 - Education in Democratic Values and Practices
 - OAS Working Group on Haiti
 - Implementation of the Declaration on Security in the Americas
 - Empowering the Future Leaders of the Americas
 - Universal Civil Registration and the "Right to Identity"
 - Inter-agency work on HIV/AIDS

3.3 INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN

Created by the Sixth International Conference of American States (Havana, 1928), the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) is the OAS' advisory body on issues related to women in the Hemisphere and the principal forum generating hemispheric policy to promote the rights of women and gender equality and equity. Its objective is to work to have the gender perspective mainstreamed into the Organization's projects, programs and policies and to lobby governments to craft public policies and programs with a gender perspective so that men and women may enjoy equal opportunity in every realm of society. It has its headquarters in Washington, D.C. The Executive Committee for the 2006-2008 period is composed of the CIM President, Jacqui Quinn-Leadro, Antigua and Barbuda's Minister of Labor, Public Administration and Empowerment; the Vice President, Martha Lucía Vásquez, Colombia's Presidential Advisor on Women's Equality; and the Principal Delegates of Brazil, Guatemala, Haiti, Peru and Uruguay. The Executive Secretary of CIM is Mrs. Carmen Lomellin.

In this reporting period (January to December 2007), CIM's activities were geared toward fulfilling the mandates from the XXXIII Assembly of Delegates of the CIM, especially the CIM Work Program 2006-2008, those from the OAS General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session, and those from the Summits of the Americas. As CIM is the specialized organization for women in the area of human rights, its programs, activities, and guidelines are specifically geared to achieve gender equality and equity and unqualified respect for women's human rights.

The human rights of women – Elimination of violence against women

- a. Mechanism to Follow up on implementation of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, "Convention of Belém do Pará" (MESECVI)

As Technical Secretariat of MESECVI, the Permanent Secretariat of the CIM continued to support the Follow-up Mechanism on the Convention of Belém do Pará (MESECVI). It held the Third Meeting of the Committee of Experts (CEVI) in Buenos Aires, Argentina, July 18 to 20, 2007, with the OAS Secretary General participating. The meeting approved the draft Hemispheric Report and the country reports, which were sent to the Competent National Authorities (ANC) so that they might make their observations before these reports were presented to the Conference of States Party, slated to be held in Venezuela in early 2008.

The Commission has also started preparations for the Conference of States Party. A notice of convocation was sent to the governments announcing a meeting at which the Conference's Draft Rules of Procedure and preliminary agenda were presented.

A pamphlet was published in English and Spanish to publicize the work and objectives of the MESECVI. It will soon be published in French and Portuguese.

With the support of the Commission's Executive Committee, the governments were urged to help finance this important mechanism to follow-up on one of the most relevant OAS legal instruments pertaining to the human rights of women.

b. The Gender Aspects of HIV-AIDS

One of the priorities for the biennium 2006-2008, established by the Thirty-Third Assembly of Delegates held in San Salvador in 2006, is the Gender Aspects of HIV/AIDS. The Declaration of San Salvador, "Gender, Violence and HIV," adopted by the Seventh Special Assembly of Delegates of the CIM in November 2007, addresses this pandemic from the gender and human rights perspective, considers the perverse relationship between violence against women and HIV, and makes reference to its social implications. It also has recommendations for the OAS member states to combat the impact of HIV on women. In 2007, two projects were prepared on HIV and gender violence, one for Central America and the other for the Caribbean. The idea was to promote the development and implementation of policies and programs to prevent and treat HIV and to prevent violence against women. The first, titled *Integrating policies and programs on HIV and violence against women from a human rights perspective in Central America*, will be a two-year project in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua, with funding from the Spanish International Cooperation Agency. The second, *Capacity building to combine HIV services with gender violence services in the Caribbean – A pilot project*, will be conducted in several countries of the Caribbean, with partial financing from the People's Republic of China. Both will be carried out in collaboration with PAHO, UNIFEM and nongovernmental organizations.

c. Combating the Crime of Trafficking in Persons, especially Women, Adolescents and Children.

CIM began working on this issue five years ago and has achieved impressive results. In the reorganization of the OAS, the topic was moved to the Unit against Trafficking in Persons, which is part of the Department of Public Security under the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security. CIM is committed to continued cooperation with that unit to ensure continuity in mainstreaming the gender perspective into the measures taken and meets periodically with the coordinator of that area. In 2007, a workshop of legal experts from the Spanish-speaking countries was held in Colombia, August 21 and 22. Following up on the meeting organized by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and held in Vienna, October 2 -4, 2007, a regional workshop was held to craft model laws. The result of that meeting was added to the basic documents of the meeting of Central American parliamentarians, held in Guatemala on October 3 and 4, 2007, to review the laws against trafficking in persons in Central America. The gender issue was discussed on three panels, with the support of El Salvador's alternate delegate to the CIM.

Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality (PIA)

a. Gender and Labor: The Commission's cooperation with the OAS' Department of Social Development and Employment produced the "Strategic Guidelines for Advancing Gender Equality and Non-Discrimination within a Decent Work Framework," which the President of CIM introduced presented at the XV Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor in her capacity as Antigua and Barbuda's Minister of Labor and Empowerment. The Ministers adopted the proposal as part of the Work Plan.

b. Gender, Conflict and Peace-Building: The curriculum on Gender, Conflict and Peace-Building used in the training workshops in 2005 (Peru) and 2006 (Guatemala) was revised and edited so that it can be more easily replicated in the Spanish-speaking countries. The curriculum will be published at CIM's Web page and widely disseminated in Latin America in DVD format.

c. Public Budgets with a Gender Approach. For two years now, CIM and the Office of the OAS General Secretariat in Nicaragua have been coordinating the project on Municipal Finances with Gender Equity. The project was presented to the Council of Ministers of Women's Affairs of Central America (COMCA), with the result that a subregional technical meeting was held. It established a line of activity and prepared the first draft for a possible subregional program on the gender perspective in public finances. Measures are being taken in a number of Central American countries to expand the project.

Seventh Special Assembly of the CIM

During this reporting period, preparations were made for the Seventh Special Assembly of Delegates of the CIM, which was held in Washington, D.C., November 5 to 7. The "Declaration of San Salvador: Gender, Violence and HIV" was adopted there. It calls upon the countries to step up efforts to eliminate violence and discrimination against women, adolescents and children in relation to HIV, including through challenging gender stereotypes, stigmatization and discrimination against women living with or affected by HIV and gender inequalities, and to encourage the active involvement of men and boys in this regard.

The Seventh Special Assembly of Delegates also approved three resolutions: "Funding of Travel and Per Diem Expenses of the Members of the Executive Committee of the CIM"; "Strengthening the Participation and Political Representation of Women in the Americas" and "Amendment of the Legal Instruments of the CIM."

3.4 PAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY

Established by the Sixth International Conference of American States (Havana, 1928), the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) offers technical cooperation, provides training at research centers, issues publications, and organizes technical meetings in the fields of cartography, geography, history, and geophysics.

With the support of the system of national sections and with the participation of the interested scientific community in the hemisphere, the PAIGH is answering the growing demand from the international scientific community in its mission of interpreting the territory, using geographic and historical analysis and an authentically hemispheric vision. It is also cultivating effective and timely mechanisms for specialists to communicate with one another, based on specific parameters.

Pan American Agenda for the Advancement of the PAIGH 2009-2019: Building the Pan American Ideal in the XXI Century.

Having completed the first phase of the mandated re-engineering of the PAIGH (Guatemala, 2003), which concerned the organization of the Institute's finances and administration and modernization of its regulatory framework, the Institute must now devote greater attention to making itself more scientifically relevant. This was the general thrust of the agenda tackled and the observations expressed by the member states and the authorities at the First Joint Meeting of the PAIGH Committees (Brazil, 2007) and at the XL Meeting of the PAIGH's Directing Council (Colombia, 2007).

The challenges that the Pan American ideal faces in the twenty-first century are very different from those faced when the PAIGH was created. Today's challenges have to do with the fight against poverty, climate change, the severity of natural disasters and their mitigation, management of the land and natural resources, development of global markets and their local impact, and the social and economic importance of knowledge.

The Institute is celebrating its 80th anniversary in 2008. Conditions are right to undertake a collective exercise in the form of a "Pan American Agenda for the Advancement of the PAIGH 2009-2019." This ten-year plan features concrete goals that are the product of a new approach to the study of history and the development of the geography of the Americas.

Four resolutions approved in 2007 are particularly important in this connection, and together form a set of mandates calculated to achieve this goal:

- General Assembly resolution AG/RES. 2328 "Commemoration of the 80th Anniversary of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History," approved by the OAS General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session (Panama, 2007);
- Resolution II "Procedure on meetings of consultation of the PAIGH's committees" (Bogotá, 2007);

- Resolution III “Development of Spatial Data Infrastructures in the Americas” (Bogotá, 2007);
- Resolution V “Pan American Agenda of the PAIGH, 2009-2019” (Bogotá, 2007);

Technical Assistance and Cooperation Program 2007

The XXXIX Meeting of the Directing Council (Chile, 2006) approved a Technical Assistance Program consisting of 31 projects for a total of US\$186,860.00. The Program came under the Regular Fund budget and represented approximately 33% of the PAIGH’s Regular Fund appropriation. It was very successful, having achieved a level of execution of 96%. The following are some of the most noteworthy results:

- In the *Cartography* Commission, important headway has been made in supporting the development of spatial data infrastructures in the region and the projects on “the “Formation of databanks of geographic place names”; “Cartography as a tool for understanding urban crime risks”; “Geocentric Reference System for the Americas (SIRGAS)””; the “Global Map” (Americas section) and continuation of the project on tactile cartography, with emphasis on the hearing and visually challenged in Latin America.

As for cartography itself and production of spatial data, the Geosur Program is a project that is carrying out a PAIGH proposal processed in 2005, intended to promote the development of an online geospatial information network for South America. The ultimate goal is to produce a new Virtual Map of the Americas. The initiative is a collaborative effort of the Andean Development Corporation (CAF), in partnership with IABIN, USGS/EROS and the PAIGH. In March 2007, a Geosur Workshop was held in Brasilia, as part of the IIRSA initiative. The next step was a workshop held at the EDC Center in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, in the United States, partly funded by the OAS.

- In the case of the *Geography* Commission, some of the most important work was in comparative geography and natural history (in principle, the experiences observed in Argentina, Mexico, Costa Rica and Paraguay); the geographic information technologies and their use in teaching geography; the geographic perspective in detecting and tracking forest fires in Mexico and Central America. Through the Commission, the PAIGH also continued to assist the work of the Office of the OAS Secretary General in the Belize-Guatemala Adjacency Zone. One very important development in 2007 was the conclusion of the negotiations between the PAIGH and the government of Ecuador, which led to the signing of a new agreement for the CEPEIGE. This new agreement establishes the foundation for a new phase in training specialists from the region in the field of geography.
- The topic of natural disasters continued to be an important one for the *Geophysics* Commission in 2007. The following studies stand out: Snowstorms in the subtropical Andes (Chile-Argentina); Comparative studies of floods (Chile and Argentina); monitoring the chemical composition of fluids and thermic gases in volcanoes in southern Peru, and hydromagmatic eruptions of Llamatepec Volcano (Santa Ana) in El Salvador.

The PAIGH participated in the work resulting from the Fifth Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Science and Technology (COMCYT), which is responsible for implementation of the 2005 Declaration of Lima. This is being done through 14 projects, one of which corresponds to the PAIGH: Geographic Information for Integral Development in the Americas. It also participated in the Inter-American Committee for Natural Disaster Reduction (IACNDR), of which the PAIGH is a member.

- For its part, the *History* Commission continued to probe the ancient history of the Americas and the historical studies of Andean indigenous culture. The Commission was also active in the area of historiography, building visions of time and space in the hemisphere. Studies comparing economic and social history have also been done, for a vision of the hemisphere as a whole and of specific trends in such areas as natural disasters, science and technology, and economic integration, especially in the Southern Cone. At the initiative of the PAIGH's Cultural History Committee, the "First Seminar of the Comparative History of the Americas" was held at four venues in Mexico City, with experts and specialists in attendance.

In 2007, the following multidisciplinary activities focused on natural disasters: "Detecting and tracking forest fires in Mexico and Central America," conducted in conjunction with the Meteorological Service of Mexico, yielded a proposal for a "Pan American Laboratory for Observation of Natural Disasters" at PAIGH headquarters; "Geography and Natural History: Towards a Comparative History, and "Natural Disasters and the Culture of Prevention: Towards a Comparative History of Science and Technology in Mexico and Peru."

The 2008 Call for Proposals was conducted in 2007. Assistance was approved for a total of 31 projects submitted by 9 national sections. These projects will benefit the majority of the PAIGH's member states. The assigned budget is US\$170,050, earmarked to support Pan American initiatives in the following thematic areas: (1) spatial data infrastructures; (2) territorial planning; (3) new history of the Americas, and (4) response to emergencies caused by natural disasters.

Occasional Publications and Periodicals in 2007

In 2007, the PAIGH produced 14 publications, including the Spanish and English version of the "Organic Statutes, Rules of Procedure and Agreements 2005-2009," and a volume titled "*Retos de la migración latinoamericana*" [Challenges of Latin American Migration], which is the product of a PAIGH technical assistance project conducted by the *Centro de Investigaciones sobre América Latina y el Caribe* (CIALC) of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM).

Through exchanges conducted by way of the National School of Anthropology and History (ENAH) of Mexico, the PAIGH's "José Toribio Medina" Library now has over 227,599 publications.

Meetings

In 2007, the following statutory meetings were held:

- 67th Meeting of Authorities (Itú, Sao Paulo, Brazil, June 25 and 26)
- I Joint Meeting of the Institute's Technical Commissions (Itú, Sao Paulo, June 27 to 29)
- 68th Meeting of Authorities (Bogotá, Colombia, November 7)
- XL Meeting of the Directing Council (Bogotá, Colombia, November 8 to 10)

Prior to these meetings, the General Secretariat strictly complied with the 24 resolutions approved at the XXXIX Meeting of the Directing Council of the PAIGH (Chile, 2006).

3.5 INTER-AMERICAN INDIAN INSTITUTE

Created by the 1940 Pátzcuaro International Convention, the basic objectives of the Inter-American Indian Institute are to collaborate in the coordination of the member states' indigenous policies and to promote research by and training of persons dedicated to indigenous communities' development.

Activities carried out

Library. A total of 51,949 periodicals have been catalogued, as have 60,076 journal articles in the collection, 7,520 book articles, and 14,450 books.

Historic Archives. Seven of the thirteen Inter-American Indian Congresses have been put in digital format, as have all the final reports of the Assembly of the Directive Council and of the Executive Committee and Reports since 1940.

Research. The research material “*Cantos del pueblo Wirrárika en su peregrinación a Wirikuta*” was published and a CD made. The Institute continues to collaborate with Dr. Laura Giraudo, from the Center for Political and Constitutional Studies, Ministry of the Office of the President, Spain, who is working on a history of the Institute.

Internet site. In 2007, the number of hits continued to increase over previous years; three issues of *América Indígena* were made available on the site.

Social Service. For a portion of this reporting period, the Institute was assisted by a student from the *Universidad del Mar*, Huatulco campus, in Oaxaca, Mexico, who helped with the work of the Library and Historic Archives.

Publications. - As of December 31, 2007, three issues of the journal *América Indígena* were issued for 2006. These were published at the Institute's Web page, where the public can use them at no cost.

The following were digitalized in CD format:

Cantos de una peregrinación a wirikuta (San Andrés Cohamiata, Mezquitic, Jalisco; Eusebio López Carrillo; Julio Ramírez de la Cruz; Nabor Carrillo, Ramón Carrillo Guzmán; Lilia Cruz González Espinosa; Guillermo Espinosa Velasco; José Luis González; Ari Rajsbaum Gorodezky);

Assemblies of the Executive Committee, Directive Council and Reports (Oscar Juárez Arellano – Samuel Cano Enríquez, Mexico 2007);

América Indígena Vol. LXII 2006 (Sergio Orrala Barajas. 2007);

Anuario Indigenista Vol. 22 (1962) (Sergio Orrala Barajas. 2007);

Anuario Indigenista Vol. 23 (1963) (Sergio Orrala Barajas. 2007);

Anuario Indigenista Vol. 24 (1964) (Sergio Orrala Barajas. 2007);

Anuario Indigenista Vol. 25 (1965) (Sergio Orrala Barajas. 2007);

Anuario Indigenista Vol. 26 (1966) (Sergio Orrala Barajas. 2007);

Anuario Indigenista Vol. 27 (1967) (Sergio Orrala Barajas. 2007);
Anuario Indigenista Vol. 28 (1968) (Sergio Orrala Barajas. 2007);
Anuario Indigenista Vol. 29 (1969) (Sergio Orrala Barajas. 2007);
Anuario Indigenista Vol. 30 (1970) (Sergio Orrala Barajas. 2007);
Anuario Indigenista Vol. 31 (1971) (Sergio Orrala Barajas. 2007);
Anuario Indigenista Vol. 32 (1972) (Sergio Orrala Barajas. 2007);
Anuario Indigenista Vol. 33 (1973) (Sergio Orrala Barajas. 2007);
Anuario Indigenista Vol. 34 (1974) (Sergio Orrala Barajas. 2007);
Anuario Indigenista Vol. 35 (1975) (Sergio Orrala Barajas. 2007);
Anuario Indigenista Vol. 36 (1976) (Sergio Orrala Barajas. 2007);
Anuario Indigenista Vol. 37 (1977) (Sergio Orrala Barajas. 2007);
Anuario Indigenista Vol. 38 (1978) (Sergio Orrala Barajas. 2007);
Anuario Indigenista Vol. 39 (1979) (Sergio Orrala Barajas. 2007);
Anuario Indigenista Vol. 40 (1980) (Sergio Orrala Barajas. 2007);
Anuario Indigenista Vol. 41 (1981) (Sergio Orrala Barajas. 2007);
Anuario Indigenista Vol. 42 (1982) (Sergio Orrala Barajas. 2007);
Anuario Indigenista Vol. 43 (1983) (Sergio Orrala Barajas. 2007);
Anuario Indigenista Vol. 44 (1984) (Sergio Orrala Barajas. 2007);
Anuario Indigenista Vol. 45 (1985) (Sergio Orrala Barajas. 2007);
Anuario Indigenista Vol. 46 (1986) (Sergio Orrala Barajas. 2007);
Anuario Indigenista Vol. 47 (1987) (Sergio Orrala Barajas. 2007);
Anuario Indigenista Vol. 48 (1988) (Sergio Orrala Barajas. 2007);
Anuario Indigenista Vol. 49 (1989) (Sergio Orrala Barajas. 2007);
Anuario Indigenista Vol. 50 (1990) (Sergio Orrala Barajas. 2007)

3.6 INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE

Founded in 1942, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) is the inter-American system's organization specializing in the agricultural sector and rural territories. As such, it stimulates, promotes, and supports the member States' efforts to achieve sustainable development of agriculture and to enable rural communities to prosper.

The Fourth Ministerial "Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas" was held in 2007 in Antigua, Guatemala. Also held in 2007 were the Twenty-Seventh Meeting of the Executive Committee and the Fourteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture. The important decisions taken at those meetings were about institutional policy, budgetary and financial matters, inter-institutional relations and cooperation services.

Examples of the innovative technical cooperation that IICA provides include efforts to reposition agriculture, which included publication of the report titled "Agriculture and the new development challenges: Report on the Status of and Prospects for Agriculture and Rural Life, 2007" and various technical forums that tackled current issues such as agri-food trade with China and India, transboundary diseases, and biotechnology.

On the subject of regional integration, IICA serves as Executive Technical Secretary of the Southern Agricultural Council (CAS) and the Canada-Mexico-United States Tri-national Council. In performing that role, the Institute followed up on the activities of the working groups of the Southern Region Agricultural Policies System and encouraged dialogue on competitiveness and trade in the Northern Region. In the Central Region, the Institute cooperated with the Central American Agricultural Council (CAC) in building the Central American Agricultural Policy (PACA); in the Caribbean and Andean regions, specific activities were conducted with the respective ministerial councils of agriculture.

In promoting trade and the competitiveness of agri-businesses, IICA cooperated with the member states in examining the negotiation of the Free Trade Agreement between Central America and the United States and identifying opportunities for trade in specific products under the terms of that agreement. It also provided them with assistance in conducting comparative studies and studies of the impact of trade at the hemispheric and regional levels.

IICA also worked to build entrepreneurial capacities. Hundreds of people from the private agri-food sector participated in the "Exports Platforms Program" and the "Improving the Entrepreneurial Skills of Small- and Medium-Scale Farmers." To that end, it was instrumental in staging various hemispheric meetings on market data, and many courses on supply chains and improving competitiveness, held in the Central Region, the Caribbean Region (with the CDB and the FAO) and the Andean Region (with the ACCESO Program).

IICA's efforts to promote agricultural health and food safety (AHFS) were geared toward modernization of national animal and plant health services. Salient here was the fact that a number of countries started using the "Performance, vision and strategy" instrument developed by IICA. New cooperation agreements were concluded with the USDA, PAHO, the OIE, the

OIRSA and various universities in the United States, as well as other organizations. Those agreements paved the way for joint activities to analyze risks, critical control points, and best practices in animal and plant health and safety in the Caribbean and Central Regions. Prominent here were the exercises conducted in a number of Caribbean countries, simulating the health hazards of bird flu.

The “Initiative for the Americas” enabled representatives of 26 countries to participate in the meetings of the World Trade Organization’s Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures. In a number of countries, the consolidation of national committees to monitor the international agendas on sanitary and phytosanitary measures was instrumental in institution building in this area. Other relevant cooperation activities concerned foot-and-mouth disease and bird flu. These included production of radio and video series on the highly pathogenic bird flu, which were circulated among small- and medium-scale poultry businesses.

As part of IICA’s effort to build stronger rural communities, it provided assistance to member countries to build up their institutional structures and formulate policies for rural development with a territorial approach. Thus, for example, IICA helped in the evaluation of PRODERT (a Honduran-Salvadoran-Guatemalan tri-national program); the Andean Region’s platform for stronger rural communities was strengthened; the dialogue with various Ecuadorian ministries was furthered and support was provided to help with formulation of family farm projects in the Southern Region. The Institute also promoted the rights of women and gender equity and equality, focusing on strengthening small rural businesses operated by women, and encouraging partnerships with networks of women, using the territorial approach as a frame of reference.

It also provided assistance for the design of the Masters Degree Program in Rural Development, of the *Universidad Mayor de San Andrés* (Bolivia). A course on agri-environmental policies was prepared in conjunction with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada; the book on Micro-regional Development Planning Methods was updated; theoretical and practical elements were suggested to define what *rural* means. IICA also participated in the design of the Central American Network of Rural Studies and Alternatives.

To encourage the introduction of technology and innovation to modernize agriculture and rural development, IICA and partners like the IFPRI and the CYTED worked on developing research and technology indicators. It also conducted an analysis of the status and performance of regional agriculture from the standpoint of technology. The Institute helped prepare the chapters on Latin America and the Caribbean in the International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology (IAAST). In partnership with the GFAR, it succeeded in getting the hemisphere included in the global project to link small producers to markets.

IICA also worked to strengthen the hemispheric system of cooperation in technological innovation. To that end, the dialogue being promoted through FORAGRO to encourage policy design continued; the IICA-IDB Agreement to fund regional research through FONTAGRO was extended and reciprocal horizontal cooperation was strengthened through the seven cooperative programs for technological research and innovation (PROCIs).

IICA consolidated and strengthened the biotechnology and biosecurity areas in the Scientific Information System, which was used to report up-to-date information on the development and adoption of agri-biotechnology. In Mexico and in the Andean, Caribbean and Central regions, progress was made in pinpointing development needs and the proper use of agri-biotechnology and biosecurity, in creating the so-called regional or national multi-sector groups and in sharing experiences in this area.

As for biofuels and agri-energy, IICA serves as Secretariat of the Technical Committee of the Inter-American Ethanol Commission and in that capacity published the first volume of the Atlas of Agri-Energy. It also worked with the *Organización Latinoamericana de Energía* to help circulate information on alternative energy sources. This joint undertaking culminated in the Latin American and Caribbean Seminar on Biofuels. IICA's participation in various forums and seminars and the advisory assistance it provided to institutions like the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP) and the Ministry of Agriculture of Haiti, were instrumental in carving out positions and helped encourage thinking about agri-energy and biofuels. Finally, in partnership with the OAS, the IDB and the Government of Guyana, the Institute signed a memorandum of understanding on support to the *Caribbean Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency and Bioenergy Action Program*.

As for organic agriculture, the Southern, Andean and Caribbean regions already have technical cooperation agendas in that area; the Central American Region has a proposal to strengthen institutions in that field.

The technical cooperation that IICA provides at the hemispheric, regional and national levels is matched by other initiatives with organizations like the FAO, AECI, CropLife, CTA, BIO, ENESA, and others. In close cooperation with the Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank, IICA was instrumental in designing and implementing various cooperative activities, especially at the regional level.

IV. OTHER INTER-AMERICAN BODIES

4.1 INTER-AMERICAN JURIDICAL COMMITTEE

The Inter-American Juridical Committee is one of the organs through which the Organization of American States (OAS) accomplishes its purposes (Article 53 of the Charter). Under Chapter XIV of the Charter, its composition, powers, and functions are as follows: it serves as an advisory body to the Organization on juridical matters, promotes the progressive development and codification of international law, and studies juridical problems related to the integration of the developing countries of the Hemisphere.

The Inter-American Juridical Committee held two regular sessions in 2007.

The first was in San Salvador, El Salvador, February 26 through March 9. The second was at its headquarters in Rio de Janeiro, July 30 to August 10. The following items figured on the agendas of both sessions: the scope of the right to identity, the International Criminal Court, access to and protection of information and personal data, follow-up to the implementation of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, the fight against discrimination and intolerance in the Americas, the Seventh Inter-American Specialized Conference on Private International Law—CIDIP-VII, implementation of international humanitarian law in the member states of the OAS, the legal situation of migrant workers and their families in international law, the administration of justice in the Americas: judicial ethics and access to the courts, the Inter-American Court of Justice, juridical-institutional cooperation with the Republic of Haiti, and the proposal to support the creation of an Official Regional Bulletin on Latin America.

The Inter-American Juridical Committee approved reports and adopted resolutions on those topics.

In 2007, the members of the Inter-American Juridical Committee were: Jean-Paul Hubert (Canada, President), Jaime Aparicio (Bolivia, Vice President), Ricardo Seitenfus (Brazil), Eduardo Vio (Chile), Galo Leoro (Ecuador), Ana Elizabeth Villalta (El Salvador), Antonio Pérez (United States), Hyacinth Evadne Lindsay (Jamaica), Jorge Palacios (Mexico), Mauricio Herdocia (Nicaragua) and Freddy Castillo (Venezuela). At the thirty-seventh regular session of the OAS General Assembly (Panama, June 2007), Dr. Guillermo Fernández de Soto (Colombia) was elected to membership on the Juridical Committee, and Dr. Mauricio Herdocia (Nicaragua) was re-elected. The terms of these two members began on January 1, 2008, and will last four years. The outgoing member of the Juridical Committee, whose term ended on December 31, 2007, was Dr Eduardo Vio.

As Vice President of the Inter-American Juridical Committee, Dr. Jaime Aparicio presented the Committee's Annual Report to the General Assembly, concerning its activities in 2006.

On behalf of the General Secretariat, the following officials provided the Inter-American Juridical Committee with technical and administrative support: Dr. Jean-Michel Arrighi, Director of the Department of International Legal Affairs; Dr. Dante M. Negro, Director of the Office of International law, and Dr. Manoel Tolomei Moletta, Principal Legal Officer with that office.

Finally, with the Office of International Law coordinating, the Inter-American Juridical Committee organized the XXXIV Course on International Law, held from July 30 to August 24, 2007. The participants included 28 professors from different countries in the Americas and Europe, and 28 OAS scholarship recipients, selected from over 100 candidates, and 10 who paid their own tuition. The central theme of the course was “Legal Aspects of Regional Development.”

4.2 INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) was created by a resolution of the Fifth Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs in Santiago, Chile, in 1959. It was formally established in 1960 when the Council of the Organization approved its Statute. Its Rules of Procedure, first adopted in 1980, were amended several times thereafter, most recently in 2006.

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights is one of the two organs of the inter-American system charged with promoting and protecting human rights. Its seven members are elected by the General Assembly and serve in an individual capacity. They have four-year terms and may be re-elected one time only.

The Commission's officers for 2007 were elected on February 26, 2007, and were as follows: Florentin Meléndez, Chair; Paolo Carozza, First Vice Chair; and Víctor Abramovich, Second Vice Chair. The other members of the Commission in 2007 were: Clare K. Roberts, Evelio Fernández Arévalos, Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro and Freddy Gutiérrez.

The term of Commission members Evelio Fernández and Freddy Gutiérrez ended on December 31, 2007. Luz Patricia Mejía and Felipe González were elected to membership on the IACHR effective January 1, 2008.

Dr. Santiago A. Canton is Executive Secretary of the IACHR, and Dr. Elizabeth Abi-Mershed is Assistant Executive Secretary.

Sessions held

- 127th regular session – February 26 to March 9, 2007

At this regular session, the IACHR approved 19 reports on individual cases and petitions and held 30 working meetings and 48 hearings, some in connection with individual petitions and cases or provisional measures, and others on general or specific human rights situations. It approved its annual report for 2006 and received a delegation from the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.

- 128th regular session – July 16 to 27, 2007

During this session, the Commission held 25 public hearings to receive information from states, civil society organizations and petitioners. It also held 15 working meetings on petitions and cases in process, had a meeting with the ambassadors from the Andean countries and approved 44 reports on individual cases and petitions.

- 129th special session – Paraguay – September 5 to 7, 2007

By invitation of the Government of Paraguay, the Commission held its 129th special session in Asunción, Paraguay, September 5 to 7, 2007. There, it held four public hearings and working meetings on cases in progress filed against Argentina and Uruguay. It also conducted activities to promote the inter-American human rights system in the academic and judicial spheres.

- 130th regular session – October 8 to 19, 2007

During this session, the Commission held 27 hearings and 28 working meetings. It approved 17 reports on individual cases and petitions, participated in a meeting of the CAJP, had a working luncheon with the Central American Council for Human Rights Ombudsmen (CCPDH), met with magistrates and prosecutors in a meeting organized by the College of the Americas (COLAM), and signed an agreement with the University of Quebec in Montreal to create the “Brian Tittmore” Scholarship, among other activities.

Study of complaints or petitions

In 2007, the Commission received 1,451 individual petitions and examined a total of 1,331 complaints. It also published 51 admissibility reports, 14 inadmissibility reports, 5 friendly settlement reports, and 4 reports on the merits of the individual petitions and cases considered. The IACHR also published one report on an inter-state case.

Precautionary measures

In 2007, the Commission received and examined 250 requests seeking precautionary measures.

Visits made

- The IACHR’s Rapporteurship for the Rights of Children held working meetings in São Paulo, Brazil, on August 21 and 22, 2007, as part of the preparation of a Report on Juvenile Justice in the Americas.
- The IACHR’s Rapporteurship on the Rights of Women conducted a working visit to Chile, September 11 to 13, 2007, to compile information on the various manifestations of discrimination against women in Chile.
- The Rapporteur for Colombia, accompanied by either the Executive Secretary or his representatives, visited Colombia from January 16 to 20, April 10 to 13, and November 26 to 30, to follow the process of demobilizing armed outlaw groups and advise the OAS Mission to Support the Peace Process (MAPP/OAS). Since April 2007, the IACHR has had a technical consultant to advise on certain legalities related to the application of the Justice and Peace Law to the demobilized members of the AUC.
- The Commission’s Rapporteurship on the Rights of Afro-descendants and against Racial Discrimination visited Colombia May 14 through 18, to prepare a diagnostic study on the

socio-economic situation of Afro-descendants and evaluate the impact that the demobilization process and enforcement of the Justice and Peace Law have had on Afro-descendent communities.

- The Rapporteur for Haiti visited there from the 18th to the 22nd. That visit focused on the administration of justice and the rights of women. The Rapporteurship on the Rights of Persons Deprived of Liberty visited Haiti June 17 through 20, to get information and observe the situation of persons being held in certain detention facilities in Port-au-Prince.
- The Chair of the IACHR (and Rapporteur for Mexico and on the Rights of Persons Deprived of Liberty) visited Mexico April 9 through 13, to observe and compile information on the human rights situation in that country; it visited again on August 6 through 11, to monitor the human rights situation in the state of Oaxaca and check on the situation of persons being held in custody in certain Mexican detention facilities.
- The Commission's Rapporteurship on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples visited Paraguay on September 3 and 4, where it met with indigenous communities and government officials. It also held working meetings on cases and petitions.
- Throughout 2007, members of the Commission and the Secretariat participated in numerous international conferences, seminars and training sessions on the international protection of human rights and related topics.

Activities of the IACHR in relation to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights

In 2007, the Commission continued to litigate a series of cases before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. Between January 1 and December 31, 2007, the Commission lodged 14 cases with that Court and participated in the hearings held at all its sessions.

Reports published and presented

- The Commission's Rapporteurship on the Rights of Women presented its report "Access to Justice for Women Victims of Violence in the Americas," in Washington on March 7, 2007.
- The report prepared by the Commission's Rapporteurship on the Rights of Women, titled "Violence and Discrimination against Women in the Armed Conflict in Colombia," was introduced in Bogotá, Colombia, on April 12, 2007.
- In Bolivia, on August 7, 2007, the IACHR released its report on "Access to Justice and Social Inclusion: The Road towards Strengthening Democracy in Bolivia."

- On October 11, 2007, the IACHR released its “*Report on the Implementation of the Justice and Peace Law: Initial Stages in the Demobilization of the AUC and First Judicial Proceedings.*”
- On December 26, 2007, the IACHR released its report titled “Access to Justice as a Guarantee of Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights. A Review of the Standards Adopted by the Inter-American System of Human Rights.

Activities with the governing bodies of the OAS

In 2007, the IACHR continued to follow the discussions in the General Assembly, Permanent Council, Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs and their working groups, responded to their concerns, provided its counsel during their negotiations and participated in their principal events.

**V. OTHER AUTONOMOUS AND DECENTRALIZED ORGANS, AGENCIES,
ENTITIES AND DEPENDENCIES**

5.1 INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON NATURAL DISASTER REDUCTION

The Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction (IACNDR) was created by the General Assembly in resolution AG/RES. 1682 (XXIX-O/99) to address problems related to natural disasters and to serve as the leading forum at the Organization of American States (OAS) for discussion of this topic, in coordination with the competent national organizations.

In resolution AG/RES. 2114 (XXXV-O/05) “Natural Disaster Reduction and Risk Management,” the General Assembly mandated that a joint consultative body of the Committee on Hemispheric Security (CSH) and the Permanent Executive Committee of CIDI (CEPCIDI) would be created whose principle tasks would be:

- To work on the immediate implementation of Permanent Council’s recommendations in the document titled “Recommendations of the Committee on Hemispheric Security on Natural Disaster Reduction and Risk Management” (CP/CSH-718/05);
- To review the Statutes of FONDEM and of the IACNDR and propose the amendments necessary to create a single permanent inter-American committee to address natural and other disasters;
- To convene a meeting of disaster preparedness agencies, with the participation of governmental experts, subregional sector institutions, and international experts to share experiences and methods of analysis of vulnerability and risk and of the cost and benefit of investing in natural hazards mitigation; and
- To develop a methodology for funding specially geared towards prevention of and reconstruction and recovery in the event of natural disasters.

The GS/OAS, through the Department of Sustainable Development of the Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI/DSD), is supportive of the OAS member states’ priorities to adapt themselves to and prepare for the risks associated with natural hazards, through formulation of technical and normative recommendations on Natural Disaster Management.

SEDI/DSD combines the most important risk-reduction objectives with the OAS basic objectives as set forth in the founding Charter of the OAS and in its Democratic Charter: good government, reducing poverty and increasing earnings opportunities and job opportunities, and strengthening democracy, all as integral objectives calculated to reduce the risk that natural disasters pose.

SEDI/DSD is engaged in activities to reduce the risk of natural disasters, operating on three different levels. The first is the execution of projects for the development of ‘good practices’ and to address pressing issues of critical importance. The second level is establishment of interconnections and information sharing, so that the best practices can be shared and duplicated and experience can be passed along to ensure that human and financial resources are used to maximum effect. This second level is backed up by the Inter-American Network for Disaster Mitigation (INDM) which is also a means to promote and mitigate disasters, in coordination with

the private sector and other sectors of civil society. Finally, the SEDI/DSD establishes mechanisms and tools in the area of policy formulation. Accordingly, it supports and helps coordinate OAS policies and all decision-making bodies such as the General Assembly, the Permanent Council, and various committees of the OAS and of the inter-American system, especially the Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction (IACNDR) and the Committee on Hemispheric Security.

Inter-American Emergency Aid Fund (FONDEM)

The Inter-American Emergency Aid Fund (FONDEM) was created by the General Assembly through resolution AG/RES. 1327 (XXV-O/95), to provide all available social, humanitarian, material, technical, and financial aid to any member state of the Organization that is threatened with, has sustained, or is experiencing a crisis caused by a natural disaster.

In this reporting period, the OAS General Secretariat responded to a number of natural disasters in the region, and made the following contributions from FONDEM, shown in US dollars:

2006-2007 FONDEM DONATIONS

Year	Country	Event	Amount in U.S. dollars	Total
2007	Peru	Earthquake	25,000	160,000
	Uruguay	Floods	15,000	
	Bolivia	Floods	15,000	
	Peru	Cold front	15,000	
	Belize	Hurricane, flooding	15,000	
	Dominica	Hurricane, Flooding	15,000	
	Nicaragua	Hurricane, flooding	15,000	
	Dominican Republic	Hurricane, flooding	15,000	
	Haiti	Hurricane, flooding, flooding	15,000	
	Mexico	Floods	15,000	
2006	Ecuador	Floods	10,000	35,000
	Bolivia	Floods	15,000	
	Suriname	Floods	10,000	

5.2 JUSTICE STUDIES CENTER OF THE AMERICAS

The Justice Studies Center of the Americas was established by the General Assembly as an intergovernmental entity with technical and operational autonomy. Its objectives are to help strengthen human resources, facilitate the exchange of information and other forms of technical cooperation, and support reform and modernization of the justice systems in the region.

Promoting judicial reform in the region

In 2007, the Justice Studies Center of the Americas held various regional meetings to further judicial reform. Over 900 experts and justice sector operators participated in these events. The most relevant were the following:

- V International Seminar on Judicial Management: Modern Tools for Improving Judicial Management

The Fifth Inter-American Seminar on Judicial Management: Modern Tools for Improving Judicial Management was held in Lima, Peru, in October. Its purpose was to examine and follow up on the strategies for implementing reforms, measuring the potential impact of results- and incentives-based planning and budgeting in justice sector institutions, and employing theoretical developments and practical experiences in public management.

The Seminar began an analysis on how effective incorporation of modern information and communication technologies (ICTs) might affect the performance of the justice systems in the Latin American countries, what the prospects are for change and what impact the new practices would have.

- International Seminar on “Best Practices in Latin America’s New Criminal Procedure Systems”

Held in Santiago, Chile, May 22 to 25, the purpose of the event was to examine the state of reforms in criminal procedure in the region, particularly the innovative ideas about internal and extra-institutional management of the judicial branches of government, public prosecutor’s offices, public criminal defenders offices and coordination between these institutions and police institutions.

- Latin American Seminar on Oral Proceedings

Conducted in San José, Costa Rica, December 6 and 7, 2007, the Seminar’s main objective was to examine and discuss experiences in introducing oral proceedings in various areas of the law and in different countries of the region. It was based on empirical studies headed up by the JSCA, and discussed successes and failures alike.

Support for reform in criminal justice

A core function of the JSCA is to deliver tools and to cooperate in the shift away from inquisitorial systems of justice in favor of adversarial systems. Many countries of the region have opted for the change. Some of the activities conducted in this area are summarized below:

- **Monitoring Reforms in Criminal Procedure:** studies, publication and dissemination. The idea here is to assess the implementation of the reforms in criminal procedure in the Latin American countries that have instituted those reforms in recent years (Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Nicaragua and Bolivia), and the experiences of those countries that, having started those reforms in the past, are carrying out pilot programs to put innovative experiments into practice (Guatemala -Quetzaltenango, Ecuador - Cuenca, Argentina - Mar del Plata, and Costa Rica -Guanacaste).
- **IV Inter-American Program for Training Trainers for Criminal Procedure Reform.** The goal of this program has been to improve the results achieved with introduction of reforms in criminal justice in the region by training key justice system actors and leaders and staging similar training programs in their respective countries.

The 15 local courses conducted were attended by some 1400 participants just this year. The attendees were members, students and former students of the JSCA in six countries of Latin America. These events, which were courses, workshops, seminars and talks, revealed that an impressive international network is now in place, headed by the JSCA.

- **First Inter-American Meeting “Network of the Inter-American Program for Training Trainers for Criminal Procedure Reform.”** Former students were introduced to the Open Society Institute’s Justice Initiative, to implement a system for evaluating and monitoring personal precautionary measures so as to make rational use of measures intended to ensure a defendant’s court appearance.
- **Virtual Training Program for Latin American Prosecutors.** This program’s emphasis was on equipping staff attorneys of public prosecutors’ offices in Latin America with the knowledge and tools needed to cultivate new *modi operandi*, approaches and dynamics for dealing with the practical problems that arise in the implementation and operation of criminal procedure as a result of the various reforms made to the justice systems in the region in the last two decades and the complexities of criminal prosecution today. This is an e-learning activity.
- **Support to further innovation in criminal procedure.** Conducted in Argentina, in the provinces of Buenos Aires and Córdoba and in the city of Buenos Aires; in Bolivia; in Costa Rica; in Ecuador, Guatemala and Peru, this program consisted mainly of monitoring the instruments developed and delivered by the JSCA, so that the reformed criminal justice systems in the region are able function better. These activities are in response to direct requests from the states involved and generally take the form of local courses that are reproductions of the courses offered under the Program for Training

Trainers for Criminal Procedure Reform. The ultimate result is to introduce concrete means to enable the reformed systems to function to better effect.

These projects have become true sources of support for the political and technical process in countries that request advisory assistance, and have become a new way to introduce reforms in the criminal justice system. The JSCA has been careful to produce evaluations of these activities, which have been published in the new follow-up and evaluation reports.

- The study titled “*Avances y desafíos de las defensorías públicas para garantizar el acceso a la justicia en las reformas procesales penales en América Latina*” [Progress made and challenges faced by Public Defenders Offices to ensure access to justice in the reforms to criminal procedure in Latin America], is sponsored by the Secretariat for Political Affairs of the Organization of American States (OAS) and examines the entire region. Its chief purpose is to identify the state of public defender services, the challenges they face and the successes attributable to the new model of adversarial criminal procedure in the Latin American countries.

Support for reforms in the civil justice system

During this reporting period, the JSCA stepped up its work in the area of civil justice, including civil law *per se*, as well as business law, family law and labor law. It conducted the following activities to that end:

- Meetings of experts on reform in the civil justice system. Experts from various countries were convened to examine the state of the civil justice system in the Americas and single out the main issues that reforms in that area of the law need to cultivate and promote, especially in Latin America and the Caribbean, while capitalizing upon international experience.
- A comparative study on the civil justice system and its reform in the region. The purpose of this study is to examine the civil justice in the region; how it functions, what types of cases it handles, who the clients are and what results it has.

Studies have also been undertaken on the specific issues that seem to be most relevant, so that the JSCA can build a discourse of its own on the challenges for a public policy that advocates reform in civil justice systems in the region. These studies covered issues like small claims courts, oral proceedings and due process in civil justice and empirical research into the reforms made to the civil justice system in Uruguay and family justice system in Chile.

- Publication: “A new civil justice system for Latin America: some thoughts on the reform process.” 2000 copies of this publication were issued. It is a synthesis of studies and observations calculated to help steer the civil justice reform process in countries of the Americas.

Strengthening the information and management systems in the administration of justice

The following were the activities carried out in this area during this reporting period:

- III Report on Justice Systems in the Americas 2006-2007. The third edition of this annual report is an organized presentation of information on the justice systems in the countries of the Americas, consisting of basic, up-to-date data presented on a country-by-country basis, significant developments in the last two years, a description of each institution in the justice system and its structure and functions, current discrete statistics, budgets planned and budgets executed, projects in progress, and other matters. This edition includes information on the notarization and registration system in each country and additional facts on police organizations. This new version is an improvement not just in terms of the coverage of the data but also in terms of their quality, since the information that the countries voluntarily make available can now be standardized and compared by period.

At the request of the OAS Secretary General, the CD version of the report was introduced at the General Assembly and sent to the authorities of the most relevant institutions that are part of or associated with the justice systems in the countries of the Americas.

- Manuel on the use of technology in justice. This is a novel departure for the JSCA, and examines how technology can be used to serve the cause of justice in the region.
- Project on Juridical Indicators for Ibero-America. This project is part of the Plan of Action of the Ibero-American Juridical Summit, entrusted to the JSCA and consisting of a consensus set of basic juridical indicators for Ibero-America.

The Plan will be made available to all the member countries of the Ibero-American Juridical Summit. The following countries are in the Working Group that developed the plan: Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Panama, Mexico, Peru and Spain.

- Criminal justice statistics for Guatemala. A data system was developed on the criminal justice system in Guatemala. The baseline is the year 2004, and the data go to 2008. The project draws its information from various sources and from a sampling of case files.
- Support to judicial management in Panama, by providing advisory services in this area to the Supreme Court and to Panama's State Justice Commission. Recommendations were made for implementing the 27 proposals contained in the report "State Compact for Justice" which the Commission prepared in 2005 to improve the administration of justice in that country.
- JSCA Virtual Information Center and Virtual Library, through which the Center provides technological tools to enable information sharing in the region. The tools include its Web site, the virtual community and the Nexus Newsletter. The JSCA web site received 95,000 hits in 2007; the Virtual Library saw over 65,000 searches for documents on justice in the Americas.

5.3 ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL

The Administrative Tribunal of the Organization of American States was established on April 22, 1971, by resolution AG/RES. 35 (I-O/71), adopted by the General Assembly at the ninth plenary session of its first regular session. Its function is to settle any disputes that may arise with staff members of the OAS General Secretariat by reason of administrative decisions, when the staff members are alleging non-compliance with the terms of their respective appointments or contracts or violations of the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat and other applicable provisions, including those relating to the Retirement and Pension Plan of the General Secretariat. The Tribunal has six members and its own Secretariat.

At the thirty-seventh regular session of the OAS General Assembly, held in Panama from June 3 through 5, 2007, the Tribunal was represented by Judge Alma Montenegro de Fletcher, Vice President of the Tribunal, and its Secretary, Mr. Reinaldo Rodríguez Gallad, Senior Legal Officer, who was also serving as Plenary Secretary at that session of the General Assembly. At the fourth plenary session, held June 5, 2007, the General Assembly elected Mr. Homero Máximo Bibiloni (Argentina) as a Judge of the Administrative Tribunal for the 2008-2013 term (AG/doc.4772/07).

At that same session, the General Assembly adopted resolution AG/RES. 2353 (XXXVII-O/07) ordering the following budgetary measures, effective January 1, 2008:

- To assign the sum of US\$ 196,400.00 for the Administrative Tribunal and its Secretariat for the period from January 1 to December 31, 2008 (Chapter I.2. 3-/31C).
- To maintain the sum of US\$150 a day for the honoraria paid to members of the Administrative Tribunal (Chapter III.B.14).

The President of the Administrative Tribunal, Judge Albert N.J. Matthew, presented its 2006 Annual Report in a meeting of the OAS Permanent Council held on March 7, 2007.

Public hearings were convoked for March 8, 2007, to hear testimony in connection with Complaint 285 “Jorge Zambrana vs. Secretary General of the OAS.” Presiding at the hearing was Judge Albert N.J. Matthew.

The hearings in Complaint 285 “Jorge Zambrana vs. Secretary General of the OAS” resumed on May 8, 2007. By a delegation of authority on the part of the Tribunal’s President, Judge Albert N.J. Matthew (Memorandum 19/07 of April 19, 2007), Tribunal Secretary Reinaldo Rodríguez Gallad presided over this session.

By Memorandum dated May 15, 2007, the President of the Administrative Tribunal, Judge Albert N.J. Matthew, convoked the LV session of the Administrative Tribunal.

That session was held in the Guerrero Room of the OAS General Secretariat in Washington, D.C., June 18 and 19, 2007. The following Tribunal members were present: Judge Albert N.J. Matthew (President), Judge Alma Montenegro de Fletcher (Vice President), Judge Andre M. Surena and Judge Héctor Enrique Arce Zaconeta.

The business that the Tribunal members had to consider at this session was as follows:

- Swearing-in of Judge Héctor Enrique Arce Zaconeta (Bolivia), elected by the OAS General Assembly at its thirty-sixth regular session.
- Presentation of the curriculum vitae of the new Judge-elect, Homero Máximo Bibiloni (Argentina), whose term as a member of the Tribunal will begin on January 1, 2008.
- Observations on the decisions adopted by the OAS General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session.
- Complaint 285 “Jorge Zambrana v. Secretary General of the OAS.”

At the LV regular session of the Administrative Tribunal, the judges delivered Judgment 153, closing Complaint 285 “Jorge Zambrana v. Secretary General of the OAS.”

On September 25, Ambassador Arístides Royo, Permanent Representative of Panama, repeated his Government’s offer to host the LVI regular session of the Administrative Tribunal, to be held in 2008.

The Secretariat has been conducting a careful review of the preliminary draft reforms and amendments to the Statute and Rules of Procedure of the Administrative Tribunal so that they are ready to be introduced at the next session, slated for Panama City.

The project to change the system to search for judgments at the Tribunal’s Web page, was successfully completed in early 2007. The new documents search system is available to the public, in English and Spanish, at the following Web address: http://www.oas.org/tribadm/SEARCH_BUSQUEDA/query_sp.asp

Mr. Reinaldo Rodríguez Gallad, Secretary of the OAS Administrative Tribunal, and Tribunal Assistant Mariana Lozza, represented it at the “Colloquium on International Administrative Tribunals and the Rule of Law,” held at the World Bank on March 27, 2007.

The Secretaries of the international Administrative Tribunals met on July 26, at the invitation of the Administrative Tribunal of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). Mr. Reinaldo Rodríguez Gallad, Secretary of the Tribunal, attended representing the OAS Administrative Tribunal.

5.4 PAN AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

Established in 1962, the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF) is a private, nonprofit, nongovernmental institution that operates under a cooperation agreement concluded with the OAS to support development programs and assistance to victims of natural disasters and humanitarian crises. The Secretary General is Chairman of the PADF's Board of Directors, whose members include 25 leaders from the private sector from throughout the hemisphere. The President of the Foundation is Ambassador Alexander F. Watson, and its Executive Director is John Sanbrailo. All the members of the Board of Directors work on a volunteer basis, serve as a support group to the OAS, and make monetary contributions and contributions in kind to the Foundation's programs.

The PADF's mission is to promote integral development among the most disadvantaged in Latin America and the Caribbean, in order to create "a hemisphere of opportunity for all." This mission is accomplished by forming innovative partnerships with private, public, and nonprofit organizations and institutions, in furtherance of the OAS' priorities. One of the Foundation's most important objectives is to strengthen civil society in the region and raise donations from businesses, corporations, civic groups, international agencies and organizations like USAID, the World Bank, and the Inter-American Development Bank, among others. It also accepts contributions from government agencies in the region.

The year 2007 stands out because of the many activities carried out under the leadership of Secretary General José Miguel Insulza and Assistant Secretary General Albert Ramdin. In response to the major humanitarian crisis in the hemisphere, the largest portfolio of PADF programs in the hemisphere continued to be in Colombia. Their main purpose is to assist those displaced by the violence associated with the civil conflict, and to help farmers who have opted to stop cultivating illegal crops.

The second program to assist displaced persons began in 2006 and will benefit over 400 thousand in 94 municipalities nationwide. Working in partnership with local organizations, the program provides assistance with basic services, generating income and jobs, and institutional strengthening. By late 2007, the program had already funded 92 projects, benefiting a total of 334,700 people. The PADF also assisted hundreds of vulnerable groups in Colombia in border areas in Ecuador, Venezuela and Panama. Under the Program ADAM (Areas for Municipal-level Alternative Development) and in cooperation with the Colombian government, 52 productive projects have been carried out, providing assistance to *campesino* organizations and cooperatives to help them cultivate and market new farm products. Over eight thousand families have been helped. Similarly, the National Parks Buffer Zones program worked with 3,000 farm families and indigenous groups in the Alto Fragua and Sierra Nevada de Santa parks, to make more sustainable use of the natural resources in those buffer zones.

The PADF extended its financing in Haiti for agricultural and rural development programs, programs to create jobs, to help victims of natural disasters and to rebuild infrastructure, to strengthen community organizations, and to combat trafficking in persons. It also continued to be a member of the Group of Friends of Haiti, headed by the Assistant Secretary General. The

PADF continued a waste management and street clean-up program to create jobs in the various troubled neighborhoods of Port-au-Prince and in support of the electoral process and democratic stabilization counseled by the OAS. The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) provided funding to support the Waste Management and Street Clean-up Program, which the PADF is implementing in close cooperation with the Haitian government. The World Bank also increased its support to the Haitian government and the Foundation, in order to expand the community development program (CDD). The World Bank has described this program as one of the most successful in the region.

Other PADF projects in Haiti include encouragement of cooperative ties between nongovernmental organizations along the border between Haiti and the Dominican Republic, as a way to foster greater cooperation and dialogue between nongovernmental organizations and public and private entities in the two countries. Another series of measures was taken to raise additional funds from international donors, in order to expand the program even more.

The PADF successfully completed the Democratic Initiatives program in Bolivia in September. The program focused on strengthening local governments' public management, productive development, and social inclusion and transparency. The program benefited a total of 6,000 young people, women, unemployed and underemployed persons, who received job training. The program also trained over 160 government officials. The PADF is also implementing a program in the department of Santa Cruz to enable access to land. It provided legal assistance to 4 communities to help them with the process of acquiring title to lands. The PADF is also providing training in the peaceful resolution of disputes and community development. Also, 350 families are benefiting from revenue-producing initiatives to increase their household income and quality of life.

In Peru, the PADF helped a community on the banks of the Amazon transform itself into an eco-tourism destination, preserving its forests and increasing its revenues in the process, while also making itself a model in the sustainable management of natural resources.

The PADF helped enable implementation of initiatives financed by the private sector in Argentina (sports and recreational facilities), Brazil (education and literacy), Uruguay (school organic gardens), and Paraguay (ovens for community bakeries).

In 2007, through its In-Kind Donations Program, the PADF was able to send Haiti, St. Kitts and Nevis, the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, Colombia, Peru and Uruguay over 4.5 million dollars in donations of medical and dental equipment, tools and disaster relief. With the support of and in close cooperation with the OAS Office in Peru, the Foundation sent over \$150,000 in food, blankets, tents, personal hygiene kit, and the like, for the departments of Ica and Sur de Lima, which were struck by an earthquake on August 15.

The PADF successfully conducted the second phase of the project titled Disaster Management Alliance, sponsored by the OFDA/USAID for a total of US\$440,000. It also served as an OAS vehicle for raising more private sector funding to respond to natural disasters in the Hemisphere. As a result, the PADF and corporate donors together sent humanitarian relief totaling approximately US\$280,552. The relief went to Bolivia, Dominica, the Dominican Republic,

Haiti, Jamaica, Nicaragua, and Peru. The Foundation also participated in the meetings and working sessions of the executive board of the OAS' Inter-American Network for Disaster Mitigation. It also assisted the Inter-American Defense Board and the Inter-American Defense College with various initiatives in risk management.

In support of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, the Foundation broadened its efforts to strengthen civil society institutions throughout the region, creating ties with private and governmental donors in order to strengthen democratic values and practices in the Americas. It is worth noting here that the PADF raised private donations for NGOs in Argentina, Brazil, Honduras, Peru, and elsewhere.

The PADF continued to work with U.S.-based Salvadoran immigrant organizations through *Manos Unidas por El Salvador*, a corporate social investment program of El Salvador's *Banco Agrícola*. The program helps provide better educational opportunities to children in the public education system. The Foundation worked with 19 groups of Salvadorans in metropolitan Los Angeles and Washington, D.C., to co-finance 19 education projects in El Salvador. Those projects benefited over 13 thousand students by building new classrooms, computer centers, science labs, libraries and making other improvements.

The Foundation is the oldest private nonprofit within the Inter-American System, as it was created by the OAS in 1962 as a nongovernmental organization with the mission of creating jobs and opportunities for the most disadvantaged of Latin America and the Caribbean. The PADF developed a new Strategic Plan for the 2008-2012 period, which will steer its growth as it supports the OAS and the inter-American system, strengthening the role of civil society and the private sector to further integral development in the region. The PADF continues to encourage corporate social responsibility as a mechanism to increase funding for integral development projects and be able to care for more victims of natural disasters and humanitarian crises.

5.5 BOARD OF EXTERNAL AUDITORS

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution AG/RES. 123 (III-O/73), adopted on April 14, 1973, and Permanent Council resolution CP/RES. 124 (164/75), of June 10, 1975, the Board of External Auditors is responsible for the external auditing of the General Secretariat's accounts.

The Board held its annual meeting March 26 through 30, 2007, to prepare its report on the external audit of the accounts and financial statements of the OAS for the years ending December 31, 2006 and 2005, pursuant to Article 129 of the General Standards.

On May 2, 2007, the Board presented its observations in the document titled “*Report to the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States: Audit of Accounts and Financial Statements for the years ended December 31, 2006 and 2005*” (OEA/Ser.S JAE/doc.37/07). The report had four sections: a) Comments and recommendations to improve operating procedures and internal controls; b) Financial statements of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States; c) Financial Statements of Agencies and Entities Related to the Organization of American States (OAS); and d) Financial Statements of the Retirement and Pension Fund.

Ernst and Young, LLP audited the financial statements of the Retirement and Pension Fund. SB & Company, LLC, audited the other financial statements. Based on the unqualified (clean) opinions issued by SB and Company, LLC, the firm of independent auditors for 2007, the financial statements for the audited entities square with the books, documents and vouchers of the General Secretariat.

The Board met with the Secretary General and informed him of the results of the audit and its recommendations, so that the General Assembly and Permanent Council might be informed.

The most significant recommendations can be summarized as follows:

To the Permanent Council:

- Consider changing the quota requirements to have member states fund their quotas by an earlier date.
- Revisit the quota cap; provide an automatic process to increase annual quotas.
- Continue implementing a planning process that identifies strategic objectives and priorities, allocates scarce budgetary resources, and supports accountability for results.

To the General Secretariat:

- Make a decision on how to maximize the potential of its property located at 16th Street and Euclid Street in Washington, D.C.
- Continue to develop financial reports that provide, to the extent possible, a link between the use of resources and achievement of strategic goals and objectives in a manner that is most useful to member states, management and donors.
- Adopt an enforceable, supportable mechanism for recovering indirect costs from Specific Fund donations.

- Consider other sets of comprehensive accounting standards and choose the one that will best meet the needs of the Organization, taking into account standards used by other international organizations.
- Fully utilize the Oracle system as an enterprise management tool.
- Establish standard requirements for Specific Funds agreements.
- Continue to strengthen the CPR oversight process.
- Continue to reexamine the training budget.
- Revise all job descriptions based on the position and grade level.
- Ensure that each Country Office has a reasonable staffing level based on workload.
- Improve controls over approved vendor listings.
- Develop and implement a plan to improve the data integrity of the OASES system.
- Implement and test an appropriate contingency plan.
- Review travel expense advances on a timely basis and implement a requirement that contractors provide travel expense support by completing appropriate forms.
- Improve the reconciliation of fixed asset tracking records and the inventory accounts.

After summarizing the financial condition of the Regular Fund, the Specific Funds and the special contributions to the OAS, the Board considered what the Administration of the General Secretariat had done to put into practice the recommendations the Board made in the previous year's report and other matters of interest to the Board.

The Board emphasized the fact that the firm of independent auditors had issued unqualified ("clean") opinions -the best possible outcome of an audit- with respect to the following financial statements for 2006:

- Regular Fund, Voluntary Fund (FEMCIDI) and Specific Funds
- Leo S. Rowe Pan American Fund
- Rowe Commemorative Fund
- Medical Benefits Trust Fund
- Secretariat for Political Affairs
- Trust for the Americas
- Fund of the Inter-American Defense Board
- Retirement and Pension Fund

5.6 INTER-AMERICAN DEFENSE BOARD

The Inter-American Defense Board (IADB) was established in 1942 to study and recommend measures for the defense of the Hemisphere. It is the oldest multilateral military organization in the world. On March 15, 2006, during its XXXII special session, the OAS General Assembly approved the new Statutes of the Inter-American Defense Board, which states that the Board is an entity of the OAS that provides it and its member states with advice and consultancy services on their programs, promotes hemispheric peace and security, builds confidence among the parties through ties of military cooperation and strengthens relations between civilians and military. It also supervises a senior-level academic program in security and defense studies at the Inter-American Defense College.

To further the purposes of the OAS Charter, the Inter-American Defense Board (IADB) provides advisory services to OAS programs, promotes hemispheric peace and security, builds confidence among the parties through ties of military cooperation, strengthens relations between civilians and military, and oversees the advanced academic program of studies in security and defense offered at the Inter-American Defense College.

Since becoming an entity of the Organization of American States in March 2006, the IADB has focused its efforts on transforming its internal structure to adapt it to fit the provisions of the new Statutes and to operate in accordance with the democratic principles governing the OAS. A one-year transition period was created for the election of the authorities of the IADB, which were previously selected on the basis of the alphabetical order of its member countries.

With this new approach and with the support provided by OAS Secretary General José Miguel Insulza, the Board began to fulfill the functions spelled out in its Statutes. It drafted its Internal Law and analyzed the General Assembly resolutions to identify new missions and opportunities to work and participate, all for the purpose of performing the functions that those resolutions assign to it. Furthermore, the IADB is carrying out the Strategic Plan (attachment), which spells out the general and specific objectives that will be used to prepare and carry out the work plan of its various offices and units.

The Council of Delegates approved the objectives set by the 2008-2016 Goals and Objectives Committee. The Chair of the Council of Delegates was invited to and participated in a number of events on the question of hemispheric security. He also received and visited important dignitaries associated with the defense and security of the American Hemisphere.

In 2007, the IADB continued to monitor the humanitarian demining activities, in compliance with resolutions AG/RES. 2261 and AG/RES. 2269 (XXXVII-O/07). It held a meeting with the heads of the IADB's Missions of Assistance for the Removal of Mines (MARMINCA, MARMINAS, and the Group of Inter-American Monitors in Colombia). It updated the Manual for Humanitarian Demining, provided technical assistance to the OAS' Program for Integral Action against Antipersonnel Mines in Central America (AICMA/OAS), trained personnel from Colombia, Ecuador, Nicaragua and Peru, made oversight visits, and established contacts with the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining.

In the area of confidence- and security-building measures, the IADB prepared a document on Defense Policies and Doctrine. It continued to receive and analyze reports of the confidence- and security-building measures that the member states took in 2006, in order to keep an inventory of those measures as required under General Assembly resolutions AG/RES. 2246 (XXXVI-O/06) and AG/RES. 2270 (XXXVII-O/07).

On March 8, the Board gave a presentation to the Committee on Hemispheric Security on the danger that man-portable air-defense systems (MANPADS) pose to commercial aviation. That same month, work got underway under the AICMA program in Nicaragua to destroy explosive devices and ammunition. That work was completed in August.

The IADB continued to labor under a very tight budget, given the many necessities occasioned by the various activities it conducts. Similarly, the staff is too small for the multiple functions the Board has to perform.

The Inter-American Defense College has become an academic institution that is great value in cementing civilian-military relations and spreading democratic values. The number of students it is drawing is on the rise, both for its regular academic program and for its masters programs and distance courses.

The Board's authorities and staff want to continue to provide the pertinent technical advisory, consulting and educational services to the General Assembly, the Council of Delegates and the member countries that request it on military- and defense-related matters. Its stance is proactive, as it hosts forums, seminars, meetings, conferences and lectures about its functions and mission.

5.7 INTER-AMERICAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

The Inter-American Court of Human Rights is an autonomous judicial body of the OAS whose purpose is to apply and interpret the American Convention on Human Rights. The Court has both contentious and advisory jurisdiction. It is made up of seven judges, elected in a personal capacity by the General Assembly of the Organization of American States.

During this reporting period, the judges on the Court were as follows, in order of precedence: Sergio García Ramírez (Mexico), President; Cecilia Medina Quiroga (Chile), Vice President; Manuel E. Ventura Robles (Costa Rica); Diego García Sayán (Peru); Leonardo A. Franco (Argentina); Margarete May Macaulay (Jamaica); and Rhadys Abreu Blondet (Dominican Republic). The Secretary of the Court was Pablo Saavedra Alessandri (Chile) and the Assistant Secretary was Emilia Segares Rodríguez (Costa Rica).

Contentious cases and requests for provisional measures submitted to the Court for consideration

In 2007, 14 contentious cases were lodged with the Court. The latter delivered twelve judgments: five were rulings on preliminary objections, merits, reparations and costs; five were on the merits and the corresponding reparations, and two were interpretations of earlier judgments. Thus, in ten of the cases, a final judgment was delivered on all aspects of the case – preliminary objections, merits and reparations- and no further decision on any of those cases is pending with the Court. At the present time, the Court has 101 cases before it. In 84 of these cases, the Court is overseeing compliance with judgments it has already delivered. Six of the cases before the Court are still in the preliminary phase. The Court is hearing preliminary objections and the eventual merits, reparations and costs in another seven cases, and the merits and eventual reparations and costs in another four.

As for provisional measures, nine requests seeking provisional measures were filed with the Court. Three were rejected; two were adopted. The final decision in the remaining four was still pending as of the date of this report. Four provisional measures were entirely lifted, and five were partially lifted. At the present time, the Court has 43 provisional measures active.

Sessions

During its LXXIV Regular Session, held January 22 to February 3, the Court issued 6 orders on provisional measures: *Case of Gloria Giralte de García Prieto et al. v. El Salvador*; *Matter of the Pueblo Indígena Kankuamo* regarding Colombia; *Penitentiary Center of the Central Occidental Region (Uribana Prison)* regarding Venezuela; *Case of Raxcacó Reyes et al. v. Guatemala*; *Case of the Miguel Castro Castro Prison v. Peru*, and *Case of Bueno Alves v. Argentina*. Six public hearings were held in the following cases: *Cantoral Huamaní and García Santa Cruz v. Peru* (Preliminary Objection, Merits and Eventual Reparations and Costs); *García Prieto et al. v. El Salvador* (Preliminary Objections and Eventual Merits, Reparations and Costs); *Matter of the Pueblo Indígena Kankuamo* (Provisional Measures regarding Colombia); *Case of Escué Zapata*

v. Colombia (Merits and Eventual Reparations and Costs); case of the “*La Rochela Massacre*” v. Colombia (Merits and Eventual Reparations and Costs) and the *Case of Bueno Alves v. Argentina* (Merits and Eventual Reparations and Costs). Finally, one decision was delivered on compliance with the judgment delivered in the *Case of the Sawhoyamaya Indigenous Community v. Paraguay*.

At its LXXX Regular Session, held May 7 to 12, 2007, the Court delivered two judgments: *Case of the La Rochela Massacre v. Colombia* (Merits, Reparations and Costs) and the *Case of Bueno Alves v. Argentina* (Merits, Reparations and Costs). The Court ordered provisional measures in two cases: the matter of *Adrián Meléndez Quijano et al.* regarding El Salvador and the *Case of the 19 Tradesmen v. Colombia*. It also held one public hearing in the *Case of the Saramaka People v. Suriname* (Preliminary Objections and Eventual Merits, Reparations and Costs).

At its XXX Special Session, held in Guatemala City, Guatemala, May 14 to 17, the Court issued one order in the Matter of *Ramírez Hinostroza et al.* regarding Peru. It also held two public hearings in the following cases: *Zambrano Vélez et al. v. Ecuador* (Merits and Eventual Reparations and Costs); case of *Albán Cornejo et al. v. Ecuador* (Merits and Eventual Reparations and Costs), and *Chaparro Álvarez and Lapo Ñíñez v. Ecuador* (Preliminary Objections and Eventual Merits, Reparations and Costs).

At its LXXVI Regular Session, held July 2 to 14, the Court delivered judgments in three cases: *Case of Escué Zapata v. Colombia* (Merits, Reparations and Costs); *Case of Zambrano Vélez et al. v. Ecuador* (Merits, Reparations and Costs), and *Case of Cantoral Huamaní and García Santa Cruz v. Peru* (Preliminary Objection, Merits, Reparations and Costs). It also issued six orders for provisional measures, namely: Matter of *Monagas Judicial Confinement Center ("La Pica") regarding Venezuela*; Matter of *Luisiana Ríos et al.* regarding Venezuela; Matter of *Carlos Nieto Palma et al.* regarding Venezuela; Matter of *Children Deprived of Liberty in the "Complexo do Tatuapé" of FEBEM* regarding Brazil; Matter of *Gallardo Rodríguez* regarding Mexico, and the Matter of *Colotenango* regarding Guatemala. The Court also held one public hearing in the *Case of Boyce et al. v. Barbados* (Preliminary Objection and Eventual Merits, Reparations and Costs). Lastly, eight orders were issued on compliance with the judgments delivered in the following cases: *Serrano Cruz Sisters v. El Salvador*; *Cantos v. Argentina*; *19 Tradesmen v. Colombia*; *Suárez Rosero v. Ecuador*; *Carpio Nicolle et al. v. Guatemala*; *Bámaca Velásquez v. Guatemala*; *Molina Theissen v. Guatemala*, and *García Asto and Ramírez Rojas v. Peru*.

At its XXXI Special Session, held in Bogotá, Colombia, October 17 to 20, the Court issued rulings in the following cases: *Luisiana Ríos et al. v. Venezuela* (Preliminary Objections and Merits, Reparations and Costs), and *Gabriela Perozo et al. v. Venezuela* (Preliminary Objections and Merits, Reparations and Costs). The Court also held two public hearings in the *Kimel* case against Argentina (Merits and Eventual Reparations and Costs), and *Salvador Chiriboga et al. v. Ecuador* (Preliminary Objections and Eventual Merits, Reparations and Costs). The Court also issued an order on compliance with the judgment in the *Case of Gómez Palomino v. Peru*.

During the LXXVII Regular Session, held November 19 through 30, the Court issued five judgments, namely: *Case of Boyce et al. v. Barbados* (Preliminary Objection, Merits,

Reparations and Costs); *Case of García Prieto v. El Salvador* (Preliminary Objections, Merits, Reparations and Costs); *Case of Chaparro Álvarez and Lapo Iñiguez v. Ecuador* (Preliminary Objections, Merits, Reparations and Costs); *Case of Albán Cornejo et al. v. Ecuador* (Merits, Reparations and Costs), and the *Case of the Saramaka People v. Suriname* (Preliminary Objections, Merits, Reparations and Costs). It also issued 10 orders on requests seeking provisional measures, namely: *Matter of "Globovisión" Television Station regarding Venezuela*; *Case of Raxcacó-Reyes et al v. Guatemala*; *Matter of the Forensic Anthropology Foundation regarding Guatemala*; *Matter of Adrián Meléndez-Quijano et al. regarding El Salvador*; *Case of the Mayagna (Sumo) Awas Tingni Community v. Nicaragua*; *Case of the Plan de Sánchez Massacre in favor of Members of the Community Studies and Psychosocial Action (ECAP) Team v. Guatemala*; *Matter of the Mendoza Prisons regarding Argentina*; *Case of Gutiérrez-Soler v. Colombia*; *Case of Guerrero-Gallucci and Martínez-Barrios v. Venezuela*; and the *Matter of Yare I and Yare II Capital Region Penitentiary Center regarding Venezuela*. The Court also held three private hearings concerning compliance with judgments issued in the following cases: *Garrido and Baigorria v. Argentina*, *Blake v. Guatemala*, and the *Case of the "White Van" (Paniagua-Morales et al.) v. Guatemala*.

Lastly, the Court issued 13 orders on compliance with the judgments issued in the following cases: *Palamara Iribarne v. Chile*; *The Girls Yean and Bosico v. the Dominican Republic*; *the Plan de Sánchez Massacre v. Guatemala*; *Blake v. Guatemala*; *Myrna Mack Chang v. Guatemala*; *De la Cruz Flores v. Peru*; *Caesar v. Trinidad and Tobago*; *Moiwana Community v. Suriname*; *Maritza Urrutia v. Guatemala*; *Juan Humberto Sánchez v. Honduras*; *Trujillo Oroza v. Bolivia*; *Case of the "White Van" (Paniagua Morales et al.) v. Guatemala*, and *Garrido and Baigorria v. Argentina*. During this session, the President of the Court, Judge Sergio García Ramírez, whose four years on the Court (2004-2005 and 2006-2007) would end on December 31, 2007, presented a report in which he raised several matters that had come up during his tenure on the Court. The Court also elected the new officers. Judge Cecilia Medina Quiroga (Chile) and Judge Diego Gardía-Sayán (Peru) were unanimously elected President and Vice President, respectively.

At its XXXII Special Session, held November 30, 2007, the Court issued two judgments interpreting contentious cases: the *Case of the Dismissed Congressional Employees (Aguado - Alfaro et al.) v. Peru* (Request for an Interpretation of the Judgment on Preliminary Objections, Merits and Costs), and the *Case of La Cantuta v. Peru* (Interpretation of the Judgment on the Merits, Reparations and Costs).

5.8 OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

The activities of the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) are governed by the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat (GS) (Chapter IX, “Advisory Services, Auditing, and Fiscal Control”), the Budgetary and Financial Rules, and Executive Order No. 95-05. Those provisions establish the function of the internal audit, which helps the Secretary General and the governing bodies to ensure that responsibilities at the various levels of the administration vis-à-vis the General Secretariat’s programs and resources are discharged. The objective of the Office of the Inspector General is to ensure that operating procedures and financial transactions at headquarters and in the offices of the General Secretariat in the member states are systematically reviewed. The Inspector General’s Office also checks to ensure that the established policies, rules and practices are being observed and carried out correctly, efficiently and economically.

Audits

In the period from January 1 to December 31, the Office of the Inspector General conducted 10 audits, 15 projects and one inspection to evaluate operations, ensure compliance with OAS directives and procedures and systematically check the internal accounting and management systems. The auditing activities included operations in five GS/OAS offices in the member states. In the course of its activities in the General Secretariat, the Office focused mainly on the higher-risk operations and on those with the most potential for greater efficiency, economies and effectiveness. The Office of the Inspector General operated independently, with unrestricted access to all functions, activities, operations, records, properties and staff of the General Secretariat, both at headquarters and in the offices of the General Secretariat in the member states.

During this period, audits were conducted of operations at headquarters to evaluate internal and administrative controls and ensure compliance with OAS directives and procedures. The OIG checked inventory, the risk assessment of the procedures of the Secretariat for Administration and Finance, the advances of funds handled by the DBFS, and two penetrations tests of the Internet attachment files used by the DITS. The Office also checked the activities of the General Secretariat’s offices in Venezuela, Guatemala, Guyana, Nicaragua and Suriname, to determine whether their activities were performed in accordance with the OAS’ regulations and procedures. The Emergency Fund and the Petty Cash Funds at headquarters were also checked.

The Office of the Inspector General evaluated fifteen projects conducted at headquarters and in the member states, to ensure compliance with the agreements and determine whether the objectives set were accomplished. The audited projects were as follows: (1) Strategic Program of Action for the Bi-national Bermejo River Basin; (2) Touring Exhibit: America: Diversity of Expression; (3) Photovoltaic Electrification for the Communities of Isleta, Puerto Irinida and San Simón de Cocuy; (4) Meeting of National Authorities on Human Trafficking; (5) Central American Program to Strengthen Democratic Dialogue (PCA); (6) Technical Assistance to the

Supreme Electoral Tribunal of Guatemala; (7) Program on Democratic Values and Political Management; (8) Support to Rural Micro-enterprises Run by Women Farmers in the Trifinio Border Region” of Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador; (9) Amazon River Basin; (10) Organizational Development – National Drug Commission; (11) Institution Building in the Educational Sector in Guyana for Sustainable Human Development; (12) Strategy to Train Instructors/Professors to Teach the Plan for Intensive Study of Spanish at the Elementary School Level; (13) Participation and Gender Equity in Municipal Public Finances; (14) Rural Judicial Facilitators Project, and (15) Activities carried out by the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) in Nicaragua.

Other Activities

The OIG continued to evaluate replies and to follow up on corrective actions to ensure that its recommendations were being implemented effectively. The Office continued to provide advice and assistance through analyses, evaluations, research and recommendations, and participated as an observer on a number of committees of the General Secretariat, all to facilitate and promote open lines of communications with the General Secretariat. In 2007 a number of directors of departments asked the Inspector General about operational issues that could pose potential risks to the Organization. Other inquiries concerned implementation of recommendations and other practical matters related to internal controls. The Office of the Inspector General reviewed proposed operating procedures, proposals and changes in operating procedure. It checked into any information reported via the anti-corruption telephone line and took the appropriate action in response to measures that posed an inherent risk to the General Secretariat’s internal controls.

The Inspector General presented the Report on Activities and Annual Report to the Secretary General and to the Permanent Council.

5.9 SELECTION COMMITTEE FOR SCHOLARSHIPS FOR ACADEMIC STUDIES AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Selection Committee for Scholarships for Academic Studies and Professional Development (CSBEAT) awards academic scholarships under the OAS Scholarships Program, in keeping with the Organization's rules and regulations.

The CSBEAT has seven members who are recognized experts in the academic community or in hemispheric affairs. They are appointed by the Secretary General, taking regional representation into account.

The CSBEAT met twice in 2007, to examine the histories and make recommendations to the Secretary General as to the candidates for scholarships for undergraduate and graduate studies.

5.10 INTER-AMERICAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Established by the General Assembly in 1994, the Inter-American Telecommunications Commission has technical autonomy in the performance of its functions, within the limits set by the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), the CITELE statutes and the mandates of the General Assembly. Its mission is to facilitate and promote the sustained development of telecommunications in the hemisphere.

Technological innovation, digitalization and the convergence of technology and telecommunications, broadcasting and data processing have revolutionized the ways in which people learn and communicate with each other. Telecommunications –which includes information and communication technologies (ICTs) - are vital to every country’s economic and social development and to make access to information universal, sustainable, generalized and readily available. However, despite the impressive growth and spread of telecommunications services in the Americas –including the ICTs, disparities persist and narrowing the digital divide continues to be a priority.

One of the challenges that CITELE continues to face is the ability to facilitate and promote harmonious and integral development of telecommunications, including the information and communications technologies in the Americas. It strives to synchronize the efforts being made by the member states and the private sector to achieve these objectives and to serve society’s interests.

With technological innovation moving at such a rapid pace, CITELE’s ever-present challenge is to train people in telecommunications. To that end, in 2007 26 courses were offered (17 distance learning courses and 9 classroom courses) on telecommunications policy, regulation and technology. A total of 307 scholarships were awarded to participants from 27 countries of the region, which was a 26% increase over 2006. CITELE now has 19 Regional Training Centers and coordinates with the Centre of Excellence for the Americas Region of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU).

In the area of telecommunications technologies and their operation, a Coordinated Standards Document (CSD) was approved for RFC 3761 of the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) “The E.164 to Uniform Resource Identifiers (URI) Dynamic Delegation Discovery System (DDDS) Application (ENUM).” The ENUM protocol developed by the IETF combines traditional telephony and IP next-generation networks and provides a critical framework of correspondence and processing of various network addresses. Among the studies currently underway are those on aspects of power-line communications technology (PLC) which would use electric power lines to transmit information; technical innovations and regulatory questions posed by ENUM; the operation of and experience with the introduction of new services in a convergence environment in order to use successful strategies and experiences when deploying new services; and types of fraud in telecommunications services, a study that will include technological, regulatory, legal and administrative tools to minimize the impact of fraud.

As for policy and regulation, various studies are currently in progress, including the following: protection of critical telecommunications infrastructure to share strategies, best practices, experiences and policies; aspects of convergence, to provide information to facilitate consultation and promote discussion of this topic; research on how to improve Internet access in the region and practical cases in the application and use of Regulatory Accounting, which is a fundamental tool for the regulator to be able to check how efficient service delivery is, basically in order to assess or determine the rate structure and level.

In 2007, efforts got underway to update information, which in turn can be used to identify recommended policies and regulatory measures in the countries of the region so as to be able to efficiently introduce universal access, access for persons with disabilities and access in rural areas. The goal is to single out specific measures geared to narrowing the digital divide and that will thus facilitate development of the network infrastructure, access to new services, transfer of technology and know-how, especially for the developing countries. Particular attention will be paid to the needs of vulnerable groups.

A Regional Dialogue was held on the use of telecommunications to prevent and mitigate disasters. The idea was to come up with recommendations for contingency plans to put into effect prior to, during and after predictable natural disasters, and during and after disasters that cannot be predicted.

In the area of radiocommunication, CITELE continues to identify the current state of the use of radio electric frequencies for harmonization, and in 2007 approved resolutions and recommendations on “Special Measures for Applying the Principles of the FSS Plan in Appendix 30B of the ITU Radio Regulations to Ensure Equitable Access to the Orbit/Spectrum Resources for CITELE countries; general requirements for the operation of low power radiocommunication devices, and requirements for deployment of 5GHz RLANs on board aircraft. Studies are also underway on the following subjects: locating unauthorized transmissions harmful to satellite networks, updating the Guide for Digital Land-based Television Systems; broadband wireless access (BWA), and development of Digital Sound Broadcasting in the region.

With the constant evolution in wireless communications technologies, the need to install antennas and related devices has increased, especially in heavily populated areas. This has raised increasing concern over the possible health effects of non-ionizing emissions. Therefore, a DVD was prepared and distributed containing information on this issue, compiled by various organizations and governments in the region and elsewhere. The DVD includes a video and audio of two workshops on this question, held in Peru and El Salvador.

One of CITELE’s most important achievements in 2007 was that it presented 468 mutually agreed upon proposals at the World Conference on International Telecommunications (WCIT) (Geneva, October-November 2007). The international treaty called ITU Radio Regulations, which govern the use of the radio frequency spectrum and satellite orbits, was revised and updated at the World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-07) to achieve the objectives of global connectivity in the twenty-first century. The Radio Regulations contain the allocation of different frequency bands to over 40 different radio services, ranging from ham radio operators and professional radiocommunications to mobile wireless technologies and satellite communications. The

success of this proposal improved and protected the Americas' position on the international scene.

Preparations are currently underway for the ITU's World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly 2008 (WTSA). The WTSA-08 is an event held every four years to examine issues related to telecommunication standardization.

The role played by regional telecommunications organizations like CITELE in preparing for international meetings is essential to avoid duplication of effort, to ensure that the region's positions are coherent and cohesive, and to produce better results. Given the excellent results achieved, the interregional mutual coordination will continue in the meetings held on these issues by the regional organizations for Europe, Asia-Pacific and the Russian Federation of the Regional Commonwealth in the Field of Communications.

Given the region's needs, information is being constantly updated. Particular mention should be made of the following: the database on the current regulatory situation of the satellite systems in the region; the connectivity projects; the situation of the mobile operators in the region, and spectrum attribution.

CITELE kept up the constant exchange of experiences, best practices and information, with a view to accomplishing the goals of telecommunications access. Particularly noteworthy here were the workshops/seminars on the following: the impact of fraud on delivery of telecommunications services; bridging the standardization divide; use of 3.4-4.2 GHz frequency bands for fixed satellite service; land-based spectrum for international mobile telecommunications (IMT) and technical and regulatory issues of non-ionizing electromagnetic emissions. CITELE also continued to publish the monthly e-bulletin *info@CITELE*. As of December 2007, 329 articles had been published and 307 country-specific news items. CITELE has also improved its coordination and cooperation with other organizations. Currently 17 cooperation agreements are in effect on issues in which the parties have a mutual interest in increasing efficiency.

5.11 INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON PORTS

The purpose of the Inter-American Committee on Ports (CIP) is to serve as the permanent inter-American forum of the member states of the Organization for strengthening cooperation in the development of the port sector, with the active participation and collaboration of the private sector. Its principal objectives are to strengthen inter-American dialogue, provide training and technical cooperation and promote the ports of this hemisphere.

The Inter-American Committee on Ports (CIP) serves as a permanent inter-American forum for the member states of the Organization of American States to strengthen cooperation and develop the port sector, with the active participation of and in partnership with the private sector.

To achieve the established objectives, respond to the challenges facing the port sector and carry out the CIP's Action Plan 2004-2007, in 2007 the Secretariat carried out the following activities to strengthen the inter-American dialogue on ports, cooperation for port development, and dissemination and promotion of the ports of this hemisphere and the CIP.

Strengthening the inter-American dialogue on ports

The CIP is a unique forum for dialogue among the highest ranking government port authorities of the countries of the region. That dialogue is essential to fulfillment of the mandates from the General Assembly, the Summits of the Americas, the Meeting of Ministers for the Western Hemisphere Transport Initiative (WHTI), the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) and hemispheric forums in the port sector. Accordingly, within the framework of the CIP, the Secretariat organized and was instrumental in staging the following events:

- First Hemispheric Conference on Environmental Port Protection (Panama City, Panama, April 2007), with the support of the Maritime Authority of Panama.
- Fifth Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Ports (Salvador, Bahia, Brazil, September 2007) with the support of Brazil's Special Ports Secretariat. There, CIP's four technical advisory groups held meetings: Port Protection, Port Operations, Navigation Control and Environmental Port Protection.
- Ninth Meeting of the Executive Board of the CIP (Lima, Peru, December 2007), held with the support of Peru's National Port Authority. The meeting was an opportunity for the following subcommittees to meet: policy and coordination; cargo services; vessel services; port environmental protection; port investments; port legislation; planning and port management; statistics, costs and fees; port development for cruise tourism; women's participation in the hemisphere's port affairs; river and lake port development.

Partnership for port development

Three types of activities were carried out: training, direct technical assistance and regional cooperation.

Training

Training is the CIP's main cooperative activity and is geared toward encouraging, promoting and developing training programs that raise the caliber of port personnel so that they are up to the challenge of modernizing ports.

The Secretariat planned, programmed and carried out activities directly and negotiated the additional external resources needed to carry out the following activities:

- Seminar on port planning to drive development (Montevideo, Uruguay, March 2007);
- Seminar on port reforms in Latin America (San Salvador, El Salvador, March 2007);
- International seminar on port costs and fees (San Salvador, El Salvador, March 2007);
- Seminar on a hemispheric strategy to encourage women's participation in port-related matters (Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, June 2007);
- Seminar on the challenge of ports in the transportation chain. Competitiveness factors (Vera Cruz, Mexico, July 2007);
- Seminar for the Caribbean countries on port statistics, costs and fees (Kingstown, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, August 2007);
- VIII Ibero-American Course on technology, operations and environmental management in ports (Santander, Spain, September/October 2007);
- XII Ibero-American Course on Port Management (Madrid, Spain, September/October 2007);
- Seminar on Logistics Activities Zones: the Port as Logistical Platform (Lima, Peru, December 2007)
- CIP was a sponsor of the Masters Program in Port Management and Intermodal Transport (Valencia, Spain, October 2007 – June 2008).

CIP sponsored, cooperated with and participated in other training events organized by national, hemispheric and international ports-related organizations, which included the following:

- American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA),
- International Association Cities and Ports (AIPV),
- International Association of Ports and Harbors (IAPH),
- International Association of Ports and Coasts Professionals (AIPPYC),
- Asociación Peruana de Agentes Marítimos [Peruvian Association of Maritime Agents] (APAM),
- Chamber of Commerce of Peru
- Caribbean Shipping Association (CSA),
- Consejo Centroamericano para el Transporte Marítimo [Central American Maritime Transportation Council] (COCATRAM), among others.

Direct technical assistance

CIP accommodates specific demands from port authorities and administrations or other public and private entities involved in port-related business. Generally, the Secretariat serves as a catalyst, coordinating with other partner agencies to provide the needed inputs. Noteworthy here was the advisory service provided to two entities of the Dominican Republic: the Dominican Port Authority (APORDOM) on the subject of the involvement of the state and the private sector in the port sector and the rules and regulations required; and the Office of the Director General of Customs on the preparation, management and execution of the OAS project on trade tariffs and ports.

Regional cooperation

In this area, CIP continued to promote the Agreement on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance among the Inter-American Port Authorities, to which 19 member countries have consented thus far (Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Panama, Peru, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uruguay). Four of these governments (Argentina, Ecuador, Mexico and Peru) have ratified the Agreement.

Also signed were Memorandums of Understanding between the General Secretariat of the OAS, through the CIP, and each of the following entities: the National Port Authority (APN) of Peru; the International Association of Ports and Coasts Professionals (AIPPYC) and the Ibero-American Institute on Maritime Law (IIDM). Negotiations are in progress to enter into similar agreements with France's Port of Le Havre, the Caribbean Marine Association and the Caribbean Port Management Association (PMA).

Dissemination and promotion of the ports of the Americas and the CIP

The Secretariat disseminated and promoted information on the principal ports of the member countries and the activities of the CIP by the following means:

- The CIP portal (www.oas.org/cip), which contains data on the member states, their port authorities, their ports, and their sectoral development projects, as well as on the CIP projects and activities.
- The *CIP Magazine*, a dual-language publication (English and Spanish) distributed worldwide, with three issues per year that disseminate and promote the activities of the Committee and contain essays by port officials and experts on specialized topics and projects of interest to the sector.
- *The Port Newsletter*, an electronic document distributed worldwide five times per year, with information on the main activities of the ports and the CIP. It also contains information on activities by other entities in the region with which cooperative relations have been established.
- Inquiries, e-mail responses (cip@oas.org) to requests for information on the ports of the hemisphere and the Committee's activities.
- *Documents, studies, reports* and other specialized technical material, produced for specific work on the hemisphere's ports and on issues relevant to the port sector.

VI. PERMANENT OBSERVERS

PERMANENT OBSERVERS

Permanent observer status in the Organization of American States was established by the General Assembly at its first regular session, held in San José, Costa Rica, in 1971 [AG/RES. 50 (I-O/71)]. The permanent observers participate in the Organization's activities and contribute to its programs.

Permanent Observers

The Department of External Relations (DER) is responsible for day-to-day management of the activities associated with the Permanent Observer countries. The Department uses informative meetings, documents, news and special events to encourage their active involvement in and cooperation with the General Secretariat's activities.

The OAS currently has 60 permanent observers: Algeria, Angola, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, China, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Equatorial Guinea, Egypt, Estonia, European Union, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Holy See, Hungary, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea, Latvia, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Morocco, Nigeria, Norway, the Netherlands, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Philippines, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Republic of Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, and Yemen.

In 2007, the Organization received major cash and in-kind contributions from the permanent observers, totaling US\$21 million. The DER and the technical units of the Organization jointly negotiated a considerable share of that amount. Similarly, the DER organized a number of donation ceremonies with representatives of the permanent observers, to thank them for their contributions to various programs. The areas that benefited most from the cash contributions made in 2007 were the Secretariat for Political Affairs (54%), the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security (19%), and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (15%). The Executive Secretariat for Integral Development and other offices of the General Secretariat also received contributions, although of lesser amounts. The vast majority of the contributions that the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security received were for the mine-clearing programs in the region.

During this reporting period, the Department also coordinated the Secretary General's visits to several of the major contributor permanent observer countries, where he met with the highest-ranking government authorities. Salient among those visits were those to Spain, Italy, and Germany.

The DER also visited the foreign ministries of the donor countries to discuss cooperation and share information on issues of mutual concern. Prominent among these visits were those to the Netherlands, France, Switzerland, Sweden, and Denmark. Meetings were held with the heads of the Latin American and Caribbean sections of the foreign offices, and with the heads and/or

persons in charge of cooperation at the international cooperation agencies. Detailed reports were prepared on these visits and sent to the Secretary General.

At OAS headquarters, high-ranking visiting dignitaries were received, among them ministers, foreign office directors for the Americas, officials from the ministries of cooperation and development, and other government representatives of the permanent observers.

The talks held were very productive, as evidenced by the considerable increase in the contributions from the Netherlands, Denmark, and Switzerland, which were up 80% and more over the previous year. Total contributions received from the permanent observers in 2007 continued to go up, and was 6% higher than in 2006.

**VII. ACTIVITIES OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL AND THE ASSISTANT
SECRETARY GENERAL AWAY FROM HEADQUARTERS**

ACTIVITIES OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL AWAY FROM HEADQUARTERS

January

Managua, Nicaragua, 10	Presidential inauguration in Nicaragua
Santiago, Chile, 11-13	Invited to open the OAS-ProjectAmerica Forum
Quito, Ecuador, 15	Presidential inauguration in Ecuador
Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, 16-20	International Seminar on <i>Latin America: Integration or Fragmentation?</i> , organized by the Grupo Mayan, the <i>Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México</i> and the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars
Davos, Switzerland, 24-27	Invited as a panelist and moderator at the World Economic Forum, “THE WEF”

February

Jamaica, 6-7	Meeting with the Prime Minister, Mrs. Portia Simpson Millar Lecture delivered at the University of the West Indies: “The Relevance of the OAS in the Hemisphere”
Lima, Peru, 12-13	Meeting with the Latin American countries serving in the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) (2x9)
Mexico City, Mexico, 14	Ceremony commemorating the 40 th Anniversary of the Adoption and Opening for Signature of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco)
Panama City, Panama, 28	Meeting of the Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination against All Persons with Disabilities Seventh Regular Session of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE)

March

Georgetown, Guyana, 1-4	Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Rio Group. Technical Meeting on OAS – CARICOM Cooperation
New York, U.S.A., 5	Meeting with the United Nations Secretary-General at U.N. headquarters

Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 15-17	Regional Summit on Drugs, Security and Cooperation
Guatemala City, Guatemala, 18-20	Special Guest at the Annual Meeting of the Inter-American Development Bank

April

Raleigh, North Carolina, 10	Invited as principal lecturer for the topic “Challenges for the Americas and the Role of the OAS,” Duke University’s Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies.
Asunción, Paraguay, 11-12	Official visit. Talks with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, President of the Supreme Court and President Nicanor Duarte
Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, 16-17	International Seminar <i>Latin America: Integration or Fragmentation?</i> , organized by the Grupo Mayan, the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México and the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars
Miami, Florida, USA, 18-19	Special Guest at the II Annual Latin American Conference, organized by the University of Miami
Santiago, Chile, 23-26	II World Economic Forum on Latin America
Rome, Italy 28-29	Seminar on Climate Change and Development, organized by the Vatican’s Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace

May

Tampa, Florida, USA, 4-5	Award of the degree of Doctorate Honoris Causa from the University of South Florida
Rome, Italy, 12-15	IILA, Lecture “The Challenges for Building Democracy in Latin America and the Caribbean.” Meeting with Foreign Minister Massimo D’Alema
Berlin, Germany, 16	Meeting with Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Franz-Walter Steinmeier
Madrid, Spain, 17-18	“Dialogues on the impact of regional political bodies on governance and legal certainty in Ibero-America” [<i>Diálogos sobre Incidencia de los organismos políticos regionales en la gobernabilidad y seguridad jurídica en Iberoamérica</i> ”] Seminar, Inter-American Dialogue and the SEGIB

June

Panama City, Panama, 3-5	Thirty-seventh regular session of the OAS General Assembly
Montevideo, Uruguay, 13	Second Meeting of Government Spokesmen of the Member States of the OAS
Montreal, Canada, 20-21	International Economic Forum of the Americas – Conference of Montreal (Speaker)

July

Bridgetown, Barbados, 2	XXVIII Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community
Brasilia, Brazil, 12	Visit – Official meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Celso Amorín, advisors to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and to the Office of the President of the Republic
Buenos Aires, Argentina, 16-18	Invited as a principal speaker at the III Annual Congress of the Americas of <i>Fórum Empresa</i>
Guatemala City, Guatemala, 24-26	Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture, organized by IICA

August

Quito, Ecuador, 31 July – 2 August	Official visit and Seminar on the Constituent Assembly
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 3-4	Course on International Law – Inter-American Juridical Committee

September

Panama City, Panama, 2-3	Ceremony commemorating the XXX Anniversary of the Signing of the Torrijos-Carter Treaty
Port-au-Prince, Haiti, 4	Guest at the Meeting of Ministers of Defense
Montreal, Canada, 7-8	Speaker on the Foreign Affairs Panel on Latin America at McGill University's Centre for Developing-Area Studies
Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 11-12	XV Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor
Lima, Peru, 19-20	Regional Seminar on Macroeconomic Policies and Poverty. ECLAC – International Monetary Fund
Monterrey, Mexico, 21-22	Universal Forum of Cultures- Monterrey 2007
New York, New York, 25-26	United Nations General Assembly

October

Managua, Nicaragua, 3	Meeting of International and Regional Courts of Justice of the World
San Salvador, El Salvador, 4	Meeting with Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Francisco Laínez
San José, Costa Rica, 5-8	Visit of Electoral Mission
Rome, Italy, 15-18	Special guest at the Annual Meeting of the IILA (Italo-Latin American Institute)
Dominica, 24-26	Official and working visit with the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Roosevelt Skerrit
St. Vincent, 26-27	Official and working visit with Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Ralph Gonsalves
Los Angeles, California, 31	Meeting of the Pacific Council on International Policy, Dr. Geoffrey Garrett, President of the Board

November

San Diego, California, USA, 1	Lecture delivered at the University of California San Diego, and meeting with Mr. Jeffrey Davidow, President of the Institute of the Americas
San Antonio, Texas, USA, 2	Reception given by the World Affairs Council
Santiago, Chile, 7-11	Special guest at the XVII Ibero-American Summit, Santiago
Madrid, 17-21	Meeting of the Club of Madrid

December

Buenos Aires, 10-12	Inauguration of the President of Argentina, Cristina Fernández
Bogotá, 14	Visit to the President of Colombia, Mr. Álvaro Uribe
Medellín, 15	Special guest at the meeting of the Montevideo Circle

ACTIVITIES OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL AWAY FROM HEADQUARTERS

January

Port au Prince, 1 Operational Review of OAS Country Offices

February

Atlanta, Georgia, 2 Meeting on the Role of the Private Sector in improving educational outcomes in Haiti
Soria, Spain, 11 - 15 "Soria World Forum on population and sustainable development." Meetings in Madrid
Paramaribo, Suriname, 25 – 03/03 Official Visit to Suriname

March

New York, 5 United Nations Meetings- Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 16 Regional Summit on Drugs, Security and Cooperation
Port au Prince, Haiti, 18 - 19 Technical Mission to Haiti
Kingston, Jamaica, 20 Conference on Organized Crime: A threat to the Caribbean
New York, 26 Democratic Handbook- Launch
Guyana, 31 – 04/03 Guyana Visit- Meeting with President and International Community

April

Panama, 11 - 12 Panama pre-General Assembly Visit
Cartagena, Colombia, 12 - 14 2007 Economic Forum of the Americas "The Spirit of Cartagena"
Budapest, Hungary, 23 - 24 Budapest United Nations Conference- ICDT and UNDEF
Democratic Transitions: Lessons Learned for Democracy Assistance
San Pedro Sula, Honduras, 27 - 28 Pan American Development Foundation Mid-Year Board of Trustees Meeting

May

Belize City, Belize, 10 - 12 Tenth Meeting of the Council of Foreign and Community Relations (COFCOR)- Caribbean Community (CARICOM) - Central American Integration System (SICA) Summit

June

Panama City, Panama, 3 - 5 OAS General Assembly
Bridgetown, Barbados, 30 28th Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community

July

Bridgetown, Barbados, 18
Cartagena and Bogota, Colombia, 25

August

Georgetown, Guyana, 5
Kingston, Jamaica, 15 - 17
Kingston, Jamaica, 30 – 09/04

September

Castries, St. Lucia, 17 - 18

October

Houston, Texas, 5

Medellín, Colombia, 15 - 17
Buenos Aires, 25 - 28

November

Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, 14 - 16

Brussels, Belgium, 22

December

Miami, Florida, 3 - 5

(CARICOM)

Canada-Caribbean Ideas Forum
Cartagena/Bogota IIN meeting & official visit

IICA/OAS/IDB High-Level Seminar on Agro-Energy
Pre-Electoral Observation Mission Visit
Electoral Observation Mission Visit

State Funeral of Sir John George Melvin Compton,
Prime Minister of Saint Lucia

Americas Project Fellows Reunion Building
Opportunities and Managing Challenges in the
Americas

Pre-General Assembly Visit to Medellin
2x9 Mechanism on Cooperation in Haiti

Meeting of Ministers of Education- Lessons learned
and Hemispheric commitments for early childhood
education.

Fourth Workshop- Conflict Prevention - Creating a
Leading Role for the European Union “Cooperation
with Regional Organisations”

31st Miami Conference on the Caribbean

VIII. APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: INTER-AMERICAN COUNCILS, COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS

INTER-AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT (CIDI)

Chair of the XII Regular Meeting: Ambassador Ellsworth I.A. John - Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Vice Chair of the XII Regular Meeting: Mr. Patricio Powell - Alternative Representative of Chile

PERMANENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT (CEPCIDI)

Chair:

Vice Chair:

INTER-AMERICAN JURIDICAL COMMITTEE

Jean-Paul Hubert - Canada, Chair

Jaime Aparicio - Bolivia, Vice Chair

Ricardo Seitenfus - Brazil

Eduardo Vio - Chile

Galo Leoro - Ecuador

Ana Elizabeth Villalta - El Salvador

Hyacinth Evadne Lindsay - Jamaica

Jorge Palacios - Mexico

Mauricio Herdocia - Nicaragua

Antonio Pérez – United States

Freddy Castillo - Venezuela

INTER-AMERICAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

President: Sergio García Ramírez (Mexico)

Vice President: Cecilia Medina Quiroga (Chile)

Manuel E. Ventura Robles (Costa Rica)

Diego García Sayán (Peru)

Leonardo A. Franco (Argentina)

Margarette May Macaulay (Jamaica)

Rhadys Abreu Blondet (Dominican Republic)

INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

President: Florentin Meléndez

First Vice President: Paolo Carozza

Second Vice President: Víctor Abramovich

Commissioner: Clare K. Roberts

Commissioner: Evelio Fernández Arévalos

Commissioner: Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro
Commissioner: Freddy Gutiérrez

ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL

President: Judge Alma Montenegro de Fletcher (Panama)
Vice President: Judge Lionel Alain Dupuis (Canada)
Judge Albert Matthew (Dominica)
Judge André Surena (United States)
Judge Héctor Enrique Arce Zaconeta (Bolivia)
Judge Homero Máximo Bibiloni (Argentina)

INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN

President: Jacqui Quinn Leandro – Antigua & Barbuda
Vice President: Marta Lucia Vazquez Zawadzky, Colombia
Nilcea Freire, Brazil
Maria Gabriela Núñez Pérez, Guatemala
Marie Laurence Jocelyn Lassegue, Haiti
Susana Isabel Pinilla Cisneros, Peru
Carmen Berramendi, Uruguay

INTER-AMERICAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Chair of COM/CITEL: Pedro Pablo Quirós Cortés (Costa Rica)
Alternate Chair of COM/CITEL: Claudio Bermúdez Aquart (Costa Rica)
Vice Chair of COM/CITEL: **EURIDICE PALMA SALES** (Mexico)
Chair of CCP.I: Carlos Lisandro Salas (Argentina)
Alternate Chair CCP.I: Sergio Scarabino (Argentina)
Chair of CCP.II: **SOCORRO HERNÁNDEZ** (Venezuela)
Alternate Chair of CCP.II: Mikhail Marsiglia (Venezuela)

INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE CONTROL COMMISSION

Chair: Ambassador Mauricio Dorfler Ocampo (Bolivia)
Vice Chair: General Paulo Roberto Yog de Miranda Uchôa (Brazil)

APPENDIX B: CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

5 March	Washington, D.C.	Working Group of the Permanent Secretariat of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM)
14-16 March	Montevideo, Uruguay	Forum on "Port Planning as a Development Driver" (CIP)
20-23 March	Buenos Aires, Argentina	X Meeting of Permanent Consultative Committee I: Public Telecommunications Services (CITEL)
20-23 March	San Salvador, El Salvador	International Seminar on Port Costs and Fees (CIP)
21-23 March	Washington, D.C.	Workshop on the Logic Framework for Project Formulation (Department of Planning, Control and Evaluation - DPCE)
21-23 March	Mexico City, Mexico	Central American Workshop: Combating the illicit Traffic in and Looting of Cultural Goods (DEC)
26-27 March	Montreal, Québec, Canada	Special Meeting of the OAS/REMJA, Working Group on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters and Extradition (DILA)
29 March	Washington, D.C.	XLV Meeting of the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG) – (DCA)
10-13 April	Panama City, Panama	First Hemispheric Conference on Environmental Port Protection (CIP)
12-14 April	Brasilia, Brazil	Regional Meeting of Consultation with Civil Society on Social Determinants of Health (DCA)
16 April	San Salvador, El Salvador	Workshop on Technical and Regulatory Aspects of the effects of non-ionizing electromagnetic emissions (CITEL)
16 April	San Salvador, El Salvador	Seminar on Terrestrial Spectrum for IMT (CITEL)
16 April	Washington, D.C.	Meeting of Consultation of the States Party to the MESECVI (CIM)
16-17 April	Washington, D.C.	Meeting of the Caribbean countries involved in the Bridge Program (DSDL)
17-20 April	San Salvador, El Salvador	IX Meeting of Permanent Consultative Committee II: Radiocomunications and

		Broadcasting (CITEL)
19-20 April	Washington, D.C.	First Regular Session of the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM)
23-24 April	Panama City, Panama	OAS-IFRC Americas Forum on International Disaster Response, Laws, Rules and Principles (DSD)
23-27 April	La Paz, Bolivia	Working Group to Prepare the Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (X Meeting of Negotiations to Reach a Consensus)
30 April – 1 May	Washington, D.C.	Meeting of the Expert Group on Money Laundering Control (CICAD)
2-4 May	Washington, D.C.	Forty-first Session of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD)
9-11 May	San José, Costa Rica	Second Meeting of the Working Group within the framework of the XIV IACML (DSDL)
11 May	San José, Costa Rica	First Preparatory Meeting for the XV Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor (IACML) - (DSDL)
21-22 May	Montrouis, Haiti	Forum on Trade and Investment (SEDI)
3-5 June	Ciudad de Panamá, Panamá	XXXVII Regular Session of the General Assembly (OCM)
19-22 June	Boca Chica, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic	Seminar on a Hemispheric Strategy to Promote Women's Participation in Port Affairs (CIP)
20-22 June	Washington, D.C.	Meeting of the Analysis Subgroups of the Committee of Experts of the Mechanism for Follow-up on the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (MESICIC) – (DILA)
25-30 June	Washington, D.C.	XI Meeting of Experts of the Mechanism for Follow-up on the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (MESICIC) – (DILA)
26-28 June	Kingston, Jamaica	Workshop to Launch the Bridge Program in the Caribbean (DSDL)

9-27 July	Washington, D.C.	128 Regular Session of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR)
10 July	Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago	Workshop on the Labor Dimension of FTAs and Regional Integration Processes (DSDL)
11-13 July	Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago	Second Preparatory Meeting of the XV IACML and RIAL Workshop
18-20 July	Buenos Aires, Argentina	Third Meeting of the CEVI- Multilateral Evaluation (CIM)
26-27 July	Mexico City, D.F., Mexico	First Meeting of the Technical Group on Organized Crime
31 July – 3 August	Orlando, Florida	X Meeting of Permanent Consultative Committee II: Radiocommunications and Broadcasting (CITEL)
20 August	Washington, D.C.	Impact of (In)Security on Democratic Good Governance (DPCME)
15-17 August	Belize	XIV Conference of the Social Network (DSDL)
22-23 August	San José, Costa Rica	XII Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Inter-American Telecommunications Commission (CITEL)
27-28 August	Washington, D.C.	Preparatory Meeting for the V Meeting of Ministers of Education (DEC)
27-31 August	Kingstown, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Seminar for the Caribbean Countries on Port Statistics, Costs and Fees (CIP)
4-6 September	Washington, D.C.	Technical Meeting of Negotiations among Belize, Guatemala and Honduras (DPCME)
11-13 September	Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago	XV Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor (DEC)
11-14 September	Salvador, Bahía, Brazil	V Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Ports (CIP)
12-14 September	Bogotá, Colombia	Third Meeting of Central Authorities and Other Experts on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters and Extradition (DILA/OLC)
18 September	Washington, D.C.	Small Island States in Transition, from Vulnerability to Resilience (DSD)
20-21 September	Washington, D.C.	V Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Science and Technology (COMCYT) – (SEDI)

APPENDIX C: INTER-AMERICAN TREATIES AND CONVENTIONS

On December 18, 2007, El Salvador deposited its instrument of accession to the Inter-American Convention on Serving Criminal Sentences Abroad.

On December 18, 2007, El Salvador designated the Office of the Director General of Prisons of the Ministry of Public Security and Justice, as the central authority for the Inter-American on Serving Criminal Sentences Abroad.

On December 3, 2007, El Salvador named the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through its Office of the Director General for Legal Affairs and Human Rights, as the central authority for purposes of Article XVIII of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption.

On November 12, 2007, Brazil deposited its instrument of ratification of the Optional Protocol related to the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters.

On November 12, 2007, Brazil deposited its instrument of ratification of the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal.

On October 22, 2007, Canada reported that it was withdrawing the declaration made at the time of ratifying Inter-American Convention on Serving Criminal Sentences Abroad.

On August 20, 2007, Mexico deposited its instrument of accession to the Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights to Abolish the Death Penalty.

On July 20, 2007, Argentina designated the Office of the Director for International Judicial Assistance, part of the Office of the Director General for Juridical Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship, as the central authority called for under Article XVIII of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption.

On July 20, 2007, Argentina designated the Office of the Director for International Judicial Assistance, part of the Office of the Director General for Juridical Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship, as the central authority called for under Article 3 of the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters.

On June 19, 2007, Nicaragua designated the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic for purposes of the international assistance and cooperation provided for in Article XVIII of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption.

On June 5, 2007, Guyana deposited the instrument of ratification of the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism.

On April 20, 2007, Haiti deposited its instrument of ratification of the Inter-American Convention against the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials.

On February 5, 2007, the Dominican Republic deposited its instrument of ratification of the Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities.

On January 30, 2007, Uruguay deposited its instrument of ratification of the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism.

On January 26, 2007, Brazil designated the Ministry of Justice as central authority for the Additional Protocol to the Inter-American Convention on Letters Rogatory.

On January 26, 2007, Brazil designated the Ministry of Justice as central authority for the Inter-American Convention on Proof of and Information on Foreign Law.

On January 26, 2007, Brazil designated the Ministry of Justice as central authority for purposes of the Inter-American Convention on International Traffic in Minors.

On January 26, 2007, Brazil designated the Ministry of Justice as central authority for purposes of the Inter-American Convention on Support Obligations.

APPENDIX D: HUMAN RESOURCES

The following tables contain data on the staff of the General Secretariat from January 1 to December 31, 2007. Personnel are classified by type of appointment and the fund that finances their posts; their category and nationality; years of service; the grade of their posts; their sex; their duty station; and by whether they are Career Service or not.

TABLE 1

**DISTRIBUTION OF STAFF BY TYPE OF APPOINTMENT AND FUND,
JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 2007
(Includes All Sources of Financing)**

	Career Service	Continuin g Contract	Long Term	Short Term	Other Type of Appointment	Total
Regular Fund ^{a/}	122 ^{a/}	91 ^{b/}	179 ^{c/}	138	0	530
Others	2	2	44	95	51	194
TOTAL	124	93	223	233	51*	724

a/ Includes 2 people in positions of trust who are members of the career service.

b/ Includes 1 person in a position of trust

c/ Includes 52 people in positions of trust.

** Includes associate personnel, temporary support personnel, local professionals and special observers.*

TABLE 2

**CHANGE IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF STAFF BY FUND,
FROM DECEMBER 31, 2006 TO DECEMBER 31, 2007
(Includes All Sources of Financing)**

	December 2006	December 2007	Variation	
			Number	%
Regular Fund	509	529	20	3.9
Other	162	195	33	20.4
TOTAL	671*	724*	53	7.9

** Includes associate personnel, temporary support personnel, local professionals, and special observers.*

TABLE 3

**VARIATION IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF STAFF BY TYPE OF APPOINTMENT
 DECEMBER 31, 2006 TO DECEMBER 31, 2007
 (Includes All Sources of Financing)**

Type of Appointment	December 2006	December 2007	Variation	
			Number	%
Career Service	139	122	-17	-12.2
Career Service in Positions of Trust	3	2	- 1	-33.3
Continuing Contract	41	91	50	122
Trust personnel not in Career Service	55	55	0	0
Long term	205	170	-35	-17.1
Short term	185	233	48	26.9
Other type of appointment*	43	51	8	18.6
TOTAL	671	724	53	7.9

Includes associate personnel, temporary support personnel, local professionals and special observers.

TABLE 4

**DISTRIBUTION OF STAFF BY CATEGORY AND NATIONALITY
(Includes All Sources of Financing)**

Country	December 31, 2006			December 31, 2007		
	Professional	General Services	Total	Professional	General Services	Total
Antigua and Barbuda	2	2	4	2	2	4
Argentina	37	9	46	44	7	51
Bahamas	0	2	2	0	2	2
Barbados	4	3	7	4	3	7
Belize	0	1	1	0	1	1
Bolivia	14	10	24	15	10	25
Brazil	15	6	21	21	6	27
Canada	17	0	17	13	0	13
Chile	23	12	35	26	14	40
Colombia	38	18	56	51	19	70
Costa Rica	3	4	7	4	3	7
Cuba	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dominica	1	2	3	2	2	4
Dominican Republic	3	5	8	3	5	8
El Salvador	4	14	18	5	15	20
Grenada	3	2	5	3	3	6
Guatemala	8	9	17	6	9	15
Guyana	2	1	3	3	1	4
Haiti	3	3	6	3	3	6
Honduras	2	2	4	2	3	5
Jamaica	4	3	7	4	2	6
Mexico	16	5	21	21	6	27
Nicaragua	5	7	12	6	6	12
Panama	6	1	7	6	2	8
Paraguay	6	1	7	7	2	9
Peru	28	28	56	29	31	60
Saint Kitts and Nevis	3	2	5	3	2	5
Saint Lucia	3	2	5	6	3	9
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	4	3	7	4	3	7
Suriname	4	2	6	4	2	6
Trinidad and Tobago	12	5	17	11	5	16
United States	94	49	143	93	51	144
Uruguay	22	11	33	23	12	35
Venezuela	24	8	32	26	6	32
Countries not members/ OAS	10	0	10	13	1	14
TOTAL	428	373	671*	473	251	724

* Includes associate personnel, support personnel, local professionals and special observers.

TABLE 5

**DISTRIBUTION OF THE STAFF OF THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT
FROM JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 2007
BY YEARS OF SERVICE
(Includes All Sources of Financing)**

Years of Service	Members of the Career Service	Non-members of the Career Service	Total Personnel	Percentage Career Service Personnel
Less than 3	0	297	297	0
3 but less than 5	0	43	43	0
5 but less than 10	0	137	137	0
10 but less than 15	0	94	94	0
15 but less than 25	56	29	85	66
25 and over	66	2	68	97
TOTAL	122	602	724	17

** Includes associate personnel, support personnel, professionals and special observers.*

TABLE 6
DISTRIBUTION OF THE STAFF OF THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT
BY NATIONALITY
(Career Service vs. Non-Career Service)
(Includes All Sources of Financing)

Country	Career Service	Non-Career Service	Total Staff	Percentage Career Service Staff
Antigua and Barbuda	0	4	4	0
Argentina	5	46	51	10
Bahamas	0	2	2	0
Barbados	2	5	7	29
Belize	0	1	1	0
Bolivia	8	17	25	32
Brazil	4	23	27	15
Canada	0	13	13	0
Chile	5	35	40	13
Colombia	5	65	70	7
Costa Rica	0	7	7	0
Dominica	0	4	4	0
Dominican Republic	2	6	8	25
El Salvador	7	13	20	35
Grenada	0	6	6	0
Guatemala	5	10	15	33
Guyana	0	4	4	0
Haiti	1	5	6	17
Honduras	1	4	5	20
Jamaica	2	4	6	33
Mexico	3	24	27	11
Nicaragua	2	10	12	17
Panama	3	5	8	38
Paraguay	1	8	9	11
Peru	12	48	60	20
St. Kitts and Nevis	1	4	5	20
Santa Lucia	1	8	9	11
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	1	6	7	14
Suriname	1	5	6	17
United States	32	112	144	22
Uruguay	10	25	35	29
Venezuela	1	31	32	3
Countries not members of the OAS	0	14	14	0
TOTAL	122	602	724*	17

* Includes associate personnel, support personnel, local professionals and special obs

TABLE 7
DISTRIBUTION OF THE STAFF OF THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT
FROM JANUARY 1, TO DECEMBER 31, 2007
BY GRADE
(Includes All Sources of Financing)

Staff member's grade	Career Service	Not Career Service	Total Staff	Percentage Career Service
Unclassified posts*	0	2	2	0
D-1	0	8	8	0
D-2	0	6	6	0
P-5	23	57	80	29
P-4	11	70	81	14
P-3	16	85	101	16
P-2	14	83	97	14
P-1	1	75	76	1
G-7	2	5	7	29
G-6	28	61	89	31
G-5	14	56	70	20
G-4	7	40	47	15
G-3	5	26	31	16
G-2	1	3	4	25
G-1	0	2	2	0
<i>Other posts**</i>	0	23	23	0
TOTAL	122	602	724	17

*Secretary General and Assistant Secretary General.

** Associate personnel, support personnel, local professionals and special observers.

TABLE 8
DISTRIBUTION OF THE STAFF OF THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT
FROM JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 2007
(MEN-WOMEN)
(Includes All Sources of Financing)

Sex	Career Service	Non-Career Service	Total Staff	Percentage Career Service Personnel
Women	70	335	405	17
Men	52	267	319	16
TOTAL	122	602	724*	17

* *Includes associate personnel, support personnel, local professionals and special observers.*

TABLE 9
COMPOSITION OF THE STAFF OF THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT
FROM JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 2007,
BY DUTY STATION
(Includes All Sources of Financing)

Duty Station	Career Service	Non-Career Service	Total Staff	Percentage Career Service Personnel
Headquarters	30	101	131	23
Away from Headquarters	92	501	593	16
TOTAL	122	602	724*	17

* *Includes associate personnel, support personnel, local professionals and special obs*

TABLE 10

DISTRIBUTION OF STAFF BY CATEGORY AND NATIONALITY
(Includes All Sources of Financing)

Country	December 2006			December 2007		
	Career Service	Non-Career Service	Total	Career Service	Non-Career Service	Total
Antigua & Barbuda	0	4	4	0	4	4
Argentina	6	40	46	5	46	51
Bahamas	0	2	2	0	2	2
Barbados	2	5	7	2	5	7
Belize	0	1	1	0	1	1
Bolivia	8	16	24	8	17	25
Brazil	5	16	21	4	23	27
Canada	0	17	17	0	13	13
Chile	5	30	35	5	35	40
Colombia	6	50	56	5	65	70
Costa Rica	1	6	7	0	7	7
Dominica	0	3	3	0	4	4
Dominican Republic	2	6	8	2	6	8
Ecuador	8	11	19	6	13	19
El Salvador	7	11	18	7	13	20
Grenada	0	5	5	0	6	6
Guatemala	6	11	17	5	10	15
Guyana	0	3	3	0	4	4
Haiti	1	5	6	1	5	6
Honduras	1	3	4	1	4	5
Jamaica	3	4	7	2	4	6
México	5	16	21	3	24	27
Nicaragua	3	9	12	2	10	12
Panama	3	4	7	3	5	8
Paraguay	1	6	7	1	8	9
Peru	14	42	56	12	48	60
St. Kitts y Nevis	1	4	5	1	4	5
Santa Lucia	1	4	5	1	8	9
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	1	6	7	1	6	7
Suriname	1	5	6	1	5	6
United States	38	105	143	32	112	144
Uruguay	11	22	33	10	25	35
Venezuela	1	31	32	1	31	32
Countries not members of the OAS	0	10	10	0	14	14
TOTAL	142	529	671*	122	602	724*

Category	December 2006	December 2007	Variation	
			Absolute	%
Professionals	373	473	100	27
General Services	232	251	19	8
TOTAL	605	724*	119	20

* Includes associate personnel, support personnel, local professionals and special obs

APPENDIX E: COMBINED STATEMENTS OF ASSETS LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE
FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE OAS

TABLE 1

Combined Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Fund Balance

As of December 31, 2007, showing 2006 combined totals for purposes of comparison
(In thousands)

	Regular Fund	FEMCIDI	Specific Funds	Service Funds ^(A)	Combined	
					2007	2006
Assets						
Cash and deposits with the OAS Treasury Fund	\$ 20,481	\$ 13,514	\$ 87,403	\$ 8,899	\$ 130,297	\$ 119,248
Current value of annual payments ^(B)	6,642	-	-	-	6,642	6,769
Accounts receivable/Tax Reimbursement Fund	3,789	-	-	-	3,789	-
Advances for employees	492	-	-	23	515	722
Equity in fixed assets fund	57,234	-	-	-	57,234	57,816
Total Assets	\$ 88,638	\$ 13,514	\$ 87,403	\$ 8,922	\$ 198,477	\$ 184,555
Liabilities and fund balances						
Obligations outstanding	\$ 2,568	\$ 1,860	\$ 11,206	\$ 2,687	\$ 18,321	\$ 16,167
Quotas/pledges collected in advance	5,283	32	-	-	5,315	516
Appropriations to charge to future years ^(B)	6,642	-	-	-	6,642	6,769
Accounts payable to the Regular Fund	-	-	-	3,789	3,789	-
Accounts payable and other liabilities	768	33	6,101 ^(C)	516	7,418	5,712
Terminations	381	-	-	1,380 ^(D)	1,761	-
Deferred contribution for tax reimbursements	-	-	-	-	-	2,810
Promissory notes and payables	23,530	-	-	-	23,530	23,890
Total Liabilities	39,172	1,925	17,307	8,372	66,776	55,864
Fund Balance						
Set aside for scholarships	4,095 ^(E)	-	-	-	4,095	3,000
Financing for the Regular Fund for 2008 AG/RES. 1 (XXXIII-E/07)	5,352	-	-	-	5,352	-
Surplus Operating Fund	-	11,353	-	-	11,353	10,923
Reserve Subfund	6,315	236	-	-	6,551	11,085
Fund Balance	-	-	70,096	550	70,646	69,757
Total Fund Balance	15,762	11,589	70,096	550	97,997	94,765
Equity in fixed assets	33,704	-	-	-	33,704	33,926
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	\$ 88,638	\$ 13,514	\$ 87,403	\$ 8,922	\$ 198,477	\$ 184,555

(A) Includes Tax Reimbursement Fund

(B) Present value of the OAS' annuities (lifetime payments to former Secretaries General and former Assistant Secretaries General).

(C) Includes \$5,000 pending from programming between the GS/OAS and the donor (Fund 705).

(D) Terminations (Specific Funds).

(E) Includes 2006 appropriations balance (\$1,852) and 2007 appropriations balance (\$2,243).

Table 2

Combined Statement of Variations in Fund Balances

For the year ended December 31, 2007, showing totals for 2006 for purposes of comparison

(In thousands)

						Combined	
	Regular Fund	FEMCIDI	Specific Funds	Service Funds (A)	Elimination of Transactions between Funds	2007	2006
Increases							
Collection of quotas/pledges	\$ 78,898	\$ 6,358	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (148)	\$ 85,108 (B)	\$ 80,976
Less: Credits for prompt payment	(233)	-	-	-	-	(233)	(226)
Contributions	-	-	62,908	-	-	62,908	66,752
Contributions for tax reimbursements	-	-	-	3,127	-	3,127	11,226
Transfers	-	150	862	4,903	(5,823)	92 (B)	219
Interest income	876	461	3,810	93	-	5,240 (B)	4,036
Contributions, administrative/technical support	896	-	-	3,999	(3,039)	1,856	592
Leases	504	-	-	1,285	-	1,789	1,705
Subscriptions, Americas Magazine	294	-	-	-	-	294	279
Other income and reimbursements	1,134	3	218	3,608	-	4,963	4,335
Total Increases	82,369	6,972	67,798	17,015	(9,010)	165,144	169,894
Decreases							
Expenses and Obligations	79,927	6,416	55,785 (C)	12,539 (C)	(6,002)	148,665 (B)	144,341
Tax reimbursement expenditures	-	-	-	6,780	-	6,780	6,891
Transfers and reimbursements	61	-	3,414	409	(3,008)	876 (B)	4,919
Reimbursements to donors	-	-	5,122	-	-	5,122	-
Supplementals	160	-	-	-	-	160	59
Americas Magazine	309	-	-	-	-	309	349
Total Decreases	80,457	6,416	64,321	19,728	(9,010)	161,912	156,559
Net Increase (Decrease) in the year	1,912	556	3,477	(2,713)	-	3,232	13,335
Fund Balance at start of year	13,850	11,033	66,619	3,263	-	94,765	81,430
Fund Balance at year's end	\$ 15,762	\$ 11,589	\$ 70,096	\$ 550	\$ -	\$ 97,997	\$ 94,765

(A) Includes the Tax Reimbursement Fund.

(B) The combined amounts do not include transactions between funds.

(C) Net execution includes 2007 expenditure plus obligations, less obligations with balance carried over from years past.

TABLE 3
ITEMIZATION OF REGULAR FUND EXPENSES AND OBLIGATIONS, BY
CHAPTER
For the year ended December 31, 2007
(in thousands US\$)

	2007	2006
Secretary General	8,004.1	7,520.8
Assistant Secretary General	19,285.2	18,255.8
Autonomous and Decentralized Entities	11,082.1	11,647.7
Secretariat for Political Affairs	4,171.4	3,691.3
Secretariat for Multidimensional Security	3,708.6	2,535.9
Department of International Legal Affairs	2,326.7	2,123.5
Executive Secretariat for Integral Development	8,027.5	8,938.0
Secretariat for Administration and Finance	10,376.5	10,237.4
Basic Infrastructure and Common Costs	11,766.5	13,481.2
Subtotal	78,748.6	78,431.6
Scholarships*	5,207.6	2,910.4
Total	83,956.2	81,342.0

*Authorized for multi-annual execution.

APPENDIX F: SELECTION OF SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Table 1

Breakdown of the Selection for the Academic Scholarships Program. Done June 11 to 15, 2007, for the 2007-08 academic periods.

1) Number of participating member states	31
2) Number of candidates selected	176
3) Breakdown by type of scholarship	
For graduate studies	156
Placed by the OAS	125
Self-placed	30
For graduate studies	21
Placed by the OAS	1
Self-placed	20
4) Distribution by country of study	

COUNTRY	Number of Scholarship Recipients	Percentage
ARGENTINA	19	12.2%
BARBADOS	10	6.4%
BRAZIL	3	1.9%
CANADA	5	3.2%
CHILE	29	18.6%
COLOMBIA	3	1.9%
COSTA RICA	5	3.2%
ECUADOR	1	0.6%
JAMAICA	2	1.3%
PANAMA	2	1.3%
PERU	1	0.6%
MEXICO	14	9.0%
NICARAGUA	0	0.0%
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	3	1.9%
UNITED STATES	52	33.3%
URUGUAY	1	0.6%

Table 2

UNDERGRADUATE 2007-2008

Disbursements	Commitments 2008	Commitments 2009/2010	Total
230922.56	255187.5	290859.86	776969.92

Total Cost	776969.92
Number/Students	21
Average Cost	36998.5676

GRADUATE - PLACED

Disbursements	Commitments 2008	Commitments 2009/2010	Total
582681.15	1340010.89	1330438.91	3253130.95

Total Cost	3253130.95
Number/Students	116
Average Cost	28044.2323

GRADUATE - SELF-PLACED

Disbursements	Commitments 2008	Commitments 2009/2010	Total
253970.15	449328.07	294212.4	997510.62

Total Cost	997510.62
Number/Students	30
Average Cost	33250.354

AVERAGE COST

Undergraduate	36998.56762
Grad. - Self-placed	28044.23233
Grad - Self-placed	33250.354

AVERAGE COST

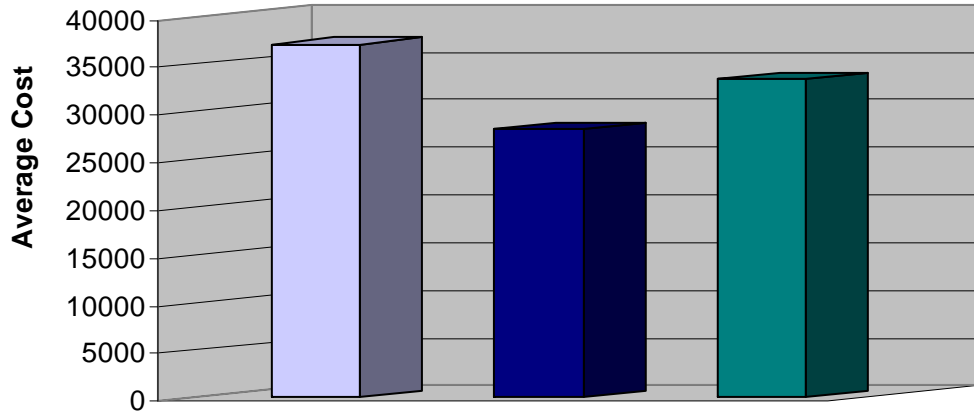


Table 3

Breakdown of the Program of Academic Scholarships Selected between December 10 and 14, 2007, for the 2008-09 academic period

The following is an itemization of the last scholarship selection conducted:

1) Number of participating member states	34
2) Number of candidates selected	301
3) Breakdown by type of scholarship	
▪ For graduate studies	275
○ Placed by the OAS	222
○ Self-placed	53
▪ For undergraduate studies	24
○ Placed by the OAS	2
○ Self-placed	22

Table 4

OAS CONSORTIUM OF UNIVERSITIES – DECEMBER 2007

ACTIVE OR IN THE PROCESS OF BEING RENEWED

ARGENTINA

1. Gobierno de Tierra del Fuego
2. Universidad de Buenos Aires
3. Universidad Torcuato di Tella
4. Universidad Austral
5. Universidad Blass Pascal

BARBADOS

6. University of the West Indies (Barbados)

BOLIVIA

7. Universidad Tecnológica

BRAZIL

8. Brazil, Universidade Estadual de Campinas:

CANADA

9. First Nations University of Canada:
10. APICE - Niagara Collage: 16 February
11. Carleton University
12. St. Mary's University

CHILE

13. Ministerio de Planificación y Cooperación del Gobierno de Chile y la Agencia de Cooperación Internacional del Gobierno de Chile
14. Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

15. Universidad Alberto Hurtado
16. Universidad Austral de Chile
17. Universidad Católica de Valparaíso
18. Universidad de Chile
19. Universidad de Concepción
20. Universidad de Santiago de Chile
21. Universidad de Talca
22. Universidad Mayor
23. Universidad Técnica Federico Santa María

COLOMBIA

24. Facultad de Administración de Empresas de la Universidad de los Andes
25. Universidad ICESI:

COSTA RICA

26. Costa Rica, University for Peace
27. Instituto Centroamericano de Administración de Empresas (INCAE)
28. Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza (CATIE)
29. Universidad Latina de Costa Rica

ECUADOR

30. Organización Latinoamericana de Energía

JAMAICA

31. Northern Caribbean University
32. The University College of the Caribbean
33. University of Technology of Jamaica
34. University of the West Indies (Jamaica)

MEXICO

35. Instituto Tecnológico de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey
36. Universidad Virtual del Tecnológico de Monterrey
37. Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León

PERU

38. Universidad de San Martín de Porres
39. Universidad Nacional del Centro del Perú

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

40. University of the Southern Caribbean
41. University of the West Indies (Trinidad & Tobago)

UNITED STATES

42. Emporia State University
43. Fairleigh Dickinson University
44. Georgetown University
45. Hamline University
46. Lafayette College
47. Loyola College
48. Rochester Institute of Technology
49. The Juniata College
50. The Metropolitan College of New York
51. Midwestern States University
52. The University of Mississippi
53. Thunderbird/The American Graduate School of International Management
54. University of Miami
55. University of Texas at Dallas
56. University of Rochester, Simon Graduate School of Business
57. University of South Florida
58. Wake Forest University
59. Woodrow Wilson School of Public Affairs, Princeton University

URUGUAY

60. Universidad ORT de Uruguay

Table 5

Placement of Graduate Students - First Cycle

Placements	Current Scholarship Recipients
Graduate	
<i>Placed by third parties</i>	55
<i>Self-placed</i>	30
<i>Placed by DHD</i>	70
Undergraduate	21
TOTAL	176

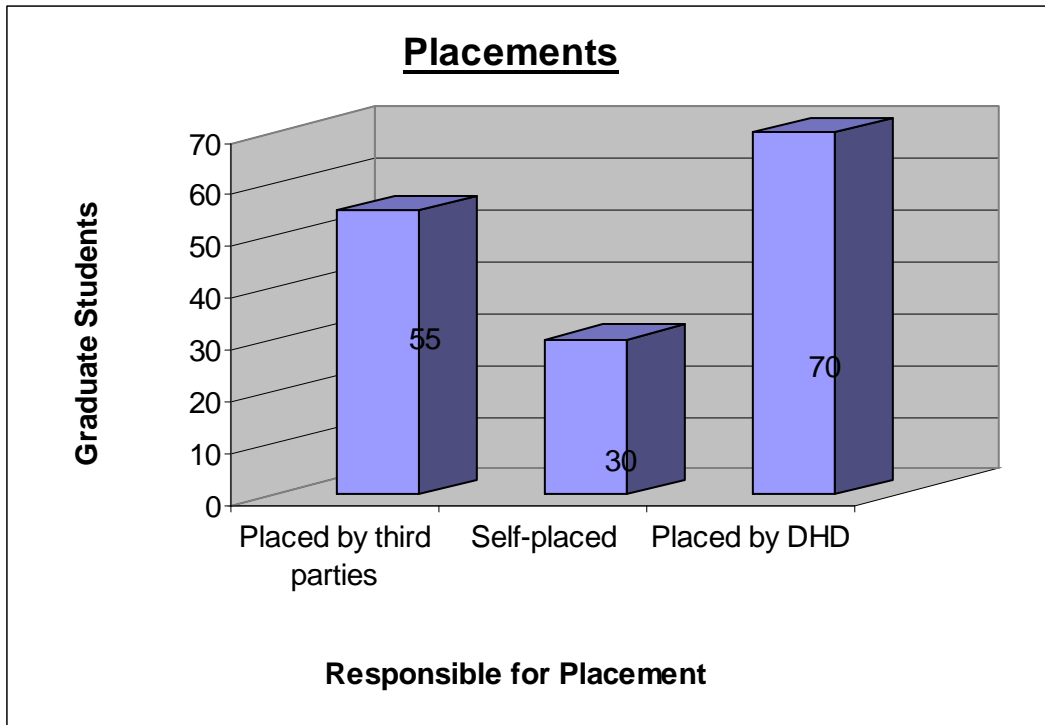


Table 6

Professional Development Scholarships 2007

Country	2007
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA	7
ARGENTINA	30
BAHAMAS	2
BARBADOS	10
BELIZE	5
BOLIVIA	38
BRAZIL	19
CANADA	2
CHILE	55
COLOMBIA	33
COSTA RICA	63
DOMINICA	4
ECUADOR	56
EL SALVADOR	45
GRENADA	2
GUATEMALA	27
GUYANA	0
HAITI	1
HONDURAS	46
JAMAICA	5
MEXICO	24
NICARAGUA	10
PANAMA	46
PARAGUAY	29
PERU	58
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	10
SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS	5
SAINT LUCIA	2
SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES	2
SURINAME	5
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	0
UNITED STATES	2
URUGUAY	57
VENEZUELA	24
TOTAL	724

Table 7

**On-line Courses of the Educational Portal of the Americas
Participants Trained in 2007**

Country	Participants Trained
Antigua and Barbuda	0
Argentina	128
Bahamas	0
Barbados	0
Belize	1
Bolivia	49
Brazil	173
Canada	2
Chile	118
Colombia	1,078
Costa Rica	65
Cuba	0
Dominica	0
Dominican Republic	36
Ecuador	67
El Salvador	32
Grenada	0
Guatemala	23
Guyana	0
Haiti	2
Honduras	40
Jamaica	0
Mexico	288
Nicaragua	13
Panama	34
Paraguay	40
Peru	588
Saint Lucia	0
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	0
St. Kitts and Nevis	0
Suriname	0
Trinidad and Tobago	1
United States	15
Uruguay	69
Venezuela	171
Other	13
TOTAL	3,046

Table 8

**Educational Portal of the Americas
Statistics on its Web Site**

Summary

- 81.4 million hits per year. An average of 6.78 million per month
- 1.9 million visits per year. An average of 158,000 per month
- 13,718 registered users. An average of 1,143 per month.

1. Traffic Summary

Month	Hits	Visits	Pages Viewed
January-07	3,042,167	177,421	748,592
February-07	4,332,798	199,339	897,694
March-07	4,083,549	225,545	897,542
April-07	4,040,896	211,423	927,476
May-07	4,809,329	257,298	1,046,140
June-07	4,084,942	264,502	1,064,783
July-07	4,793,727	288,524	1,124,138
August-07	6,039,773	263,709	1,207,271
September-07	5,882,210	201,764	1,159,672
October-07 *	N/A	N/A	N/A
November-07 *	N/A	N/A	N/A
December-07 *	N/A	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	41,109,391	2,089,525	43,198,916
Average (9 months)	4,567,710	232,169	4,799,880

Source: OAS/OITs Statistics System

2. **Registered Users** (An average of 1,143 per month)

Month	Registered Users
January-07	1,335
February-07	1,703
March-07	887
April-07	774
May-07	2,140
June-07	895
July-07	1,340
August-07	1,662
September-07	1,320
October-07	647
November-07	581
December-07	434
TOTAL	13,718

Source: Educational Portal of the Americas / Statistics System

APPENDIX G: PERMANENT OBSERVERS (CASH CONTRIBUTIONS)

Country	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Total US\$
Sweden	3,443,967	5,313,850	1,637,000	2,393,504	3,793,688	4,116,755	4,707,846	6,766,383	4,005,033	36,178,026
Spain	984,543	1,231,539	1,084,000	783,598	900,495	691,220	540,682	7,264,076	9,122,747	22,602,900
Norway	1,687,166	294,396	1,662,000	2,443,679	1,866,488	2,550,263	2,112,651	1,765,092	1,659,517	16,041,252
Netherlands	104,198	711,205	953,000	1,107,135	711,297	974,283	1,744,109	318,577	1,573,778	8,197,582
European Union	200,616	67,193	128,000	202,607	2,534,281	900,863	913,917	1,003,730	1,111,716	7,062,923
United Kingdom	122,000	530,498	496,000	425,528	794,700	405,056	492,140	241,900	137,424	3,645,246
Denmark	881,175	666,500	191,000	331,499	142,777	150,483	150,000	50,000	277,051	2,840,485
Italy			100,000		380,330	667,748	317,555	432,707	681,166	2,579,506
Japan	200,234	377,026	530,000	417,485	192,800	126,400		212,250	140,900	2,197,095
France	49,180	284,471	29,000	136,429	489,571	341,014	47,468	275,538	184,086	1,836,757
Finland			60,000	50,590	98,648	592,849		332,337	320,559	1,454,983
Ireland	198,210						311,971		524,740	1,034,921
China							200,000	200,000	173,000	573,000
Korea				50,000	45,000	99,400	50,000	130,000	100,000	474,400
Germany	159,645			92,440	34,869	110,034	9,500	31,880	15,300	453,668
Switzerland			30,000	9,890	98,800	38,203			27,077	203,970
Turkey		9,000		14,700	12,200	12,200	12,200	16,000	125,000	201,300
Greece					20,000		30,000	20,000	30,000	100,000
Israel		30,000	20,000			20,000				70,000
Luxembourg						63,880				63,880
Austria									61,600	61,600
Qatar						30,000	10,000	10,000		50,000
Cyprus	25,000		3,000	1,000						29,000
Portugal									18,200	18,200
Philippines						15,000				15,000
Holy See					10,000					10,000
Thailand								10,000		10,000
Serbia/ Montenegro						3,000				3,000
Grand Total	8,055,934	9,515,678	6,923,000	8,460,084	12,125,944	11,908,651	11,650,039	19,080,470	20,288,894	108,008,694

PERMANENT OBSERVER CONTRIBUTIONS IN KIND 1999/2007

Country	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Total US\$
Spain	503,250	630,000	575,000	592,505	238,482	1,118,841	270,400	485,171	424,924	4,838,573
Korea	82,000	110,757	178,000	93,323	163,346	242,000	110,000	150,000	80,000	1,209,426
Israel	350,000	182,625	390,000		11,465	13,600		100,000	54,000	1,101,690
France	42,320		8,000	193,200	103,360	140,000	96,000	3,000	30,000	615,880
Russia			165,000							165,000
Italy		10,000	54,000			15,000				79,000
Switzerland									63,500	63,500
Thailand						29,100				29,100
Romania	20,000									20,000
Germany									6,732	6,732
China								5,460		5,460
Total:	997,570	933,382	1,370,000	879,028	516,653	1,558,541	476,400	743,631	659,156	8,134,361

APPENDIX H: PROGRAM-BUDGET: LEVELS OF EXECUTION

