**NINTH INTER-AMERICAN MEETING OF MINISTERS OF**  OEA/Ser.K/XXVII.9

**CULTURE AND HIGHEST APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES** CIDI/REMIC-IX/doc.12/22

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FINAL REPORT OF THE NINTH INTER-AMERICAN MEETING OF
MINISTERS OF CULTURE AND HIGHEST APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES

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INTRODUCTION

The Ninth Meeting of Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) was held in Antigua Guatemala, Guatemala, on October 27 and 28, 2022. It was chaired by Mr. Felipe Aguilar Marroquín, Minister of Culture and Sport of Guatemala, and was attended by representatives of 22 member states and several international organizations.

 The Ninth Meeting’s theme “Technology, creativity, and innovation as an opportunity for developing and strengthening culture,” as well as the topics and subtopics chosen, reflecting the priorities of the region’s cultural authorities, were approved by CIDI. The Preparatory Meeting for this event was held virtually on September 12, 2022.

1. PARTICIPANTS

The list of participants drawn up by the Secretariat may be found in document [CIDI/REMIC-IX/doc.10/22](https://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=XXVII.9%20CIDI/REMIC-IX/doc&classNum=10&lang=t).

1. PROCEEDINGS

Pursuant to Article 20 of the Rules of Procedure for Sectoral and Specialized Meetings of Ministers and/or High Authorities in the framework of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development,[[1]](#footnote-2) this ministerial meeting comprised an inaugural session, eight plenary sessions, and a closing session, which are summarized below.

A. Inaugural session

The inaugural session was addressed by Ambassador Nestor Mendez, Assistant Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS), who said that the meeting would provide an opportunity to discuss the power of culture to uplift the peoples of the Americas, its potential to harness traditional lessons and add value to them, and its ability to instill pride, stimulate awareness, create jobs, and contribute in countless ways to sociocultural and economic development.

Ambassador Yolande Y. Smith, Permanent Representative of Grenada to the OAS and Chair of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI), expressed her appreciation of the theme chosen for the Ministerial Meeting in that it introduced technology into the various constituent aspects of the topic of culture, especially by bringing the citizens of the Americas closer to the digital transformation, a phenomenon that has been a recurring issue in CIDI’s work.

The Director of the National Tourism Institute of Guatemala, Ms. Anayansy Carolina Rodriguez Castillo, speaking by video, highlighted the cultural richness of the Americas, wherein lies the Hemisphere’s potential for development, and she expressed her hope that the meeting would serve to showcase culture’s worth.

The Minister of Culture and Sport of Guatemala, Felipe Aguilar Marroquín, said that the meeting offered a perfect opportunity to discuss initiatives to rescue the Hemisphere’s cultures: the use of technological tools was extremely important in promoting culture and it was urgent that the countries of the Americas worked to rescue and reappraise it. What would the region be like if we gave culture the value it deserves, Minister Aguilar Marroquín asked, adding that the Hemisphere must unite and position itself to sell its countries as a destination.

The President of Guatemala, Dr. Alejandro Giammattei, sent a video message in which he stated that it was an honor for his country to be hosting the meeting in Guatemala and, particularly, in the city of Antigua Guatemala, a Cultural Heritage Site. He invited the ministers to set out the needs they must meet to rescue cultural expressions, to dignify the arts, and to reappraise heritage. President Giammattei expressed his hope that the meeting would define a way forward for actions that would make culture the engine of economic development in the Americas.

B. First plenary session

The first plenary session was opened by Mr. Cristhian Neftalí Calderón Santizo, Vice Minister of Culture of Guatemala, in his capacity as provisional chair. On a motion proposed by the Minister of Culture of Panama and seconded by the Minister of Culture and Heritage of Ecuador, Mr. Felipe Aguilar Marroquín, Minister of Culture and Sport of Guatemala, was elected by acclamation to serve as Chair of the Ninth Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities.

Under the chairmanship of Minister Aguilar Marroquín, the delegations approved the meeting’s draft agenda and draft schedule, documents [CIDI/REMIC-IX/doc.1/22 rev. 2](https://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=XXVII.9%20CIDI/REMIC-IX/doc&classNum=1&lang=e) and [CIDI/REMIC-IX/doc.3/22 rev. 4](https://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=XXVII.9%20CIDI/REMIC-IX/doc&classNum=3&lang=e).

In addition, agreements were adopted regarding procedural considerations. Thus, the Style Committee was set up with the delegations of Paraguay for the Spanish language, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for English, Brazil for Portuguese, and Canada for French. It was agreed that no committees or working groups of the Ninth Meeting would be established. It was decided that the deadline for delegations to submit proposals would be October 27, 2022, at 12:00 noon, and that the Ninth Meeting would conclude on October 28, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.

Ms. Patricia Ariza, Minister of Culture of Colombia and Chair of the Inter-American Committee on Culture (CIC), then presented the report of the CIC Chair, and Mr. Richard Campbell, Chief of the Culture and Tourism Section of theDepartment of Economic Development (SEDI/DDE), presented the activities report of the Technical Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee on Culture (CIC). The Secretariat’s report can be found in document [CIDI/REMIC-IX/doc.4/22](https://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=XXVII.9%20CIDI/REMIC-IX/doc&classNum=4&lang=e).

C. Second plenary session

The second plenary session addressed the topic of “Technology, creativity, and innovation as an opportunity for developing and strengthening culture.”

Mr. Cristhian Neftalí Calderón Santizo, Vice Minister of Culture of Guatemala, gave a presentation titled “Guatemala: New routes to development.” In his presentation, Mr. Calderón Santizo identified the actions taken during the pandemic to rescue culture, of which he highlighted the economic support given to art workers and the use of digital media to share the beneficiaries’ art, as well as to support theater companies through virtual performances. The situation had demanded a different way of thinking and innovating, he said, and to that end the Peace Parks were planned, as sites that consolidate culture, heritage, art, recreation, and sports in one place. He noted how technological tools have helped identify archaeological sites. The Vice Minister said it was his goal for the entire Hemisphere and the Caribbean to benefit from those tools to discover their pre-Hispanic infrastructure.

Dr. Louis Zabaneh, Minister of State at the Ministry of Education, Culture, Science, and Technology of Belize, gave a presentation on “The causality between the development of culture and science, technology, and innovation.” His presentation highlighted the resilience of creators during the pandemic in adapting to digital technologies to survive the disappearance of their markets, and the capacity for adaptation that had helped microenterprises and small businesses understand how technology can be used to improve their sales through marketing. Dr. Zabaneh explained the causal relationship that exists between the development of culture and science, technology, and innovation, and he noted that research had revealed, *inter alia*, that more pragmatic societies tend to be more innovative; he therefore recommended that this type of research be included in the plans and initiatives adopted in the sector.

Ms. Laura Huerta Migus, Deputy Director of Museum Services at the United States Institute of Museum and Library Services, spoke on the topic “Museums for digital learning: Breaking the barriers of access to culture.” Ms. Huerta Migus said that the United States promotes the equitable participation of its citizens in culture and the arts, ensuring that culture and the arts contribute to the economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and maintaining the leadership of the United States in the protection of cultural heritage. She shared the “Museums for Digital Learning” platform initiative, which offers valuable information to help teachers enhance their teaching plans. Museums from across the nation, and from across the world, participate in the platform.

Mr. Juan Marcelo Cuenca, Director General of the Cabinet of the National Secretariat of Culture of Paraguay, gave a presentation on “Cultural policy in Paraguay, the technological environment, and virtual access.” The presentation was based on Paraguay’s experiences with the use of technology during the pandemic to meet the needs of the cultural sector and to bring culture to the population. He noted that the Ministry of Culture had been using technology since before the pandemic, which enabled researchers and the general public to access a wealth of cultural resources digitally and also ensured the existence of a cultural registry.

Mr. Salvador Vásquez, National Arts Director at the Ministry of Culture of El Salvador, made a video presentation on “Tools and technology for cultural policy design.” Mr. Vásquez explained that the COVID-19 pandemic had allowed the sector to generate more innovation and more inclusive digital growth and that his country had produced a national registry of cultural and art workers with the aim of identifying, dignifying, and promoting the artistic and cultural sector through a digital platform.

Ministerial dialogue

 The delegations of Costa Rica, Brazil, Canada, Ecuador, Argentina, Panama, Peru, Mexico, Paraguay, Colombia, and Chile spoke at the ministerial dialogue and shared additional details about their experiences in helping support the sector through digital media. Several delegations presented marketplace programs to enable artisans, painters, and other artists to sell their products and do business; they also agreed on the need for a database and registry of artists and cultural managers and on actions toward that goal, and they also shared their progress with cultural satellite accounts. Panama recommended the creation of a regional platform and stressed the need to support minorities and isolated communities, noting that efforts should not be concentrated exclusively in capitals and major cities; the Panamanian delegation also underscored the need to make social security mechanisms available to artists and cultural workers.

D. Third plenary session

The topic for this session was “Methodologies and policies for promoting the management and consumption of arts and literature.”

Ms. Gloria Annarella Vélez Osejo, Secretary of State at the Secretariat of Cultures, Arts, and Heritage of the Peoples of Honduras, gave a presentation on “Methodologies and policies for promoting the management and consumption of arts and literature: the experience of Honduras.” She said that the government had undertaken a restructuring of the institutional framework, and that rather than competition, it sought to promote cooperation among initiatives, and she stressed that political will was important in supporting culture.

Senator Guibion Ferdinand, Parliamentary Secretary at the Ministry of Tourism, Investment, Creative Industries, Culture and Information of Saint Lucia, addressed the meeting with a presentation on the “Management and consumption of arts and literature.” Mr. Ferdinand stressed the importance of creative industries: not only for the development of culture, but also for global GDP. He noted that culture accounted for 6% of the world’s GDP and that, in most of the Hemisphere’s countries, the figure ranged between 2% and 7%: for that reason, it is important to promote the consumption of culture, arts, and literature. He said that Saint Lucia was addressing the need for sound legislation to ensure proper incentives for culture. He reported that attention was focused on capacity building through the Cultural Development Foundation for the certification of artists in different areas.

Ms. Elia Giselle Annette González Villarué, Minister of Culture of Panama, said her country was a place of encounters, a global route that favors intercultural dialogue and that has served the world as a bridge and a connection, and that those characteristics have given rise to a rich and full culture that the Ministry of Culture protects and promotes. She said that the objectives of the Ministry of Culture, according to the 2020 Law on Culture that created it, included the establishment of public policies to promote the management and consumption of the arts. Accordingly, public-private alliances have been forged and efforts made to create an environment conducive to the understanding that rather than consumers, citizens are creators of culture and that there is no need for dictates from above to determine what is considered suitable for cultural consumption.

Ms. Adriana Ospina, Director of the Art Museum of the Americas of the OAS, gave a video presentation on “The Mérida Experience: Guatemala Alive.” Ms. Ospina said that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Museum had been forced to reinvent itself and to make use of technology, which had often been ignored in preference to physical spaces and face-to-face activities. In that regard, she spoke of the project “The Mérida Experience: Guatemala Alive.” As part of the celebrations of Guatemala’s two hundred years of independence, this project sought to make visible and democratize—beyond the physical arena—the life and work of the artist Carlos Mérida, through the use of state-of-the-art technologies. Ms. Ospina explained that the initiative was a part of current efforts to use emerging technologies to democratize access to exhibitions, documentary archives, and collections.

Ministerial dialogue

During the ministerial dialogue that followed the presentations, the delegations of Brazil and Guatemala shared their experiences, especially with the promotion of reading. The delegation of Argentina shared a regional study on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic that indicated that those sectors that were already digitized prior to its onset were less affected, but also that the proportion of products offered digitally had doubled in a few months. The delegation of Argentina concluded by noting that the study highlighted the importance of regional cooperation and offered several recommendations for regional work. The delegation of Ecuador shared a survey of reading habits that has been used to design policies, and it highlighted the importance of ensuring that data were available.

1. Fourth plenary session

The topic for the fourth plenary session was “Cultural and creative industries and economies.”

Introductory remarks were given by Mr. Ismael Cala, a journalist, writer, radio and television producer and host, and former correspondent for CNN’s Spanish-language channel. Ismael Cala congratulated the Government of Guatemala for investing in culture. He said that rather than an expense, it was a good investment, because without culture there is no identity, without culture we are nothing, without culture we would not only be talking about a disappearing heritage but also about a present that does not create strategic unity towards the future.

Mr. Cala defended the work of artists, creators, and cultural workers, because the orange economy is where most development is currently taking place. The cultural offer is what makes a country’s tourism brand successful, he said. He also noted that leadership is the key that determines whether countries will rise or sink into poverty. Thus, he said, there were small countries with scarce resources, but with intelligence and cohesion in their leadership they succeeded in moving forward. He also reflected on the fact that the post-pandemic period requires a rethink, not in terms of the ego but in keeping with the need to look inward to keep this planet alive, with culture, with identity. He spoke of the bamboo, a plant that has interesting qualities, and he said that culture makes the human being whole, shows where we come from, and makes individuals unique. He concluded by saying that investing in culture is a great business with great returns and that it creates prosperity, not just identity.

Ms. María Elena Machuca Merino, Minister of Culture and Heritage of Ecuador, gave a presentation on “Culture and Development in Ecuador.” Ms. Machuca Merino said that in Ecuador, on account of the COVID-19 pandemic, the cultural sector had lost around US$225 million, and conservation and preservation events and activities had been suspended. She noted that for the first time in the country’s history, a government was incorporating culture as an economic sector and promoting the sustained growth of creative industries with the participation of the private sector. She highlighted the incentives and economic and financial stimuli that have been adopted, such as the 150% deductibility for companies that invest in arts and culture; and she underscored the country’s social rehabilitation policies for people deprived of their freedom.

 Ms. Nayuribe Guadamuz Rosales, Minister of Culture and Youth of Costa Rica, gave a presentation on “Measuring the economic impact of the cultural and creative sectors, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.” In her presentation, Minister Guadamuz said that culture had the capacity to improve people and that the entire sector, from small enterprises to major industries, was a generator of employment, wealth, and growth. She emphasized that investment in culture promotes growth, creates productive linkages, and offers opportunities for numerous segments of the population, primarily women and young people. Thus, in her country, the data stored in cultural information systems were the starting point for the creation of incentives to promote the growth of the creative sector, to the benefit of the entire population. For example, the Costa Rican Culture Satellite Account indicates that in 2019, the cultural sector contributed 2.1% of GDP and employment, more than other traditional sectors. She then listed the measures adopted to help deal with the pandemic and proposed an agreement to tackle the fourth industrial revolution.

 Ms. Milagros Germán Olalla, Minister of Culture of the Dominican Republic, gave a video address on “Cultural and Creative Industries: Sustainability and Inclusion.” She said that cultural policies were a vital factor for sustainable development and noted that with the inclusion of cultural rights in her country’s new Constitution, there had been an expansion in the mechanisms available for participation in cultural activities sponsored by the state. She reported that her country’s government had enacted the Cultural Patronage Law to encourage and protect the training of professionals in various artistic and cultural fields and to provide incentives. She also reported that her office was working with the Central Bank to update the national cultural consumption survey, which would enable the development of a cultural satellite account. The Minister concluded by stressing the importance of the orange economy.

 Ministerial dialogue

 The delegation of Guatemala addressed the ministerial dialogue to highlight the impetus given by the creative economy to the economy in general, noting that Holy Week in Antigua Guatemala saw some US$83 million change hands, an amount that exceeded the Ministry of Culture’s budget. Other delegations that spoke included Costa Rica, which offered to share information on its cultural map; the United States, which said that the pandemic’s impact on the cultural economy had changed consumption habits and that federal economic support strategies had been introduced for the cultural sector; and Argentina, which referred to the regional study on the impact of COVID-19 on cultural industries, in which 12 of the region’s countries had participated and which had produced key information for policy design.

 Remarks were also shared by the delegation of Brazil, which stressed the importance of establishing an Inter-American Committee on Culture (CIC) working group on cultural and creative industries and economies; by the delegation of Belize, which asked whether after the negative impact of COVID-19 on the sector, there was a desire for artists and creative managers to return to employment or to improve their working conditions; by the delegation of Chile, which spoke of the importance of creating networks to reach out to the world together and share the Hemisphere’s cultural diversity; the delegation of Canada, which noted that it had had a cultural satellite account since 2000 and stressed the importance of having statistical information available; the delegation of Peru, which spoke of the importance of having a glossary of the terms used at the meeting; and the delegation of the Dominican Republic, which said that the pandemic had also created opportunities for the cultural sector, mentioning the fact that when film studios closed in other places, they went to film in their country.

1. Fifth plenary session

 The fifth plenary session explored the topic “Strengthening heritage and cultural expressions.”

 Ms. Shantal Munro-Knight, Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister of Barbados, spoke on the topic “Sustainable development, digital transformation, and post-COVID recovery: Building a heritage economy.” Ms. Munro-Knight said that resilience was important and that the sector will be strengthened by the COVID-19 experience. She also stressed the need to ensure equitable participation and access in this digital transformation and to help creators participate in different markets. The Minister reflected on resilience and the importance, in considering it, of looking at innovation in the long term and of taking account of what has not been done; how to face the digital transformation and, at the same time, how to preserve heritage. She said it was important to give value to cultural heritage and to monetize it but, at the same time, to give it its intrinsic value. In this regard, she said that her country’s government had the “Reclaiming the Atlantic Destination Route” project, and she concluded by underscoring the importance of formulating inclusive policies in which stakeholders were seen as part of the process.

Ms. Betssy Chávez Chino, Minister of Culture of Peru, gave a presentation on “Technology for the benefit of culture in Peru.” The Minister also referred to the “Homeland: Stand up to Defend Cultural Heritage” project, which had enabled the 3D digitization of museums and archeological sites nationwide; the creation of 100% virtual environments; the provision of virtual reality glasses at different museums and sites; and the use of cellphone-mediated augmented reality, through which users can interact with scanned objects. She reported that Peru also has virtual shops representing traditional artists’ collectives, which helped artisans to continue selling during the pandemic. Minister Chávez concluded by calling for the prevention of predatory tourism, which, she said, required forging links between the culture and tourism sectors.

Ms. Patricia Ariza, Minister of Culture of Colombia, highlighted the role of the OAS in promoting cultural integration and interculturalism in the Americas. She reported that her country was working on four axes: (1) working for a culture of peace, (2) Colombia on the Planet and in the World, dealing with climate change and with survival—which is not unrelated to culture—and addressing the cultural integration of the Americas, (3) living memory, which calls on young people to look at museums and archives not only as something to preserve, as something dead, but as something alive, (4) art, artists, and education for life, in favor of artists and artistic creation, to bring education not only to schools but also to communities.

Ms. María Dolores Repetto Alvarez, Director of the Cultural Institute of Mexico, gave a presentation on Mexico’s current cultural policy. She said that in her country, culture was seen as a tool for transformation that allows the expanded use of, access to, and participation in cultural and artistic expressions through digital technologies. She listed the technological tools used by the Government of Mexico, through the National Institute of Anthropology and History, to strengthen cultural heritage and expressions. She shared examples of the use of technological tools for work, knowledge, and conservation in the protection of cultural heritage. Ms. Repetto concluded by speaking of the strengthening of tangible and intangible heritage through innovation and the use of new technologies for dissemination and practice, and of methods for recognizing and socializing the cultural expressions and heritage of indigenous, Afrodescendent, and other local communities through the use of digital information and communications technologies.

Mr. Denzil Thorpe, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment, and Sport of Jamaica, said that Jamaica had been using available technology to promote tolerance for diversity in religious practices and, in that regard, he reported that interfaith services were organized in his country and were promoted and broadcast on television and social platforms. Thus, he stressed that the use of virtual venues was not new and that it had served to support the entertainment sector during the pandemic. He reported that Jamaica’s traditional festivals in 2020 and 2021 had been broadcast virtually, and although these festivals had recently returned to in-person events, virtual platforms were still being used.

G. Sixth plenary session

The sixth plenary session was devoted to electing the authorities of the Inter-American Committee on Culture.

The Chair of the Meeting stated that the nomination of Ecuador to serve as Chair of the Inter-American Committee on Culture had been received and he proposed that Ecuador be elected by acclamation. Ecuador was elected by acclamation.

The Chair informed the meeting that nominations had been received from Barbados and Panama to serve as the First and Second Vice Chairs of the Inter-American Committee on Culture, respectively, and he proposed that they be elected by acclamation. By acclamation, Barbados was elected First Vice Chair and Panama was elected Second Vice Chair.

Since the Draft Declaration of Antigua Guatemala included activities to be carried out by working groups of the Inter-American Committee on Culture (CIC), the Chair proposed establishing them to ensure consistency and coherence with the agreed tasks and the format for carrying them out.

The meeting agreed to the Chair’s proposal and proceeded to install the following CIC Working Groups:

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| * Working Group 1 on:
 | Methodologies and policies for the promotion of the management and consumption of cultural goods and services in the digital environment |
| * Working Group 2 on:
 | Cultural and creative industries and economies  |
| * Working Group 3 on:
 | Collecting, protecting, conserving, reassessing, and safeguarding cultural heritage, cultural and artistic expressions, and traditional and ancestral knowledge |

The meeting also agreed that it would fall to the CIC to elect the authorities of these groups and that the elections should be held as soon as possible.

H. Seventh plenary session

 At the seventh plenary session, seeing the generous offer of the Government of the Dominican Republic, it was agreed that the Tenth Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities would be held in that country in 2025.

I. Eighth plenary session

During the eighth plenary session, based on a proposal made by the delegation of Panama, the Hemisphere’s Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities adopted by acclamation the draft Declaration of Antigua Guatemala, document [CIDI/RME/DEC. 1/22](https://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=XXVII.9%20CIDI/REMIC-IX/DEC&classNum=1&lang=e).

Similarly, and also following a proposal made by the delegation of Panama, they adopted by acclamation the draft Plan of Action of Antigua Guatemala, contained in document [CIDI/REMIC-IX/doc.8/22 rev. 1](https://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=XXVII.9%20CIDI/REMIC-IX/doc&classNum=8&lang=e).

 The delegation of Costa Rica then presented the draft resolution “Vote of Thanks to the People and Government of Guatemala,” which was adopted by acclamation. The resolution may be found in document [CIDI/REMIC-IX/RES. 1/22](https://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=XXVII.9%20CIDI/REMIC-IX/RES&classNum=1&lang=e).

J. Closing session

At the closing session, Ms. Kim Osborne, Executive Secretary for Integral Development, said that the meeting’s discussions had reaffirmed the importance of culture for the Hemisphere’s economies, together with the need to invest in culture. She congratulated the Guatemalan authorities for having chosen such an important and current topic as “Technology, creativity, and innovation as an opportunity for developing and strengthening culture,” and she stressed the importance of technologies within culture and the creative industries. Ms. Osborne said that the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development would work to support member states in harnessing the benefits of the digital transformation. Ms. Osborne expressed her appreciation of Minister Felipe Aguilar Marroquín and his team for their efficient planning and conduct of the meeting and thanked them for the courtesies they had extended.

In his closing remarks, Ambassador Nestor Mendez, Assistant Secretary General of the OAS, congratulated the President of the Republic for the Government of Guatemala’s resolved commitment toward culture, as well as Minister Felipe Aguilar Marroquín, his team, and the Permanent Mission of Guatemala to the OAS for organizing the meeting. Ambassador Mendez said that the discussions held during the meeting had served to reaffirm the importance of the role of technology, innovation, and creativity in the culture sector and, in that regard, he reiterated the commitment of the OAS General Secretariat to support member states in implementing the initiatives agreed on.

In his closing remarks, Minister Felipe Aguilar proposed the following actions: (1) a regional registration platform should be created that will provide the entire Hemisphere with a universal and uniform cultural ecosystem for achieving cultural interconnectivity and for publicizing the artistic expressions and cultural knowledge of the Americas as a whole; (2) countries should initiate the administrative actions and legal processes necessary to provide artists with social security; and (3) countries should create the figure of the cultural worker as part of the dignification and recognition of those who dedicate themselves to the arts, cultural expressions, and heritage protection. He concluded by thanking all the attendees for their participation in the meeting.

The Ninth Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development adjourned at 5:00 p.m. on October 28, 2022.

The audio record of the meeting’s plenary sessions may be found at the following link:

<http://scm.oas.org/audios/2022/IX_MinCultura_Audios.zip>.

A list of the meeting’s documents can be found in document [CIDI/RME/doc.11/22](https://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=XXVII.9%20CIDI/REMIC-IX/doc&classNum=11&lang=t).

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1. . **Article 20.** Each sectoral or specialized meeting of CIDI shall hold an inaugural session, the necessary plenary sessions, and a closing session. In addition, the Chair may convene a preparatory session, which shall be a closed session, when there are pending matters to be settled. Agreements reached during a preparatory session shall be formally adopted at the first plenary session of the meeting. In the case of a special meeting, the inaugural session may be omitted. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)