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I. 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-fifth special session of the General Assembly

The General Assembly held its thirty-fifth special session at Organization headquarters on March 26, 2008, to establish the Secretariat for Legal Affairs and the Secretariat for External Relations.

The following resolution was approved: AG/RES. 1 (XXXV-E/08), Establishment of the Secretariat for Legal Affairs and the Secretariat for External Relations.

Thirty-eighth regular session of the General Assembly

The General Assembly held its thirty-eighth regular session in Medellín, Colombia, June 1 to 3, 2008. The Assembly approved 3 declarations and 104 resolutions. The proceedings of the General Assembly appear in the document *Proceedings* (OEA/Ser.P/XXXVIII-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, summary minutes of the General Committee and other documents from this session.

Declarations

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

AG/DEC. 57 (XXXVIII-O/08), DECLARATION OF MEDELLÍN: YOUTH AND DEMOCRATIC VALUES

This declaration reaffirms the member states' commitment to promote and strengthen in the youth of the Hemisphere the values, principles, and practices of a democratic life, including liberty and social justice, progress, respect for human rights in their universality, indivisibility, and interdependence, and the rule of law, pursuant to the Charter of the OAS and the Inter-American Democratic Charter. The General assembly asks the Permanent Council and the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CEPCIDI) to consider convening an Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and Highest Authorities responsible for Youth before the fortieth regular session of the General Assembly, to be held in 2010.

AG/DEC. 58 (XXXVIII-O/08), DECLARATION ON 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 dispute and its constructive approach towards the inhabitants of the Malvinas Islands. It 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 and therefore decides to continue to examine the Question of the Malvinas Islands at its subsequent sessions until a definitive settlement has been reached thereon.

AG/DEC. 59 (XXXVIII-O/08), RECOGNITION OF THE NATIONAL SYSTEM OF VENEZUELAN YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S ORCHESTRAS AND PROMOTION OF CULTURAL INITIATIVES FOR YOUTH

In this declaration, the General Assembly states that the national system of Venezuelan youth and children's orchestras constitutes a novel and pioneering initiative that has so far provided musical education to more than one million children and young people, nationally and internationally. It has become a social inclusion and social development project that is very well known both within and outside Venezuela. It recommends to the Permanent Council and to the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CEPCIDI) that they convene a joint special meeting in recognition of the national system of Venezuelan youth and children's orchestras, within the resources available in the program-budget of the organization and other resources.

Resolutions

At its thirty-eighth regular session, the General Assembly adopted important resolutions on such topics as democracy, human rights, juridical development, social development, hemispheric security, terrorism, corruption, civil society, removal of antipersonnel landmines, natural disasters, trade, tourism, scholarships, women, children and indigenous peoples. The Assembly also approved resolutions on issues that are the purview of the organs, agencies and entities of the Organization, and on the General Secretariat's administration.

The resolutions approved were as follows:

AG/RES. 2354 (XXXVIII-O/08) Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission.

AG/RES. 2355 (XXXVIII-O/08) Support for Action against Antipersonnel Mines in Ecuador and Peru.

AG/RES. 2356 (XXXVIII-O/08) Migrant Populations and Migration Flows in the Americas.

AG/RES. 2357 (XXXVIII-O/08) Follow-Up to the Special Conference on Security.

- AG/RES. 2358 (XXXVIII-O/08) Support for Implementation at the Hemispheric Level of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004).
- AG/RES. 2359 (XXXVIII-O/08) Inter-American Support for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.
- AG/RES. 2360 (XXXVIII-O/08) Disarmament and Nonproliferation Education.
- AG/RES. 2361 (XXXVIII-O/08) Sixtieth Anniversary of the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man.
- AG/RES. 2362 (XXXVIII-O/08) Inter-American Program for Universal Civil Registry and the “Right to Identity”.
- AG/RES. 2363 (XXXVIII-O/08) Social Charter of the Americas: Renewal of the Hemispheric Commitment to Fight Poverty in the Region.
- AG/RES. 2364 (XXXVIII-O/08) Promotion of the International Criminal Court.
- AG/RES. 2365 (XXXVIII-O/08) Program of Action for the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities (2006-2016) and Support for Its Technical Secretariat.
- AG/RES. 2366 (XXXVIII-O/08) Support for the Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities.
- AG/RES. 2367 (XXXVIII-O/08) Draft Inter-American Convention against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance.
- AG/RES. 2368 (XXXVIII-O/08) Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- AG/RES. 2369 (XXXVIII-O/08) Meeting of Ministers of Justice or Other Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas.
- AG/RES. 2370 (XXXVIII-O/08) Future of the Inter-American Indian Institute.
- AG/RES. 2371 (XXXVIII-O/08) 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. 2372 (XXXVIII-O/08) Coordination of Volunteers in the Hemisphere in Response to Natural Disasters and the Fight against Hunger and Poverty – White Helmets Initiative.
- AG/RES. 2373 (XXXVIII-O/08) Simón Bolívar Humanitarian Task Force.
- AG/RES. 2374 (XXXVIII-O/08) Support for the Inter-American Commission Of Women.

- AG/RES. 2375 (XXXVIII-O/08) The Inter-American Telecommunication Commission and Integration of the Peoples of the Americas into the Global Information Society.
- AG/RES. 2376 (XXXVIII-O/08) Free Trade and Investment in the Hemisphere.
- AG/RES. 2377 (XXXVIII-O/08) 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. 2378 (XXXVIII-O/08) Observations and Recommendations on the Annual Report of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission.
- AG/RES. 2379 (XXXVIII-O/08) Execution of the Hemispheric Plan of Action against Transnational Organized Crime and Strengthening of Hemispheric Cooperation.
- AG/RES. 2380 (XXXVIII-O/08) Promotion of Hemispheric Cooperation in Dealing with Criminal Gangs.
- AG/RES. 2381 (XXXVIII-O/08) Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials.
- AG/RES. 2382 (XXXVIII-O/08) Inter-American Convention on Transparency in Conventional Weapons Acquisitions.
- AG/RES. 2383 (XXXVIII-O/08) First Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Social Development within the Framework of CIDI.
- AG/RES. 2384 (XXXVIII-O/08) Report of the XV Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor.
- AG/RES. 2385 (XXXVIII-O/08) Continuing Participation in the Inter-American Council for Integral Development by Member States That Have Not Ratified the Protocol of Managua.
- AG/RES. 2386 (XXXVIII-O/08) Report of the Fifth Meeting of Ministers of Education within the Framework of CIDI.
- AG/RES. 2387 (XXXVIII-O/08) Eradicating Illiteracy and Fighting Diseases That Affect Integral Development.
- AG/RES. 2388 (XXXVIII-O/08) Second Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities on Science and Technology in the Framework of CIDI.
- AG/RES. 2389 (XXXVIII-O/08) Eradication of Hunger: 2008 - International Year of the Potato.

- AG/RES. 2390 (XXXVIII-O/08) Strengthening Partnership for Development: Policy Dialogue, Technical Cooperation, Structure and Mechanisms.
- AG/RES. 2391 (XXXVIII-O/08) Inter-American Meeting on Improving the Availability of, and Access to, Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation Services.
- AG/RES. 2392 (XXXVIII-O/08) Poverty, Equity, and Social Inclusion: Follow-Up to the Declaration of Margarita.
- AG/RES. 2393 (XXXVIII-O/08) Support for and Follow-Up to the Summits of the Americas Process.
- AG/RES. 2394 (XXXVIII-O/08) Follow-Up to the Declaration of Recife.
- AG/RES. 2395 (XXXVIII-O/08) 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. 2396 (XXXVIII-O/08) Support for the Work of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism.
- AG/RES. 2397 (XXXVIII-O/08) Special Security Concerns of the Small Island States of the Caribbean.
- AG/RES. 2398 (XXXVIII-O/08) Confidence- and Security-Building in the Americas.
- AG/RES. 2399 (XXXVIII-O/08) The Americas as an Antipersonnel-Land-Mine-Free Zone.
- AG/RES. 2400 (XXXVIII-O/08) Support for the Activities of the Inter-American Defense Board.
- AG/RES. 2401 (XXXVIII-O/08) Seventh Inter-American Specialized Conference on Private International Law.
- AG/RES. 2402 (XXXVIII-O/08) Protection of Asylum Seekers and Refugees in the Americas.
- AG/RES. 2403 (XXXVIII-O/08) Study of the Rights and the Care of Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment.
- AG/RES. 2404 (XXXVIII-O/08) Education on Human Rights in Formal Education in the Americas.
- AG/RES. 2405 (XXXVIII-O/08) Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law.
- AG/RES. 2406 (XXXVIII-O/08) Right to the Truth.
- AG/RES. 2407 (XXXVIII-O/08) Strengthening of Human Rights Systems Pursuant to the Mandates Arising from the Summits of the Americas.

- AG/RES. 2408 (XXXVIII-O/08) Observations and Recommendations on the Annual Report of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.
- AG/RES. 2409 (XXXVIII-O/08) Observations and Recommendations on the Annual Report of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.
- AG/RES. 2410 (XXXVIII-O/08) Follow-Up on the Inter-American Convention against Corruption and on the Inter-American Program for Cooperation in the Fight against Corruption.
- AG/RES. 2411 (XXXVIII-O/08) 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. 2412 (XXXVIII-O/08) 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. 2413 (XXXVIII-O/08) Strengthening the Activities of the Justice Studies Center of the Americas.
- AG/RES. 2414 (XXXVIII-O/08) Observations and Recommendations on the Annual Report of the Inter-American Juridical Committee.
- AG/RES. 2415 (XXXVIII-O/08) Protecting Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms While Countering Terrorism.
- AG/RES. 2416 (XXXVIII-O/08) Persons Who Have Disappeared and Assistance to Members of Their Families.
- AG/RES. 2417 (XXXVIII-O/08) Internally Displaced Persons.
- AG/RES. 2418 (XXXVIII-O/08) Access to Public Information: Strengthening Democracy.
- AG/RES. 2419 (XXXVIII-O/08) Support for Enhanced Interregional Cooperation with the African Union.
- AG/RES. 2420 (XXXVIII-O/08) Voluntary Contributions for the Operations of the Oliver Jackman Fund to Finance the Inter-American Human Rights System.
- AG/RES. 2421 (XXXVIII-O/08) Strengthening the Role of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Organization of American States.
- AG/RES. 2422 (XXXVIII-O/08) Promotion and Strengthening of Democracy: Follow-Up to the Inter-American Democratic Charter.

- AG/RES. 2423 (XXXVIII-O/08) Inter-American Program on Education for Democratic Values and Practices.
- AG/RES. 2424 (XXXVIII-O/08) Support for the Strengthening of Political Stability and for Socioeconomic Development in Haiti.
- AG/RES. 2425 (XXXVIII-O/08) Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality.
- AG/RES. 2426 (XXXVIII-O/08) Establishment of the Legal Assistance Fund of the Inter-American Human Rights System.
- AG/RES. 2427 (XXXVIII-O/08) Appointment of Women to Senior Management Positions at the Organization of American States.
- AG/RES. 2428 (XXXVIII-O/08) Modernization and Use of Electoral Technologies in the Hemisphere.
- AG/RES. 2429 (XXXVIII-O/08) Human Rights and Climate Change in the Americas.
- AG/RES. 2430 (XXXVIII-O/08) Protocol of San Salvador: Composition and Functioning of the Working Group to Examine the Periodic Reports of the States Parties.
- AG/RES. 2431 (XXXVIII-O/08) Preventing Crime and Violence in the Americas.
- AG/RES. 2432 (XXXVIII-O/08) Prevention and Eradication of Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Smuggling of and Trafficking in Minors.
- AG/RES. 2433 (XXXVIII-O/08) Promotion of and Respect for International Humanitarian Law.
- AG/RES. 2434 (XXXVIII-O/08) Right to Freedom of Thought and Expression and the Importance of the Media.
- AG/RES. 2435 (XXXVIII-O/08) Human Rights, Sexual Orientation, and Gender Identity.
- AG/RES. 2436 (XXXVIII-O/08) Vote of Appreciation to the People and Government of Colombia.
- AG/RES. 2437 (XXXVIII-O/08) Guidelines for the Program-Budget of the Organization for 2009.

Thirty-sixth special session of the General Assembly

The General Assembly held its thirty-sixth special session at Organization headquarters on September 30, 2008, to determine the financing of the program-budget of the Organization's Regular Fund for 2009.

The following resolution was approved: AG/RES. 1 (XXXVI-E/08), Program-budget of the Regular Fund of the Organization for 2009, quota assessments and contributions to FEMCIDI for 2009

Twenty-fifth Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs

This meeting was convoked pursuant to resolution CP/RES. 930 (1632/08) to receive the report submitted by the Commission headed by the OAS Secretary General, established to examine the events that occurred on March 1, 2008, in the province of Sucumbíos, Ecuador, and to make the necessary recommendations. It was held at Organization headquarters on March 17, 2008, and adopted the following resolution:

RC.25/RES. 1/08 rev. 1: Resolution of the Twenty-fifth Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs

On June 3, 2008, a session was held in Medellín, Colombia, to receive the Secretary General's report on compliance with the resolution adopted by the Twenty-fifth Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs.

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 the 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.

The following ambassadors were the officers of the Permanent Council during this reporting period:

January to March 2008:

Chair: Ambassador Cornelius Smith, Permanent Representative of the Bahamas.

Vice Chair: Ambassador Aristides Royo, Permanent Representative of Panama.

April to June 2008:

Chair: Ambassador Michael I. King, Permanent Representative of Barbados.

Vice Chair: Ambassador Denis Ronaldo Moncada Colindres, Permanent Representative of Nicaragua.

July to September 2008:

Chair: Ambassador Néstor Méndez, Permanent Representative of Belize.

Vice Chair: Ambassador Gustavo Albin, Permanent Representative of Mexico.

October to December 2008:

Chair: Ambassador Reynaldo Cuadros, Permanent Representative of Bolivia.

Vice Chair: Ambassador Anthony Johnson, Permanent Representative of Jamaica.

Presentations

During this reporting period, the Secretary General and the Assistant Secretary General addressed the Permanent Council on a number of occasions, to inform its members of the activities conducted in

the countries of the region. They also reported on the electoral observation missions that the General Secretariat conducted in the OAS member states.

Visits to the Permanent Council

The Council received a number of dignitaries from the Hemisphere including the Honorable Juan Evo Morales, President of the Republic of Bolivia; the Honorable Jacques Edouard Alexis, Prime Minister of the Republic of Haiti; the Honorable Bruce Golding, Prime Minister of Jamaica; the Honorable Fernando Armindo Lugo Méndez, President of the Republic of Paraguay; David Choquehuanca Céspedes, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Bolivia; Fernando Araújo Perdomo, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia; Ángel Edmundo Orellana Mercado, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Honduras; Paula Gopee-Scoon, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Trinidad and Tobago; Luis Alberto Arce Catacora, Minister of the Treasury of the Republic of Bolivia; Carlos Villegas Quiroga, Minister of Development Planning of the Republic of Bolivia; Felipe Michellini, Vice Minister of Education and Culture of Uruguay; Xiomara Castro de Zelaya, First Lady of Honduras; and Vivian Fernández de Torrijos, First Lady of the Republic of Panama.

Representatives of international and inter-American organizations were present for meetings of the Permanent Council, such as the Washington Office of the United Nations' Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC); United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean; the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB); the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). It also heard presentations given by civil society organizations.

Declarations and Resolutions

In 2008, the Permanent Council approved one declaration and fourteen resolutions whose full texts are available online at: <http://www.oas.org/consejo/sp/resoluciones/Resoluciones2008.asp>

Declarations

CP/DEC. 38 (1656/08)	Operation in Colombia that rescued a group of persons kidnapped by the FARC.
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Resolutions

CP/RES. 925 (1624/08)	Commemoration of the 50 th Anniversary of the Voice of the OAS (Radio Service)
CP/RES. 926 (1625/08)	Installation in Panama of the Technical Secretariat for the Implementation of the Program of Action for the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities (2006-2016)
CP/RES. 927 (1627/08)	Date and Place of the Seventh Meeting of Ministers of Justice of or Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA-VII)

CP/RES. 928 (1627/08)	Place and Date of the Meeting of High-Level National Authorities on Natural Disaster Reduction and Risk Management
CP/RES. 929 (1629/08)	Convocation of the Technical Meeting to Prepare a Comprehensive Draft Document on the Process of the Meetings of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA), pursuant to Resolution AG/RES. 2266 (XXXVII-O/07) and the Recommendations of REMJA-VI
CP/RES. 930 (1632/08)	Convocation of the Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Appointment of a Commission
CP/RES. 931 (1634/08)	Convocation of the Inter-American Meeting of Experts and Representatives of Electoral Bodies
CP/RES. 932 (1634/08)	Convocation of the Thirty-Fifth Special Session of the General Assembly
CP/RES. 933 (1644/08)	Invitations to the Thirty-Eighth Regular Session of the General Assembly
CP/RES. 934 (1644/08)	Convocation of the First Meeting of Ministers on Public Security of the Americas
CP/RES. 935 (1648/08)	Support for the Process of Dialogue, Peace, and for Democratic Institutions in Bolivia
CP/RES. 936 (1650/08)	Granting the Government of Iceland the Status of Permanent Observer to the Organization of American States
CP/RES. 937 (1651/08)	Convocation of the Second Conference of States Parties of the 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)
CP/RES. 938 (1654/08)	OAS Action on the European Union’s Returns Directive on Migration Issues
CP/RES. 939 (1660/08)	Naming of Rooms at the Organization of American States
CP/RES. 940 (1660/08)	Naming OAS Meeting Rooms after Distinguished Nationals of Caribbean Community Member States
CP/RES. 941 (1661/08)	Commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of the Leo S. Rowe Pan American Fund

CP/RES. 942 (1662/08)	80th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM)
CP/RES. 943 (1662/08)	Convocation of the Thirty-Sixth Special Session of the General Assembly
CP/RES. 944 (1666/08)	Granting the Republic of Vanuatu the Status of Permanent Observer to the Organization of American States
CP/RES. 945 (1666/08)	Granting the Republic of Benin the Status of Permanent Observer to the Organization of American States

In 2008, the Council and its committees and working groups held the following number of formal meetings:

Permanent Council:	Regular meetings:	25
	Special meetings:	15
	Protocolary meetings:	7
	Closed meetings:	1
	Joint meetings:	4
General Committee:		10
Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs		9
Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs		27
Committee on Hemispheric Security		24
Committee/Summits Management/Civil Society Participation		7
Special Committee on Migration Issues		16

During the course of the year, particular emphasis was placed on processing the following official documents (transcription, review, and editing services):

- 1) the volumes of the thirty-eighth regular session of the General Assembly, the thirty-fifth special session of the General Assembly, and the thirty-sixth special session of the General Assembly;
- 2) the sessions of the Twenty-fifth Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, and
- 3) the meetings of the Preparatory Committee of the General Assembly.

Furthermore, new minutes were completed, approved by the Permanent Council and published.

1.3 INTER-AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT

The Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) 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

In 2008, CIDI held its thirteenth regular meeting and three ministerial meetings in the following sectors: social development, culture, and science and technology. The Inter-American Committee on Education held its fourth regular meeting, while the authorities of the committees on culture, science and technology, social development and ports continued to implement their work programs.

The Permanent Executive Committee of CIDI (CEPCIDI) focused on devising and discussing ways to strengthen CIDI and partnership for development, in response to the mandates received from the General Assembly and from the CIDI.

To build upon this effort, CIDI conferred with the authorities of the Inter-American Committees and of the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor (IACML) to learn firsthand what they had accomplished, the challenges they faced, and proposals on how best to orchestrate the work of all the CIDI organs. CEPCIDI established a Working Group to consider the various alternatives for strengthening CIDI and its organs and for improving their operation. A Special Technical Meeting of National Cooperation Authorities and Experts was held to discuss the possibility of introducing mechanisms and methods of cooperation that would use the OAS as a multilateral organization more efficiently and to greater effect.

The Management Board of the IACD approved the 2008 FEMCIDI program and started to discuss its work plan, which drew input from the meeting of national cooperation authorities and is geared towards supporting the discussions to strengthen CIDI.

As for the Fellowship and Training Program, CEPCIDI reactivated the Committee of the Capital Fund for OAS Fellowship and Training Programs. The Committee held its first meeting, but has yet to elect its officers. CEPCIDI also received the annual report from the Department of Human Development which addressed all issues relevant to the Program's functioning and efficacy, including an impact analysis and recommendations of policies and strategies to pursue to improve operations. The Subcommittee on Policies in Partnership for Development has these policies under study.

CIDI Meetings

- a) Thirteenth regular meeting of CIDI: (Washington, May 14-15)

Presiding was the Committee's Chair, Ambassador Abigail Castro de Pérez, Permanent Representative of El Salvador. The Vice Chair was Ambassador Efrén A. Cocios, Permanent Representative of Ecuador.

For the first time under the CIDI umbrella, a dialogue was conducted with the authorities of the inter-American committees, the subsidiary organs of CIDI, and with the President of the XV IACML, to learn what activities and mechanisms in partnership and dialogue each sector has implemented. Views were exchanged about the goals, challenges, and opportunities that the Committees' work poses and opportunities for partnership were explored. The need to continue the dialogue with CIDI and among sectors was underscored.

- b) First Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Social Development (Reñaca, Chile, July 9-10)

The meeting focused on "Social Protection and Democratic Governance in the Americas" and examined four pivotal issues: the institutionalization of social policy; inter-American cooperation as a tool for promoting effective social protection strategies; overcoming hunger and child malnutrition, and promotion of employment as a crosscutting concern of social policies. The meeting was a venue for an exchange of ideas and experiences in formulating and implementing public policies that significantly reduce poverty and inequity in the hemisphere. The meeting adopted a "Communiqué of the First Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Social Development within the Framework of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development of the Organization of American States," setting out guidelines and priorities to be included in the 2008-2010 Work Plan of the Inter-American Committee on Social Development (CIDES). The delegation of Colombia was elected CIDES' chair, while the delegations of Panama and Trinidad and Tobago were elected first and second vice chairs, respectively. The Government of Colombia also offered to host the second ministerial meeting in 2010.

- c) Second Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities on Science and Technology (Mexico City, October 27 and 28)

The dialogue at this meeting focused on the theme "Science, Technology, Engineering and Innovation for Prosperity". The discussions centered on the following: (i) Science, technology, engineering, innovation, and public policies for integral development, especially those that promote social inclusion and cohesion and sustainable food production; (ii) Science, technology, engineering and innovation as tools for sustainable natural resource management (biodiversity, environment and biotechnology, and energy resources), and (iii) Science, technology, engineering and innovation as tools for increasing productivity, with emphasis on education and human-capacity building and technological innovation for competitiveness. At the close of the meeting, the delegations adopted the Declaration of Mexico and Plan of Action of Mexico, CIDI/REMCYT-II/DEC.1/08 and CIDI/REMCYT-II/doc.6/08 rev. 1. During the meeting, the delegation of Argentina was elected to chair the Inter-American Committee on Science and Technology (COMCYT).

- d) Fourth Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities (Bridgetown, Barbados, November 20-21)

The central theme of the meeting was "The Economy of Culture in the Americas: A Path to Sustainable Growth and Social Inclusion." There, the participants shared their experiences in public policies to promote a dynamic cultural sector and sustain it. The meeting also discussed the role of the public, private and international sectors in forging partnerships and alliances in the economy of culture, and engaging young people in the economy of culture. A communiqué and a

resolution were approved with guidance for and priorities of the 2009-2010 work plan of the Inter-American Committee on Culture (CIC).

Subsidiary organs of the CIDI

a) Permanent Executive Committee of the CIDI (CEPCIDI)

From January to May 2008, Ambassador Abigail Castro de Pérez, Permanent Representative of El Salvador, and Ambassador Efrén A. Cocios, Permanent Representative of Ecuador, served as Chair and Vice Chair of CEPCIDI; as of May, Ambassador Cocios became Chair, and Ambassador Cornelius A. Smith, Permanent Representative of the Bahamas, became Vice Chair.

Throughout 2008, CEPCIDI focused on self-examination and consultation to find ways to strengthen partnership for development, in furtherance of the mandates contained in resolution AG/RES. 2390 (XXXVIII-O/08) “Strengthening Partnership for Development: Policy Dialogue, Technical Cooperation, Structure and Mechanisms, which reiterates and renews the contents and pending mandates of the resolutions approved on this subject in 2007. Various special meetings were held, as was a “retreat” of ambassadors and permanent representatives. At the end of these meetings, a CEPCIDI Working Group was formed to consider the various alternatives for strengthening CIDI and its organs and improving their functioning. Chairing the Working Group was the Alternate Delegate of the United States, Margarita Riva-Geoghehan.

CEPCIDI assisted with preparations for the ministerial meetings and the Inter-American Meeting on Improving the Availability of, and Access to, Safe Drinking Water” and the Special Technical Meeting of National Cooperation Authorities and Experts” (Cancun, Mexico, October 16-17). After receiving the report of the meeting on technical partnership for integral development, CEPCIDI approved resolution CEPCIDI/RES. 152 (XVII-E/08) in which it endorsed the Playa del Carmen Course of Action, approved in Cancun, and underscored the importance of consolidating the IACD as a forum in which national authorities and experts in technical cooperation can engage in dialogue and consultation to drive an effective technical-political hemispheric agenda that emphasizes the OAS’ value added and contributes to the process of reflection and consultation to strengthen CIDI.

In 2008, CEPCIDI partnered with the Permanent Council in two Joint Working Groups: the first dedicated to the Draft Social Charter of the Americas, and the second to negotiate the Draft Declaration of Medellín: Youth and Democratic Values.

b) Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development

The IACD’s Management Board held its Twenty-first Regular Meeting (Washington, May 12), with Maestro Máximo Romero Jiménez, Director General of Technical and Scientific Cooperation of the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, presiding. The following FEMCIDI 2007 Partnership Programming was approved.

Approved Projects 2007		
Sectoral Account	Number of Projects	Amount (US\$)
Education	29	2,041,834
Social Development	13	870,817
Sustainable Development	13	1,208,898
Science and Technology	15	1,363,310
Trade	8	701,375
Culture	3	121,583
Democracy	6	373,789
Tourism	13	783,690
Integral Development	0	0
TOTAL	100	7,465,296

Furthermore, the Management Board also held an informal meeting (Washington, December 16) to present the findings of the meeting of national authorities in cooperation and to discuss the structure of the IACD Work Plan. The Chair subsequently introduced the structure of the Work Plan as document [AICD/JD/doc.109/08](#). The report closes by anticipating the member states' comments.

c) Inter-American Committees

In 2008, the Inter-American Committee on Education (CIE) (Quito, Ecuador, October 14-15) met to review its 2008-2009 Work Plan, as well as the challenges, partnerships and future plans for the Teacher Education's initiatives, Education for Democratic Values, Education Initiatives, Early Childhood Education, and Literacy and Adult Education. The meeting also discussed the possibility of collaboration between the CIE and the Inter-American Committee on Culture (CIC), the topic of Education at the Fifth Summit of the Americas, and the topics to be discussed at the Sixth Meeting of Ministers of Education, to be held in Ecuador in 2009.

d) Nonpermanent Specialized Committees (CENPES)

The CENPES meet from February 5 through 13, 2008, to evaluate a total of 121 proposed projects, submitted by 33 member countries. Of the 121 projects presented, 47 were continuing projects, and 74 were new proposals; 56 were multilateral projects and 65 were national. Of the 121 projects, the Management Board of the IACD recommended and approved 100.

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.

Office of the Secretary General

The Office of the Secretary General assists with the Secretary General's high-level executive functions associated with the promotion of economic, social, legal, educational, scientific, and cultural relations in the member states of the Organization.

In 2008, 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. It also conducted research, prepared drafts of 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 missions away from headquarters, his official visits to meet with the heads of the member states, his participation in ministerial and other international conferences and events.

2.1.1 Office of the Chief of Staff

2.1.1.1 Department of Legal Services

The Department of Legal Services (DLS) comes under the Office of the Secretary General. Its Director is the Secretary General's Legal Advisor, who also provides advisory services to the specialized organizations and other entities, among them the General Assembly (including its Preparatory Committee); the Permanent Council, especially its Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs (CAAP); and committees, special groups and missions of the OAS. The DLS also provides advisory assistance to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights; the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI); the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD); the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM); the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN); the Inter-American Telecommunications Commission (CITEL); the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD); the Human Development Fund Committee; the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA); the Inter-American Committee on Ports; the Inter-American Defense Board (IADB); the Retirement and Pension Committee; the Office of the Inspector General; the Administrative Tribunal; and the "Trust for the Americas" and "Young Americas Business Trust" foundations.

The advisory services that the Department of Legal Services provides include:

- a) Legal representation in litigation, arbitration and other disputes.
- b) Preparation and negotiation of contracts and agreements with private entities, governmental bodies, NGOs, multilateral organizations, member states, permanent observer states, etc., related to business, real estate, cooperation, contributions, electoral observation, etc.
- c) Application of international law and the laws of the member states and standards of the General Secretariat vis-à-vis tax, employment, immigration, intellectual property, bankruptcy, privileges and immunities, contracts, business, etc.
- d) Preparation of the normative instruments of the General Secretariat and other organs of the Organization, such as executive orders, administrative memorandums, directives, regulations, etc.
- e) Conducting and participating in internal investigations.
- f) Advisory services in specialized areas such as trust funds, tax law and pensions.
- g) Membership on and legal advisory services to permanent and *ad hoc* committees like the Joint Committee on Insurance Matters, the Advisory Committee on Selection and Promotion, the Ethics Committee, the Publications Board, the COVENT (sales committee), the Medical Benefits Trust Fund Committee, the Retirement and Pension Committee, and the Committee of the Leo S. Rowe Memorial Fund. Advisory services are also provided to the Joint Disciplinary Committee and the General Secretariat on cases submitted to the Joint Advisory Committee on Reconsideration and the Committee on Reduction in Force.
- h) Participation in conferences and contacts with public and private multilateral sectors.

Activities in 2008

In 2008, the DLS received approximately 1,900 inquiries from the General Secretariat, the political bodies and the delegations of the member states, which included attendance at meetings. More than 900 were asking for written legal opinions (these totals do not include the verbal inquiries answered by telephone or in person). The attorneys with the DLS attended and/or provided legal advisory services at some 500 meetings and reviewed over 500 agreements.

The following services were among the most important:

- a) To the political bodies:
 - The DLS provided advisory legal services at the meetings of the General Assembly, the Permanent Council and the CAAP, concerning administrative, budgetary, employment-related and procedural issues.
 - It participated in the preparatory meetings for the session of the General Assembly held in Colombia.

b) To the General Secretariat:

- The DLS collaborated in the modification of the Staff Rules and in the drafting, review and revision of the Executive Orders on the “Structure of the General Secretariat”, the “Technical Secretariat for Development of the ‘Program of Action for the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities (2006-2016)’” [unofficial translation] and in the amendment of the Administrative Memorandum “Use of the Buildings and Facilities of the General Secretariat.”
- It participated in meetings related to the Special Mission of the OAS in Haiti in connection with issues pertaining to civilian responsibility, cooperation agreements and bidding for the purchase of a system for issuance of identification cards and voter registration cards.
- The DLS advised the Assistant Secretary General on the reorganization of the CIDI, administration of the offices of the General Secretariat away from headquarters, management of the Selection Committee and other matters.
- The DLS assisted the SEDI with preparation and negotiation of agreements for execution of projects in different member states, including those financed by the Multilateral Special Fund of CIDI (FEMCIDI); it represented the units of the General Secretariat vis-à-vis the United States Patent and Trademark Office for registration of trademarks.
- It advised the Department of Sustainable Development on preparation, review, and negotiation of agreements for execution of a number of projects underway.
- It collaborated with the SAP as legal advisor to Electoral Observation Missions and as a mission observer. It helped go over agreements on cooperation and financial contributions towards execution of projects and on electoral observation in Bolivia, Ecuador, Honduras and other member states.
- From headquarters and in situ, it advised the MAPP/OAS in Colombia on contractual matters, internal affairs and on privileges and immunities. It also helped resolve matters internal to the Office of the OAS General Secretariat in Ecuador.
- The DLS provided legal advice to the SAF in connection with the preparation and negotiation of a number of documents, including lease agreements, tendering and contracts, tax matters and handling of the 401(m) Retirement Plan, for which it prepared draft amendments intended to bring it current.
- The DLS counseled the Department of Human Resources on the preparation and negotiation of conciliatory agreements and employment termination agreements, on drafting amendments to the Staff Rules, and on interpreting the rules and regulations as they applied in specific cases.
- The Department advised the Office of the Secretary for External Relations on trademarks and projects to strengthen and project the Organization’s institutional image.

- The DLS counseled a number of ad hoc committees of the General Secretariat in connection with formulating recommendations on specific topics such as modalities of contracting for staff, assets and services; the centennial of the Main Building; maintenance, improvements and disposal of property of the General Secretariat.
 - The DLS advised the Department of Trade and Tourism and prepared the documentation pertaining to closing of the Administrative Secretariat of the Free Trade Area of the Americas in Puebla, Mexico, and liquidation of the Trust set up in 2002.
 - The Department defended the Secretary General in four cases before the Administrative Tribunal: one in which the Tribunal upheld the Secretary General's decision not to renew the complainant's contract or to accede to his claims of a permanent disability caused by the nature of his work in the General Secretariat. The other three cases involved reclassifications in which the Tribunal confirmed the results of the external audits and dismissed the requests that the complainants filed seeking damages.
- c) To specialized organizations and other entities:
- The DLS advised the Director General of IIN on labor-related issues. It also advised the Executive Secretary of CITEL on cooperation agreements and the regulations of the Technical Advisory Committees.
 - The Department worked with the Office of the Inspector General on audits and investigations in various offices of the General Secretariat and on other matters.
 - It advised nonprofits like the "Trust for the Americas" and "Young Americas Business Trust".
 - It participated in and provided advisory services to the Joint Committee on Insurance Matters, the Contracting Committee, the Publications Committee, the Committee on Administrative Matters, and COVENT (the sales committee); it also advised the Medical Benefits Trust Fund Committee, the Leo S. Rowe Memorial Fund and the Project Evaluation Committee.
 - The Department worked with the Inter-American Committee on Ports to help it get its journal registered with the United States Patents and Trademarks Office.
 - The DLS prepared draft resolutions, presented written opinions on regulatory and procedural matters and provided advisory services at the meetings of the CIDI, the Permanent Executive Committee of the CIDI (CEPCIDI), and to the Management Board of the IACD. It prepared working papers for the CEPCIDI Working Group for Strengthening CIDI and provided advisory services at the Group's meetings.
 - The Department participated as legal advisor in the meetings of the OAS' specialized agencies and entities, held in various member states and including the meetings of the CIM and the Permanent Committee of CITEL.

- It advised the Committees of IICA and its Director General and staff on administrative, budgetary, tax-related and institutional matters. It prepared draft resolutions, legal opinions and other working papers. It also drafted and negotiated an agreement on privileges and immunities with Jamaica and a similar agreement with Spain, one of IICA's associate countries.
- The DLS 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 reviewed and negotiated contracts between the Committee and its financial consultants and auditors.
- The Department provided advisory legal assistance on the work of the Project Evaluation Committee. It assisted the Rowe Fund Committee as to the policy on collection of unpaid debts and payment arrangements with borrowers in arrears; and
- It advised the IADB on statutory, administrative and employment-related issues, including advisory services to the Chairman of the Council of Delegates, the Director of the Inter-American Defense College and its staff on administrative issues and on matters related to cooperation with other educational institutions.

2.1.1.2 Press Department

The fundamental purpose of the General Secretariat's Press Department is to keep the public in this Hemisphere increasingly apprised of the Organization's political and policy message, as reflected in the statements and speeches of the Secretary General and Assistant Secretary General and the declarations and resolutions forthcoming from the Permanent Council.

The Press Department accomplishes its mission mainly by constantly seeking out more and better media space in the Hemisphere. When it began its activities, some 900 journalists were receiving the OAS message. But today the Department's press releases are received by 3,272 journalists in the newspaper, radio, and television business.

The press releases are much improved—although there is still room for improvement. A certain style has been established and has been well received by journalists with major and small media outlets in our region.

It is easy to see that the OAS' profile in the international press has increased significantly in the last four years. However, it has to be acknowledged that while the Press Department covers all the activities within the Organization, only a small percentage of those activities finally appear in print or on the air.

Given that fact, the Department decided not just to get its message to more and more media outlets, but also to produce a Newsletter. Written from a less conceptual perspective and more accessible to the general public, the Newsletter gets out stories that, although circulated, do not tend to be picked up by newspaper and radio. With that same idea in mind, a mailing list has been put together that includes journals, magazines, specialized newspapers, universities and think tanks to which the Newsletter is being sent. The National Offices have been great allies in this venture and have found

that the Newsletter has been particularly well received by the small media outlets that serve the more remote parts of the Hemisphere.

Dexterity and agility in circulating the message is another strength that the Department has managed to cultivate. With its own server, the Department is able to get its message from an office in Washington to a newspaper in Patagonia or an agency in Alaska in just one minute. This is an undeniable advantage when competing for space in the media, in a complicated world in which bad news sells and good news is not news.

2.1.1.3 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.

Protocol and Ceremony

Protocolary meetings were organized for the visits of the Heads of State of Paraguay, Jamaica, and Bolivia, and the Office assisted with the special meetings that the Permanent Council convened. Ceremonies and protocolary meetings were also organized 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 Costa Rica, Peru, the United States, Venezuela, Belize, St. Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Guatemala, the Dominican Republic and Jamaica presented their credentials, the ceremony at which the Permanent Observer of Spain present his credentials, and the courtesy visits paid by various permanent observers. Farewell receptions were organized for the ambassadors of Costa Rica, Peru, Venezuela, Barbados, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Guatemala, and Jamaica. The Office also coordinated the ceremonies held for the turnover of the Chair of the Permanent Council. It prepared and sent letters congratulating the permanent representatives and permanent observers on the occasion of their national holidays.

Under the coordination of the Office of Protocol, 10 "Country Weeks" were staged. In this program, the member countries and permanent observers host a week of cultural or academic events. Protocol-related assistance was provided for a number of the exhibit openings put on by the Art Museum of the Americas. With very few exceptions, all the ceremonies held to sign, deposit, or ratify protocols or other agreements between the Organization and the member countries were organized by this Office.

During the regular session the General Assembly held in Colombia, the Office of Protocol worked closely with the host country to organize the opening ceremony. In addition to the signing and other such ceremonies it organized during that session, the Office of Protocol also organized two institutional luncheons, two breakfasts and one luncheon hosted by the Secretary General and the Assistant Secretary General, and a reception given by the Secretary General for some 800 guests.

The Office of Protocol coordinated with Colombia's Protocol Office on the preparations for a luncheon hosted by the Mayor of Medellín and another luncheon hosted by President Uribe.

Administration of the Main Building

The Office of Protocol manages the use of the Main Building. In 2008, there were around 90 receptions, luncheons, dinners and lectures held. The proceeds from the rent paid for use of the Main Building in 2008 are expected to be around \$153,800. The Office also helped organize the Americas Food Festival and the Christmas reception organized by the Organization of Women of the Americas (OWA), a group of women diplomats and the wives of diplomats associated with the OAS.

Support to the Permanent Missions, the General Secretariat and liaison with the Department of State.

Before sending them to the Department of State, the Office of Protocol reviewed some 4,000 requests from the permanent missions and their staff and then entered them into the "e-gov" system established by the Department of State for filing requests. 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. Letters were drafted and sent to U.S. consulates requesting issuance abroad of visas for staff and other matters related to the permanent missions. Visas were arranged for high-ranking OAS officials, as were some 150 letters for driver's licenses for OAS staff and non-diplomatic personnel of the permanent missions. The office served as liaison with the State Department's Escort Service and with the airlines to arrange the Secretary General's travel in the United States.

Directory of Missions

The "Directory of Missions, Heads of State/Government, and Senior Government Officials, OAS Organs and Affiliated Entities" was updated and published on the OAS Intranet. The Office kept a monthly schedule of activities in the Building and every two weeks published the diplomatic gazette.

Verbal Notes

The Office sent verbal notes to the Department of State to report on the procedures and requirements related to accreditation, vehicles, and use of the Main Building and to convey a July 4 congratulatory message.

2.1.2 Summits of the Americas Secretariat

The principal objectives of the Summits of the Americas Secretariat (SCA) is to preserve the institutional memory of the Summits process; to develop mechanisms and activities through which to follow up mandates; to provide technical and logistical support to the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG); to chair the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG); to provide technical advisory services to the Committee on Inter-American Summits Management and Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities (CISC) and coordinate civil society's participation in the Summit Process.

The bulk of the Summits Secretariat's activities in 2008 were centered on negotiations and preparations for the Fifth Summit of the Americas. During this same time period, the SCA promoted mechanisms to follow up on the mandates forthcoming from the Summits of the Americas, through studies, publications, and the SISCA project.

During this reporting period, and in connection with the preparations for the upcoming Summit of the Americas, the Summits Secretariat, through the SIRG, maintained a close relationship of cooperation and support with the National Coordinators, with the Government of Trinidad and Tobago—the host of the Fifth Summit of the Americas (April 17-19, 2009) and with its National Secretariat. It also worked closely with the OAS Office in Trinidad and Tobago to assist with and facilitate negotiation of the Draft Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain among the OAS member states.

The Summits Secretariat made certain that the information, documents, and statements made by high-ranking officials of the Organization in connection with the preparations for the Fifth Summit were organized and maintained according to OAS standards. To that end, it has been present for the preparation, holding, and follow-up of the ministerial meetings and periodic meetings of the SIRG, and the special meeting the Permanent Council held in 2008.

In 2008, the SIRG held six regular meetings and a ministerial meeting on the occasion of the thirty-eighth regular session the General Assembly. These meetings provided an opportunity to introduce the Draft Declaration of Commitment “Securing Our Citizens’ Future by Promoting Human Prosperity, Energy Security and Environmental Sustainability” and to report the progress made in the negotiations among the member countries. The SCA also participated, along with the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, in the special meeting of the Permanent Council at which the concept document was presented; it also participated in the Ministerial Meeting in Medellín, Colombia, where the date and venue of the forthcoming Summit were decided.

The JSWG has fully supported the preparations for the Fifth Summit, by providing technical assistance and guidance in the pertinent areas and taking active part in the SIRG's six meetings and the SIRG Ministerial. To report on the relevant issues at the forthcoming Summit, institutions like the IDB, PAHO, the World Bank, and IICA made presentations to the member countries and provided them with technical assistance on issues of interest.

The JSWG also presented a collection of comments and observations compiled in connection with the Draft Declaration of Port of Spain, introduced as a compendium document, and then circulated and submitted to the member countries for consideration. Publications prepared in collaboration with the JSWG were also distributed: Achievements of the Summits of the Americas: Progress since Mar del Plata and the document titled Towards the Fifth Summit of the Americas: Regional Challenges.

In 2008, the JSWG met on ten different occasions to plan activities/strategies to share information on the progress, follow-up, and relevant activities. This had the benefit of increasing the JSWG's participation in the inter-American ministerials processes and in the preparations for the 5th Summit.

In cooperation with the Secretariat for External Relations and the departments of the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development, the SCA organized a series of Policy Roundtables to foster constructive dialogue in the main policy areas related to the issues that the Fifth Summit will address. This contribution was then incorporated into reports that have been submitted to the member countries and other interested parties involved in the negotiation of the Fifth Summit's Declaration of Commitment.

In cooperation with the National Secretariat for the Fifth Summit, Miami, Florida was the site of the Civil Society Hemispheric Forum: Securing Our Citizens' Future by Promoting Human Prosperity, Energy Security and Environmental Sustainability," May 1 and 2, 2008. In collaboration with the Department of International Affairs of the Secretariat for External Relations, the SCA organized the Caribbean Sub Regional Civil Society Forum, held in Trinidad and Tobago in October, and the Sub Regional Civil Society Forum for Central America, Mexico and the Dominican Republic, held in El Salvador in December. The recommendations from those Forums were presented to the member states for consideration at the SIRG's 6th Meeting in 2008 and to the Committee on Inter-American Summits Management and Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities (CISC) for consideration.

The SCA held three virtual forums on the principal themes of the Draft Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain and as part of the preparations for the Fifth Summit. These forums were conducted through the Summits of the Americas Virtual Platform, launched in September in partnership with the Education Portal of the Americas. For the first time, the Platform made it possible for civil society to channel comments and recommendations to the countries by way of the SCA.

Thanks to the efforts made, the SCA has succeeded in expanding and improving the participation of civil society actors in building a feedback dynamic involving the General Secretariat, the member states and the organizations of civil society concerning implementation of the Summits' mandates.

As technical advisor to the CISC, the SCA worked in close cooperation with the Permanent Mission of Trinidad and Tobago. It also worked in coordination with the Secretariat for Political Affairs, the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security, the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development, the CIM, and the Secretary of the Committee on the programming and preparation of the CISC's monthly meetings. At these meetings, the contributions to the Summits Process that emanate from the 2008 ministerials and sectoral meetings are presented, as are the reports on the activities conducted in coordination with the JSWG and civil society.

To find mechanisms to improve the Summits Process and follow up of the mandates emanating from the Summits, the SCA has proposed a system to follow-up on the Summits of the Americas mandates (SISCA). This data processing system has been designed with a view to the users' differing needs. Information, data, and indicators have been collected and compiled to become a system of tools that the member states can use during the mandates follow-up process.

To establish effective working bases and practices for the new System to Follow-up on the Mandates of the Summits of the Americas (SISCA) and to make it easier to access the communications systems associated with the mandates and the Summits, all of the mandates issued from the First (Miami, 1994) to the Fourth (Mar del Plata, 2005) Summits were analyzed.

The SCA counted a total of 778 paragraphs in Plans of Action and 245 paragraphs in Declarations, for a total of 1,023 agreed paragraphs, which were regrouped into 31 Thematic Areas. The data thus obtained were computed to provide statistical data on the mandates and the topics. These results have been depicted in statistical graphs and interactive tables, thereby affording users a better grasp and follow-up of the mandates and the respective Summits. The classification system has enabled the SCA to organize and re-group the mandates into practical thematic documents that make for a simplified, rapid and in-depth reading. The documents have been prepared in English and Spanish.

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 2008, 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 endeavored to assist the member states in their search for solutions to issues of critical importance to them.

When Executive Order 08-01 took effect in 2008, the following offices came under the authority of the Office of the Assistant Secretary General: the Office of the Secretariat of the General Assembly, the Meeting of Consultation, the Permanent Council, and Subsidiary Organs (SGAPC); the Department of Conferences and Meetings; the Coordinating Office for the Offices and Units of the General Secretariat in the Member States; the Columbus Memorial Library; the Permanent Secretariat of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), and the Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee on Ports.

In the course of the year, the Assistant Secretary General has placed particular emphasis on efforts to enhance the effectiveness and efficacy of the services that assist the member states in their deliberations and to make better use of the technological innovations in audiovisual media. He has also approved a series of measures to lower the costs associated with holding meetings, particularly to reduce the costs of reproducing documents.

The SGAPC worked with the permanent representatives of the member states and permanent observers to prepare and hold regular and special meetings of the Permanent Council and the protocolary meetings the Council held to welcome Heads of State and of Government. It also provided support to the joint meetings of the Permanent Council and the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CEPCIDI) and the meetings of the Joint Working Group of the Permanent Council and CEPCIDI on the Draft Social Charter of the Americas, and the Joint Working Group of the Permanent Council and CEPCIDI to Negotiate the Draft Declaration of Medellín “Youth and Democratic Values.”

The Office also provided its support and coordination services to other bodies, such as the Inter-American Commission of Women, 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 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, the Special Committee on Migration Issues, 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.

It also coordinated the technical and operational services necessary for the thirty-eighth regular session of the General Assembly, held in Medellín, Colombia, in June 2008, as well as two special sessions of the General Assembly, both held in Washington, D.C. The Office coordinated the Twenty-fifth Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, held at Organization headquarters and its follow-up in Medellín, Colombia. It also supervised the launch of the preparatory technical services for the thirty-ninth regular session of the General Assembly, to be held in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, in June 2009.

On instructions from the Secretary General, the Office of the Assistant Secretary General continues to coordinate 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. Measures were taken to obtain contributions from the Inter-American Emergency Aid Fund for countries hit by natural disasters. With the support of the Secretariat for Administration and Finance (SAF), the General Secretariat contributed \$125,000 to six member states, which included Belize, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, and Saint Kitts and Nevis. The General Secretariat also strengthened the partnership and cooperation with other members of the inter-American system such as the Pan American Health Organization, the Inter-American Development Bank and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).

In resolution AG/RES. 2306 (XXXVII-O/07) "Support for the Strengthening of Democratic Institutions and Socioeconomic Development of Haiti," the General Assembly asked the General Secretariat, *inter alia*, "[t]o support the Government of Haiti in the formulation of development policies, in coordination with the United Nations, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), and other international institutions and agencies." To that end, an OAS Permanent Council Mission visited Haiti in February 2008 and had talks with top-level Haitian authorities, including the Honorable Rene Prével, President of Haiti, Prime Minister Jacques Edouard Alexis, the speakers of both chambers of Parliament, representatives of the Provisional Electoral Council (CEP), the political parties, the private sector, civil society organizations, and partners from the international community.

The talks helped to gauge the progress made in Haiti, especially in the area of security, to learn and better understand what priorities the Haitian Government has set and to determine effective means of assisting the efforts being undertaken.

The Assistant Secretary General continues to chair the Group of Friends of Haiti in Washington, D.C., which is composed of the member states, permanent observers, and officials of financial institutions and regional organizations that are aiding efforts to help mount a united front to deal with the challenges Haiti poses. The Assistant Secretary General traveled to Haiti to meet with government authorities and other interested parties. He surveyed the damage left in the wake of hurricanes Fay, Gustav, Hannah and Ike, and authorized disbursement of \$25,000 to the DPC (*Direction de la Protection Civile*) to aid efforts to recover from the damage these storms caused.

In 2008, the focus of the Assistant Secretary General's efforts was on raising the level of education in Haiti, through a variety of initiatives to enhance the country's socioeconomic situation by educating its citizenry. For example, he headed up a project to explore the possibilities of collaboration between the University of the West Indies (UWI) and universities in Haiti, so that the universities can share skills and know-how and thereby benefit. The Assistant Secretary General also provided support with preparation of an executive program of the OAS in collaboration with the INAGHEI

(Institut National d'Administration de Gestion et des Hautes Etudes Internationales), which will be launched in 2009. The program in Haiti will be one of multidisciplinary education. Tailored for INAGHEI students and officials, the program will consist of a series of seminars developed by the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI), the Secretariat for Political Affairs, and the Secretariat for Legal Affairs (SLA).

2.2.1 Office of the Chief of Staff of the Assistant Secretary General

The Office of the Chief of Staff of the Assistant Secretary General serves as liaison in administrative matters between the Office of the Assistant Secretary General and the pertinent dependencies of the Office of the Assistant Secretary General (the Columbus Memorial Library, the Inter-American Commission of Women, the Inter-American Committee on Ports, the Department of Conferences and Meetings, the Coordinating Office for the Offices and Units of the General Secretariat in the Member States, and the Office of the Secretariat of the General Assembly, the Meeting of Consultation, the Permanent Council, and Subsidiary Organs). The Office directs, manages, and supervises the execution of the program-budget for its area, according to instructions from the Assistant Secretary General, the pertinent resolutions of the General Assembly, the requirements established by donors of external funds, and the rules and regulations of the General Secretariat. It also represents the Assistant Secretary General in dealings with the political bodies of the Organization, on missions, in international meetings, and in other events dealing with matters in its area of competence; prepares special reports, and performs other tasks as assigned by the Assistant Secretary General.

In 2008, the Office of the Chief of Staff of the Assistant Secretary General continued its efforts to streamline and strengthen the departments, offices and units that are under the Office of the Assistant Secretary General. In this reporting year, the Chief of Staff worked with the new Director of the Department of Conferences and Meetings to improve the Department's operation and management and ensure that the policy-making bodies receive all the services required to properly discharge the assigned mandates. She also worked with the Columbus Memorial Library to upgrade the services the Library offers, explore the use of new technologies, review operating policies, and ensure that the Library continues to provide efficient service to the member states and to the General Secretariat.

In addition to managing the Office of the Assistant Secretary General, the Chief of Staff of the Assistant Secretary General focused on the meetings of the Permanent Council and the annual meeting of the General Assembly. In 2008, she supervised more than 200 meetings of the Permanent Council, committees, and working groups. To enhance support to the office of the chair of the Permanent Council, the Assistant Secretary General's Chief of Staff designated a coordinator of the Office of the Secretariat of that Council, to coordinate the activities of the Permanent Council, the committees and working groups.

In June 2008, she coordinated the regular session the General Assembly held in Medellín, Colombia, working closely with Colombia's Foreign Office to organize the logistics of the Assembly. This session of the Assembly was the first to rely more heavily on technology so as to reduce the use of paper and employ "green" practices.

2.2.1.1 Department of Conferences and Meetings

The Department of Conferences and Meetings (DCR) has three sections: Conference Services, Language Services, and Printing, Distribution, and Information Services. Their main function is to provide the Organization with a wide range of services that are essential for conferences and meetings. Among the Department's functions are the initial negotiations, preparation of budgets, and planning of the physical layout of the rooms for conferences and meetings; preparation of annual schedules of conferences and meetings; hiring of permanent and temporary staff; updating the list of free-lance translators and interpreters; providing interpretation and translation services, and distributing documents.

Conference Services Section

The Conference Services Section helped manage and provided logistical coordination of some 750 meetings. Around 700 meetings of the governing and technical bodies were held at headquarters and included those of the Permanent Council and CIDI, their subsidiary organs, and other specialized organs and organisms, such as CICTE, the IACHR, the CIM, CITEL, CICAD, and the IIN, among others. Another 50 ministerial and technical meetings were held in the member states. During this period, the DCR kept the six-month calendar of meetings at and away from headquarters up to date, which is a tool for using the staff resources and budgets approved for each meeting to maximum advantage.

Language Services Section

The DCR provided translation and simultaneous interpretation services in the four official languages for the meetings of the organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization, both at headquarters and in the member states. The number of meetings was in excess of 750. Almost 50,000 pages were translated into the four official languages, which is approximately 12 million words.

A computerized calendar of interpreters' availability was created and a new procedure for the payment of interpreters was introduced, which has saved time and financial resources.

The electronic library of OAS documents was expanded and the Section continued to update the OAS Glossary.

Printing, Distribution, and Information Services

Now that all its activities are in digital format, the Documents Section copied and distributed official documents of the Organization, which included the printing of the original documents, their duplication, distribution and electronic storage. In 2008, the policies called *Paper Light* and *Printing on Demand* were implemented and documents for meetings began to be distributed in electronic format (CDs and by e-mail), both at headquarters and in the field.

Over 9,400 individual documents were printed and circulated, representing a total run of over 6,540,000 pages; the Section also printed and circulated 8,700 invitations for the Art Museum of the Americas and the Office of Protocol and over 2,000 copies of minutes. The equipment was updated, as were the procedures used to store data and manage documents through the Organization's database

system. The program for continued strengthening of the archives of the Columbus Memorial Library was also kept up.

Since the *Paper Light* and *Printing on Demand* policies were introduced in August 2008, the number of copies is 20% down from the 2007 figure. For 2009, plans are to reduce the volume of printing by at least another 60%. Another innovation introduced was color printing, to meet needs that the Organization had heretofore met by contracting the services of outside firms.

General Assembly 2009

As part of the preparations for the upcoming regular session of the OAS General Assembly, three advance visits were made to the venue, San Pedro Sula, and the headquarters agreement between the General Secretariat and the Government of Honduras was signed.

2.2.1.2 Coordinating Office for the Offices and Units in the Member States

Through the Coordinating Office, the Office of the Assistant Secretary General monitors the work of the OAS Offices in the member states.

To respond to the management-, human resource- and materials-related requirements of the OAS Offices in the member states, in 2008 the Office of the Assistant Secretary General introduced a mutual support system in the administrative realm. Under this system, staff of one office travel to another that has been experiencing some type of administrative or operating difficulty or problem. With this system, local administrative and operating difficulties can be resolved at the regional level. This has been a tremendous cost savings, as staff need not be sent from headquarters. Training continued to be provided over the Internet, as a way to provide administrative support and make certain that the staff uses the Oracle system. Even so, the Offices still have staff members who are not properly trained, which poses a serious challenge.

Similarly, to improve the technical support and diligence in preparation of the annual reports, the Offices of the General Secretariat in the member states have received a format to enhance presentation. It is hoped that this measure will help these offices more accurately measure the results achieved that year, or those anticipated the following year. It is also a tool that will enable the Coordinating Office to control and evaluate the annual performance that each office in the member countries achieves.

Although facilitating the operations of the offices in the member states is essential, their financial soundness, and the security and accuracy of their accounts continue to be key factors in their operations. The Coordinating Office continues to work more closely with the Department of Budgetary and Financial Services and the Office of the Inspector General in order to identify and correct any financial doubts.

In 2006 and 2007, the Office of the Assistant Secretary General, through the Coordinating Office, equipped the OAS Offices in the member states with the technology needed to be more efficient and lower operating costs. As part of this effort, most of the offices received new computers and scanners. In 2008, Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) telephony continued to be used for most communications between the Coordinating Office and the OAS Offices in the member states, thereby lowering the fax and immediate-delivery mail costs. Estimates are that use of VoIP represented a

savings of US\$35,000.00. However, in 2008 this program encountered an unexpected problem: the private and public telecommunications companies in a number of countries blocked access based on the fact that the use of programs of this type were found to be illegal in some cases.

Starting in 2007, the Office of the Assistant Secretary General, through the Coordinating Office and in consultation with the Secretary General, undertook a rotation of staff of the OAS offices in the member states. To date, there have been rotations in Barbados, the Commonwealth of Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago. New representatives have also been named in Belize, Grenada, Haiti, Honduras, Panama, and Saint Lucia. The Coordinating Office continues to study the remuneration packages of the staff in the OAS Offices in the member states, the member states' contributions to Fund 18 (in cash and in kind) and the headquarters agreements between the OAS and the member states, all in order to bring them in line with the changing operational needs in each country. Similarly, the Coordinating Office is currently doing a cost-benefit analysis whose findings will be available in late March 2009.

The Assistant Secretary General is still exploring the possibility of holding another meeting of OAS representatives, either at headquarters or at one of the offices in the member states. Next year, the Coordinating Office plans to continue the visits to the Offices that are having administrative or supervisory problems, and thereby be able to continue to confer with the member states, through the CAAP, on how best to manage costs, improve efficiencies, and achieve greater synergies, and also to continue to update the profile and guidelines on strategic management aimed at improving supervision and administrative efficiency.

2.2.1.3 Columbus Memorial Library

The Columbus Memorial Library was created by the First International Conference of American States on April 18, 1890. The Library is the oldest and longest standing unit of the General Secretariat and provides essential information to the Organization, the permanent missions, the diplomatic community and the outside user. It is the repository of the institutional memory of the OAS, the Pan American Union, and the inter-American system and provides the following services: a) Reference and Research Services, providing rapid and efficient access to information that supports the work of the General Secretariat and the missions, and supplying the general public with information on the OAS and its predecessors; b) Documents Control Services, responsible for preserving classifying and making OAS official documents accessible; c) Technical Services by facilitating electronic access to the collections through the acquisitions and cataloguing modules of the Automated Integrated Library System and through digitization initiatives; d) Archives and Records Management Services, in charge of orderly, cost-effective management of the administrative archives of the OAS and identifying, preserving, and making accessible archives that retain their value (historic archives) of the Organization; and e) Inter-institutional collaboration across the Americas.

World Digital Library Project

At a ceremony held at Organization headquarters on September 11, 2008, the Secretary General of the OAS, José Miguel Insulza, signed the "Contributor Agreement" with Librarian of Congress, Dr. James Billington. Under the agreement, the Columbus Memorial Library became a partner in the project.

Headed by the Library of Congress in collaboration with UNESCO and other institutions, the World Digital Library will make available on the internet, free of charge and in multilingual format, important primary source materials of the cultures of the world. They will include manuscripts, maps, rare books, musical scores, recordings, films, photographs, architectural drawings, and other important cultural materials.

Preservation and Digitization Project

The Preservation and Digitization Project continued. It creates digital images of a select group of resolutions and declarations of the Permanent Council and the Proceedings and Documents of the General Assembly. Fifty thousand images have been selected for digitization. This project provides on-line access, via the Web, to the full text of OAS documents, which means converting the document to digital format, and a machine-readable text.

Automated Integrated Library System

The Columbus Memorial Library uses the "Library Solution" software to expedite its work as an Automated Integrated Library System. The system allows the Library to provide services that will automate all its functions, to include procurements, the series, circulation, OAS documents, and cataloguing. The rich collection that the Library has on the inter-American system will thus be made accessible. The staff of the Library placed 8,300 bar codes on materials already in the database of the library's On Line Public Access Catalogue (OPAC).

Procurements

In 2008 the Library received donations of 646 publications, valued at an estimated \$49,450. The Procurements Unit processed 1,823 books and periodicals and prepared 17 purchase orders from requisitions received from other departments of the OAS to purchase books and other materials. The unit also prepared updates for the online database and a list of donations and bequests.

Cataloguing

The Cataloguing Unit continues to provide new electronically accessible materials. Using the Cataloguing Module of the Automated Integrated Library System, it has increased user access to the Library's materials. Once the material has been catalogued, it is entered into the database of the library's On Line Public Access Catalogue (OPAC). Similarly, the Library continues to assign the International Standard Book Number (ISBN): 69 were supplied and 20 were prepared using data from the "Cataloging-in-Publication" for new OAS publications and documents.

Reference Services

As part of the Alert Service, profiles were compiled for staff; 11,977 work-related articles were sent electronically to the staff of the General Secretariat. The Reference Unit circulated 1,193 books; 1,868 OAS documents were sent, and 546 periodicals were circulated. The Unit answered 4,002 requests for information and 171 cubic meters of historic photographs were used to answer those requests. A total of 221 inter-library loan requests were processed; 633 library materials were moved; 945 new materials were added to the vertical files and 6,268 volumes of bulletins and 945 periodicals, documents and books were discarded and retired from the collection. Some 7,726

photocopies were made for the General Secretariat, the missions, and outside users. The Documents Control Unit answered 1,024 requests for information.

The Library subscribes to “First Search” and can access information in 70 databases. The search version of the “Hispanic American Periodicals Index” (HAPI) provides information on Latin America, the United States-Mexico border region and Hispanics in the United States. Through “WorldCat”, the Library has access to over 88 million bibliographic records and one billion unique records. The Library also subscribes to “The Economic Intelligence Unit” and to “Lexis-Nexis”.

OAS Documents and Publications

A total of 20,420 documents and publications were received, processed, and distributed. Search aids were prepared to assist in retrieving these documents. The Documents Collection consists of 329,160 historic records in paper format, for the period from 1960 to 2008. A total of 55 new classifications were provided for OAS documents and 75 OAS publications were sent to Depository Libraries and to institutions that requested donations or that have exchange programs with the Columbus Memorial Library. The Unit received 10,735 publications from different offices of the General Secretariat. Some publications were added to our collection, while others were discarded in accordance with the procurements policy.

Preservation

The Library processed and microfilmed the Official Records Series of the OAS and distributed it to university and specialized libraries. These sales and the sales of the historic photographs enable the Library to comply with the mandate of seeking external sources of financing. As a result, the sum of \$28,594.40 was deposited in the Hipólito Unanue account.

Archives and Records Management Service (ARMS)

The Archives and Records Management Services (ARMS) were seriously affected this year with the elimination of the post of Archivist/Specialist in Administrative Archives and Records and of an Archives and Records Technician. ARMS continued its contract with “Iron Mountain” and “Paxton Records Retention” to store the Organization’s documents at an off-site location, which has custody of 12,000 cubic meters of General Secretariat files.

Exhibits

The Columbus Memorial Library staged seventeen exhibits, including Donations from the Group of Friends of the Library from the following countries: Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile, Ecuador, Panama, and Venezuela. The exhibits included the Panama Canal; OAS Peace Initiatives; Encounter of Two Worlds; the Leo S. Rowe Fund; the Centennial of the Laying of the Cornerstone of the Main Building of the OAS; the 89th Anniversary of the OAS Staff Association; the 60th Anniversary of the OAS Charter; 80th Anniversary of the Inter-American Commission of Women, and Memories of Valerie T. McComie.

Group of Friends of the Columbus Memorial Library

The Group of Friends of the Library was established in 1994 and is mainly composed of the ambassadors with the permanent missions and permanent observer missions. The Group met frequently in 2008 and various ceremonies were held at the Library to receive book donations. A forum was also held.

At the Permanent Council meeting held on December 17, 2008, Ambassador Arístides Royo, Permanent Representative of Panama, handed over the chair of the Group to Ambassador José Enrique Castillo Barrantes, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica. The Columbus Memorial Library is grateful to Ambassador Royo for his invaluable efforts in support of the Library's programs.

2.2.1.4 Inter-American Committee on Ports

The Inter-American Committee on Ports (CIP) was established by the General Assembly in its resolution AG/RES. 1573, adopted at the twenty-eighth regular session. Its purpose 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.

To comply with 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 its Plan of Action 2008-2011, the Committee conducted the following activities in 2008, aimed at strengthening port-related dialogue within the inter-American system, cooperation for port development, and dissemination and promotion of the ports of the Americas and the Committee itself.

Strengthening the inter-American port dialogue

The CIP is a unique forum for dialogue among the highest ranking government port authorities of the countries of the Americas. That dialogue is crucial to fulfilling the mandates given by the authorities mentioned above and by other forums and bodies in the port sector of the Americas. Accordingly, the Secretariat of the CIP organized and facilitated holding of the Third Hemispheric Conference on Port Protection (Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, April 2008), with the support of the *Cuerpo Especializado en Seguridad Portuaria* (CECEP) [Specialized Port Security Corps] and the Dominican Port Authority (APORDOM). Also held at the same time was the Eleventh Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee on Port Security, chaired by the United States.

Cooperation for port development

Activities of three types were carried out: *training, direct technical assistance, and regional cooperation*, all geared to modernizing and developing the ports of the Hemisphere.

Training

Training is the CIP's principal cooperative activity and is aimed at incentivizing, promoting, and developing training programs that raise academic standards and technical expertise of port personnel

so that they are able to run the modernized ports. The Secretariat planned, programmed, and directly executed some activities and negotiated the additional external funds needed to execute the following activities: Second Course in Port Management (Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, January 2008); the International Seminar on Strategic Port Management: a Tool for Continued Development Ten Years from Modernization (Santiago, Chile, April 2008); Ninth Ibero-American Course on Technology, Port Operations and Environmental Management (Santander, Spain, May/June 2008); International Seminar on Managing Agri-Food Port Terminals: Technologies and economic impact (Panama City, Panama, July 2008); International Seminar on Development of River Ports and Waterways (Iquitos, Peru, August 2008); Thirteenth Ibero-American Course on Port Management (Madrid, Spain, October 2008); Seminar on ISO 14001 in Environmental Management Systems for Ports (Bridgetown, Barbados, December 2008).

Fellowships were also awarded for port professions who wanted to obtain Latin American Professional Port Manager (PPM) Certification, a project of the World Bank and the AAPA (through a combination distance and classroom teaching) and the Masters Degree in Intermodal Transport and Management in Valencia, Spain. It also sponsored, collaborated, and participated in other training events organized by national, regional, and international organizations on port-related issues, among them the following: the American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA); the Caribbean Shipping Association (CSA); Port Management Association of the Caribbean (PMAC); Association for Collaboration between Cities and Ports (RETE); Ports of the Spanish State; Barbados Ports Inc.; Empresas Portuarias del Sistema de Empresas Públicas (SEP) of Chile; Autoridad Marítima de Panamá (AMP), Autoridad Portuaria Nacional (ANP) del Perú, Autoridad Portuaria Dominicana (APORDOM), and the Autoridad Portuaria de Santander, Spain.

Direct technical assistance

The Secretariat cooperated in addressing specific demands from certain port authorities and administrations or other institutions related to the business of ports, both public and private. The Secretariat serves as a catalyst, matching the needed input to other cooperating entities. Salient here was the advisory assistance provided to two institutions in the Dominican Republic: the Dominican Port Authority (APORDOM) on the issue of state and private sector participation in the ports sector and the necessary standards and regulations; and the General Bureau of Customs (*Dirección General de Aduanas*) (DGA), on preparation, management and execution of the OAS project on trade, customs and ports.

Regional cooperation

The CIP continued to promote the Agreement on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance among the Inter-American Port Authorities, which thus far has been agreed to by 19 member countries (Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Panama, Peru, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uruguay) and ratified by four of these governments (Argentina, Ecuador, Mexico, and Peru). Agreements were signed between the OAS General Secretariat, through the Secretariat of the CIP, and each of the following entities: the Port Management Association of the Caribbean (PMAC), the Le Havre Port Authority and Soget S.A. (both in France), and the Caribbean Shipping Association (CSA). Lastly, consultations got underway to update cooperation agreements with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the Central American Maritime Transport Board [*Consejo Centroamericano de Transporte Marítimo*] (COCATRAM).

Publicizing and promoting the ports of the Americas and the CIP

The Secretariat disseminated information on the member countries' main commercial ports and on the activities of the CIP through the following vehicles: the CIP Web portal (www.oas.org/cip) which provides information on these ports, their features, their port authorities and their development projects, as well as the set of projects and activities that the CIP is conducting; the *Revista CIP*, distributed globally in English and Spanish as a means of reporting on and promoting the Committee's activities, with essays written by port authorities and experts on specialized issues and projects of sectoral interest; the CIP Newsletter, an electronic publication, circulated globally and containing short- and medium-term information on the major activities that the ports and the CIP have underway and reporting news on the activities of other regional entities with which cooperative relations have been established; *Consultas*, where requests for information in connection with the ports of the Hemisphere and the Committee's activities are asked and answered by e-mail (cip@oas.org); documents, studies, reports, and other specialized technical material, produced to address specific issues and needs of the ports of the Hemisphere and topics relevant to the port sector.

2.3 SECRETARIAT FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS

The Secretariat for Political Affairs (SPA) has three departments: the Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation (DECO), the Department of Sustainable Democracy and Special Missions (DSDME), and the Department for State Modernization and Good Governance (DMEG), and its own Executive Office. Its work is basically guided by Executive Order No. 08-01 Rev. 2 of the General Secretariat (GS) and the Inter-American Democratic Charter, and its central task is to help strengthen democracy in the Hemisphere.

2.3.1 Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation (DECO)

DECO advises and keeps the Secretary General and the Secretary for Political Affairs informed of all matters related to electoral systems and institutions and the holding of democratic elections in the Americas. The Department has three sections: a) the Electoral Observation Section, which conducts and maintains a permanent and professional electoral observation service and organizes, coordinates and executes electoral observation missions at the request of the member states; b) the Electoral Technical Cooperation Section, which develops and provides advisory and technical assistance specializing in electoral matters; and c) the Electoral Projects and Studies Section, which undertakes analysis and applied research and organizes discussion forums to help improve the region's electoral institutions and processes.

The Inter-American Democratic Charter, especially its Chapter V on Democracy and Electoral Observation Missions, is the principal basis for the Department's activities. The mandate in that Charter has since been reinforced by the following resolutions:

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| AG/RES. 2254 (XXXVI-O/06) | Modernization and Use of Electoral Technologies in the Hemisphere. |
| AG/RES. 2337 (XXXVII-O/07) | Modernization and Use of Electoral Technologies in the Hemisphere. |
| AG/RES. 2422 (XXXVIII-O/08) | Promotion and Strengthening of Democracy: Follow-up to the Inter-American Democratic Charter. |

Electoral Observation

Six Electoral Observation Missions (EOM) were deployed in this reporting period, involving 350 observers and experts in election-related matters. The EOMs conducted were as follows:

- Paraguay: General and Departmental Elections. President and Vice President, Senators, Deputies, Paraguay's members in the MERCOSUR Parliament, Governors and Members of the Departmental Councils (April 20, 2008).
- Dominican Republic: General elections for the office of president (May 16, 2008).
- Grenada: General Elections (July 8, 2008).
- Bolivia: Presidential Recall Referendum (August 10, 2008).
- Ecuador: Referendum to approve or reject the New Constitution (September 28, 2008).
- Honduras: Election primaries (November 30, 2008).

The Secretary General received an invitation from the Angolan National Board of Elections to observe the legislative elections slated for September 5, 2008. The Department sent four specialists, who coordinated with the electoral mission from the African Union. This activity signals a follow-up to the “Democracy Bridge” conference between the OAS and the African Union, which agreed on cooperation in various strategic areas, one of which is elections.

Working with the Supreme Electoral Tribunal of Guatemala and the National Electoral Court of Bolivia, the Department has mapped out a plan of operations calculated to put into practice the recommendations contained in the final reports of the electoral observation missions conducted in each country. The recommendations consisted of activities in civic education, electoral training, citizen participation, updating the voter registry and accountability on the part of the political parties.

Electoral Technical Cooperation

- El Salvador:

A technical cooperation project was conducted for verification of and advisory assistance on implementation of two recommendations resulting from the Supreme Electoral Tribunal’s full audit of the voter registry. In October 2008, the Supreme Electoral Tribunal took delivery of the final version of the handbooks of institutional functions for regulating the responsibilities for inspecting data processing systems and services, a manual on accessing voter records and the voter registry, and a manual of a proposed institutional plan which the Supreme Electoral Tribunal will be responsible for implementing.

- Haiti:

Seven members of the Provisional Electoral Council’s Technology Department received training to develop, maintain and adapt information systems. The Council’s technological infrastructure was further strengthened by, *inter alia*: installing an electronic documents filing system; designing an online library to file and retrieve documents; generating and applying vote-tabulation software to increase the speed of the vote count and enhance its credibility and reliability; developing a computerized system for candidate registration. Also implemented was a pilot plan in civic education, which featured radio programming for rural areas that do not have access to the traditional media.

- Honduras:

Through the Project to Strengthen the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE), a total of eleven election-related activities were documented. An election reference system was developed that provides TSE personnel with online information from the voter census and enables them to get information on all registered voters by name. In the area of cartography, a work plan was prepared to integrate the digital electoral cartography into a geography information system. It also plans to digitize the departments and municipalities and to include the voting centers and highway systems. The Honduran laws were reviewed and analyzed, including applicable legal ordinances, in order to check the procedures for additions, exclusions and changes to the National Electoral Census.

- Panama:

Work got underway to implement a quality management and certification system for the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, based on the standards of ISO 9001:2000, and featuring: preparation of manuals and regulation of all procedures; diagnostic studies to identify the procedures, products and services to which the quality management system can be applied; an evaluation of the current status of the operation; and analysis of what is lacking in the current practices and where they are inadequate, given the requirements of the ISO 9001:2000; a certification viability study; strategic plans for each office, and analysis of the Tribunal's organizational structure.

- Bolivia:

An audit was done of the registry of voters. The audit included an analysis of the governing laws and regulations, the procedures for managing the registry of voters, the procedures for filing complaints, the procedures followed to purge the voter registry, and security mechanisms. A study was also done of the updating of registration procedures, and the use of identification documents to register voters. The audit also focused on determining how reliable the voter register was and the challenges of voter registration.

Election-related studies

First Inter-American Electoral Workshop:

It was organized in partnership with Mexico's Federal Electoral Institute and was attended by 40 election officials from the hemisphere and election experts. For one week of lectures, group work and case studies, the participants shared their experiences and theoretical and technical knowledge and know-how in three areas: (1) improving voter lists; (2) financing political parties and election campaigns; and (3) improving voter participation through civic education campaigns and training for persons staffing the polling stations. Also, the Workshop was the occasion for inauguration of the Inter-American Network of Election Information and Practices, designed as a tool to promote horizontal cooperation among the hemisphere's election authorities.

- Program on Technical Observation in the Introduction of New Technologies in Electoral Processes:

An analysis was done on the use of electoral technologies in five OAS member states: Chile, Costa Rica, Jamaica, Mexico and Peru for a diagnostic study on the technologies that the member states are using in election processes.

- Publication: "Best Practices in OAS Electoral Observation: 2004 – 2007":

This publication compiles the best practices used in the 30 electoral observation missions deployed by the OAS in the period from 2004 to 2007.

Cooperation with other organizations and institutions

In 2008, DECO embarked upon a strategic partnership with the European Commission, the UNDP and the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA International) when it

joined the project called “Global Training Platform” which will be a tool to provide training in electoral assistance to electoral authorities, the community of donors and experts from around the world. During the year, DECO also reinforced its cooperation with organizations that are signatories of the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation, among them the following: the Carter Center, the National Democratic Institute, the African Union, and the Electoral Institute of Southern Africa (EISA). In the area of training for election authorities, DECO partnered with the Latin American School of Social Sciences and IDEA International for the First Electoral Workshop held in Mexico; cooperation agreements were also signed with the Federal Electoral Institute of Mexico, the National Board of Elections and National Office of Elections of Peru.

Meetings

- Fifth Inter-American Meeting of Electoral Authorities (Quito, Ecuador).

Participating in this event were members of electoral bodies from 29 countries of the region, and for the first time representatives from the Caribbean also took part. The main theme of the meeting was “Building citizen confidence in elections: the role of election authorities in political financing and electoral participation.” A report was published describing the exchanges that took place between the election officials about the introduction of election technologies, voter participation and turnout, and the tools to regulate campaign financing.

- Inter-American Conference on Quality Management and Certification of Electoral Authorities (Nuevo León, Mexico).

DECO and the CEENL organized this conference, which was attended by 40 election officials from 25 member states and panelists from Panama, Mexico and Chile. The participants analyzed how quality management affects modernization of electoral institutions, transparency and citizens’ confidence in their electoral authorities. They also evaluated the progress made with implementation of quality management systems in the hemisphere.

- Third Meeting of the Association of Caribbean Electoral Organizations (ACEO).

This meeting was held November 6 through 8, 2008, in conjunction with the International Foundation for Election Systems. Those in attendance discussed three main issues, including regulation of campaign financing, election-related technology, and the role of the various actors in the electoral process.

2.3.2 Department of Sustainable Democracy and Special Missions (DSDME)

The principal function of the DSDME is to support the Secretary General and the Secretary for Political Affairs in their efforts to address and prevent political-institutional challenges, situations and crises that occur or might occur in the region. The goal is to build an institutional capacity for analysis, prevention, management and resolution of crises and conflicts. As part of this undertaking, the DSDME is using a method involving multiple scenarios, in order to examine different situations based on political, economic and social indicators. The final objective of the exercise is to recommend courses of action to the authorities of the General Secretariat. The DSDME also provides advisory assistance and technical support to the electoral observation missions and special

missions established by the Permanent Council and/or the Secretary General, in response to some political-institutional crisis or at the request of a member state.

Democratic Sustainability

The DSDME organized three roundtables in 2008, to increase the understanding and knowledge of the members of the Department on a series of key issues in the region that have an impact on democratic sustainability. Participating in these roundtables were specialists from various sectors (academic, political, journalism, etc.) and countries of the region. The presentations and ensuing discussions gave those present a clearer grasp of the implications that the selected topics had for good governance. The first roundtable was on February 15, 2008, and was titled “Scenarios of integration and conflict over energy resources.” The second roundtable, which was on “Food Crisis: a new challenge for democratic governance in Latin America and the Caribbean,” was held on October 10. The third and final event, held on November 20, was a workshop on “2008 in Retrospect and Prospects for 2009” on the political situation in the region.

The DSDME also administers a network of experts from throughout the region on themes that figure in the Inter-American Democratic Charter, such as election reform, access to justice, citizen participation, constitutional reform, good governance and transparency, among others. In 2008, the members of this network participated in various missions and programs of the Secretariat for Political Affairs. Some of them, like María Emma Mejía for the elections in Paraguay, Enrique Correa for the elections in Ecuador, and Eduardo Stein for the recall referendum in Bolivia, served as heads of electoral observation missions. Other experts in the network also served as panelists in various forums and seminars organized by GS/OAS, such as the forum on “Consequences of decentralization and challenges of democratic governance,” held in Washington, D.C. in February 2008.

Special Missions

In 2008, the OAS Mission to Support the Peace Process in Colombia (MAPP/OEA) had reached the phase of post demobilization of the *Autodefensas Unidas de Colombia* (AUC) and therefore focused on confirming that the AUC’s military structure had been dismantled and on reinserting the more than 30,000 former combatants, monitoring law and order in areas where the AUC had been a presence and monitoring for enforcement of the Justice and Peace Act. Given this framework, in 2008 MAPP/OEA kept close watch on the communities that had been victims of the violence, as their recovery was vital to the process. To that end, it supported local peace initiatives. The Mission has also been instrumental in coordinating the activities of the various state entities and has taken on the role of monitoring and confidence-building in the communities most affected by the violence.

By order given to the OAS General Secretariat, the OAS Good Offices Mission in Ecuador and Colombia (MIB/OEA) was established. In a resolution, the member states resolved “[t]o instruct the Secretary General to use his good offices to implement a mechanism for observing compliance with this resolution and the restoration of an atmosphere of trust between the two Parties”. The specific objectives of the MIB/OEA mandate include the following: 1) Using its good offices to restore an atmosphere of trust between the two parties and implementing a mechanism for observing compliance with the commitments undertaken in the resolution adopted at the Twenty-fifth Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs; 2) Proposing and promoting the establishment of specific confidence-building measures and coordinating same with the states concerned; 3) Verifying compliance with the commitments undertaken by the states involved, both in the framework of the

resolution of the Twenty-fifth Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and in connection with the confidence-building measures that the parties agree to implement. Under the umbrella of MIB/OEA, the Secretary General and his representative (the director of the DSDME) have, at different times, met with the Presidents of Colombia and Ecuador. Two meetings have been organized with high-ranking military officers, and four meetings with the deputy foreign ministers of both countries. The Secretary General and the director of the DSDME also conferred with the foreign ministers of both countries. In September, the DSDME organized, in Quito, a forum on “Building Bridges Ecuador-Colombia,” with the cooperation of FLACSO and the UNDP.

Through the “Fund for Peace,” the DSDME continued its work of international political facilitation, particularly with respect to the referendum between Belize and Guatemala. Through the Secretary General’s Special Representative for Belize and Guatemala, the GS/OAS facilitated the negotiations conducted under the “Agreement on Negotiation Framework and Confidence-Building Measures” that the governments of Belize and Guatemala signed on September 7, 2005. As a result of these negotiations, on December 8, 2008, the Foreign Ministers of Belize and Guatemala signed, at OAS headquarters, the *Special Agreement between Belize and Guatemala to Submit Guatemala’s Territorial, Insular, and Maritime Claim to the International Court of Justice*.

Furthermore, the Office of the OAS General Secretariat in the Adjacency Zone has been conducting a series of verifications and activities to assist a number of institutions in Belize and Guatemala, including the armed forces. In 2008, the Santa Rosa Community Resettlement Project was successfully completed, which involved the voluntary resettlement of a community of 17 Guatemalan families inside the Adjacency Zone administered by Belize. They were resettled within Guatemalan territory.

Under the Fund for Peace, the *Inter-American Peace Forum* was launched to set the stage for a series of programs aimed at cultivating a culture of peace among the various sectors of inter-American society. These programs are of various types and include lectures and seminars on the topic of peace and conflict management; preparation of specialized reports and publications; creation of the *Inter-American Peace Prize* to recognize those who have made selfless and major contributions to promoting and building peace; the program *OAS Emissaries of Peace*, with the collaboration of distinguished leaders and personages committed to the cause of peace; promoting leadership and other initiatives, with special emphasis on peaceful settlement of differences and promoting a culture of respect, tolerance, inclusion and harmony.

2.3.3 Department of State Modernization and Good Governance (DMEG)

The DMEG supports OAS member states’ efforts to develop and facilitate reforms and processes required by governmental institutions, in order to help strengthen democratic governance and respond promptly and efficiently to their citizens’ needs, all in an effort to develop more secure, equitable, free, and prosperous societies.

The DMEG works in coordination with other areas of the General Secretariat through the sections into which it the Department is divided: Support to Legislative Institutions; Transparency and Governance; Decentralization; Training of Government Civil Servants, and Support to the Countries of the Caribbean.

Support to Legislative Institutions

Because the Legislative Branch plays such a central role in representative democracy (presidentialist and parliamentarian), the general objective of the Support to Legislative Institutions Section (SAIL) is to assist legislatures (national parliaments, congresses, or assemblies) in the member states in their efforts to foster dialogue and inter-parliamentary cooperation and press for legislative modernization. Inter-parliamentary cooperation and modernization serve to strengthen the legislative institution, which in turn makes the legislative branch better able to contribute to democratic governance.

Prominent among the current activities is the design of an online course on e-congress: Using the new information and communications technologies (ICTs) in the Legislative Branch (in collaboration with the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development); a Seminar/Workshop on the Inter-American Democratic Charter for the Forum of Presidents of the Legislative Branches in the Andean Region and the Congress of the Republic of Colombia; support and advisory services to the Office of the President of the Legislature of the City of Buenos Aires, with the design of its project in modernization and institution-building and creation of the Forum of Presidents of the Argentine Provincial Legislative Bodies, whose objective is to serve as a forum for political dialogue among the provinces at the highest legislative level; implementation of the Program to Support the Institutional Strengthening of the Congress of the Republic of Guatemala (PAFIC); and the Parliament and Taxation Project in Central America.

Transparency and Good Governance

The work of the Transparency and Good Governance Section is geared mainly toward combining efforts to promote greater transparency and integrity in government in the countries of the Americas. One of the initiatives currently underway is preparation of the “Guide to Mechanisms for Promoting Transparency and Integrity and Controlling Corruption” in the countries of the Americas, a practical and informative tool on the progress made, resources, policies, and initiatives in the countries of the Americas. With respect to controlling corruption and guaranteeing the right of access to public information on the subject of access to public information, the section has been compiling information and preparing content with a view to offering technical support to the Organization’s governing bodies. It is working jointly with the Department of International Law and the IACHR’s Office of the Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression.

Decentralization

As Technical Secretariat, this Section provided technical support to help consolidate the Inter-American Network on Centralization, Local Government and Citizen Participation (RIAD), a policy instrument established by the governments of the OAS member states to provide support and institutional follow-up to the commitments undertaken by the Heads of State and Government at the Summits of the Americas. The network offers a venue for intergovernmental dialogue among the government officials in charge of decentralization policies. Recently, the Section did a study on “Decentralization and the Challenges for Democratic Governance,” and then conducted a Hemispheric Forum in Washington, D.C. in February 2008, where the study’s conclusions and recommendations were introduced. The Section also assisted the countries of the Caribbean with developing a policy and framework for regional cooperation on local governance and local democracy in the Caribbean, and supported the design and preparation of the Central American Regional Meeting of the RIAD, which will be held in Costa Rica in February 2009.

Training of Government Civil Servants and Support to the Caribbean

The Section assists the Department of Education and Culture, as technical secretariat of the “Inter-American Program on Education in Democratic Values and Practices.” Together with the Section on the Caribbean, established in late September 2008, it has been supporting the “Agenda for the Caribbean,” a crosscutting proposal developed by the Secretary for Political Affairs for implementation in the subregion. The agenda will feature, *inter alia*, activities related to issues like promoting participatory democracy, reform and modernization of political parties, development of procedures for consultation and dissemination of information among civil society organizations and other groups or persons with a stake in the issues of good governance and constitutional reform, based on requests from the member states.

Starting in November, the Section participated in the annual meeting of the Association of Caribbean Electoral Organizations. It also assisted the Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation (DECO) in the revitalization of that association. The section is helping with reform and modernization of civil and electoral records in various countries of the subregion, especially Saint Lucia. It has also supervised preparation of a project proposal, for potential donors to consider, titled “Funding of Political Parties and Election Campaigns in the Caribbean.” This project is planned as a joint DECO/DMEG activity. Finally, the Section is assisting the Decentralization Section by participating in and providing support to the “Caribbean Local Government Conference and Consultation” and to the “Caribbean Forum of Local Government Ministers”, which were held in Montego Bay, Jamaica, in December 2008. The two sections are collaborating on the preparations for the IV RIAD, which will be held in Jamaica in late 2009.

2.4 EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT FOR INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT (SEDI)

The OAS Charter, the Statute and Rules of Procedure of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) and its subsidiary bodies, and the Strategic Plan for Partnership for Development 2006-2009 together shape the role that the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) plays in promoting dialogue and cooperation among the member states and furthering their integral development. Its structure is determined by Executive Order 08-01 Rev. 2 “Structure of the General Secretariat” and includes the Office of the Executive Secretariat (OSE) and six offices: (i) the Department of Education and Culture (DEC); (ii) the Department of Social Development and Employment (DDSE); (iii) the Department of Science and Technology (DCyT); (iv) the Department of Sustainable Development (DSS); (v) the Department of Trade and Tourism (DCT), and (vi) the Department for Human Development (DDH).

Office of the Executive Secretary (OSE)

The Office of the Executive Secretary (OSE) continued to support the governing bodies under the CIDI umbrella and to provide technical support and training through projects and activities. To that end, the OSE directly manages a series of programs and activities calculated to encourage the introduction of information and communications technologies (ICTs) as a tool for public sector modernization and transparency, to promote entrepreneurial social responsibility and to further cooperation and an exchange of experiences at the regional level through a system of inter-American networks.

In 2007, the Secretary General tapped SEDI as the area to provide the assistance that the states require to implement the “Inter-American Program for Universal Civil Registry and the Right to Identity;” in 2008 SEDI was designated to coordinate with other international organizations to advance the “Inter-American Program for the Promotion and Protection of the Human Rights of Migrants.”

Support to policy dialogue

The OSE serves as the Secretariat of CIDI and all its organs. In that capacity, it assisted the chairs of CIDI and CEPCIDI, and provided support to the ministerial meetings, the meetings of the inter-American committees and of the Management Board of the IACD. It also prepared reports for the dialogue conducted within the framework of CIDI and CEPCIDI concerning the strengthening of CIDI and its organs, in response to resolution AG/RES. 2390 (XXXVIII-O/08) “Strengthening Partnership for Development: Policy Dialogue, Technical Cooperation, Structure and Mechanisms,” which echoes and renews the content and mandates contained in the previous year’s resolutions on the topic, AG/RES. 2303 (XXXVII-O/07), AG/RES. 2304 (XXXVII-O/07), and AG/RES. 2305 (XXXVII-O/07). Together with the Permanent Council, the OSE continued to provide its assistance to the working groups on the Social Charter of the Americas and to negotiate the Draft Declaration of Medellín: Youth and Democratic Values. Furthermore, the OSE continues efforts to standardize internal procedures vis-à-vis the support that the various departments of SEDI provide to the ministerial meetings and meetings of the Inter-American Committees.

The Special Multilateral Fund of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (FEMCIDI)

Created in 1997 to help finance national and multilateral cooperation programs, projects and activities in the Hemisphere, continued to receive OSE support. In its first ten years of existence, FEMCIDI has financed 961 projects, totaling US\$94 million. These have directly benefited hundreds of communities and have improved the living conditions of thousands of families in the Hemisphere. In 2008, the Fund approved financing for 100 projects, for a total of US\$ 7.5 million.

The Fund also embarked upon a program to strengthen itself and design new data and management mechanisms. Salient here is the development of the project database, enabling FEMCIDI projects to be more widely publicized, as well as more efficient and transparent Fund management.

The training and instruction in project preparation continued. In 2008, around 100 officials received training, which means that the total number trained since the program began in 1998 now exceeds one thousand. In cooperation with the OAS program CapaciNet, an online course was developed in “The Design, Management and Monitoring of Development Projects,” which will be given through the Educational Portal of the Americas in 2009. The launch of this online course is expected to triple the number of people trained each year; it will reach the general public and the remotest corners of the Hemisphere.

Use of the ICTS for public sector modernization and transparency

To build capacities inside public institutions at the national and municipal levels, the OSE is developing initiatives to modernize the public sector and make it more transparent, through the use of information and communications technologies. Informing these initiatives is the Declaration of Santo Domingo “Good Governance and Development in the Knowledge-Based Society,” adopted by the General Assembly in 2006.

Under the Network of E-Government Leaders in Latin America and the Caribbean (Red GEALC), the OSE has held two training workshops on interoperability and e-government, has enabled the exchange of ten experts under the horizontal cooperation fund, and has introduced the study on “Government Interoperability and Intranet.”

The project on “E-government Service Centers” is intended to give municipal governments access to e-government services through a centralized, shared infrastructure. Significant preliminary work was done in advance of the Centers’ launch. A study was done of needs, the menu of solutions to be offered was established and the technological architecture was designed. During the first quarter of 2009, the business plan and the partnership structure will be settled, whereupon the OAS will launch the first of the electronic government services center.

The OSE also has a number of projects that employ new technologies to build local governments’ capacities. The Efficient and Transparent Municipalities (MuNet) project trains public officials, puts into place online government solutions (MuNet e-government and E-government Services Centers) and computerizes cadastres (MuNet Cadastre II).

CapaciNet and MuNet e-Gobierno have made great strides, having trained mayors and local government managers in e-government solutions; technical assistance was provided to devise local e-government strategies; a CD was made available to the public capturing the region’s experiences in

e-government and to serve as a guide to e-government. Technology transfer was facilitated by providing packages of municipal e-government solutions (E-Muni), which includes: MuniPortal (municipal portal), MuniCompra (municipal procurements) and MunServi (municipal services for citizens). CapaciNet, for its part, has started to put together 8 online courses that will be able to provide training to a great number of public officials in Latin America and the Caribbean. Implementation of these courses will begin in the first half of 2009. These new efforts will build upon the 1,237 public officials from 20 countries in the Americas, who have already received training through the Capacity Building Fund.

In December, MuNet Cadastre organized a Meeting of Experts in Cadastre in El Salvador, to put together a set of tools to modernize cadastre and property registry in Latin America and the Caribbean. This set of tools will be introduced during the first quarter of 2009.

Corporate Social Responsibility (RSE)

Under this project, SEDI seeks to cultivate a sense of social responsibility in business by developing effective methods and materials that cultivate these practices within the region's business community and by forging multiple alliances all committed to social responsibility.

In keeping with the mandate from the Third Summit of the Americas and General Assembly resolutions AG/RES. 2194 (XXXVI-O/06), "Promotion of Corporate Social Responsibility in the Hemisphere", RSE measures have been conducted among the SMEs of the Caribbean (Barbados, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Guyana, and Trinidad and Tobago), all in close cooperation with the YABT and ECLAC. These activities were carried out in three stages: (1) identification of the state of corporate social responsibility in the region; (2) development of content and design of methods, and (3) building capacities to instill corporate social responsibility in the SMEs in the most important economic sectors within the participating countries.

Working through networks

The Program on Inter-American Cooperation Networks furthers dialogue and the sharing of successful experiences, and fosters cooperation among the member states. In 2008 three new networks were launched: (i) Expanding Hemispheric Commitments to Early Childhood Education; (ii) Sustainable Energy Partnership for the Americas – SEPA; (iii) Culture and Development: an Inter-American Information Network. These networks join the many others that SEDI has in operation on a wide range of topics, from disaster mitigation to government procurement; others include the Social Network and the Regional Alliance for Freedom of Expression and Access to Information.

Some of the successes achieved through this system of networks are worth noting. As part of the activities carried out through the Network of E-Government Leaders in Latin America and the Caribbean (Red GEALC), Jamaica's experience with Customs Automated Services were shared with Antigua and Barbuda. Just by implementing a customs service of this kind, by transferring one country's experience to another rather than purchase the system on the market, the Government of Antigua and Barbuda saved around two million dollars, while at the same time making its customs system more efficient. In operation for just 6 months, the new system is 15% more efficient. The gains achieved through this transfer of technology will be covered in a study that the University of

the West Indies and CARICAD (Caribbean Center for Administration and Development) will release in the first quarter of 2009.

Similarly, SEDI is Technical Secretariat for the Inter-American Network of Government Procurement and is responsible for maintaining and updating the virtual workspace. The Network will be receiving seven million dollars from a variety of sources, to fund projects and activities that the Network identified and heads up. During the 2008 annual meeting, the *e-Gov. Procurement Observatory* was launched. Developed in conjunction with the IDB, the Observatory will enable the member states to evaluate the progress made in e-government procurement. At the present time, all the member countries have this under review. The success is thanks to the leadership of the Chairman and of the Network's Executive Committee, and to the work of the Technical Secretariat and the active involvement of its members through the virtual workspace and the annual meetings of all directors of government procurement in the Americas, organized by the OAS.

Universal Civil Identity Program in the Americas (PUICA)

The governing mandates for SEDI's work in this area are contained in resolution AG/RES. 2362 (XXXVIII-O/08) "Inter-American Program for Universal Civil Registry and the "Right to Identity," which underscores the importance of making civil registry universal in the region. The Program establishes a set of objectives, specific lines of action and strategies that will serve to strengthen the institutions charged with civil registry, and thereby help get all persons registered. Through PUICA, the OAS has made this a priority issue and is supporting the states in their efforts to reduce under-registration. At the present time, PUICA has established technical assistance operations in nine countries of the region, and has gotten funding for them. Expectations are that the assistance will be expanded to include another three countries in 2009.

The support provided to Haiti's National Identification Office has been instrumental in opening 141 permanent, solar-powered computerized registration offices. This has resulted in more than 600,000 new registrations; combined with previous registrations, a total of 4.2 million properly identified persons have been registered with our help. More than two million registrations have been computerized, so as to preserve them and thereby provide the citizenry with better service. In El Salvador, the Civil Registry is being integrated into the hospital system. In Guatemala, more and more local authorities are being enlisted to eliminate the problem of under-registration. In Paraguay, technology is being harnessed to improve services. In Honduras, PUICA is supporting activities to improve the rate of registration. In St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, and Antigua and Barbuda, PUICA is helping to devise strategies that use information technology in registry services. This project will be extended to include other countries in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS).

Inter-American Program for the Promotion and Protection of the Human Rights of Migrants

SEDI was charged with orchestrating this subject area in 2008, to coordinate with related efforts in other international organizations and within the OAS General Secretariat and to give the migration issue the same import and significance throughout the Organization.

In the second half of 2008, a technical cooperation agreement was concluded with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to implement a continuous reporting system on labor migration in Latin America and the Caribbean (SICREMI-ALC). This system will produce a steady stream of accurate and timely information on migration flows and trends in the member

countries of the OAS, thereby strengthening decision-making and formulation of public policy. The system is designed along the lines of SOPEMI (its acronym in French), which the OECD created for its member states back in 1994. SEDI serves as Technical Secretariat of the Special Committee on Migration of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP).

2.4.1 Department of Education and Culture

The Department of Education and Culture (DEC) supports the member states' efforts to provide all their citizens with a quality education system and to give culture a more pronounced role in economic development and social inclusion. The support mechanisms are political dialogue, technical cooperation and partnerships with other organizations. The DEC serves as Technical Secretariat for the meetings of Ministers of Education and of Culture, and for the meetings of the Inter-American Committees on Education and Culture (CIE and CIC).

In the area of education, the CIE Work Plan 2008-2009 "Hemispheric Commitment to Early Childhood Education" was adopted, having been approved at the Fifth Meeting of Ministers. Projects in this area are carried out in partnership with the ministries of the region, UNICEF, UNESCO, the OEI, the World Bank, CARICOM, CIDA and the Van Leer Foundation, all focused on the development of effective public policies, case studies, and social mobilization on behalf of children, with particular emphasis on rural, indigenous, and border communities. Through the CapaciNet program, a distance education course is being developed on infancy and childhood education from zero to three years, targeted at policy-makers and educators.

The Inter-American Program on Education for Democratic Values and Practices consolidated the products and services it offers. The program's objective is to strengthen democratic culture in the member states through education. To that end, it supports a variety of measures, among them publication of two issues of the *Inter-American Journal of Education for Democracy* and an online course for teachers from six Caribbean countries on teaching democratic citizenship. In response to the lack of empirical evidence as to the results of the initiatives undertaken in this area, a course was developed and implemented on evaluating policies and programs in civic education, with online and classroom components. The Program's Advisory Board held its second meeting, where the number of organizations represented increased to include the Council of Europe, the OEI and other key organizations active in this area, as well as academic institutions, NGOs, and representatives of ministries of education in the region. The program coordinated with an IDB-supported project in six Latin American countries to develop and evaluate civic competencies.

The final version of the *Educational Panorama 2007* was published. It reports the progress that the countries have made towards the education-related goals set by the Summits and the considerable challenges that remain. It does this through the use of comparable indicators and in association with the Secretariat of Public Education of Mexico and OREALC/UNESCO. In a related activity, two technical workshops were organized for the countries of Central America and the Caribbean, funded by FEMCIDI. The Caribbean workshop focused on how to analyze data and present statistical reports so that they are both attractive and useful to education policy-makers.

In response to the mandates from the General Assembly, the Fourth Summit of the Americas, and the Work Plan of the Inter-American Committee on Education (CIE), the Department partnered with UNESCO and the Government of Mexico in participating in the Regional Conference of Latin America and the Caribbean "From literacy to life-long learning," where it presented a paper titled

“Public policies, strategies and programs in literacy and adult education in the Caribbean nations (2003-2008)”.

During the meeting that the CIE held in Quito, Ecuador in October 2008 to review the Work Plan, a new project was launched on early teacher education through cooperation networks and educational technology. This project, carried out in collaboration with Ministry of Education of Trinidad and Tobago, involves four activities: a) a hemispheric seminar in early teacher education for policymakers in the ministries of education in the member countries, held in October 2008 with 33 countries of the Americas represented; b) online courses for educators of future teachers to build up the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in teaching, through collaborative, inter-institutional projects; c) an observatory of the status of the use of ICTs in early teacher education in Latin America and the Caribbean, in cooperation with RELPE (the Latin American Network of Educational Portals); and d) an observatory and database of institutions devoted to early teacher education in the Americas, in cooperation with the International UNESCO Institute for Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean (IESALC).

On the topic of culture, the IV Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities was held in Barbados in November 2008. The central theme was “The Economy of Culture in the Americas: A Path to Sustainable Growth and Social Inclusion.” The discussions centered on cultural industries as a source of sustainable economic growth and social cohesion. It established guidelines for the 2009-2010 Work Plan of the Inter-American Committee on Culture (CIC). The meeting also approved a communiqué and a resolution reaffirming that in the fight against poverty, the cultural and creative industries offer a path to sustainable economic growth, especially in the small developing island states and in the small and vulnerable economies of the Caribbean. The Ministers of Culture pledged to continue and probe more deeply in the dialogue with the authorities in the education sector, conducting joint activities with a view to strengthening the role that the arts and culture play in shaping and strengthening the identity of the youth of the Hemisphere and in educating them.

With the DEC’s support, the Government of Canada organized “Ignite the Americas: Youth Arts Policy Forum,” at which young people from across the Hemisphere met with leaders in the public and private sectors to examine real experiences in which the arts and culture are generating income and furthering social change. Out of this forum came a toolkit to help young entrepreneurs embarking upon small cultural industries, and an established network of young leaders in the arts for social change. The recommendations of the young delegates were presented to the cultural authorities present for the Preparatory Meeting for the IV Meeting of Ministers of Culture, held in Toronto. The second edition of the “Ignite” Forum is set for Brazil in 2009. The DEC worked with the YABT to ensure that the survey taken of a sample of youth from the Hemisphere includes the topic of culture and the arts as paths to inclusion and employment. The results of the survey will be presented at the Fifth Summit of the Americas in 2009. The DEC has been designated as one of the Organization’s focal points on youth.

In 2008, the Inter-American Committee on Culture (CIC) adopted a Plan of Action aimed at increasing inter-American cooperation in the area of culture. Pursuant to the Plan of Action and with technical support from the DEC and the Colombian Government, the Government of the United States organized the second subregional technical workshop on protecting the cultural heritage against sacking and illicit trafficking. This one was for the Andean countries. Also, work began to develop the project “Culture in Development: an inter-American information network.” Through

this project, cultural information will be entered into a data processing system to be circulated over a Web portal. Work also got underway on a communication strategy and a network of cultural policymakers and stakeholders. These activities will bring about a greater exchange of information and experiences with cultural policies and are in response to a need identified at the Third Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities.

Following consultations between the Secretariat and the member states, the recommendations made by the Ministers of Culture and Education were introduced into the text being negotiated for the Declaration of the Fifth Summit of the Americas. The CIDI meeting held in May 2008 was a first-time opportunity for the authorities of the CIE and the CIC to come together for the purpose of examining proposals for joint undertakings aimed at enhancing young people's creativity through educational-cultural programs. Following up on an inter-agency coordination meeting held in Madrid in May 2008 (OEI, UNESCO, ECLAC, PREAL, the IDB, and the OAS), the DEC offered to host the meeting next year, to strengthen cooperation and avoid duplication of effort, and thus provide the members states with more effective support in Education and Culture.

2.4.2 Department of Social Development and Employment

The Department of Social Development and Employment (DDSE) supports the member states' efforts to further development with equity by promoting policies and programs calculated to reduce poverty, encourage decent working conditions, and create jobs.

The DDSE accomplishes its strategic objectives through activities classified into the following areas: i) promotion of inter-American dialogue on social development, labor and employment; as Technical Secretariat for the following political forums: the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor (CIMT), Meetings of Ministers and High-level Authorities on Social Development, and the CP/CEPCIDI Joint Working Group on the Draft Social Charter of the Americas; ii) promotion of partnership for development, especially horizontal cooperation activities based on sharing knowledge and experiences calculated to build institutional capacities to devise and implement effective public policies; and iii) coordination of actions with other international organizations, scholars, the private sector, and civil society.

The mandates that steer the DDSE's activities come from resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, the Summits of the Americas, and the ministerial forums on social development and employment. Some of the resolutions that figure most prominently are: AG/RES. 2056 (XXXIV-O/04) on the Social Charter; AG/RES. 2315 (XXXVII-O/07) concerning the Participation of Workers' Representatives in Activities of the Organization of American States, and commitments 19, 52, and 58 of the Plan of Action of the IV Summit of the Americas, on strengthening the ministries of labor, sharing experiences to eradicate poverty, the Social Charter of the Americas, and the Meeting of Ministers of Social Development, respectively.

Salient among the DDSE's principal activities as Technical Secretariat of the policy dialogue are the following: the First Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Social Development; the Meeting of the CIMT Working Groups; the participation of workers' representatives in the thirty-eighth regular session of the OAS General Assembly, and the Caribbean Conference on Horizontal Cooperation in Social Protection.

2008 was the third consecutive year that the DDSE continued to provide technical support to the CP/CEPCIDI Joint Working Group to Draft the Social Charter of the Americas and its Plan of Action.

The DDSE has been Technical Secretariat of the Social Network for Latin America and the Caribbean since 1996. In that capacity, it orchestrated the 2008 meeting of the Network's Coordinating Committee, where a set of measures was approved to comply with the agreements adopted at the Network's Annual Conference, held in Belo Horizonte in 2007. The DDSE continued to administer the voluntary fund that the Network has had with the OAS since 2001.

In the area of partnership for development, the DDSE is coordinating the activities conducted under the umbrella of the Inter-American Network for Labor Administration (RIAL), which included four hemispheric workshops on priority issues for the CIMT, such as social dialogue, youth employment, occupational health and safety, and public employment services. RIAL also coordinated 20 technical assistance missions between ministries of labor, all through a special bilateral cooperation fund.

For its part, the Inter-American Network of Social Protection coordinated three technical assistance missions on conditional cash transfers, between Chile and Jamaica, St. Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago. With the University of the West Indies' participation, a workshop was also conducted to assess the progress of the Bridge Program in the Caribbean.

On instructions from the Secretary General, in 2008 the DDSE served as coordinator of the activities being carried out under the Agreement between the OAS and the Government of Chile on Technical Cooperation to the Countries of the Caribbean.

To coordinate activities, the DDSE has worked in concert with various international organizations so that the activities conducted have a greater impact and are mutually reinforcing. Special mention must be made of the work being done jointly with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the World Bank. In the case of the ILO, the cooperative relations are within the framework of two agreements signed in recent years and materialize in the form of numerous joint activities intended to strengthen the CIMT. In the case of the World Bank, the DDSE collaborated with the Bank on an informative document prepared for the First Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Social Development: Increasing Social Inclusion through Social Guarantees. The DDSE also maintains close working relations with the IDB, PAHO, and ECLAC.

The following stand out among the DDSE's accomplishments in 2008. The Inter-American Network for Labor Administration was consolidated as the most important mechanism of cooperation that the Ministries of Labor in this Hemisphere have. Thus far, 400 officials from all the member states of the OAS have received training.

For the first time in the history of the OAS General Assembly, workers' representatives participated in a dialogue with the foreign ministers, thereby setting a precedent that will give workers a permanent place in the sessions of the General Assembly and the Summits of the Americas.

Coordinated by the DDSE and in cooperation with the CIM and the ILO, a study is getting underway on the institutional mechanisms through which the ministries of labor are making gender a crosscutting theme in labor policy. This analysis is expected to help the members of the CIMT move

toward greater gender equality, a key element for decent work and essential to make democracy in the region stronger.

In the realm of policy dialogue, it is worth noting that the First Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Social Development is a new ministerial forum under the CIDI umbrella. At this meeting, a Work Plan for the 2008-2010 period was approved. The plan highlights the need to encourage greater sharing and transfer of experiences in innovative programs to combat poverty and inequity, all in order to further development, social cohesion, and social inclusion.

As part of the effort to strengthen the member states' institutional capacities, the first phase of the Bridge Project in the Caribbean was completed. With that, the method used under Chile's Bridge Program was successfully passed along to Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, and St. Lucia. As a result, the three countries have now put together their own programs, which have become part of their national policies for eradicating extreme poverty. The program was so successful that another three Caribbean countries will be added in 2009.

2.4.3 Department of Science and Technology

The Department of Science and Technology (DCyT) supports the member states' efforts to craft policies in science and technology that will promote and keep pace with the socioeconomic development of the countries of the Hemisphere. It also supports capacity building and institutional strengthening while promoting the kind of engineering and innovation that will make businesses more competitive. The emphasis is on the productive sector as a means to create new sources of employment, to reduce poverty and to strengthen democratic governance.

The Second Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities on Science and Technology was held in Mexico in October 2008. Its theme was "Science, technology, engineering and innovation for prosperity". It had three subthemes: (i) Science, technology, engineering, innovation, and public policies for integral development; (ii) Science, technology, engineering, and innovation as tools for sustainable natural resource management; and (iii) Science, technology, engineering, and innovation as tools for increasing productivity. The Declaration of Mexico and its Plan of Action convey the mandates and commitments of the ministers and high authorities on science and technology, and include the following: endeavoring to increase public and private investment in science, technology, engineering and innovation; increasing the collaboration between the academic sector and the private sector in research and development; improving the quality of university education in engineering and promoting the development of an entrepreneurial culture; continuing to support the Inter-American Metrology System and building out infrastructure and technological services supportive of businesses to improve their competitive edge based on quality; and increasing international cooperation to take on regional and global challenges. The Meeting also stressed the importance of supporting the hemispheric initiative "Engineering for the Americas" (EftA) as a tool for dealing with many of the issues raised in the Declaration and the Plan.

As for the participation of and contribution by civil society organizations associated with science, technology, engineering and innovation, and education in sciences within the framework of the OAS' activities, as part of the Summits Process and to move towards a culture of science and technology in the Hemisphere and help popularize science and technology in the Americas, a roundtable was organized on "Science, Technology, Engineering and Innovation for Prosperity in the Preparatory Process for the Second Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Science and Technology,"

which featured a virtual forum, open across the Hemisphere, to hear recommendations from various civil society organizations.

Prominent among the DCT's activities was the support provided to the Inter-American Network on Science and Technology Indicators (RICYT), financed by FEMCIDI and essential to having statistics on the state of affairs and to planning activities that will further development of science and technology. With funding from the OAS, the Fifth Meeting of Focal Points of the Inter-American Network of Academies of Sciences (IANAS) was held in San José, Cost Rica, in July 2008, to review the progress and reset the course of the progress made thus far with implementation of the activities being conducted under the IANAS project financed by the OAS through FEMCIDI, and with the support of the Inter-Academy Panel.

The Department also organized and participated in the panel on "Alliances in Business and Education" of the Americas Competitiveness Forum, held in Atlanta, Georgia, in August 2008 and organized by the United States Department of Commerce and CIFAL-Atlanta.

The DCT served as Executive Secretariat of the XIV General Assembly of the Inter-American Metrology System (SIM), held in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, in September 2008. There Prof. Humberto Siqueira Brandi, Director of Metrology at INMETRO Brazil, was re-elected to the Presidency. The DCT also obtained funding from the Government of Germany through its PTB, to implement the Project on "Metrology in Natural Gas for Peru and Bolivia." Brazil and Mexico are both providing technical assistance for this project, which will help establish an infrastructure for measuring the flow and chemical composition of gas. This, in turn, will help ensure the reliable energy supply so essential to the socioeconomic development of the countries of this region.

The Department worked with CIFAL-Atlanta and the Andean Development Corporation (CAF) and was responsible for planning, organizing, selecting, and awarding the Americas Prize for Excellence in Public Service in the eight Millennium Development Goals on September 19, 2008.

Various cooperation agreements have been signed, among them the memorandum of understanding with the *Public Intellectual Property Resources for Agriculture* (PIPRA) to support innovation in biotechnology, especially in agricultural transgenics. In response to an announcement from the Department on Human Development about fellowships for professional development in 2009, the DCT, together with the UNESCO Chair, obtained fellowships for the distance course on "Science, technology and society: gender contributions."

2.4.4 Department of Sustainable Development (DDS)

SEDI's Department of Sustainable Development (DDS) works with the member states on the design and implementation of cooperation policies, plans, programs, and projects geared to combining environmental priorities with poverty relief and the accomplishment of socioeconomic development goals, while supporting the OAS member states' efforts to move towards sustainable development and reducing the hazards of natural disasters.

The programs and projects that the Department executes are conducted within the framework of and as follow-up to the mandates established in the Strategic Plan for Partnership for Development 2006-2009, the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development (2006-2009) (PIDS) (AG/RES.

2312 XXXVII-O/07), the Declaration of Santa Cruz +10 (AG/RES. 2312 XXXVII-O/07), and the Declaration of Panama on Energy for Sustainable Development (2007), among others. These activities also seek to promote the principles of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, including public participation and democratic governance.

The DDS' areas of action include integrated management of transboundary water resources, development of renewable energy, preservation of biodiversity, and environmental law, policies and good governance, and mitigation of natural disasters. In 2008 it executed over \$10 million in external funds; its portfolio of projects currently underway totals approximately \$60 million.

The DDS promotes the use of sustainable energy, including the development and use of renewable energies, clean energy based on fossil fuels and energy-efficient technologies and systems. Through the Sustainable Energy Partnership (SEPA) and with financial support from the United States Government through the Department of State, the Government of Canada by way of its Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada (DFAIT), the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP) with headquarters in Austria, and the European Commission, the DDS provides technical assistance to the member states, to help craft policies and regulatory reform, create and/or build capacities, serve as a conduit for resources and assess them.

In 2008, studies on bio-energy viability were done in the Dominican Republic and El Salvador, as part of the bio-energy alliance with the United States and Brazil. The DDS is assisting the Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis, helping it to draft agreements on the execution of trade projects based on bio-combustible and geothermal resources. The DDS launched the sustainable energy initiative for the Eastern Caribbean. Also, with resources received from the United States, a technical assistance project was launched in the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and El Salvador to promote bio-energy. The DDS also continued to serve 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). The Inter-American Meeting of National Authorities and Experts on Energy for Sustainable Development was held recently at Organization headquarters. This meeting was held in compliance with commitments undertaken in the Declaration of Panama. The DDS also convened meetings on energy in the Southern Cone (Chile), the Caribbean (the Bahamas), and Central America (El Salvador). Together, those meetings set the stage for the hemispheric energy commitments that will be undertaken at the Fifth Summit of the Americas.

In the area of integrated water resource management and in furtherance of the PIDS approved in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, the DDS continued to work with the national focal points designated by the governments of the member states for integrated water resource management, to identify priority activities calculated to strengthen their integrated water resource management policies. In 2008, a consensus agreement was reached on a technical-theoretical framework for preparation of a hemispheric project to develop the technical and legal bases conducive to further development of policies on integrated water resource planning and management (IWRM). With this, the institutions that manage water resources in the Hemisphere are able, through the IWRM national focal points (NFPs) to the OAS, to work together to agree upon strategic measures. In the area of groundwater, the DDS/OAS has been a decisive factor in the progress made towards identifying and describing transboundary aquifers under the UNESCO-OAS ISARM/Americas [Internationally Shared Aquifer Resource Management] Programme. Working with institutions in 24 member states, 62 transboundary aquifers have been identified. The DDS/OAS has also been instrumental in crafting

the conceptual framework for the Convention that UNESCO has proposed in the United Nations on the subject of internationally shared aquifer resource management. Under this Program, the findings of the research into the legal aspects of groundwater management in the Americas were completed and published.

With funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the preparatory work on the La Plata River Basin Project and the Amazon River Basin Project was completed. These two projects are geared toward strengthening the framework of laws and toward institutional strengthening and capacity building for integrated and sustainable management of their water resources, factoring in climate variability and change. The funding provided for the planning phases of these projects, which the GEF Council has already approved, totals US\$17 million. The Guaraní Aquifer System project successfully completed preparation of its Strategic Action Plan, which the four participating countries on the project's *Consejo Superior* approved. The project has also garnered international recognition, as one of its end products –a geo-referenced map of the aquifer- took second prize at the ESRI (Environmental Systems Research Institute) International User Conference, held in San Diego, California. Again in collaboration with UNESCO, the DDS was a co-sponsor of the South American Sub-regional Water Forum, held in Montevideo, Uruguay, in August 2007, in preparation for the World Water Forum to be held in Istanbul, Turkey, in May 2009.

In natural hazards risk management, a cooperation agreement has been signed with the United Nations ISDR (International Strategy for Disaster Reduction) for implementation of the Hyogo Framework of Action in the Americas. In Panama, work was completed on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and progress was made in preparing its Regional Plan of Action.

Consolidation of the Inter-American Network for Disaster Mitigation (INDM) continued in 2008, as 12 national focal points, two series of forums on early warnings systems and one forum on quality control in construction have been confirmed. A cooperation agreement was signed with the *Universidad del Salvador* in Argentina. The goal is to take additional measures to train and/or instruct public policymakers in risk management and development by forming a group of universities from the Americas to be part of the INDM. These universities are to have interdisciplinary undergraduate and graduate programs to train professionals to make risk or hazard management part of government development policies.

The DDS worked with the member states on Green Week and on promoting eco-efficiency in the OAS buildings. The countries have completed the database for the Andes-Amazon Protected Areas Information Network. It has also carried on the work of the Inter-American Biodiversity Network (IABIN), through which 68 grants of US\$10,000 were made to museums, universities, NGOs, and governmental agencies to digitize data on pollinators, ecosystems, protected areas, invasive species and species/specimens, all with a view to developing the first Hemisphere-wide database on biodiversity. The wildlife authorities developed the Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative (WHMSI), which has concluded seven memorandums of understanding with the major international organizations active in the conservation of migratory species. Early in 2009, four workshops will be held –in Jamaica, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, and the Bahamas- to evaluate the coastal resources, eco-efficiency, comprehensive coastal management and protection of coral reefs.

In the area of environmental law, policies, and governance, Brasilia, Brazil was the venue for the Meeting of the National Focal Points of the Inter-American Forum on Environmental Law (FIDA) and the DDS' Environmental Law Advisory Group met to discuss the work program. Policy documents have been prepared on environmental agreements and environmental law. In the area of Regional Trade Agreements, the member states received assistance in the area of trade and environment, environmental regulation and institutional strengthening. Progress has been made on the program of payment for ecosystem services. The OAS, through the DDS, and Paraguay's Environmental Law and Economics Institute (IDEA) received the prize at the World Bank's Development Marketplace 2008: Sustainable Agriculture for Development, for the innovative efforts in this area in Paraguay, under the Payment for Ecosystem Services and Sustainable Agriculture for Conservation and Development in Paraguay. The winning project, chosen from among 1,800 entries, will receive US\$200,000, which will go toward project execution.

In the Caribbean, the Department launched a series of seminars on Climate Change and Climate Variability and on the topic of Managing Climatic Risk in Small Developing Island States, under the umbrella of the Annual Forum on Small States. The Department also worked on innovative financing mechanisms for conservation, including the development of a transactions database containing information on payments for environmental services (PES) throughout the Hemisphere. It also obtained funds from the World Bank to conduct a project on emergency-related legislation that highlights transparency and good management in emergency situations.

2.4.5 Department of Trade and Tourism

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

In the area of Trade, the Department continued to provide support to the member states, particularly the smaller economies, in their efforts to cope with the challenges associated with administration of trade agreements and the inclusion of productive sectors –especially SMEs- and marginalized groups so that they reap the benefits of trade and investment as integral components of development strategies. To accomplish these objectives, the DCT conducts projects and activities in coordination and cooperation with a network of international and regional organizations, ministries, national agencies, academic institutions, and NGOs in the Americas.

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; thus far, some 130 students have participated. The Section coordinated a regional meeting on “Aid for Trade” in the Caribbean to set priorities and establish a plan of action that will use the available resources of regional and multilateral institutions to good effect.

The program to share information, practices, and lessons learned in the administration of the sanitary and phytosanitary system was launched with the countries of the Caribbean. This program determined the priority issues that study groups –composed of Caribbean officials– would examine in Chile in the areas of: border inspection systems, laboratory practices and systems through which the authorities in animal, plant and food health and safety collaborate. An institutional strengthening program was conducted in Haiti, on key trade-related issues. The program featured specialized workshops –given in French- on the multilateral trade system, regional issues, and national priorities

with respect to market access and agriculture, services, intellectual property rights, investment, and conflict resolution. For the eleventh consecutive year, the Department partnered with the WTO and the George Washington University School of Law to offer the advanced course on trade for Latin America, with the support of the Government of Spain. Thus far, over 500 public officials from the region have received training under this program.

Under the CAFTA-DR agreement, the Section answered requests for training and institution-building from the Central American countries and the Dominican Republic. The Program on Successful Practices in the Administration of Trade and Integration Agreements in the Americas also continued, which allowed the countries to share administrative practices and lessons learned in the areas of services, intellectual property, and settlement of investor-State disputes.

As part of the strategies to improve competitiveness, the DCT responded to requests from the countries, with emphasis on measures to build capacities to take advantage of the opportunities afforded by broader markets and investment inflows stemming from the trade agreements and integration processes that draw the member states closer and closer together. The investment procedures simplification program was expanded in the countries of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and Haiti. This included publication of an internet page to promote facilitation of investment procedures in the OECS countries. The DCT also organized a Forum on exports of services in the Caribbean under the CARIFORUM-EC (EPA) Economic Partnership Agreement. A project was launched in collaboration with institutions in the private sector, aimed at identifying and exploiting local products with high intangible value and the potential to increase export revenues in the Caribbean by devising and implementing business strategies related to intellectual property. Assistance was provided to a number of Latin American countries to facilitate the SMEs' participation in productive chains that generate exports to international markets. Efforts also continued to forge public-private partnerships in Latin America and the Caribbean to take on the challenges of the global economic environment, while also creating jobs and improving productivity.

The private sector plays a key role in generating jobs and creating prosperity. Accordingly, the General Secretariat is encouraging links with that sector by organizing the OAS Private Sector Forums, which take place prior to the sessions of the General Assembly and the Summits of the Americas. In 2008, the DCT joined with business leaders from the Hemisphere and the Government of Colombia to hold the Fourth Private Sector Forum on the topic "Good Governance for Development and Competitiveness in the Americas: the Role of Public-Private Partnerships," in Medellin, Colombia. The Forum's recommendations were conveyed to the governments of the OAS member states during the dialogue of heads of delegation to the General Assembly and the OAS Secretary General, with representatives from the private sector.

In 2008, the Tourism Section pursued its mission of building up the individual and institutional capacities of small tourism businesses. Efforts continued in connection with the "Multi-Hazard Contingency Planning Manual" in conjunction with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA), the Caribbean Hotel Association (CHA), and the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO).

Small tourism businesses continued 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. The Section also continued to expand and update the virtual resource center for small tourism businesses.

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, implementation got underway of the Cooperation Agreement concluded with the Association of International Business through Arts & Culture (IBAC) to promote cultural tourism. Efforts also continued to identify partners and measures that will diversify and expand the impact of the products and activities offered by the tourism section of the DCT by drafting cooperation agreements between the OAS and other entities active in this sector, one that is so strategic to many countries in the region.

Additional consultations and analyses were conducted in 2008 to examine the needs of the tourism sector in Haiti. The result was the launch of a program about public attitudes and awareness, and designed to make the Haitian public more aware of the socioeconomic benefits of tourism.

Since 1995, the Foreign Trade Information System (SICE) has been one of the principal sources of information on trade in the Western Hemisphere. The purpose of SICE is to compile and disseminate information on trade and economic integration at the SICE Website (www.sice.oas.org), which has become an invaluable tool for government officials charged with formulating trade policy, trade negotiators, entrepreneurs and researchers, among others, because the data it provides are relevant, reliable, and current.

SICE provides information in the OAS' four official languages. The website features, *inter alia*, the text of more than 80 trade agreements concluded by member states of the OAS. Information on the following trade-related issues is also available at the site: bilateral investment agreements signed by member countries; news on trade negotiations; antidumping; competition policy; settlement of disputes; e-trade; intellectual property rights, investment; services; technical barriers to trade, and trade and gender.

In 2008, the SICE website had over 3,000,000 hits, which is more than 7,700 hits a day. SICE currently has over 20,000 documents available online, free of charge.

In 2008, new sections and tools continued to be added, expanding the sections on regional integration arrangements. Work began on a new section devoted to trade and employment.

2.4.6 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 Academic and Technical Studies Scholarship Selection Committee (ATSSSC), the Leo S. Rowe Pan American Fund, and the Educational Portal of the Americas.

The OAS Scholarships Program for Academic Studies^{1/} awards scholarships for undergraduate and graduate study to be as equitable and broad-based as possible. The scholarships are given to pursue studies in recognized educational institutions in the Hemisphere, at a reasonable cost to the OAS. To

1. The itemization of scholarships awarded for graduate and undergraduate studies and for professional development appears as an annex to this report.

achieve this objective, over the course of three academic cycles the DHD succeeded in: (a) expanding the Consortium of Universities (77 academic institutions in 16 member states thus far); (b) directly placing the scholarship recipients (69 in 2007-08 and 152 in 2008-09, and (c) expanding cooperation with the member states in the area of higher education (in 2008 three agreements were signed for graduate studies co-sponsored by governments or institutions).

The scholarship recipients selected for the 2008-09 academic year were announced in January 2008; 304 were selected to receive a scholarship (279 for graduate studies and 25 for undergraduate studies). As of December 15, 2008, factoring in the fellowships either cancelled or declined, the DHD/OAS had processed and signed 246 scholarship contracts for the 2008-09 academic year. Negotiation of the placement of another 17 recipients was still underway. The cost of the direct benefits to the scholarship recipients for 2008-09, figured as of December 2008 and to be paid in three (3) budgetary periods, totaled US\$7,737,151.70. That figure breaks down as follows: US\$1,010,655.18 for scholarships going to nationals of English-speaking Caribbean states to pursue the last two years of study to complete the undergraduate degree, and US\$ 6,726,496.52 for graduate scholarships (PRA). As with every academic year, the final figures for the 2008-09 academic period will be known once the students have been placed and have signed their contracts, which should happen by the end of March 2009.

For the 2009-2010 academic year, the Academic and Technical Studies Scholarship Selection Committee (ATSSSC)²/ selected 193 people who will receive a scholarship (167 for graduate studies and 26 for undergraduate studies from an OAS member state in the English-speaking Caribbean.

For its part, the Professional Development Scholarship Program (PSDP), which offers citizens of the OAS member states opportunities to expand or update their professional experience in areas related to the OAS' priority areas, awarded 759 fellowships. The professional development courses in which the selected candidates participated were conducted in the following member states and permanent observer states: Peru, Argentina, the United States, Uruguay, Chile, Venezuela, Ecuador, Paraguay, Guatemala, Colombia, Brazil, Mexico, Trinidad and Tobago, Costa Rica, Panama, Bolivia, Spain, Switzerland and Korea. These scholarships were financed by the OAS' Professional Development Scholarship Program and the host institutions in the member states and permanent observer states. Furthermore, in 2008, the Royal Thai Government offered five full scholarships; the Institute for Advanced University Studies of the *Universidad de León* in Spain offered two full scholarships through the PSDP of the OAS for citizens of the member states.

The PSDP took the necessary measures and developed and/or reviewed the documents of the Professional Development Scholarship Program, in keeping with the Manual of Procedures adopted in 2007. Some of these measures and revisions involved clarifications on the forms for presenting course proposals and applying for professional development scholarships, increasing the number of institutions invited to submit course proposals, and an improved evaluation of the Professional Development Scholarship Program.

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2. The Academic and Technical Studies Scholarship Selection Committee (ATS Scholarship Selection Committee) is in charge of awarding the academic scholarships offered by the OAS Scholarships Program, in accordance with the Organization's rules and regulations. The ATS Scholarship Selection Committee has seven members, who are persons of recognized competence in the academic world or in hemispheric issues. They are designated by the Secretary General, based on the principle of broad regional representation.

In 2008, the Leo S. Rowe Pan American Fund celebrated its sixtieth anniversary. The Fund makes loans to persons from Latin America and the Caribbean to help finance studies and research in the United States. The Rowe Fund survived the 2008 economic crisis. In fact the number of loans that the Rowe Fund Committee awarded to students and employees was up 51% over the previous year.

In January 2008, the Rowe Fund helped stage the Washington International Education Council event, in which representatives of universities, exchange programs, embassies, international organizations, and U.S. government agencies participated. The international seminar on “Partnerships and multilateral strategies for conducting educational loan programs” was held in May. Some eleven countries of the Hemisphere and a number of international organizations participated.

In its promotional campaign, the Rowe Fund included various types of financial aid for individuals interested in pursuing studies. To that end, an article titled “A Comprehensive Approach to Financing Studies in the United States” was published in the International Student Guide. It prints approximately 20,000 copies for distribution in 17 Latin American countries. A brochure was prepared for circulation, featuring invaluable information on institutions in the Hemisphere (by country) that help finance higher studies and research abroad.

It is worth noting that the total amount of loans classified as bad loans owing to repayment failure, was down by some 56%.

The Educational Portal of the Americas is a tool for strengthening, consolidating, and expanding access to various opportunities for professional development using information and communications technologies (ICTs) and a crosscutting, interdisciplinary, and multi-sectoral approach. The base of partners both within the Organization and outside it increased. Additional partnerships were created with international organizations and member states: (a) advisory services for the United Nations Office of Professional Services (UNOPS-UNDP) for the design and implementation of an e-learning project through a virtual course on training instructors in corporate social responsibility, to instruct them in theories, research, strategies, instruments, and experiences in corporate social responsibility that are relevant to the Latin American region; (b) developing and offering a course in agro-eco-tourism titled “Basics for implementing an innovative tourism project” for the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA). Its objective is to provide participants with the basics in the theory and practice of planning, coordinating, and implementing agro-eco-tourism projects and enables the participants to cultivate a frame of reference for decision-making using the methodological tools necessary to solve problems related to the development of those businesses; (c) an agreement has been signed with the *Escuela de Administración Pública de Colombia* (ESAP) [Colombian School of Public Administration] to offer, through the EPA and its virtual classroom, a number of courses that the ESAP already has and that are being adapted for the regional reality: Upper Echelons of Government and Public Administration.

Within the Secretariat, advisory assistance and guidance have been provided to: (i) introduce a virtual tool for the Summits process, the initial pilot phase of which was launched in 2008 and will continue until the upcoming 2009 Summit in Trinidad and Tobago; (ii) implementation and maintenance of different spaces restricted to areas within the Organization.

The Educational Portal of the Americas has also launched and continues to work on other projects that will reinforce its work and impact within the Hemisphere. It offers a set of courses in partnership with other institutions in the region, disseminates relevant content via the e-journal *La Educ@ción*,

cooperates with other areas and departments of the OAS that want to use the Portal and its Virtual Classroom in joint projects, and launches and uses restricted work spaces that facilitate communication and promote and guarantee participation by all those involved in the various regional activities in these times of tightening budgets.

Meetings held under the CIDI umbrella and for which SEDI served as Secretariat

Sector	Name of Meeting or Workshop	Place	Date (2008)
IACD	Meeting of the Management Board of the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD)	Washington, D.C.	12 May 2008
IACD	Informal meeting of the Management Board of the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD)	Washington, D.C.	16 Dec 2008
Scholarships	Meeting of the Committee of the Capital Fund for the OAS Fellowship and Training Program	Washington, D.C.	17-Nov-08
CENPES	Meetings of the Nonpermanent Specialized Committees (CENPES)	Washington, D.C.	February 2008
CEPCIDI	Meetings of the CEPCIDI Working Group to prepare for the Special Technical Meeting of national authorities and experts in cooperation.	Washington, D.C.	January/December 2008
CEPCIDI	Twenty-seventh Special Meeting of CEPCIDI	Washington, D.C.	15 Dec. 2008
CEPCIDI	Special technical meeting of national authorities and experts in cooperation	Cancun, Mexico	16-17 Oct 2008
CEPCIDI	Permanent Council/CEPCIDI Joint Working Group to negotiate the Draft Declaration of Medellín: Youth and Democratic Values	Washington, D.C.	27 March - 30 May 2008
CEPCIDI	Permanent Council/CEPCIDI Joint Working Group on the Draft Social Charter of the Americas	Washington, D.C.	Jan./Dec.2008
CEPCIDI	Regular Meetings of the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CEPCIDI) (Meeting 140-148)	Washington, D.C.	Jan./Dec.2008
CEPCIDI	Meetings of the CEPCIDI Subcommittee on Policies in Partnership for Development	Washington, D.C.	Jan./Dec. 2008
CEPCIDI	Meetings of the CEPCIDI Working Group for Strengthening CIDI	Washington, D.C.	Sept-Dec. 2008
CIDI	Thirteenth regular meeting of CIDI	Washington, D.C.	14-15 May 2008
Science and Technology	Second Preparatory Meeting for the Second Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Science and Technology	Washington, D.C.	22-23 Sept. 2008

Science and Technology	Second Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Science and Technology	Mexico City, México	27-28 Oct. 2008
Science and Technology	First Preparatory Meeting for the Second Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Science and Technology	Washington, D.C.	29-30 July 2008
Science and Technology	Meeting of the Working Group of the Inter-American Committee on Science and Technology (COMCYT)	Mexico D.F.	11-12 Feb. 2008
Culture	Planning Meeting of the CIC Authorities	Washington, DC	15-16 May 2008
Culture	Preparatory Meeting for the Fourth Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities.	Toronto, Canada	18-19 Sept. 2008
Culture	Fourth Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities	Bridgetown, Barbados	20-21 Nov. 2008
Culture	Planning Meeting of the CIC Authorities	Washington, DC	28-29 Jan. 2008
Social Development	First Meetings of Ministers and High-level Authorities on Social Development	Reñaca, Chile	9-10 July 2008
Education	IX Meeting of Authorities and Executive Committee of the CIE	Washington, DC	12-13 May 2008
Education	VIII Meeting of Authorities and Executive Committee of the CIE	Washington, DC	13-14 March 2008
Education	Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Education	Quito, Ecuador	14-15 Oct. 2008
Employment	Coordination Meeting of Representatives of Workers and Dialogue with the Ministers of Foreign Affairs on the occasion of the XXXVIII regular session of the OAS General Assembly	Medellín, Colombia	1-June-08
Employment	First Meeting of the Working Groups within the framework of the XV CIMT-2008	Montevideo, Uruguay	16-17 April 08

Workshops, seminars and activities conducted by SEDI in 2008

Sector	Name of the Meeting or Workshop	Place	Date (2008)
Science and Technology	Roundtable with Civil Society in the Preparatory Framework for the Second Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Science and Technology	Washington, D.C.	28 July 2008
Science and Technology	Alliances in Business and Education” Panel at the Americas Competitiveness Forum	Atlanta, Georgia	18-19 August 2008
Science and Technology	XIV General Assembly of the Inter-American Metrology System (SIM)	San Pedro, Sula, Honduras	28 Sept. to 13 Oct. 2008

Trade	Certificate on the “Administration of intellectual property standards in trade agreements – Module on Patents and Test Data” OAS-CIDA, Ecuadoran Institute of Intellectual Property (IEPI) and MICIP	Quito, Ecuador	7-11 Jan. 2008
Trade	Seminars-Workshops on Techniques and Procedures in Antidumping Investigations, OAS/FEMCIDI	Santo Domingo, Dominican Rep.	21-24 Jan. 2008
Trade	Seminar on E-commerce and SMEs’ exports in the context of the CAFTA-DR., OAS/FEMCIDI, Secretariat of State of Industry and Trade of the Dominican Republic	Santo Domingo, Dominican Rep.	28-29 Jan. 2008
Trade	Seminars on promoting small producers’ participation in productive chains: how to take advantage of trade agreements. OAS/FEMCIDI- Deputy Minister of the SMEs of Honduras	Tegucigalpa, Honduras	18-22 Feb. 2008
Trade	Seminar-Workshop on metrology and technical barriers to trade. OAS-FEMCIDI, Secretariat of Industry and Trade of Honduras, the Honduran Council of Science and Technology, National Metrology Center of Mexico	Tegucigalpa, Honduras	20-22 Feb. 2008
Trade	Seminar and Specialized Workshop on investor/State disputes. Quito, Ecuador. OAS/FEMCIDI and UNCTAD	Quito, Ecuador	21-22 Feb. 2008
Trade	Exportation and promotion of delivery of services from abroad. OAS /FEMCIDI, Ministry of Industry and Trade of Paraguay	Asunción, Paraguay	4-5 March 2008
Trade	Forum on exports of services in the Caribbean under the CARIFORUM-EC (EPA) Economic Partnership Agreement. OAS, China, CIDA, and Shridath Ramphal Centre for International Trade Law, Policy and Services (SRC) of the University of the West Indies.	Bridgetown, Barbados	10-11 March 2008
Trade	Seminar and Specialized Workshop on investor/State disputes. OAS/FEMCIDI. Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay	Montevideo, Uruguay	12-13 March 2008
Trade	Workshops for SMEs: How to benefit by participating in productive chains and the export market. OAS/FEMCIDI, MINCETUR of Peru	Peru: Lima, Puno, Cajamarca	24-31 March 2008
Trade	Workshops for SMEs on agro-industrial exports to the United States in the context of the CAFTA-DR. OAS/FEMCIDI	Managua, Nicaragua	27-March-08

Trade	Seminar on “Opportunities for Nicaraguan SMEs in the Caribbean. OAS /FEMCIDI	Managua, Nicaragua	31-Mar-08
Trade	Impact Study-Challenges in Trade Policy for the OECS countries, OAS-CIDA	Washington D.C.	March-April 2008
Trade	OAS Private Sector Forum “Good Governance for Development and Competitiveness in the Americas: the Role of Public-Private Partnerships”	Medellín, Colombia	29-30 May 2008
Trade	Course on International Trade: Haiti’s Integration into the Multilateral and Regional System. OAS, CIDA, Bureau de Coordination et de Suivi de Haïti,	Port-au-Prince, Haiti	3-28 June 2008
Trade	Regional encounter on “Aid for Trade” in the Caribbean, OAS’ DCT and the International Center for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD Geneva)	Kingston, Jamaica	16-17 June 2008
Trade	Masters Degree Program in International Trade Program (MITP) for the Caribbean, at the University of the West Indies (UWI), OAS, UWI, CIDA and USAID	UWI, Barbados	Since 2004
Trade	Impact Study – A general view on trade and investment in services under CARIFORUM, OAS-CIDA	Washington DC	May-July 2008
Trade	OECS Investment Gateway – A Webpage to promote facilitation of investments in OECS countries. 2008. OAS, CIDA	OECS countries	2008
Trade	Advanced Course for Government Officials: A Trade Agenda for the Americas: The Doha Development Agenda and Trade Agreements in the Hemisphere. OAS, WTO, GWU Law School, Spain and CIDA	Washington D.C.	7-18 July 2008
Trade	Global Forum on International Property Rights Technical Assistance and Capacity-Building (IPRTA) OAS /IMPI/European Patents Office (EPO)	Mexico City, Mexico	9-11 July 2008
Trade	Project on Exportation of Caribbean Intellectual Property (IP): Identification of Caribbean products with high intangible value. OAS, CIDA, NGO Light Years IP, Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce (CAIC), Caribbean Export	Barbados, Jamaica, Belize, Grenada	Ag 2008- March 2009
Trade	Seminar on investment agreements and settlement of investor/State disputes, countries of the Latin American Pacific Arch (ARCO), OAS, CIDA, UNCTAD, IDB, Ministry of Trade of Colombia.	Bogotá, Colombia	10-11 Sept. 2008

Trade	Mission to Haiti, Sharing best practices in attracting and facilitating investments. Visit to CFI New York and New Jersey, OAS, CIDA.	New York	9-12 Oct. 2008
Trade	Workshop for the OECS countries on "Administration of the sanitary and phytosanitary system: the Chilean experience." OAS, CARICOM and OECS Series and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile.	Castries, St. Lucia	27-28 Oct. 2008
Trade	Meeting of experts "Competitiveness in the Americas: Latin American Agenda for public-private partnerships for job training."	San José, Costa Rica	31-Oct.-08
Trade	Third Meeting of the CAFTA-DR Trade Capacity Building Committee	Santo Domingo, Dominican Rep.	4-6 Nov. 2008
Trade	Course "Managing Investment Disputes" OAS, UNCTAD, CIDA, and the Government of Spain	San José, Costa Rica	17-26 Nov. 2008
Trade	Workshop: Sharing Experiences with Implementation and Administration of Intellectual Property Provisions in Trade Agreements, OAS/WIPO/IEPI-CIDA	Quito, Ecuador	9-12 Dec. 2008
Culture	Protecting Cultural Heritage against Sacking and Trafficking: Andean Region	Medellín, Colombia	15-18 April 2008
Culture	Ignite the Americas: Youth Arts Policy Forum	Toronto, Canada	17-21 Sept. 2008
Social Development	International Workshop for Technical Consultation on Social Development Policies in Latin America and the Caribbean	Asunción, Paraguay	4-6 June 08
Social Development	Workshop for Evaluation of the Bridge Program in the Caribbean	Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago	9-10 Sept. 08
Social Development	Meeting of High-level Authorities for Cooperation in Social Protection Strategies in the Caribbean	Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago	11-12 Sept. 08
Social Development	Meeting of the Coordinating Committee of the Social Network of Latin America and the Caribbean	Washington, D.C.	23-Oct.-08
Sustainable Development	Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Project "Building the Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network (IABIN)"	Panama City, Panama	29-31 Jan. 2008
Sustainable Development	SAICM Meeting (Strategic Approach to Chemical Management)	Panama City, Panama	11-16 Feb. 2008
Sustainable Development	Sustainability of the Soy Production Chain in Uruguay and the Region.	Montevideo, Uruguay	27-Feb.-08

Sustainable Development	Inter-American Meeting of National Authorities and Experts on Energy for Sustainable Development	Washington, D.C.	3-March-08
Sustainable Development	IABIN Workshop on Informatics in Biodiversity, focusing on Marine Affairs for the Caribbean Region	Ocho Rios, Jamaica	10-14 March 2008
Sustainable Development	Sustainability of the Soy Production Chain in the Region	Buenos Aires, Argentina	13-March-08
Sustainable Development	Course on Trade and Environment for Officials	Santo Domingo, Dominican Rep.	31 March - 4 April 2008
Sustainable Development	Inter-American Meeting of the National Focal Points of the Inter-American Forum on Environmental Law (FIDA)	Brasilia, Brazil.	7-9 May 2008
Sustainable Development	Workshop on trends in the implementation of Payments for Environmental Services (PES) in the Americas	Sao Paulo, Brazil	4-June-08
Sustainable Development	First Meeting of the Regional Coordination Committee for implementation of the Strategic Approach to Chemical Management (SAICM).	Trinidad and Tobago	11-13 June 2008
Sustainable Development	III International Workshop on Information on Natural Protected Areas in the Amazon and Andean regions.	Quito, Ecuador	12-15 May 2008
Sustainable Development	Southern Cone Regional Workshop on Sustainable Energy.	Santiago, Chile	11-July-08
Sustainable Development	Regional Events on Sustainable Energy	Nassau, Bahamas	23-24 July 2008
Sustainable Development	Course on trade and environment for government officials	Guatemala City, Guatemala	4-5 Aug. 2008
Sustainable Development	III Regional Preparatory Meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP)	Mexico City, Mexico	4-Sept.-08
Sustainable Development	Panel of Experts on Climate Change, presented to the Permanent Council	Washington, D.C.	10-Sept.-08
Sustainable Development	Inauguration of the Project on Sustainable Energy in the Caribbean	Castries, St. Lucia	9-Oct.-08
Sustainable Development	Meeting on the IABIN Vision.	Washington, D.C.	30-Oct.-08
Sustainable Development	Virtual Forum on Environmental Sustainability	Online	17-26 Nov. 2008
Sustainable Development	Conference to reflect upon and find a simple life	Washington, D.C.	25-Nov.-08

Sustainable Development	Interagency Meeting on Chemical Management	Washington, D.C.	3 Dec. 2008
Sustainable Development	6 th UNESCO/OAS ISARM Americas Coordination Workshop.	Santo Domingo, Dominican Rep.	3-6 Dec. 2008
Sustainable Development	Forum on Sustainable Energy for Central and North America	San Salvador, El Salvador.	11 Dec. 2008
Sustainable Development	Meeting to launch the project on payments for environmental services for sustainable agriculture	Asunción, Paraguay	12-Dec.-08
Sustainable Development	National workshop on dissemination of the regional evaluation of the impact of the soy production chain.	Paysandu, Uruguay.	22 Dec. 2008
Education	Distance Course in the Caribbean – First Curriculum Development Team Meeting	Barbados	23-25 Jan. 2008
Education	Distance Course in the Caribbean – Meeting on validation	Barbados	13-15 August 2008
Education	II Inter-American Summit on Conflict Resolution Education	Cleveland, Ohio	March 2008
Education	Evaluation Seminar – Democracy	Guatemala	1-3 Dec. 2008
Education	Meeting of the Executive Board	Guatemala	4-5 Dec. 2008
Education	Second Inter-American Course on Quality and non-schooling	Santiago, Chile	23-25 Jan. 2008
Education	First Planning Meeting, Second Transitions Symposium	Washington, DC	12-March-08
Education	National Meeting on Early Childhood	Guatemala City	8-12 April 2008
Education	International Preschool Education Congress	San Luis Potosi, Mexico	21-23 May 2008
Education	Second Preparatory Meeting, Transitions Symposium	Santiago, Chile	16-19 June 2008
Education	Workshop. Project on Trends in Transition Policies in Indigenous Communities	Lima, Peru	30 July - 2 Aug. 2008
Education	Workshop, Project on Communication and Advocacy Networks	Lima, Peru	4-6 August 2008
Education	Advisory Services on Early Childhood Education, Central American Integration System, CECC-SICA	San Jose, Costa Rica	21-23 Sept. 2008
Education	Eighth Meeting on Health, Nutrition, Talent and Early Childhood Education	Monterrey, Mexico	23-24 October 2008
Education	Central American Technical Advisory Teams	Guatemala City	4-6 November 2008
Education	Technical Workshop with 7 Central American Countries (FEMCIDI)	San Salvador, El Salvador	September 2008
Education	Caribbean Workshop on Data Analysis and Presentation of Reports (FEMCIDI)	Nassau, Bahamas	December 9-10 2008
Education	Regional Literacy/ Adult Education (UNESCO/OAS/INEA)	Mexico	10-13 Sept. 2008

Education	ITEN Seminar Teacher Education for the XXI Century	Trinidad and Tobago	29-31 Oct. 2008
Employment	RIAL Workshop on Social Dialogue and Social Cohesion	Montevideo, Uruguay	15 April 08
Employment	RIAL Workshop on "Employment for Youth"	Río de Janeiro, Brazil	20-21 May 08
Employment	RIAL Workshop on "Occupational Health and Safety"	Cusco, Peru	21-22 Oct. 08
Employment	Roundtable "Youth, Decent Jobs and Human Prosperity in the Americas"	Washington, D.C.	5-Nov.-08
Employment	Seminar on Youth Employment in North America	Mexico City	4-5 Dec. 08
Employment	RIAL Workshop on "Public Employment Services"	Panama City, Panama	10-11 Dec. 08

2.5 SECRETARIAT FOR MULTIDIMENSIONAL SECURITY

The Secretariat for Multidimensional Security was created in 2006 by Executive Order 05-13 Rev. 2 and is composed of the following areas: the Executive Office of the Secretary for Multidimensional Security and the Departments for the Coordination of 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 Secretary for Multidimensional Security

The Office of the Secretary for Multidimensional Security provided advisory assistance to the Secretary General on issues related to multidimensional security. It encouraged and reinforced the adoption of an integrated vision of the challenges that multidimensional security in the Hemisphere poses by performing 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 to carry out its functions, which involved assistance to the governing bodies, within the framework of the Committee on Hemispheric Security. The Executive Office orchestrated 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 six new projects approved in 2008.

It promoted activities geared to effective compliance with the directives to integrate the Inter-American Defense Board and the Inter-American Defense College as entities of the General Secretariat. It also supported the activities of their departments and offices, as mandated by the Committee on Hemispheric Security of the Permanent Council (CSH).

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

The Office of the Secretary for Multidimensional Security planned and coordinated activities associated with peace and security in the Hemisphere. Specifically, it represented and engaged in cooperation with the following institutions: the Investigations Police of Chile, the Minister of National Security of Trinidad and Tobago, the Director General of Global Issues with the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, the Defense Attaché-Advisor of Trinidad and Tobago, the President of the Inter-American Dialogue, the III Forum on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures of the Committee on Hemispheric Security, the Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies, the Minister and Chief of Staff of Institutional Security of Brazil, the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, INTERPOL and the Inter-American Peace Forum. Meetings were held with the United Nations High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, the INTERPOL representative to the United Nations, the delegation of Haitian women leaders, the Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), the Executive Director of the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee (UN-CTC), and with representatives of the World Bank and the SICA [Central American Integration System].

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

- Working meetings on violent situations in Brazil, January 11-21, 2008
- Meetings with the Office of the Attorney General of Mexico, January 30-February 4
- Training Program for Judges and Prosecutors in Mock Money-Laundering Trials, Mexico, February 11-13
- II Conference of CIFTA
- International Symposium on Security and Public Drug Policy, Brazil, February 25-27
- 51st Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, Austria, March 10-14
- Meetings on transnational organized crime, demining and support to the Inter-American Observatory on Drugs, with ministries of the interior, foreign affairs and cooperation, and the AECI, Spain, March 17
- Indicators of safety and justice in developing countries, Harvard University, USA
- Preparatory Meeting, Inter-governmental Working Group (MEM), Argentina, March 24-28
- I EU-LAC interregional city forum on public policies in drug treatment, Dominican Republic, April 2-5
- V Meeting of the Council for National Security and Law Enforcement, Trinidad and Tobago, April 3-4
- I Meeting of the American Police Community (AMERIPOL), Chile, April 25-27
- UN 3rd Biennial Meeting of States SALW, July 14-18
- Gendarmerie School, Argentina, July 28
- Executive Conference on Public Security for South America, Brazil, August 4-5
- Meetings in the Ministry of Defense and National Drug Council (CONACE), August 21-22
- II Meeting of Prison Authorities, Chile, August 26-28
- 8th Conference of Ministers of Defense of the Americas, Canada, September 2-6
- Course on Aerial Security, Argentina, September 2-6
- I Conference of Ministers of Public Security of the Americas, Mexico, October 7-8
- New Paradigms, New Solutions, organized by the Centers for Youth Integration, Mexico, October 29-31
- XXV Meeting of the Expert Group on Money Laundering, CICAD, Mexico, October 30-31, 2008
- 44th Regular Session of CICAD, Chile, November 19-21
- UN Regional Workshop on the Implementation of Security Council Resolution 1540, Brazil, November 25-26
- 30th Session of the Conference of the States Parties OPCW (Organization of Prohibition of Chemical Weapons), The Netherlands, December 2-5
- Specialized Training in the Prevention and Fight Against Money Laundering, Organized Crime and Terrorist Financing, CICTE, Brazil, December 8-11
- Meeting on Police Support for Haiti, Ministry of Defense, Chile, December 15.

In coordination with the Department of External Relations, the Executive Office of the Secretariat gave presentations to delegations visiting the OAS from Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Uruguay; the United States Department of Defense, diplomats from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Canada, the War College of Mexico, the Canadian Forces College, Colombia's War College, the Naval War College of Mexico, Porto Alegre in Brazil, the Armed Forces of the Dominican Republic, the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation, Class 48 of the Inter-American Defense College, Colombia's War College, and military from throughout the Hemisphere.

Cooperation with permanent observer countries

Through the Executive Office, the Secretary met with high-ranking officials from the governments of Spain and Russia to reinforce the cooperative ties related to the multidimensional security of the countries of the Hemisphere. It also met with the Director of the Regional Centre on Small Arms (RECSA) of Kenya, the Director for Latin America of the European Commission and the University of Oslo, Norway.

2.5.1 Department for the Coordination of Policies and Programs in Multidimensional Security

The Department for the Coordination of Policies and Programs in Multidimensional Security (DCPPSM) 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, in accordance with Executive Order 08-01 Rev. 2 of 2008. The Department Director advised the Secretary General and the Secretary for Multidimensional Security on all matters related to issues of defense and security in the Americas and coordination of the Secretariat's units on crosscutting security- and defense-related matters and the programs in hemispheric policies to strengthen security in the region.

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. This included the Third Forum on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures [AG/RES. 2270 (XXXVII-O/07)], held March 14, 2008.

Inter-American Convention on Transparency in Conventional Weapons Acquisitions

As Technical Secretariat of the Inter-American Convention on Transparency in Conventional Weapons Acquisitions, the Department planned and coordinated Convention-related meetings and prepared technical documents and reports on the issues discussed, to assist the Convention authorities. Included here was the Second Meeting of States Parties to the Inter-American Convention on Transparency in Conventional Weapons Acquisitions, held on April 14, 2008 to prepare for the First Conference of States Parties, slated for 2009.

Inter-American Defense Board

The Department maintained cooperative ties with the Inter-American Defense Board and the Inter-American Defense College 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. It conducted activities to integrate the IADB's administrative procedures with those of the General Secretariat. It also reinforced its cooperation with the IADB and the Inter-American Defense College, in furtherance of the mandates received from the General Assembly with regard to the application of confidence- and security-building measures and development of the Web-based information system for the reports presented by the member states pursuant to the resolutions of the General Assembly on the issue of hemispheric security.

Coordination of programs and projects

In coordination with the Secretary of the SMS and the Department of Planning and Follow-up, the Department coordinated the assessment of the relevance of the programs and projects that the Secretariat is to execute with specific funds, using the criteria established by the Project Evaluation Committee. It also assisted the Secretary for Multidimensional Security in coordinating the activities being carried out in compliance with mandates received from the General Assembly and those adopted at the various meetings of CICTE, CICAD and the DPS. It was particularly active in coordinating the evaluation of the Secretariat's projects funded by Spain and Canada.

Administrative Support Section

This section did an analysis of the administrative procedures used by the SMS departments and units with a view to preparing the section's plan of implementation to conform to Executive Order No. 08-01 Rev.2. This section's function is to provide financial, budgetary, data processing, logistical and human resource management services to the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security.

Technical support to programs and projects and administration of SMS resources and personnel

In consultation with the SMS departments and units, the section prepared the proposed program-budget of the Regular Fund for the SMS and projections for 2010 external resources. It coordinated the presentation of all the proposals for the Secretary General's approval. It also helped the Secretary of the SMS organize and stage various technical meetings of the SMS's departments, and to administer the resources and staff of all departments and units of the SMS.

Strengthening international cooperation

In coordination with the Secretary for Multidimensional Security, it fostered mechanisms and opportunities through which to conduct activities aimed at strengthening international cooperation to combat threats to national security and the safety and security of the citizens of the Hemisphere. It maintained close cooperative ties with international, regional, and subregional organizations such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the United Nations Office on Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Swedish Institute of International Affairs (SIPRI), INTERPOL, the Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS) and others, as well as nongovernmental organizations and the private sector in the area of security.

2.5.2 Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD)

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 08-01 Rev. 2, it has an Executive Secretariat with the rank of department.

CICAD's anti-drug program is divided into six areas of activity: Demand Reduction; Educational Research and Development; Supply Reduction and Alternative Development; Money Laundering;

Institutional Development; the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM), and the Inter-American Observatory on Drugs.

Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM)

In 2008, the MEM presented the Hemispheric Report on the Evaluation of Progress in Drug Control 2005-2006. This is the fourth edition in a series of reports that, taken together, give a regional perspective to what the member states are doing to combat drugs. The Governmental Expert Group also began to evaluate implementation of the recommendations forthcoming from the Fourth Round of the MEM. Those evaluations will be published in 2009.

Inter-American Observatory on Drugs (OID)

Culminating a number of years of fieldwork and technical assistance, the Inter-American Observatory on Drugs (OID) published the First Comparative Study on Drug Consumption and Associated Factors among the General Population (15-64 Years Old). The study focused on six South American countries (Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Peru, and Uruguay) and was prepared in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). This study, titled “Guidelines for Public Policies on Drugs in the Subregion,” will help national authorities understand the patterns of drug use in their countries from a regional and global frame of reference, and thus enable them to adopt suitable measures to control drug use. One of the epidemiological studies the OID plans to conduct will be on drug use within the university population in the Andean Community countries, with the emphasis on synthetic drugs. CICAD will do the study, with funding from the European Union, as a result of an international competitive call for proposals won by the OID.

As part of a joint project with the U.S. National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), the OID assigned 20 scholarships for graduate theses. CICAD won an international call for proposals for an epidemiological study on drug use, funded by the European Union.

Demand Reduction

To improve the quality of drug-addiction treatment and make it more readily available at the local level, the Demand Reduction Section conducted the first forum of municipal representatives from Latin America, the Caribbean (24 cities) and Europe (19) in Santo Domingo in March. This program, funded by the European Commission for the 2007-2009 period, allows CICAD to promote the development of technical standards and sharing of best practices in the treatment of drug addiction, including alternatives to incarceration for offenders with drug problems.

The Section has also made significant headway on establishing professional standards for personnel engaged in the treatment of drug addiction in Central America, especially among those who treat drug addiction in juvenile detention centers and the NGO centers. Designed and tested in El Salvador, this program was expanded to include Guatemala in 2008. Thus far, 400 therapeutic operators have been trained. Plans are to extend the project to Costa Rica, Honduras, and Nicaragua in 2009. In El Salvador, the Government has shouldered and carried on the commitment and has already started to develop the process for certifying professionals who completed the training.

Based on the work done by the Group of Experts on Demand Reduction, CICAD approved the “*CICAD Hemispheric Guidelines on Workplace Prevention*”.

Institutional Development

The new Institutional Development program, “*Salud y Vida en las Américas*” (SAVIA) can be traced to several earlier programs and is designed to develop local-level institutional capacities for drug addiction treatment and prevention, in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela, and Uruguay. Thanks to funding received from the Government of Spain, the program awards grants directly to the municipalities, for specific treatment and prevention projects.

Educational Development and Research

The Educational Development and Research Section provided technical assistance to over 50 Latin American universities to help them introduce the issue of drugs into the curricula of their schools of nursing, education, public health, and medicine. It also helped regional training programs in the area of demand reduction.

Money Laundering Control

In response to requests from the member states, the Money Laundering Control Section developed a technical assistance and best practices program to help governments manage and administer property seized and confiscated from drug traffickers and money launderers. Initially, the project was conducted jointly with the Governments of Argentina, Chile, and Uruguay, and CICAD posted a full-time project coordinator in the OAS Office in Montevideo. The Unit renewed the content of the program of mock money laundering trials, which is conducted in conjunction with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (Colombia) so as to give judges and prosecutors—with the assistance of Spanish and Chilean consultants—the opportunity to ‘prosecute’ a case of money laundering.

Supply Reduction

Synthetic drugs like methamphetamine and ecstasy pose a growing threat to the countries of the Hemisphere, because they are relatively easy to produce and at the same time particularly harmful. A training program instituted by the Supply Reduction Section in cooperation with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, helped make the countries more aware of this emerging problem and armed them with information. Law-enforcement officials, prosecutors, chemists, and other professionals who work in the area of drug control learned the special knowledge and skills set necessary to implement effective controls on production and distribution of synthetic drugs. The Section also trained another 900 law-enforcement officers in other issues of paramount importance in combating the phenomenon, such as operational and strategic intelligence in anti-drug operations; port security; unlawful distribution of internationally controlled drugs via the internet, and the management and availability of the chemicals used to manufacture illegal drugs.

Alternative, Integral, and Sustainable Development

CICAD focused on helping to establish alternative products in areas where illicit crops might otherwise be grown. The CICAD group of experts prepared a manual on best practices in strengthening associations of producers of alternative crops. Among other initiatives, a pilot project was conducted in which agricultural schools were used to do extension work with cacao farmers in Peru; scientific research was done on the potential risks to human health and the environment caused by aerial fumigation to eradicate the coca crop in Colombia.

Strengthening of CICAD and Strategic Partnerships

CICAD's work has been enriched by the wide array of partnerships it has forged with other specialized agencies, such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the European Commission, the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) (French acronym, OEDT), the Andean Community, the Permanent Central American Commission for the Eradication of the Illicit Production, Consumption and Use of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and Traffic Therein (CCP), INTERPOL, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, French Customs, the South American Financial Action Task Force (GAFISUD), and the National Institute on Drug Abuse of the United States (NIDA), among others. CICAD's civil society partners include the Business Alliance for Secure Commerce (BASC), the Lions Clubs International Foundation, the World Cocoa Foundation, Microsoft, and the Foundation for the Americas. The alliance among these civil society partners, the member states and certain municipalities has brought about a significant increase in the contributions to CICAD, both in cash and in kind.

2.5.3 Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism

In 2008, the Secretariat conducted 115 activities, training courses and technical assistance operations that benefitted more than 2,700 participants. New programs were introduced in five areas: border controls; critical infrastructure protection; legislative assistance and consultations against terrorism and terrorism financing; management of crises posed by emerging terrorism threats, and international cooperation.

Border controls

The expansion of partnerships was a major achievement under the **Aviation Security Program**. Thanks to that expansion, 363 officials were trained in the international standards of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). That training was provided through 26 courses and 8 scholarships awarded for ICAO courses. Through the United States Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and the ICAO, greater emphasis is being placed on the need for training and the need to coordinate training. New projects feature experts from Canada, Spain and Israel.

The **Maritime and Port Security Program** continues to be the Secretariat's largest and most complex program. It has partners in the private sector, as well as the United States Coast Guard; Transport Canada, and other departments of the OAS (CICAD and the CIP). Under the umbrella of three projects, the Secretariat offered training in the International Maritime Organization's International Ship and Port Facility Security Code (ISPS Code) to 1,251 officials. The following seven countries were served by the project on *Evaluating Training Needs*: Jamaica, Guyana, Bahamas, Guatemala, Honduras, Trinidad and Tobago, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Three crisis management exercises were conducted in Colombia, Peru, and Trinidad and Tobago. Preparations got underway for Chile in 2009. The Secretariat uses a method of "training trainers," the ultimate goal being a Hemisphere-wide network of experts. The new series of *Subregional Workshops on Best Practices in Port Security and the ISPS Code* was launched with the first workshop, which was held in Brazil in June for participants from the Andean countries. The second workshop was held in Guatemala in November for Central America, Mexico, and the Dominican Republic. The Secretariat is currently engaged in organizing subregional workshops to introduce and eventually implement the APEC Manual of Maritime Security Drills and Exercises for Port Facilities,

which will be instrumental in accomplishing an extraordinary goal, which is to standardize procedures in this area in 50 countries of the Americas and Asia.

Under the **Immigration and Customs Program** in 2008, the Secretariat finalized the activities planned under two Memoranda of Understanding. The Customs and Border Protection Service (CBP) of the United States conducted an evaluation and follow-up training sessions in Barbados. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) did evaluations for CICTE in Suriname and Saint Lucia, to make the border control and immigration procedures more effective. With that, the evaluations of ten Caribbean countries have been completed. The program trained 70 participants, with the additional evaluations done in Dominica and the Bahamas in 2008 by independent contractors retained by the Secretariat.

Through the *Subregional Workshops on Travel Document Security*, conducted under the **Document Security and Fraud Prevention Program**, the Secretariat promoted the ICAO's international standards on machine readable travel documents and INTERPOL's database on Stolen or Lost Travel Documents. A first workshop was conducted in El Salvador for the Central American countries, Mexico, and the Dominican Republic; a second event was held in Colombia for the Andean countries. Under the second project the Secretariat organized *two workshops on detecting fraudulent documents and recognizing imposters*, with experts from the Forensics Document Laboratory of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS/ICE). The first event was in Brazil and was for 44 federal police officers. The second was held in Mexico for 33 customs, immigration, passport, and police personnel. The purpose of the workshops was to enhance the ability to detect fraudulent travel documents and thereby improve border controls and communications between personnel staffing border points and those staffing customs. A total of 144 officers were trained under this program.

Legislative assistance and terrorism financing

The Legislative Assistance program and the program to combat terrorism financing were merged in 2008. A total of 651 prosecutors, judges, lawmakers, and police personnel were trained. In May, the Secretariat and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) co-sponsored a ministerial conference in Panama for Central America, Mexico, the Dominican Republic, Colombia, and Peru, on "International Cooperation against Terrorism and Transnational Organized Crime." The Secretariat and the UNODC also headed up two legislative technical assistance missions in Guatemala; a specialized course in legislative training for prosecutors, judges, and police officers in El Salvador, and two specialized workshops on money laundering and terrorism financing in Brazil and Argentina. In October, the Secretariat, the UNODC and the Commonwealth Secretariat jointly organized a subregional workshop for the Caribbean countries on terrorism financing, which represents an enormous contribution to advancing legislative efforts in the Caribbean.

Critical infrastructure protection

The Cyber Security Program for the 2008-2010 period made headway on implementation of the 2004 Comprehensive Inter-American Strategy to Combat Threats to Cyber Security and trained 165 individuals. With three workshops, the Secretariat completed the first training round on establishment of the Computer Security Incident Response Teams (CSIRT). The three subregional workshops were for: Central America, Mexico, and the Dominican Republic (April); the Andean countries (May); and the Caribbean countries (December). With technical assistance from the Department of Information

and Technology Services (DOITS), in January the Secretariat launched a pilot project with five countries to test an electronic CSIRT network, supported by a secure server at the OAS. The project culminated in a two-day workshop at the OAS in November, where experts from 16 countries agreed to form, use, and promote the hemispheric network of CSIRTs.

The **Tourism Security Program** entered a new phase in 2008, following the recommendations of a Meeting of Experts and approval by CICTE VIII of the program's expansion to include the rest of the hemisphere. The first contract thereafter was awarded for training in Trinidad and Tobago in 2009. Consultations were conducted in Acapulco, Cancun, and Cozumel, Mexico, in preparation to begin the training in 2009. For the first time, the Secretariat participated in the United Nations Working Group on Strengthening the Protection of Vulnerable Targets, which chose the CICTE project in Mexico as one of two venues in which to test the Group's principles for cultivating partnerships between the public and private sectors. The talks with the OAS Department of Trade and Tourism and international partners have gotten underway to develop an academic curriculum on tourism security.

International cooperation and partnerships

The Secretariat is hearing its international partners express increasing interest in delivering papers and participating as experts in conferences, which affords the Secretariat an excellent opportunity to promote international cooperation on policies and programs. The Executive Directorate of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTED) has singled out the CICTE Secretariat as the best regional model of international cooperation on the subject. It consistently seeks out this Secretariat's cooperation in the performance of its mandates, and participates in the activities that this Secretariat organizes. The Secretariat represented the OAS as an international organization at United Nations seminars and meetings related to the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, approved by the UN General Assembly in 2006 and revised in New York on September 4, 2008. Working with UNICRI, the Secretariat established a hemispheric network of National Points of Contact on Security for Major Events. INTERPOL and the ICAO regularly invited the Secretariat to participate in meetings and conferences. In September, the Secretariat chaired a session of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) on Critical Infrastructure and Security in Major Events – two areas in which the OAS and the CICTE have been leaders. The staff of the Secretariat frequently participates in the Council of Europe's meetings of the Committee of Experts on Terrorism (CODEXTER). The Secretariat was invited by the United States Southern Command to participate in the PANAMAX maritime exercise, co-organized by the Government of Panama. The scenario was a terrorism event and the exercise involved 7,000 participants and 22 countries. The Secretariat continues to increase international cooperation with other entities, including APEC, the Commonwealth Secretariat, and CARICOM.

2.5.4 Department of Public Security

The Department of Public Security provided advisory services, technical cooperation, and training activities within its Section against Transnational Organized Crime, its Public Security Policies Section, and its Office of Humanitarian Mine Action.

Section against Transnational Organized Crime

- Transnational Organized Crime

Under the umbrella of the Hemispheric Plan of Action against Transnational Organized Crime, the Department organized seminars-workshops in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras to train judges, prosecutors, and police in special investigative techniques. At the regional level, it also endeavored to promote implementation of the model law on witness protection, jointly prepared by the UNODC and the OAS. It also provided secretariat services to the Office of the Chair of the Technical Group against Transnational Organized Crime.

- Firearms

The Department partnered with the Government of Mexico to organize the Second Conference of States Parties to CIFTA, held in Mexico City February 20 and 21, 2008. At this conference, the States approved the Tlatelolco Commitment, which established concrete activities in four main areas to strengthen implementation of CIFTA at the domestic and regional levels: legislative implementation; cooperation and information sharing; technical assistance and follow-up.

Together with the Office of the President Pro Tempore, the Department organized the Ninth Meeting of the CIFTA Consultative Committee (Washington, May 9, 2008), in which the states approved model legislation on legislative measures to criminalize the illicit manufacture of and trafficking in firearms, munitions, explosives, and related materials, and model legislation on strengthening export controls.

The Technical Secretariat participated in seminars and workshops: “Armed Violence and Development” (Antigua, Guatemala, April 28-30, 2008); “Synergy Conference for Regional Organizations on the Implementation of the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons” (Brussels, May 28-30, 2008); “Third Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the U.N. Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons” (New York, July 14-18, 2008); and “Consultative Meeting on Development of Standards for Arms Control” (Geneva, Switzerland, November 24-25, 2008).

- Human Trafficking

In 2008, the Department organized thirteen training seminars targeted at government officials, civil society, and international organizations to heighten awareness of issues related to prevention and criminalization of human trafficking and protection of its victims.

At the “2008 Caribbean Anti-Trafficking in Persons Awareness Raising Seminar” (Saint Lucia, February 2008), parliamentarians and members of law enforcement from the English-speaking Caribbean were instructed in how to identify and protect victims of human trafficking. As part of the “Training Program on Prevention of Human Trafficking and Protection of Its Victims for Personnel of the United Nations Peace Forces,” the Department organized five workshops on the international codes of conduct regarding respect for human rights, gender issues, and identification of trafficking victims. Military and law-enforcement personnel about to join peacekeeping missions attended (Uruguay, March 2008; Guatemala, May 2008, with El Salvador, Honduras, and the Dominican Republic participating; Peru, June 2008, with Ecuador

and Bolivia participating; Chile, November 2008; Argentina, December 2008, with Paraguay participating).

As part of the “Human Trafficking Training Program for Consular Personnel,” the Department organized seven workshops for consular and diplomatic personnel and related government agencies, to instruct them in how to identify and assist fellow nationals who are victims of human trafficking (Bolivia, June 2008; Ecuador and Paraguay, July 2008; Nicaragua and Honduras, August 2008; Guatemala, September 2008, and the Dominican Republic, October 2008).

The Department participated in a number of events on combating human trafficking in the Americas, its achievements and challenges: Combating the Trafficking in Minors (Spain, January 2008); the Vienna Forum against Human Trafficking (Austria, February 2008); the II Police Congress on Missing Persons (Ecuador, April 2008); Empowering the Victim: Developments in Human Trafficking Seminar (Embassy of Canada, Washington, D.C.); III Annual Human Trafficking Conference (Florida, United States, May 2008); Preparatory Meeting against World Exploitation of Children (Argentina, August 2008); and Responding to Trafficking in Persons in the Americas (Catholic Relief Services, November 2008).

Public Security Policies Section

The First Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Public Security in the Americas (MISPA I) was convoked in April 2008 and held in Mexico City in October 2008. The Department prepared a regional study for the meeting, titled “Public Security: Situation and Policies in the Americas,” which was the basis of the document that the OAS Secretary General presented, titled “Public Security in the Americas: Goals and Challenges.” At the same time, the section organized meetings with academic and civil society organizations to settle upon a regional strategy aimed at lowering the current levels of crime and violence.

MISPA I approved the Policy Declaration “Commitment to Public Security in the Americas,” which focuses on five priority areas: Public Security Management; Prevention of Crime, Violence and Insecurity; Police Management; Citizen and Community Participation, and International Cooperation.

- Inter-American Police Training Program

Working with the Investigative Police of Chile [*Policía de Investigaciones de Chile*] (PDI), the Department held a course titled “Police Accountability and Modernization” (May 2008) in Santiago, Chile. The purpose of the course was to learn and share experiences with implementation of policies in “police accountability” when modernizing the forces of law and order. The course was attended by 24 participants from 17 states in the region.

- Gangs

A special meeting was held in the Committee on Hemispheric Security to examine the phenomenon of criminal gangs (AG/RES. 2299). The Department presented a study titled “Definition and Classification of Gangs,” which was to serve as the basis for developing prevention and law enforcement policies. At the request of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, a mission was sent from the General Secretariat to do a diagnostic study and make

recommendations. Out of those recommendations came a second mission. Based on this experience a program will be developed for the Caribbean countries.

- Penitentiary and Prison Systems

The Second Meeting of Officials Responsible for the Penitentiary and Prison Policies of the OAS Member States was held in Valdivia, Chile, (August 26-28, 2008 - AG/RES. 2266).

The meeting's recommendations and conclusions placed great value on the international human rights instruments applicable to persons deprived of liberty. The meeting recognized the importance of the document prepared by the IACHR, Principles and Best Practices on the Protection of Persons Deprived of Liberty in the Americas, and recommended the adoption of measures, guidelines, and policies related to: reinsertion into society, conditions of deprivation of liberty (alternatives to incarceration), oversight, transparency, and monitoring; international cooperation, health, legal aid, communication with the outside world, and training of prison staff, among others.

The Department participated in international seminars and events: Workshop on "Initiatives for Crime and Violence Prevention in Central America: Scope for inter-agency collaboration" (the World Bank and the Inter-American Coalition for the Prevention of Violence - IACPV, Washington, April 25, 2008); training workshop on reforms to the security system –SSR- (Ottawa, Canada, February 26-28), seminar on preventing risky behaviors among Ibero-American youth – XVIII Ibero-American Summit (in Mexico City, Mexico, October 16-17, 2008); and the annual meeting of the Violence Prevention Alliance (Washington D.C., December 3 and 4, 2008).

Office of Humanitarian Mine Action

The Office of Humanitarian Mine Action runs the Comprehensive Action against Antipersonnel Mines (AICMA) and assists the Governments of Colombia, Nicaragua, Ecuador, and Peru with execution and administration of their respective national plans to remove antipersonnel mines. AICMA provides specialized equipment; technical advisory services; international monitoring; assistance to survivors of antipersonnel mine accidents, and education about the dangers that mines pose to the affected communities.

In 2008, the Office in Nicaragua certified the removal of 6,317 mines, clearing more than 200,000 square meters of cultivable land. It also provided assistance with the physical and psychological rehabilitation of 495 survivors of landmines. Nicaragua completed 97% of its National Demining Plan, which it expects to finalize in 2009. In Colombia, 493 mines and explosives were moved, in keeping with the Ottawa Convention, thereby clearing 14 of the 35 mined camps under government control. In 2008, AICMA supported, for the first time, the demining of zones mined by lawless groups in the departments of Antioquia and Bolívar, where 75,037 square meters, 100 mines, and 261 planted explosive devices were cleared. Working with nongovernmental organizations, support was provided to a socio-economic reinsertion project. Some 35 survivors of mine accidents were assisted. On the border between Peru and Ecuador, 750 mines and devices were removed, clearing nine thousand square meters of dense jungle. The AICMA program also assisted 21 survivors of mines in Peru, and helped the Government of Peru craft a bill under which all survivors of antipersonnel mines in the country would be identified and assisted.

2.6 SECRETARIAT FOR ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE (SAF)

Established by Executive Order 08-01 Rev. 2 (November 26, 2008), the SAF is composed of the Executive Office of the Secretary for Administration and Finance; the Department of Budgetary and Financial Services, the Department of Human Resources; the Department of Information and Technology Services; the Department of Planning and Follow-up; the Office of Procurement Services, and the Office of General Services. Its mission is to provide leadership and guidance on administrative support activities of the General Secretariat (GS/OAS), in accordance with established principles of professional management. This includes budgetary and financial management of all activities and accounts of the GS/OAS; advisory services on management and preparation of reports on the design and execution of programs; management of the GS/OAS facilities; procurement and contracting of goods and services and the information services structure of the General Secretariat, program planning and operational follow-up, general services management, procurement, and contracting of goods and service, and personnel management.

Office of the Secretary

During this reporting period, the Office of the Secretary continued support to the Organization's governing 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 Secretary also coordinated with the various areas of the General Secretariat to assist them with their programs' administrative and financial affairs, spearheading 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. It is also responsive to the recommendations made by the OAS' Board of External Auditors.

2.6.1 Department of Budgetary and Financial Services (DSPF)

In 2008, the DSPF pursued efforts to achieve its medium- and long-term goals: 1) improving the quality, utility, and transparency of financial reporting; 2) providing client-tailored financial services, and 3) motivating Department staff by creating synergies and encouraging in-house innovation.

The following are among the important steps taken by the DSPF in 2008:

- a) Cementing the new indirect cost recovery policy (ICR) and other administrative affairs through the CAM

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 in 2008.
- Improved communication with the secretariats regarding financial management of projects.
- Greater combined effort among the secretariats with respect to the collection and use of ICR.
- Better teamwork among the secretariats with respect to administrative issues of mutual interest.

b) Financial Portal on OASCONNECT

The preliminary launch of the DSPF's Financial Portal was in 2007. Since then it has become an invaluable tool for relaying information to various users about the activities, services, and financial reports that the Department issues. This is a user-friendly way of making financial information available to clients immediately.

c) Financial Handbook for Electoral Observation Missions

The financial handbook for electoral observation missions spells out the functions and responsibilities of the financial officers detailed to electoral observation missions. This will lower the cost of processing financial information and enable the activity to function smoothly.

The Financial Handbook for electoral observation missions 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) provided to the functional areas and donors. An SLA spells out the parties' mutual understanding as to the services level expected of them, their responsibilities and guarantee of financial compliance in terms of project delivery. A systematic and streamlined approach will enable the GS/OAS to focus more heavily on measuring results, performance, and risk, and spend less of its energy on the day-to-day handling of routine transactions.

GS/OAS budgetary performance

- Important developments transpired in 2008 in the budgetary area.
- In 2008, the Proposed Program-Budget 2008 presented had a ceiling of US\$90.125 million, which included statutory salary adjustments and increases in the General Secretariat's operating expenses attributable to loss of purchasing power. In real terms, this budgetary ceiling is the equivalent of the ceiling of US\$87.5 million that the General Assembly set in resolution AG/RES. 2353 (XXXVII-O/07).
- In furtherance of resolution AG/RES. 2437 (XXXVIII-O/08), a special session of the General Assembly was convoked in 2008 to discuss the ceiling for the 2009 Program-Budget and its financing.
- At its thirty-sixth special session, held on September 30, 2008, the General Assembly approved the plan for financing the program-budget for fiscal period January-December 2009, at a total of US\$90.125 million. The Secretary General's proposal included a proposed 3% increase in the

member states' quota assessments, which in practical terms amounted to an increase of just US\$1.1 million over the level approved for the previous fiscal period. Resolution AG/RES. 1 (XXXVI – E/08) approved the 3% increase in quota assessments and authorized the General Secretariat to use US\$6.8 million in existing resources in the Reserve Subfund to round out the financing of the 2009 program-budget.

2.6.2 Department of Human Resources (DHR)

In 2008, the DHR continued the transformation and modernization effort. The objectives were as follows: 1) implement new contracting mechanisms; 2) modernize the Staff Rules; 3) integrate the main human resources procedures into the OASES system; 4) create new human resources instruments, and 5) instill a culture of responsibility.

The following were among the most substantial gains made:

a) Implementation of new contracting mechanisms

To expedite and standardize the procedures for contracting personnel, a proposal was prepared for simplifying the contracting mechanisms, which will result in the following:

- Proper contracting of human resources;
- A complete and reliable record of all staff members working for GS/OAS;
- A standard contracting procedure for all mechanisms;
- Less administrative workload; more efficient use of resources;
- Payment of benefits to local staff according to international standards.

b) Amendment of the General Standards and Staff Rules

To answer the Organization's current needs, the DHR partnered with the Department of Legal Services to prepare various proposed changes to the General Standards and the Staff Rules on the subject of (i) personnel contracting mechanisms; (ii) classification of posts; (iii) appeals, and (iv) performance evaluation. The purpose of these proposals is more efficient management of human resources within the Organization.

c) Integrating Human Resources' principal procedures into the OASES system

- Active participation in the SAF's Modernization and Transformation Project (STAMP). Following up on the February 2008 creation of the organizational hierarchy within the OASES system, the STAMP team launched an effort to also implement a tool with which to control positions within the system. These efforts, combined with future projects, will give the department a more complete and computerized system for tracking positions in order to better plan and budget resources.
- Handbooks of Procedures. Continuing the effort to standardize and improve procedures, 30 procedural handbooks were prepared on issues related to management of human resources in the General Secretariat (GS) for the DHR's internal use. This gives staff of the DHR a standard guidebook for their daily work and to serve the staff more efficiently.

d) New human resources instruments were created and existing instruments strengthened

- Automation of visa procedures. In early 2008, a new electronic visa system was introduced, which reduced the time spent processing G-4 visas by 50%.
- Performance Evaluation System. During this reporting period, the new Performance Evaluation System continued to be implemented. An agreement was reached with the Staff Committee as to how the process would operate. The DHR partnered with the Department of Legal Affairs (DLA) to incorporate the system into the staff rules in order to give it greater effect and administrative backing.
- Review of staff job descriptions. An outside post classification specialist and expert in the United Nations classification standards and norms reviewed 49 posts within the GS/OAS. As a result, 33 posts were reclassified and 16 remained at the same level.
- Internal Communication. The section on the Intranet devoted to human resources was built up during 2008, to feature sections on specific benefits and visa information, thus putting that information within easy reach of staff members. Furthermore, events organized by the various departments of GS/OAS were publicized on the Intranet, thus giving them greater visibility and encouraging staff involvement.
- Internship Program. The number of participants was up 19% over the previous year. The “Model Permanent Council” program (MOAS/PC) became a permanent fixture of the Internship Program in 2008, and an electronic informative package was created to welcome the interns. Starting in July a policy was instituted to limit the number of interns per area to 10% of an area’s staff, the end goal being to select the most qualified candidates and maximize their contribution to the Organization.

e) To instill a culture of responsibility and to recognize staff, the following activities were conducted in 2008:

- Training. 23 staff members from different areas of the Secretariat participated in a pilot course that seeks to build management and leadership skills and is targeted at directors of the Organization.
- Recognition of Staff. At the Staff Awards Ceremony, staff members were recognized for years of service, for retirement in 2007, and for outstanding performance. The Staff Association awarded the Leo S. Rowe and Terry Woods Prizes.
- Following up on the Staff Awards and the pilot course in management and leadership skills, a series of breakfasts were held between staff and the Secretary General, where staff members had an opportunity to present their own suggestions on ways to improve the General Secretariat, thereby opening up a channel of communication between staff and the Secretary General.
- Vigilant staff protection. The Health Unit continued its mission of promoting health and preventing illness in the General Secretariat by waging the following programs: the flu vaccination campaign, allergy shots, cancer prevention programs, and the Health Fair. The

latter offered a variety of medical services and was attended by active and retired staff members, members of the missions and delegations, and family members. Participation was up 15% over the previous year.

2.6.3 Department of Information and Technology Services (DOITS)

DOITS major accomplishments in 2008

- Rationalization, updating, and technological modernization of all the Organization's data processing and communications infrastructure, from the physical consolidation of servers and databases, the technological upgrade of OASES, development of 12 new applications, to implementation of a new voice mail system.
- Consolidation and implementation of the Hemispheric Information Exchange Network for Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters and Extradition, which this Department administers, monitors, and supports. The project has funding from the Spanish Fund and has been developed jointly with the OAS' Secretariat for Legal Affairs.
- Analysis, design, and implementation of the first phase of the Information System for handling individual cases filed with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, following the directives received from the General Assembly at the session held in Panama. This project receives funding from the Spanish Fund and is being conducted jointly with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.
- The Organization's first multimedia meeting room has been put into operation, with multitasking capabilities that include the use of a variety of technologies for videoconferencing. Various areas of the Organization are using this meeting room.
- Creation of the Data Processing Security Section in response to the growing need to be increasingly more proactive given the increase in cyber crime at the global level.
- Creation of a Software Quality Assurance Section in response to the Organization's increasing and sustained demand in the area of advancements in data processing.
- In conjunction with the Organization's Department of Conferences, development of a new system for administration/monitoring and management of the meetings held in the Simón Bolívar Meeting Room, in an attempt to implement the "paperless" concept that relies on the use of new information technologies.

2.6.4 Department of Planning and Follow-up

The Department of Planning, Control and Evaluation was created by Executive Order 05-15, and incorporated into the new organizational structure established by Executive Order 05-13, to coordinate the planning, control, and evaluation of the General Secretariat and the Secretariats, departments, and offices, to develop and administer the instruments that allow for smooth

management of those processes and procedures, and manage the program and budgetary control in coordination with the SAF.

In December 2008, the Department—which by then had been renamed the Department of Planning and Follow-up—was incorporated into the SAF. It currently has two sections: Project Management Support and Planning and Follow-up Support.

In response to repeated mandates from the General Assembly calling for evaluation and performance checks, the Department is helping set up proper planning, control, and evaluation systems that enable the member states to follow programming and budgetary control and to develop a program and project evaluation framework that is responsive to the mandates established by the governing bodies and that exploits the Organization's comparative advantages.

Recommendations have also been forthcoming from the Board of External Auditors and other institutions associated with the inter-American system.

Activities conducted in 2008

The chief activities have been to: a) serve as technical secretariat of the Project Evaluation Committee; b) provide assistance to all areas of the General Secretariat with project formulation and follow-up; c) develop tools with which to monitor and evaluate projects; d) provide assistance for formulating the 2009 program-budget and the plan of operations for 2010; e) assist with following up on results achieved in 2008; and f) develop a planning and operational follow-up system based on management information panels.

The Department manages the Spanish Fund of the OAS and to that end maintains permanent ties with various offices of Spain's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, by way of the Permanent Mission of Spain to the OAS. The Department has also coordinated preparation of the CIDA-OAS Plan. Accordingly, it maintains regular contact with CIDA, by way of Canada's Permanent Mission.

Approximately 10 meetings each week (500 a year) were held with professionals and technicians from the various areas of the General Secretariat to assist with project formulation and follow-up.

Approximately 150 meetings were held with professionals and technicians from the various areas of the General Secretariat to assist with preparation of the plan of operations 2010 and follow-up on the 2008 plan.

Four training workshops were conducted for General Secretariat staff on the question of project management.

Leading achievements

- a) Strengthening the General Secretariat's accountability by developing a management information panel with planning and operational follow-up modules incorporated.
- b) Gradual improvement in the quality of the projects formulated by the General Secretariat's areas.
- c) First follow-up report on projects approved by the Project Evaluation Committee.

2.6.5 Office of Procurement Services

Fixed Assets

- To modernize and integrate the GS/OAS database, the new fixed assets module was installed in OASES as a “stand-alone” and key staff in all areas of the SAF received instruction from Oracle University. The migration of historical data is slated for January 2009.
- The draft of the inventory manual was prepared according to the Budgetary and Financial Rules.
- Summary of the most important activities:

Cost of new goods	US\$957,709
New goods received and recorded in the new Oracle system	1,242
Property dropped from the database	8,021
Miscellaneous deliveries	9,440
All inventoried property (all the buildings at headquarters)	1,600
Property brought current through physical inventories and moves	4,006

Procurements Area

a) Oracle Enterprise System (OASES)

- The transactions approved were in excess of \$120 million, based on 37,600 requisitions that generated 39,377 purchase orders.
- More than 2,250 requests from the client service system were answered.
- In coordination with DHRS, OPS certified approximately 50 users on the OASES system.
- OfficeMax won the office-supplies contract at an estimated savings in excess of 10,000 a year.

b) Contracts, Insurance, and Bid Solicitations

- A total of 25 bid solicitations were conducted, and another seven for other agencies. The total amount of the bids awarded was over \$4.6 million.
- In late 2008, the “Guide to Formal Bid Solicitations and the Evaluation Procedure” was published. The guide amends the procurement rules by raising the level at which formal bid solicitations are required from contracts of \$30,000 to \$50,000.

c) Assistance to Electoral Observation Missions

- Staff of this office were sent on preliminary visits to assist the Secretariat for Political Affairs with procurements made by the electoral observation missions in a number of member states.

Travel

- The purchase of 4,149 fares was arranged through Omega Travel, for over \$4 million. Approximately 700 visas were arranged for those trips.
- In 2008, American Express became the principal financial firm through which payment of fares was processed, making for smooth transactions, better control, and another reporting and disclosure tool.

2.6.6 Office of General Services

Under Executive Order No. 08-01 Rev. 2, of November 26, 2008, the Office of General Services (SAF/OGS), “[t]hrough the secretary for administration and finance, acts as the advisory office of the General Secretariat and the political bodies on all administrative matters related to plans, policies, procedures, and standards for building management and maintenance, coordination of messenger, mail, and transportation services, and the provision of security to all staff, visitors, delegates, buildings, and archives at the General Secretariat.” The Office is also responsible for managing and supervising the lease of office space to qualified institutions, management of parking areas at its main buildings, and supplying the documents duplication systems.

In 2008, the SAF/OGS focused on maintaining the buildings and establishing the “Green Building” program for energy efficiency, water conservation, and recycling. It also implemented projects related to lease of office space in the General Secretariat Building (GSB), the physical safety and security of staff, duplication of documents, transport of mail and official documents, the fleet of vehicles, and parking areas.

Buildings Maintenance

The SAF/OGS invested \$3.467 million in maintaining the buildings, including the official residence. The work mainly involved routine maintenance, basic services, nighttime cleaning, maintenance of gardens and grounds, maintenance and repair contract services, and purchase of products, materials, and general supplies.

The SAF/OGS also made payments of \$2.050 million to amortize the mortgage on the GSB.

To better manage space, the SAF/OGS hired the services of Facility Engineers and Associates (FEA) to get a precise inventory of the space assigned to each area and each building’s cost replacement value (CRV). This contract is in its final stage of review. The SAF/OGS also retained FEA to audit and advise the General Secretariat on how to obtain certification in “Leadership in Energy Efficiency and Environmental Design”, (Green Building Certification) for the GSB. Implementation of the recommendations will save even more energy and water, and policies and programs will be introduced to reduce environmental impact by purchasing sustainable materials and improving “green” programs like recycling.

Leasing Office and Storage Spaces

The SAF/OGS collected \$1.846 million from the lease of 50,567 square feet of office space, business space, and storage areas in the GSB. The current lessees are the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO); the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF); the Albert Sabin Institute; the Development Gateway Foundation; the OAS Staff Federal Credit Union, and the National Association of Coffee Growers of Colombia (Juan Valdez café).

Security

The SAF/OGS invested \$802 thousand in security. This includes guards, maintenance, and purchase of equipment for better surveillance of the buildings.

As part of its activities, the security unit kept the Organization's staff abreast of prevention-related issues and conducted simulated emergencies. It also coordinated with the U.S. Secret Service and the D.C. Metropolitan Police for visits by Heads of State and special events.

Modernization and Maintenance of Photocopy Equipment

The SAF/OGS continued the policy of modernizing and replacing equipment, and invested \$63,000 to that end.

This policy of renewal and modernization gives the Secretariat cutting-edge technology that maximizes productivity and minimizes repair time and operating costs. The costs of servicing the photocopy machines was \$118,000, including maintenance, paper, and other supplies.

Messenger, Mail, and Transportation Section

The Messenger, Mail and Transportation Section sent out 97,000 packets, at an approximate cost of \$162,000; internally, over 300,000 pieces of mail were delivered.

The SAF/OGS invested more than \$56,000 in maintaining the fleet of vehicles. This figure includes repairs, gasoline, washing, and leasing.

Parking areas

The SAF/OGS continued to manage the parking areas, paid for by the users and at no direct cost to the General Secretariat.

The proceeds were in excess of \$693,000, which represents monthly deductions plus interest. The outlays were approximately \$747,000, leaving a deficit of \$54,000 for the period. The principal outlays were the cost of the administrative and service personnel, the leasing of additional spaces in a private lot, the study of the topography and rainwater runoff study of the Main Building (MNB)'s parking area, and improvements in general.

Efficiencies Realized

In the lease area and to increase the space available for leasing, a number of offices have been relocated and space previously used for storage and records has been converted into offices. The Security Office, for example, and the Travel Office have been moved on the fourth floor to free up more space to lease to the OAS Staff Federal Credit Union. A storage area on the second floor was converted into office space to be leased to the PADF. Other storage areas were also remodeled to increase rent revenues.

In maintaining the buildings, considerable efforts have been made to lower operating costs. At the present time, the General Secretariat's operating cost is \$9.23 per square foot, which includes maintenance contracts, utilities, gardens, night cleaning, and administrative expenses. According to national surveys, this figure is 12% below the national average.

Other policies, which include turning off the air conditioning/heating system after 6 p.m. on work days and during weekends in order to reduce energy consumption, have generated considerable savings in 2008, among them the following:

- Electric power consumption was down by some 587,000 kilowatt hours by comparison to the same period in 2007 (January-December), generating savings estimated at over \$82,000.
- Water consumption was down by over 900,000 gallons when compared to the same period in 2007 (January-December), generating an approximate savings of \$9,000.
- Between 2002 and 2008, 20% less paper was used, for a cumulative savings of some \$79,000.

2.7 SECRETARIAT FOR LEGAL AFFAIRS

The Secretariat for Legal Affairs (SLA) provides advisory support, within its areas of competence, to the General Assembly, the Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, the Permanent Council, the Meeting of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas, the General Secretariat, and other organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization. It provides advisory services concerning international law and the development and codification of inter-American law; supports the follow-up mechanisms for certain inter-American conventions; serves as a depository and source of information for inter-American treaties, and the agreements of the OAS and its organs; disseminates information on the legal instruments of the OAS and its legal programs; develops, promotes, and implements the Inter-American Program for Development of International Law and provides other services related to inter-American legal cooperation. The Secretariat for Legal Affairs is composed of the Executive Office of the Secretary and the other sections: the Department of International Law; the Department of Legal Cooperation (Technical Secretariat for Legal Cooperation Mechanisms); the Department of Special Legal Programs and the Office of the Director General of the Inter-American Children's Institute (which ranks as a department).

Executive Office of the Secretary for Legal Affairs

The Executive Office of the Secretary for Legal Affairs directs, plans, and coordinates the programs, activities, and actions in the area. Specifically, in exercise of its role of supporting the organs and forums responsible for development of inter-American law, it helped advise the General Assembly at its sessions, the meetings of the Permanent Council, the sessions of the Inter-American Juridical Committee and the Directing Council of the Inter-American Children's Institute, the Course on International Law and the Workshops, as well as the Meeting of Central Authorities and Other Experts on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters and Extradition, within the framework of the meetings of Ministers of Justice of the Americas.

In 2008, the Secretary for Legal Affairs spoke about the Organization's legal work at the following: the Seminar on "The Efficacy of the OAS: Reasons for Its Existence" (CARI, Buenos Aires); Seminar on New Paths to International Juridical Cooperation (organized by the Ministry of Justice of Brazil and held in Brasilia); and the XLIV Conference of Inter-American Bar Association (Peru). He was invited to serve as a professor in the Euro-Mediterranean Courses on International Law (Castellón, Spain) and in the workshops that the General Secretariat organizes annually (the 2008 workshop was in Campo Grande, Brazil). The Secretary for Legal Affairs also wrote an article on the OAS for the "Max Planck Encyclopedia of Public International Law," published by Oxford University Press.

The Executive Office of the Secretary for Legal Affairs directly supervises the Inter-American Program on Judicial Facilitators to Strengthen Democracy in the Americas. This program is being conducted in three countries: Nicaragua, Paraguay, and Panama, and negotiations to extend it to even more countries have gotten underway.

In Nicaragua, the Program to Support Consolidation of the National System of Judicial Facilitators (SNFJ) continued in 73 Nicaraguan municipalities. The facilitators have provided 69,163 services, including cases guided by judicial facilitators, advisory services, and legal matters handled for the public. During the year, the number of mediations exceeded 20,000. The work of this program has succeeded in lowering the level of conflict by an estimated 30% in communities/neighborhoods where facilitators exist. A national survey found that the service had had positive results; 18% of those interviewed nationwide were acquainted with the work being done by the facilitators. In coordination with the Judicial Branch of Government and in partnership with the Central American Court of Justice and the *Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Nicaragua* (the official state university), a degree program titled “Promotion of the National Judicial Facilitators Service” was instituted and graduated 350 administrators of justice.

The judicial facilitators system was introduced in Paraguay. By December 2008, Paraguay had 205 facilitators, 26% of whom were women. As of that date, the service was present in four departments (Concepción, Alto Paraguay, Guairá, and Cazaapá) in two judicial districts. An International Seminar on Access to Justice was held and attended by magistrates from Nicaraguan, Panamanian, Brazilian, and Paraguayan courts, as well as local judges and Nicaraguan facilitators, who remained in Paraguay to share their experience.

In Panama, the Secretary General of the Organization of American States signed a Partnership Agreement with the Supreme Court of Panama to establish a Judicial Facilitators Program in Panama. In November 2008, the Supreme Court approved the regulations for establishing the service. In partnership with the Program, the departments where the service will be introduced were selected and the strategy to follow to introduce the service was determined.

2.7.1 Department of International Law (DIL)

In 2008, the DIL provided services in international law to the General Assembly and to the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP) and its working groups, preparing draft resolutions, organizing special meetings and meetings of experts on such issues as the International Criminal Court, migrant workers, persons with disabilities (the Committee), 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. It also prepared final reports and provided advisory services to the delegations.

In private international law, the Office cooperated with the states in drafting three instruments related to consumer protection (a draft inter-American convention on the applicable law on consumer transactions; a draft model law on monetary restitution for the consumer, and a draft inter-American convention on jurisdiction in the matter of consumption), and three instruments related to monetary financial guarantees (inter-American registration forms, standard inter-American registry rules and electronic registry guidelines).

As Secretariat of the Inter-American Juridical Committee (CJI), the DIL provided administrative and technical support during the Committee’s two sessions. It prepared annotated agendas, helped prepare draft resolutions, edited the reports presented by the members of the CJI, prepared summary minutes, and took charge of preparation of its Annual Report. During the period the CJI was in recess, the DIL assisted the rapporteurs and carried out the mandates contained in the CJI’s resolutions.

As Technical Secretariat of the Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities, the DIL coordinated the Committee's Second Meeting, which was in Brazil, and oversaw the follow-up to the reports and other documents presented by the states parties.

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

- The II Course on International Humanitarian Law held on January 24, 2008, at OAS headquarters;
- The I Course on the Human Rights of Migrants, held at OAS headquarters on March 6, 2008;
- The XXXV Course on International Law, held from August 4 through 29, 2008, in Rio de Janeiro. The central theme of the course was "New Developments in International Law in the Americas," and
- The International Law Workshops, held in Campo Grande, Brazil, November 17 through 20, 2008.

In the area of publications, the DIL compiled, published, and circulated the following volumes:

- The Introductory Course on International Humanitarian Law, held in January 2007. The Spanish version of this volume is offered free of charge and can be consulted at the following address at the Website of the Department of International Law:
- http://www.oas.org/dil/esp/publicaciones_curso_introductorio_derecho_int_humanitario_2007_portadaampliada.htm
- The XXXIV Course on International Law, held in Rio de Janeiro, August 2007, and
- The International Law Workshops held in Managua, Nicaragua, in November 2007.

In the past year, the DIL continued to update the content, design, administration, and control of its own Web page and that of the Inter-American Juridical Committee. Its Online Bookstore now features a catalogue of 26 publications.

The DIL also serves as depository of the inter-American multilateral treaties and bilateral agreements concluded by the organs of the OAS. In 2008, the DIL participated in 12 ceremonies held to deposit instruments of ratification and accession, and 15 notifications of states of emergency. It also received a total of 20 designations of central authorities. In connection with the Dominican Republic-Central American-United States Free Trade Agreement, Costa Rica reported that it had completed the procedures for that instrument to enter into force on January 1, 2009. Certifications were prepared and up-to-date and complete information was supplied on those treaties. As for bilateral agreements, a total of 325 cooperation agreements were recorded, on a variety of issues. Their full texts are being prepared to be published in PDF format. The DIL's Web page supplies current information on the subject of inter-American treaties and bilateral cooperation agreements.

DIL attorneys participated in various forums held in this Hemisphere and in Europe and Asia, to report on the activities being carried out within the OAS and the most important issues on the Organization's juridical agenda.

2.7.2 Department of Legal Cooperation (DLC)

Meetings of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA)

Advisory and technical secretariat services were provided for preparation, follow-up, and implementation of the recommendations forthcoming from the following meetings:

- Seventh Meeting of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA), held at Organization headquarters, April 28 to 30, 2008. (See Final Report http://www.oas.org/juridico/english/meetings_of_ministers_of_justice.htm)
- Training workshops subsequent to the V Meeting of the Group of Experts on Cyber Crime: Regional Workshop for the Caribbean States, held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, on May 13 to 15, 2008. Regional Workshop for the Latin American States, held in Bogotá, Colombia, September 3 – 5, 2008. (http://www.oas.org/juridico/spanish/cybersp_talleres_tec.htm)

The Hemispheric Information Exchange Network for Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters and Extradition (for public and private law and as a secure communications system) continues to grow and can be visited at: <http://www.oas.org/juridico/mla/en/index.html>

Cooperation within the framework of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption and its follow-up mechanism (MESICIC)

The DLC 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 organs, successfully held its Thirteenth Regular Meeting at OAS headquarters, June 18 to 27, 2008. At this meeting, six reports were adopted corresponding to the fourth group of countries examined during the Second Round of Analysis (Canada, United States, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Guatemala).

The Committee of Experts held its Fourteenth Regular Meeting at OAS headquarters, December 3 through 12, 2008. During this meeting, the reports were adopted on the fifth group of states analyzed (Grenada, Suriname, Brazil, and Belize), and the Hemispheric Report corresponding to the Second Round of Analysis. These reports are published online at the Department of Legal Cooperation's website, at the following address: http://www.oas.org/juridico/english/mesicic_II_rep.htm

At that meeting the Committee also adopted all the decisions necessary to begin the Third Round of Analysis. Those decisions are available at: http://www.oas.org/juridico/english/mesicic_com_experts.htm

The Department of Legal Cooperation continued its assistance to the program for development of national plans of action to implement the recommendations of the MESICIC Committee of Experts in the Mechanism's member states, thanks to financial support received from the governments of the

United States, Canada, and Spain. Workshops were held in Honduras (January 31 and February 1, 2008), Peru (February 14 and 15, 2008), Ecuador (May 6 and 7, 2008), and Uruguay (May 15 and 16, 2008), to focus on defining the respective national plans of action. There are similar projects, in varying stages of development, for El Salvador, Panama, the Dominican Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Belize, Costa Rica, Suriname, Jamaica, the Bahamas, and Guatemala. An initiative has been prepared and financing obtained to support the Convention's implementation in the Eastern Caribbean countries.

The Anti-Corruption Portal of the Americas contains information on developments in this area, both within the OAS and in each member state. The site can be visited at:
<http://www.oas.org/juridico/english/FightCur.html>

The DLC continues to work in close cooperation with other international institutions like the United Nations, the Council of Europe, and the OECD, as well as subregional bodies.

2.7.3 Department of Special Legal Programs

This Department is in the start-up process. Hence, internally its activities are being performed by other departments of the SLA. The Executive Office of the Secretary is provisionally supervising the Technical Secretariat for the "Program of Action for the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities," and the creation of a network of authorities on the subject of consumer protection.

2.7.4 Office of the Director General of the Inter-American Children's Institute (*with the rank of Department*)

Under the Statute of the IIN, the Office of the Director General provides administrative services to the Pan American Child Congress and the Directing Council and assists with fulfillment of its resolutions. It must also execute the Institute's Strategic Plan and Program. The activities conducted by this Specialized Agency are described in the corresponding chapter of this report.

2.8 SECRETARIAT FOR EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Created in 2008, the mission of the Secretariat for External Relations (SRE) is to disseminate the role of the Organization as the institution for promoting democratic governance, sustainable development, multidimensional security, and respect for human rights in the Hemisphere; and to contribute to the strengthening of the Organization's institutional image. To perform these functions, it is divided into three departments: International Affairs, Communications and Institutional Image and Cultural Affairs.

2.8.1 Department of International Affairs (DIA)

In 2008, the Department of International Affairs focused on promoting the OAS' institutional relationships with the member states, permanent observers, the institutions of the inter-American and global systems, civil society, and the host country; it also focused on developing programs to disseminate the work of the OAS, such as the Lecture Series of the Americas, the roundtables on OAS policies, the Model OAS General Assembly program, and the briefings program.

Permanent Observers

The DIA handles activities associated with the permanent observers. Through informative meetings, project presentations, promotion of special events, and an exchange of notes, documents, and information, the DAI enables the permanent observers to play an active role in the General Secretariat's activities and cooperation programs.

In 2008, the DIA submitted to the Permanent Council the applications filed by Benin, Iceland, and Vanuatu to be granted permanent observer status to the OAS. At the present time there are 63 permanent observers: Algeria, Angola, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Benin, 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, Iceland, 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, Vanuatu, and Yemen.

In 2008, the permanent observers made sizeable contributions—monetary and in kind—to the Organization, totaling US\$25.8 million (25% more than the previous year). The DAI and the technical areas of the Organization negotiated a considerable portion of those contributions (see annex D). Similarly, the DIA coordinated various meetings, events, and ceremonies at which the representatives of the permanent observers formalized their contributions to various programs that the OAS has underway.

The areas that benefited most by the monetary contributions made in 2008 were: the Secretariat for Political Affairs (33.98%), the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (14.18%), the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security (10.41%), the Secretariat for Legal Affairs (10.21%), and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (8.64%). For their part, the Inter-American Court

of Human Rights, the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), the Justice Studies Center of the Americas (JSCA) and other organizations, entities, and offices of the Organization were the beneficiaries of contributions that helped strengthen their programs within the region (see annex D).

In this reporting period, the Department coordinated the Secretary General's visits to some of the permanent observer countries that are major contributors, among them Spain and France, where he met with the high-ranking authorities who steer foreign policy and guide international cooperation.

The DIA also visited the foreign ministries of the permanent observers to promote the OAS' priority programs, to report progress with its initiatives and to share information on matters of common concern. Prominent here were the visits to France, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Sweden, and Switzerland. Meetings were held with the directors of the Latin American and Caribbean desks in the foreign ministries, directors of cooperation agencies or their executives in charge of Latin American and Caribbean relations. This effort has served to cement relations with the permanent observer countries and has materialized in the form of significant support for the programs and projects that the Organization executes.

Lastly, various dignitaries paid visits to OAS headquarters in 2008: ministers, directors for the Americas with the foreign ministries, officials from the ministries of cooperation and development, and other government representatives of permanent observer states.

The positive outcome of the exchanges conducted was evident by the fact that Germany's contribution to the OAS' cooperation programs significantly increased and the contributions made by Austria, Luxemburg, Italy, and the United Kingdom were double what they had been in 2007; the contributions made by Denmark, Spain, Sweden, and the European Union rose significantly, and cooperative relations with China, Korea, France, and Norway were strengthened.

Civil society in the OAS' activities

To strengthen relations with civil society and heighten its participation in OAS activities, the DAI embarked upon a review of the institutional strategy for relations with these organizations. It did this by conducting a study of the present situation and sharing with representatives of civil society, the OAS' technical areas, and the member states. Out of all this will come a new institutional strategy which the Committee on Inter-American Summits Management and Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities (CISC) is to approve in 2009. Partnership projects were developed to raise funds for civil society's involvement; funding was raised for two projects: one from CIDA Canada, and the other from the United States.

During this reporting period, the Department provided technical support to six CISC meetings by preparing reports, updates, and analyses and by submitting applications filed by 23 civil society organizations to register for participation in OAS activities, taking into account the "Guidelines for the Participation of Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities."

It was the DIA's job to submit to the Permanent Council, the requests that nongovernmental organizations filed to participate in the thirty-ninth regular session of the OAS General Assembly. At that session of the Assembly, the DIA organized two dialogues—one of them informal—between representatives of more than 180 civil society organizations, the Secretary General, and the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the member states. On both occasions, the civil society organizations presented

their recommendations in connection with the main theme of that session of the Assembly and exchanged views on the main issues on the hemispheric agenda.

The DIA also supported civil society's participation in the ministerial and specialized conferences held under the umbrella of the Permanent Council and the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI). Civil society played a particularly prominent role in the following meetings: meetings of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs on the subjects of Strengthening the Inter-American System for the Protection of Human Rights, and in the Second Meeting of the Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disability, the First Meeting of Ministers for Public Security in the Americas, and the Civil Society Roundtable held during the Second Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Science and Technology, among others.

As for the Fifth Summit of the Americas, the DIA, working in cooperation with the Summits of the Americas Secretariat, designed and implemented a strategy of consultations with civil society. Five forums were planned. As of this writing, two (of three) subregional forums had been held in 2008 in the Caribbean and Central America (including Mexico and the Dominican Republic). Preparations were also made for the Hemisphere Forum and the forum that will be the basis of the Dialogue with the Plenipotentiaries of the Member States at the Fifth Summit of the Americas.

The first of these forums was for civil society in the Caribbean and was held in Trinidad and Tobago on October 30 and 31, 2008. In attendance were more than 180 representatives from over 20 member states of the OAS, including the 14 English-speaking countries of the Caribbean. The second subregional forum, held in El Salvador on December 8 and 9, 2008, was attended by more than 80 representatives of civil society organizations.

These forums were intended to stimulate dialogue among civil society organizations about the issues raised in the Draft Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain, presented by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, and to compile recommendations that will be presented to the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG) for discussion during its negotiations.

Lastly, the Web page has been kept up to date with current information on the various forums, ministerials, the Registry of 259 civil society organizations, and participation in topical meetings held by networks of NGOs.

Host Country Relations

In 2008, DIA coordinated institutional outreach with the US Congress and the Host City as well as tracked the US presidential and congressional elections in order to foster Inter-American relations and support for OAS work. The Secretary General and Assistant Secretary General held productive one-on-one meetings with members of the United States Congress. The Secretary General sent letters of support for Andean trade initiatives to Congressional leaders and made a formal presentation on Andean issues to the US House of Representatives Western Hemisphere Subcommittee. The Assistant Secretary General held a special meeting on Haiti with a number of interested Members of Congress. Deeper relations with key Congressional staff were established with a resulting increase in staff participation in OAS events. OAS activities were widely publicized through communications sent to more than 150 key Congressional staffers.

A strategy document was prepared to guide OAS work with US Congress and up dates were produced analyzing legislative issues with pertinent information concerning members of Congress and their interests in the region.

Reports were prepared on the US elections and their implications for the OAS. Ambassador's breakfast meetings were held for discussion of reports on hemispheric relations from the Brookings Institution and the Council on Foreign Relations. Strategic planning for how to upgrade the Historic OAS headquarters complex was also undertaken and contacts established with local authorities.

In 2008, a total of 108 briefings were given by the Department's staff, OAS technical specialists and Ambassadors from the Member States with over 3,327 high level professionals from the US and the region, university students, military academies, high school student and elementary school students from the Hemisphere participating. They were educated through this briefing program on the work of the OAS and the hemispheric priorities.

D. Institutional Relations

Outreach of the OAS with counterpart institutions was strengthened in order to promote knowledge of the OAS as the principal regional political forum in the Americas and to open opportunities for institutional collaboration.

During the year 2008 the Institutional Relations work included the preparation of background material on various OAS partner institutions for the purpose of meetings between OAS officials and officials of the organizations in the list below.

- a) Commonwealth Secretariat
- b) Association of Caribbean States
- c) Council of Europe
- d) Inter-American Development Bank
- e) UNICEF
- f) EU- LAC Summit
- g) United Nations
- h) U.N. Millennium Development Goals
- i) Status of the WTO Doha Development Round
- j) International Labor Organization
- k) International Society of the Red Cross and Red Crescent
- l) African Union

A meeting with ten partner institutional Heads of External Relations in Washington DC was held on October 22nd, 2008, at the main OAS building, including representative from the World Bank, ECLAC, PAHO, the ILO, the Red Cross, the IOM, the United Nations, the IMF, the UNDP and the World Food Program. The purpose was to discuss major issues in the hemispheric agenda as well as ongoing and future collaboration between the OAS and main partner institutions.

Several meetings were held with institutional counterparts during the course of the year, including with representatives of the ILO, the IADB, The World Bank, UNICEF, the Red Cross, ECLAC and the African Union. These discussions included representatives of the relevant departments within the

OAS and the relevant partner institution. Information was exchanged as a result of these programmatic exchanges and cooperation strengthened.

The OAS was present at the annual meetings of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, United Nations/ ECOSOC Special Meeting on the Food Crisis, Inter-American Development Bank, The World Bank and PAHO, and the CAF Annual Conference.

In coordination with the Office of the ASG and the OAS Internal Task Force on collaboration with the African Union, the Department drafted the Annual Report of the Secretary General on the OAS Collaboration with the African Union, in fulfillment of AG/RES. 2419 (XXXVIII-O/08). The DIA also revised the outstanding proposed Memorandum of Understanding between the GS/OAS and the Commission of the African Union and coordinated the contributions and comments of the various parts of the OAS to this draft MOU.

Together with the Secretariat for Political Affairs, the DIA initiated work on preparations for the “Consultations on the EU’s role in Democracy Building”, undertaken by the IDEA Project (International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance). The consultations conference for the Latin American region will be held during the spring of 2009.

A Database of Cooperation Agreements signed between the OAS and other institutions since the beginning of the OAS (1949 – July 2008) was prepared. This Database is in the process of improvement and expansion.

Lecture Series of the Americas

In 2008, six events in the Lecture Series of the Americas were conducted, featuring prestigious speakers. The issues that these Lectures discussed were good governance, immigration, protection of the rights of indigenous peoples, the food crisis, energy sustainability, and the energy crisis. The speakers were, respectively: Eduardo Stein, former Vice President of Guatemala; Bill Richardson, Governor of New Mexico; James Anaya, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Situation of the Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Indigenous Peoples; the James J. Lenoir Professor of Human Rights Law and Policy at the University of Arizona’s James E. Rogers College of Law; Josette Sheeran, Executive Director of the United Nations World Food Programme; Roberto Rodrigues, former Minister of Agriculture of Brazil and Co-Chair of the Inter-American Ethanol Commission, and Robert Zoellick, President of the World Bank.

The Lectures were carried by live or delayed broadcasts on EDUSAT, Venevisión, the Voice of the Americas, and HITN, among others. In 2008, considerable effort was invested into better publicizing the Series; an extensive database of universities in the Hemisphere was created and more than 350 letters went out to 121 universities in North America, 47 in Central America and the Caribbean, and 189 in South America, all providing information about the program. The program was also publicized in the member states through the national offices, radio and television, and the ministries of education and culture of the region.

With the support of the Universidad San Martín de Porres (USMP), the Second Book of the Lecture Series of the Americas was published: *Consolidando la Democracia*. It contains the papers presented in the second phase of the Lecture Series, conducted in the period from March 2006 to July 2007. These books were sent to the permanent missions and to the national offices.

The Lecture Series continued to enjoy the support of the *Universidad de San Martín de Porres* in 2008, as the agreement between the General Secretariat and the USMP was extended for another 12 months (until January 2009). The USMP pledged a contribution of US\$180,000 for 2008. The Government of Spain contributed US\$13,792, used to conduct the Lecture Series on the issue of indigenous peoples' rights.

OAS Policy Roundtables

Five Policy Roundtables were conducted, dealing with the challenges the Americas face and the role of the United States, indicators and perceptions of democracy in 2008, legal empowerment of the poor, opportunities and challenges in the Western Hemisphere from the standpoint of the United States Congress, and decent work and human prosperity. A number of these roundtables were done in coordination with sister institutions like the International Labour Organisation, the United Nations, and with the support of other units of the OAS. These became the bases for important books and reports published within the host country and at the regional level.

Model OAS General Assembly (MOEA) program for students from the Hemisphere

Since 1980, the Model OAS General Assembly Program has been cultivating democratic values among the youth of the Hemisphere through simulations of the OAS General Assembly and Permanent Council. Two new modalities were added to the program in 2008: the first was to hold a model OAS General Assembly in the host country just prior to convocation of the real OAS General Assembly, in order to heighten interest among young people and the general public in advance of the event. In May, Medellín was the scene of the first National Model General Assembly for Universities, organized in conjunction with the Universidad EAFIT and with the support of UNINORTE of Barranquilla, under the auspices of the Colombian Foreign Ministry. The second modality is the staging of Model Permanent Councils for OAS Interns (MOAS/PC), in conjunction with the GS/OAS Department of Human Resources. These have been officially added to the OAS' internship program. Two models were held: one during the summer session and another during the fall session. A total of 129 interns participated.

The annual "Washington MOAS" for universities in the Hemisphere (in English) continued, and was held in early April, together with the Inter-American Institute for Diplomacy (IAID). In July, the XXVI MOEA for universities in the Hemisphere (in Spanish), was held in Santiago, Chile, in partnership with the Universidad Católica de Chile and the Corporación Participa. Taking part in these Model General Assemblies were students and professors from universities in Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, the United States, and Venezuela. In December the XXVI MOAS for high school students (in English) was held at OAS headquarters. Participating were students from 20 high schools (including one in Puerto Rico and one in Venezuela).

In 2008, a total of 940 students and 130 professors familiarized themselves with the values of democratic government and with the mission and role of the OAS in the Hemisphere, while also honing their skills in negotiation, leadership, diplomacy, and communication. Talks were held with the OAS representatives in Barbados and Honduras about the possibility of conducting an MOAS in the Caribbean (under the auspices of the University of the West Indies), and another in Central America (under the auspices of the Universidad de San Pedro Sula and the Honduran Government).

In July, the Tutorial “MOAS” was published and went on sale in CD format, both in English and Spanish. It is a tool for preparing students who participate in the MOAS. The MOAS Program also continued to be promoted among groups of students visiting OAS headquarters, as part of the “briefings” and among educational institutions in the Washington, D.C. area. This publicity work has attracted new educational institutions to the Model General Assemblies.

2.8.2 Department of Communications and Institutional Image (DCII)

DCII started the development of a comprehensive OAS Communication Strategy as well as a Branding Strategy, to bolster the overall image of the Secretariat. The Communication Strategy, “Speaking with one voice,” aims to strengthen the image of the organization, modernize its communication tools and extend its outreach, showcasing the Organization’s four central thematic pillars: Democracy, Human Rights, Multidimensional Security and Integral Development. The Branding Strategy, on the other hand, developed in partnership with the Art Center College of Design of Pasadena, California will help the Organization gain positive recognition as a unique and leading international political forum from stakeholders in the Hemisphere and the world. Both strategies incorporate communication tools available in the Organization such as the Website, Multimedia and Americas Magazine.

In 2008, Americas Magazine, celebrated its 60th anniversary and it redefined its editorial focus placing a greater emphasis on the four thematic pillars of the OAS without losing its traditional original ideals of promoting the cultural identity of the different countries in the region. During this year, six issues of Americas Magazine, identical in Spanish and English editions, were published.

The Multimedia section is divided into two areas: Radio (audio) - Television (video-webcast). The Television area produced and coordinated live transmissions of Permanent Council meetings and other activities of the Organization’s political bodies. It also promoted the dissemination of produced video segments on television channels throughout the region, intended to further expose the work of the OAS in an institutional manner. In 2008, the television area created 43 video segments -most of them on high definition with broadcast quality to enable TV channels to air them in their news segments, and webcasted 159 live events. It also produced a documentary on New Programming Approaches Program (NPA) for the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) as well as several other CD/DVD projects for the different areas of the Organization. The produced material included coverage of visits by Presidents and Prime Ministers to the OAS, as well as important events such as the General Assembly and Permanent Council meetings, and the Lecture Series of the Americas, and the OAS Policy Roundtables. The Television area coordinated live, delayed and packaged transmissions in high definition for television channels in the member states including CNN, AP-TV, Reuters, C-Span, Telesur among others.

In 2008, the Radio area celebrated 50 years of international broadcasting in its various formats throughout the decades. This year it broadcasted through satellite and Internet a total of 497 transmissions of its daily programs in Spanish for Latin America and in English for the Caribbean. Various events at Headquarters, such as the aforementioned visits, were transmitted live directly through a number of radio stations in the member countries. Live link-ups with interviews with Heads of State, high-level OAS officials and other dignitaries were also included in OAS Radio programming in cooperation with several radio stations in Latin America and the Caribbean. The unit is ongoing a modernization process which includes the digitalization of its programs as well as making its content more readily available online.

In 2008 the Website Section, received funding for its restructuring in order to better promote the OAS institutional image. The initiative is sponsored by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) in partnership with DOITS. The new website which will be launched in the first quarter of 2009 aims to create a more dynamic, easy to navigate website that better showcases the four central thematic pillars. It will contain style controls; set of rules for web content and style management and as well as improved security standardization and search engines.

2.8.3 Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA)

The DCA has been discharging its mission of disseminating the various expressions of the cultures of the Americas, using art to spotlight the main issues on the inter-American social and political agenda. The OAS' cultural events have attracted unprecedented press coverage, which has heightened the Organization's profile in the Washington, D.C. area. By way of illustration, in 2008 the Washington Post carried a total of 17 articles or references to OAS cultural activities.

In 2008, the DCA staged art exhibits, concerts, film series, and special activities, mainly through the OAS' Art Museum of the Americas (AMA). The DCA also began to prepare a Program of Orchestras for at-risk young people in the Caribbean.

Art Museum of the Americas (AMA)

The 2008 programming included, *inter alia*, temporary exhibits, programs for the public and associated with exhibits, lectures, educational tours of the Museum and film series. Of the 18,626 visitors to the AMA in 2008, 5,446 participated in workshops, tours, special events and the Cine Américas film series.

With the support of the Department of International Affairs, the AMA raised outside funding from public and private sources alike, and succeeded in increasing its regular budget by a half million dollars.

In the acquisitions program, the Museum's permanent collection was enriched by the donation of the mural *Las Tres Marías* by Chilean artist Rodrigo Cabezas. The donation was made possible thanks to the support of the *Galería de Arte La Sala* in Santiago, Rabobank, Radisson, the *Patrimonio Cultural de Chile*, the Ministry of Agriculture of Chile and others. The AMA was able to add 17 new works to its collection –all donations. They included 10 grand-format photographs by Mexican artist Pedro Meyer and a sculpture by Colombian artist Ronny Vayda Adler.

As for loans, the AMA put works from its permanent collection on loan to the Cultural Center at the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for its exhibit *Extended Boundary: Latin American and Caribbean Artists in Miami*, held from February to May at IDB headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Musical programming and the Caribbean Young People's Orchestras Program

A concert of the *Camerata Interamericana* was given under the Department's auspices at the U.S. Library of Congress. The Department also arranged a concert to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Organization of American States in April. Under the Caribbean Young People's Orchestras Program, the DCA coordinated a concert of École de Musique St Trinité de Haïti (one of the Program's strategic partners) at the AMA in September.

The DCA designed a pilot program of orchestras for at-risk youth, which in principle would be carried out in Haiti, Jamaica, and Saint Lucia. The program, whose first stage of execution will be at a cost of \$370,000, was approved by the GS/OAS Project Evaluation Committee and pre-approved for partial funding by FEMCIDI. Late in the year, the Permanent Observer Mission of China to the OAS made an initial contribution to the program in the amount of \$20,000.

The DAC's strategic planning

In anticipation of the Centennial of the OAS' Main Building, which will be in 2010, the DCA started to prepare cultural programming, which includes the start of a plan for the AMA's institutional strengthening. The plan would start with the establishment of a high-level executive board and development of an aggressive plan to identify funding and expand the permanent collection. This is in response to the need to make the AMA a first-rate museum that meets the new cultural development needs in Latin America and the Caribbean.

A dialogue was initiated with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the National Gallery of Art to ponder the possibility of becoming a partner in the project for the National Museum of the American Latino, which is headed by a group of members of the United States Congress. At the same time, alternatives for building and changing the AMA infrastructure were explored with specialized architects and experts in cultural administration.

Principal activities conducted by the AMA:

a) Exhibits in the Museum's main building

- Toy Festival (Mexico) December 2007-March 2008, in collaboration with the Museo Papalote de México and the Instituto Cultural Mexicano.
- *Paintings by Oswaldo Guayasamín* (Ecuador), April-May, in collaboration with the Center for Latin American and Iberian Studies of Vanderbilt University and Georgetown University's Center for Latin American Studies.
- *Facets* (permanent collection of the AMA) June-August.
- *The architecture of Oscar Niemeyer* (Brazil) September-October.
- *The Disappeared* (regional) November-January, in collaboration with the *North Dakota Museum of Art*.

b) Exhibits on the Terrace Level (photography)

- *Subjects of Power and Devotion* (regional) February-June.
- Esther Hidalgo (United States) July-August.
- Pedro Meyer, *Heresies* (Mexico) September-October.
- Hernán Díaz (Colombia) October-November.

c) Exhibits/cultural events in the Main Building

- Special event with Antonio Skármeta, Chilean author, February.
- Art Exhibit *Far from Home: The Immigration Experience in Latin America and the Caribbean* (regional), in collaboration with the Cultural Center of the Inter-American Development Bank, June.

d) Cine Américas film screenings

- Mexico Series: Cilantro y Perejil, Imaginum, Frida-Naturaleza Viva, Magos y Gigantes, February-March
- Ecuador Series: El Chulla Romero y Flores, El Cojo Navarrete, April
- 80th Anniversary of the Inter-American Commission of Women: Iron Jawed Angels, March
- Argentina Series: Yo no sé qué me han hecho tus Ojos, H.I.J.O.S. el Alma en Dos, Caja Cerrada, Pulqui, un instante en la Patria de la Felicidad, May
- China Series: Perhaps Love, Beautiful Homeland, Merchants on the Ancient Silk Road, Traveling the Roof of the World, Riding Alone for Thousands of Miles and Kekexili, June-July
- Colombia Series: Ilona llega con la lluvia, María Llena eres de Gracia, Edipo Alcalde and Buscando a Gabo & Manuel Zapata Olivella: Abridor de Caminos October-November
- Series “Giving Peace a Chance”, on the topic of peace; Mi Mejor Enemigo, The Band’s Visit, Encounter Point, Joyeux Noël, December.

III. AUTONOMOUS AND DECENTRALIZED ORGANS, AGENCIES, ENTITIES AND DEPENDENCIES

3.1 INTER-AMERICAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

During this reporting period, the judges on the Court were, in order of precedence, Cecilia Medina Quiroga (Chile), President; Diego García Sayán (Peru), Vice President; Sergio García Ramírez (Mexico); Manuel E. Ventura Robles (Costa Rica); Leonardo A. Franco (Argentina); Margarette 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).

Activities of the Court

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

In 2008, nine contentious cases were filed with the Court. The latter delivered eighteen judgments. In five of those judgments it ruled on preliminary objections, merits, reparations, and costs, all at the same time; in five it decided the merits and the reparations owed; and eight judgments were interpretations of its previous judgments. 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 ten cases is pending with the Court. At the present time, the Court has 110 cases in progress; in 93 of these cases, the Court is overseeing compliance with judgments it has already delivered. Of the remaining 17 cases now before the Court, nine are still in the preliminary phase; in seven cases, the Court is examining preliminary objections and eventual merits, reparations, and costs; in the last case, the Court is deciding the matter of reparations and costs.

In 2008, one application seeking an advisory opinion was filed with the Court. No opinion on the matter has yet been issued.

Two requests seeking provisional measures were filed with the Court and adopted by it. Five provisional measures were entirely lifted, and another four were partially lifted. At the present time, the Court has 41 active provisional measures.

b) Sessions

During its LXXVIII regular session, held January 28 to February 8, 2008, the Court held four public hearings in connection with the following contentious cases: *Heliodoro Portugal v. Panama*, *Apitz Barbera et al. ("First Court of Administrative Disputes") v. Venezuela*, *Valle Jaramillo et al. v. Colombia*, and *Castañeda Gutman v Mexico*. Seven private hearings were held to oversee compliance with the judgments delivered in the following cases: *Cantoral Benavides v. Peru*, *Loayza Tamayo v. Peru*, *Caballero Delgado and Santana v. Colombia*, *Ricardo Canese v. Paraguay*, the *Juvenile Reeducation Institute v. Paraguay*, the *Sawhoyamaxe Indigenous Community v. Paraguay*, and the *Yakye Axa Indigenous Community v. Paraguay*. An evidentiary proceeding was ordered for a more informed judgment in the case of *Yvon Neptune*. Five public hearings were conducted on provisional measures ordered in the following cases: *Caballero Delgado and Santana* with respect to Colombia; the matter of *Álvarez et al.* regarding

Colombia; the matter of the *San José de Apartado Peace Community* regarding Colombia, and the matter of *Pilar Noriega et al.* regarding Mexico. It also held a private hearing on the provisional measures in the matter of the *Jiguamiandó and Curbaradó Communities* regarding Colombia. The Court also delivered two judgments of interpretation in the following cases: *the La Rochela Massacre v. Colombia* and *Cantoral Huamaní and García Santa Cruz v. Peru*. Eleven orders for provisional measures were issued in the following matters: “*Globovisión*” *Television Station* regarding Venezuela; *Mery Naranjo* regarding Colombia; *Millacura Llaipén et al.* regarding Argentina; the *Capital Rodeo I and Rodeo II Judicial Confinement Centers* regarding Venezuela; and the case of the *Miguel Castro Castro Prison* regarding Peru on two occasions. Finally, the Court issued rulings on oversight of compliance with the judgments in the following cases: *Servellón García et al. v. Honduras*; *López Álvarez v. Honduras*; *Cantoral Benavides v. Peru*; *Yakye Axa Indigenous Community v. Paraguay*; *Sawhoyamaya Indigenous Community v. Paraguay*; *Caballero Delgado and Santana v. Colombia*; *Ricardo Canese v. Paraguay*; *Juvenile Reeducation Institute v. Paraguay*; *Huilca Tecse v. Peru*; *Baldeón García v. Peru*; *Acosta Calderón v. Ecuador*; *Gutiérrez Soler v. Colombia*, and *Loayza Tamayo v. Peru*.

During the XXXIII Special Session, which the Court held in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, April 28 through May 1, 2008, the Court had two public hearings in the following contentious cases: *Bayarri v. Argentina* and *Tiu Tojín v. Guatemala*.

During the LXXIX Regular Session of the Court, May 2 through 9, 2008, the Court held a public hearing in the case of *Gabriela Perozo et al. v. Venezuela* and four private hearings in the following contentious cases: *Baena Ricardo et al. v. Panama*, *Mayagna (Sumo) Awas Tingni Community v. Nicaragua*, *Fermín Ramírez v. Guatemala*, and *Raxcacó Reyes v. Guatemala*. It also issued three judgments in the following contentious cases: *Kimel v. Argentina*, *Salvador Chiriboga v. Ecuador* and *Yvon Neptune v. Haiti*, as well as a judgment of interpretation in the case of *Escué Zapata v. Colombia*. It issued four orders for provisional measures in the following matters: *Urso Branco Prison* regarding Brazil, *Gómez Paquiyauri Brothers* regarding Peru, the *Mapiripán Massacre* regarding Colombia and the case of *Raxcacó Reyes* regarding Guatemala. Lastly, it issued six decisions on oversight of compliance in the following cases: *Claude Reyes et al. v. Chile*; *Mayagna (Sumo) Awas Tingni Community v. Nicaragua*; *Gómez Paquiyauri Brothers v. Peru*; *Ximenes López v. Brazil*; *Fermín Ramírez v. Guatemala*, and *Raxcacó Reyes v. Guatemala*.

During its XXXIV Special Session, held in San José, Costa Rica on August 2, 2008, the Court delivered an interpretation of its judgment in the case of the *Miguel Castro Castro Prison v. Peru*.

During its LXXX Regular Session, August 4 through 8, 2008, the Court held a public hearing in the case of *Luisiana Ríos et al. v. Venezuela*. It also issued two judgments in the following contentious cases: *Apitz Barbera et al. (“First Court of Administrative Disputes”) v. Venezuela*, and *Castañeda Gutman v. Mexico*. The Court also delivered a judgment of interpretation of its ruling in the case of *Alban Cornejo et al.*, and two orders for provisional measures in the following matters: *Carlos Nieto Palma et al.* regarding Venezuela, and *Leonel Rivero et al.* (previously *Pilar Noriega García et al.*) regarding Mexico. Lastly, it issued ten decisions on compliance with judgment in the following cases: *Ricardo Canese v. Paraguay*; *Goiburú et al. v. Paraguay*; *Servellón García et al. v. Honduras*; *Plan de Sánchez Massacre v. Guatemala*;

Constitutional Court v. Peru; Durand and Ugarte v. Peru; Barrios Altos v. Peru; Cesti Hurtado v. Peru; Yatama v. Nicaragua, and Las Palmeras v. Colombia.

During its XXXV Special Session, held in Montevideo, Uruguay, August 11 through 15, 2008, the Court held two public hearings in the following contentious cases: *Tristán Donoso v. Panama* and *Ticona Estrada v. Bolivia*, as well as two private hearings for oversight of compliance with the judgments issued in the cases of *Claude Reyes et al. v. Chile*, and *Bulacio v. Argentina*. The Court also held two public hearings on provisional measures in the following matters: *Araraquara Prisons* regarding Brazil, and *Children Deprived of Liberty in the "Complexo do Tatuapé" of FEBEM* regarding Brazil. The Court issued a judgment in the case of *Heliodoro Portugal v. Panama* and an interpretation of its judgment in the case of the *Saramaka Indigenous People v. Suriname*.

During its XXXVI Special Session, San José, Costa Rica, October 29 to 30, 2008, the Court issued a judgment in the case of *Bayarri v. Argentina* and two decisions on oversight of compliance with the judgments issued in the case of *Vargas Areco v. Paraguay* and the case of *Baena Ricardo et al. v. Panama*.

During its LXXXI Regular Session, November 24 through 29, 2008, the Court issued three judgments in the following contentious cases: *Tiu Tojín v. Guatemala*, *Ticona Estrada v. Bolivia*, and *Valle Jaramillo et al. v. Colombia*; it also delivered two judgments of interpretation in the following cases: *García Prieto et al. v. El Salvador*, and *Chaparro Álvarez and Lapo Iñiguez v. Ecuador*. The Court issued six orders for provisional measures in the following matters: *Lysias Fleury* regarding Haiti; *Leonel Rivero et al.* regarding Mexico; "*El Nacional*" and "*Así es la Noticia*" *Newspapers* regarding Venezuela; *Children Deprived of Liberty in the "Complexo do Tatuapé" of FEBEM* regarding Brazil; the *Araraquara Penitentiaries* regarding Brazil, and *Kawas Fernández* regarding Honduras. Lastly, the Court issued two decisions on oversight of compliance with the judgments issued in the cases of *Claude Reyes et al. v. Chile* and *Bulacio v. Argentina*.

During its XXXVII Special Session, which was in Mexico, Federal District, December 1 to 5, 2008, the Court held two public hearings in the following contentious cases: *Kawas Fernández v. Honduras* and *Escher et al. v. Brazil*, and two public hearings in the matters of: *Kankuamo Indigenous Community* regarding Colombia, and *Mendoza prisons* regarding Argentina. The Court issued an order for provisional measures in the case of *Tyrone DaCosta Cadogan* regarding Barbados.

3.2 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, have been amended several times since, most recently in 2006. The IACHR is one of the two organs of the inter-American system whose mission is to promote and protect human rights. The Commission is composed of seven members, elected by the General Assembly, who serve in an individual capacity for a period of four years and may be re-elected one time only. The officers for 2008 were elected at the Commission's 131st regular session, held March 3 through 14, 2008. Paolo Carozza was elected Chair; Luz Patricia Mejía and Felipe González, were elected First and Second Vice Chair, respectively. The other members of the Commission were Florentín Meléndez, Víctor Abramovich, Clare K. Roberts and Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro. Commissioners Luz Patricia Mejía and Felipe González were elected to the Commission in 2007 and their terms began on January 1, 2008. Dr. Santiago A. Canton is the Executive Secretary of the IACHR and Dr. Elizabeth Abi-Mershed is Assistant Executive Secretary.

Visit and activities

In 2008, Commissioner rapporteurs for a country and/or theme conducted working visits to Argentina, Bolivia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Jamaica, Paraguay, the United States, and Uruguay.

At the present time, the IACHR has around 1,377 petitions and cases in process. In 2008 it received around 1,300 new petitions, which were processed to be declared either admissible or inadmissible. During that period the Commission also received 300 requests seeking precautionary measures. Approximately 30 precautionary measures were granted.

- The Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Rapporteur for Bolivia visited that country together from June 9 through 13, 2008, to compile information on the situation of indigenous Guaraní families known as captive communities. These families continue to live in servitude bordering on slavery, in the area of the Bolivian Chaco. The Rapporteurship on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples also visited Colombia from November 17 through 21, 2008. There it met with the National Indigenous Organization of Colombia (ONIC) and received information on deaths and forced displacements that have victimized indigenous peoples.
- The Rapporteurship on the Rights of Children made three working visits to compile information to prepare a report on Juvenile Justice in the Americas. The first was to Montevideo on August 19, the second to Buenos Aires August 20 and 22, and the third to Bogota from September 15 to 19, 2008.
- The Rapporteurship on the Rights of Women conducted meetings of experts in Buenos Aires and Caracas, on July 2 and September 25, respectively, to compile information on women's political participation in the region. The Rapporteurship also participated in various activities to promote women's rights, among them the National Symposium on *Sexual Violence, a Problem of Public Health and Social Justice*, held in La Paz on March 31, 2008.

- The Rapporteurship on the Rights of Persons Deprived of Liberty made an observation mission to Chile, August 21 to 25, 2008. There it visited various detention centers, as well as juvenile internment facilities. The Rapporteurship also visited the Asunción Neuropsychiatric Hospital on September 11, 2008, to verify compliance with the precautionary measures the Commission had ordered on July 29, 2008 (MC 277-07).
- On April 9, 2008, the Rapporteurship on the Rights of Afro-Descendants and against Racial Discrimination met with members of the United States Congress to discuss the situation of Afro-descendants in the region. It also participated in various regional and international conferences.
- In 2008, the Rapporteurship on the Rights of Migrant Workers and Their Families met in the United States with members of civil society and with immigrants who have been detained. The objective was to compile information on the condition of migrants who have been detained.
- On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights Defenders, the Unit for Human Rights Defenders organized a meeting with defenders, in which the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders participated. It also organized a meeting with the OAS member states on the occasion of the Commission's 133rd regular session.

Forms of cooperation in 2008

In 2008, the Commission signed an agreement with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to intensify their reciprocal relationship in promoting and defending international humanitarian law and the international law of human rights.

It also signed a memorandum of understanding with UNICEF to work together to prepare a report on Citizen Security and Human Rights and a report on Juvenile Criminal Justice and Human Rights. Within this framework, a regional meeting of experts on those subjects was held in Asunción, Paraguay, in November 2008.

The IACHR signed an institutional cooperation agreement with the Norman Manley Law School of the University of the West Indies in Jamaica to further understanding of the inter-American human rights system in the Caribbean.

In 2008, the Commission filed nine cases with the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and continued its periodic dialogues with that body on the system and its rules and procedures. On December 29, 2008, the IACHR filed a request seeking the Court's advisory opinion regarding the use of corporal punishment as a method of disciplining children and adolescents.

In September 2008, the Chair of the Commission and members of the Executive Secretariat visited the European Court of Human Rights to share experiences, challenges, and best practices, and to tighten relations to make greater cooperation between the two systems possible. They also participated in an academic event on the European and inter-American human rights system, in the city of Utrecht, the Netherlands.

The Commission also kept up academic exchanges and dialogue with the African human rights system to explore possible forms of cooperation. In October, for example, various members of the Commission participated in a series of academic panels on regional systems. The panels were

organized by American University and the MacArthur Foundation. In November 2008, the Commission participated in a symposium on the African human rights system, conducted in Abuja, Nigeria, and in a course on victims held in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Throughout the year the Commission's Executive Secretariat participated in a number of meetings organized by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner on Human Rights to discuss regional systems. The Commission also met with representatives of the United Nations' special human rights mechanisms to discuss the issues of human rights defenders and the rights of indigenous peoples, all within the framework of the Commission's regular sessions.

On December 9, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Opinion and Expression, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, the OAS Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and the Special Rapporteur of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information issued a joint declaration on defamation of religions, and anti-terrorism and anti-extremism legislation.

Sessions held

- 131st regular session – March 3 – 14, 2008

The IACHR approved individual cases and petitions and held 33 working meetings and 36 public hearings. At this session, the Commission also approved its annual report for 2007. The report was presented to the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) at its thirty-eighth regular session, held in Medellín, Colombia, June 1 through 3, 2008.

- 132nd regular session – July 17 – 25, 2008

The Commission did not hold public hearings or working meetings, as this session was internal in nature. The Commission approved a total of 39 reports on cases and petitions. It also approved the document titled "Guidelines for Preparation of Progress Indicators in the Area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights." The Commission also approved an amendment to Articles 15 and 12 (1) (a) of its Rules of Procedure, concerning the Rapporteurships and Working Groups, and the functions and authorities of the Commission's Executive Secretary, respectively. It also elected Catalina Marino Botero as Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression.

- 133rd regular session – October 15 – 31, 2008

During this session, reports on individual cases and petitions were approved. A total of 57 hearings and 34 working meetings were held. The Commission also met with representatives of the United Nations special mechanisms.

3.3 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 first regular session of the General Assembly at its ninth plenary 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 judges, who are elected by the OAS General Assembly in their personal capacity. At the present time, the judges on the Tribunal are: Alma Montenegro de Fletcher (Panama), Lionel Alain Dupuis (Canada), Andre M. Surena (United States), Hector Enrique Arce Zaoneta (Bolivia), Homero Máximo Bibiloni (Argentina), and Suzie d'Auvergne (Saint Lucia).

At the suggestion of Judge Alma Montenegro, the Administrative Tribunal held its LVI regular session in Panama City, April 9 through 11, 2008, in the Hall of Heroes of Panama's Foreign Ministry. The opening was attended by Ambassador Ricardo J. Durán, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Panama.

At that session, the Administrative Tribunal considered a pending case and discussed four inquiries filed with the Secretariat of the Tribunal.

Furthermore, at the request of the Tribunal's judges, the Secretary of the Administrative Tribunal presented the preliminary draft amendments to its Statute and Rules of Procedure. In addition to describing the suggested changes, the Secretary explained in detail the reasons for the amendment, underscoring the need for a new normative instrument that will work to the advantage of both the Organization and its staff by providing a more flexible, expeditious, and simple procedure than the one currently in place.

The judges concluded their working session by instructing the Secretariat of the Administrative Tribunal to prepare a "Report on the need to establish a procedure for appointing expert witnesses in processing a complaint and on the amendment to Article 38 of the Tribunal's Rules of Procedure that this will necessitate" and to review and, where necessary, revise the draft amendments to the Statute and Rules of Procedure of the Tribunal, based on the observations made by the judges.

As part of the closing session, the members of the Administrative Tribunal and its Secretariat were invited to the Supreme Court of Panama, where they received by Chief Justice James Mitchell Dale and Deputy Chief Justice Esmeralda Arosemena de Troitiño.

The report on the activities of the Administrative Tribunal was presented to the Permanent Council's General Committee at a meeting held on April 23, 2008. Some delegations took the opportunity not only to praise the content of the report, but also to applaud the Tribunal's firm determination to foster a permanent dialogue of cooperation with the other organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization and the Tribunal's important initiative to periodically hold joint meetings with the administrative tribunals of other international organizations.

From May to December 2008, the Administrative Tribunal processed the three complaints filed in connection with desk audits and duly noted eleven inquiries addressed by staff members of the General Secretariat.

The Administrative Tribunal performs another vital function when it receives and answers questions from interested individuals, either by telephone, e-mail, or the regular mail. Some of these inquiries have to do with the functions of the Tribunal; most are procedural questions or inquiries about the Tribunal's case law. All the inquiries received and that the Secretariat of the Tribunal answers have been duly filed, in order to get an idea of the legal issues of greatest interest and of the most frequent concerns, misgivings or doubts with respect to procedural rules. The Secretariat of the Tribunal is thus able to plan accordingly, all for the sake of advancing the Tribunal's goals and more readily dispensing solutions to interested parties.

3.4 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, 2008, the Office of the Inspector General conducted 12 audits and reviewed 24 projects to evaluate operations, ensure compliance with OAS directives and procedures, and systematically check the internal accounting and management systems. The auditing activities included operating procedures at headquarters and in seven offices of the General Secretariat in the member states. In discharging its activities, the Office focused mainly on high-risk operations and those whose efficiency, efficacy, and savings in the General Secretariat have room for improvement. 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 reporting 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 the procedures followed in the Department of Budgetary and Financial Services, duplicated payments and the procedures used by the Special Electoral Observation Missions and selected projects. It also checked the activities of the Offices of the General Secretariat in Belize, Panama, Paraguay, Uruguay, Grenada, Trinidad and Tobago, and Ecuador, and two technical units in Argentina and Brazil to determine whether their activities were being performed in accordance with OAS rules and procedures.

The Office of the Inspector General evaluated 24 projects being executed at headquarters and in the member states, to ensure that they conformed to the agreements and to determine whether the objectives were accomplished. The audited projects were the following: (1) Development of Exports to Support Grenada’s Export Strategy; (2) Preparing School Principals to Instill Certain Specific Qualities and Practices that Efficient Principals Can Use to Help Students; (3) Office of the General Secretariat in the Adjacency Zone between Belize and Guatemala; (4) Regional Satellite to Provide Distance Education for Training, Education and the Human Growth and Development of Teachers in Rural Areas (EDUSAT); (5) Sustainable Development of the Land Use Systems in Belize and Central America in the Degraded Pasture Land in the Tropics as a Model for Mesoamerica; (6) Improvement of the Work Inspection Function in Some Countries of the Caribbean; (7) Prospects of Science and Technology and Innovation in Cartography for the Caribbean; (8) Developing the Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network (IABIN-Panama); (9) Study and Exploitation of

Panamanian Biodiversity; (10) Preservation of the Documentary Heritage: the Problem and the Method Used; (11) the Guaraní Aquifer System (Uruguay); (12) the Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network (IABIN-Uruguay); (13) II Meeting of Government Spokespersons of the Americas; (14) Regional Evaluation of the Sustainability Impact of the Soy Productive Chain; (15) Modernization of the Civil Records (MORECIV); (16) Sustainable Land Management in the Trans-boundary Ecosystem of the American Gran Chaco; (17) IDB – White Helmets Initiative; (18) Implementation of the Strategic Program of Action for Development of the Bi-national Bermejo River Basin (follow-up); (19) Preparation of Policies and Strategies for Preventing School Failure; (20) Technical Cooperation in the Institutional Structuring for the Consolidation of the National Water Policy; (21) Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development of the Guaraní Aquifer System; (22) Popularization of Science and Technology in Latin America and the Caribbean; (23) Comprehensive Action against Antipersonnel Landmines in Ecuador (AICMA/EC), and (24) Rural Development in the Bi-national Macará River Sub-basin.

Other activities

The Office of the Inspector General continued to evaluate responses and to follow up on the corrective measures to ensure that the recommendations made by the OIG were effectively implemented. The Office continued to provide advisory services and assistance through analyses, evaluations, research and recommendations, and participated as an observer on various committees of the General Secretariat to facilitate and foster open communication with the General Secretariat. In 2008, a number of departmental directors consulted the Inspector General concerning operational issues that could be problematic for the Organization, implementation of recommendations, and other operational issues related to internal controls. The OIG also examined draft operating procedures, proposals, and changes to operating procedures. It investigated all the information received via the anti-corruption phone line and took appropriate measures when it found issues that posed an intrinsic risk to the General Secretariat's internal checks and balances.

3.5 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 from April 14 through 18, 2008, to prepare its report on the external audit of the accounts and financial statements of the GS/OAS for the years ending December 31, 2007 and 2006, in accordance with Article 129 of the General Standards.

On May 9, 2008, the Board presented its observations in the document titled “*Report to the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States: Annual Audit of Accounts and Financial Statements for the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006* (OEA/Ser.S JAE/doc.38/08). The report has four sections: a) Report of the Board of External Auditors; b) Financial statements of the GS/OAS; c) Financial statements of agencies and entities related to the OAS; d) OAS Retirement and Pension Fund.

Based on the unqualified opinions issued by Ernst & Young, LLP (which was the firm of independent auditors for 2008), the financial statements corresponding to the audited entities tally 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 those recommendations might be brought to the attention of the General Assembly and the Permanent Council.

The most significant recommendations can be summarized as follows:

To the Permanent Council:

- Revisit the quota cap to ensure consistency between the mechanism of setting OAS quotas and the mechanism of setting expenditures, such as personnel costs, while maintaining parity with the United Nations.
- Continue to implement a planning process that identifies strategic objectives and priorities, allocates scarce budgetary resources to achieve the OAS' key goals, helps to generate reliable cost estimates of mandates before their approval, and supports accountability for results.
- Adapt the Budgetary and Financial Rules to the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) upon receipt of the plan of action from GS/OAS for the transition.

To the General Secretariat:

- Develop a long-term strategy for the organization.
- Continue to develop financial reports that provide a link between the use of resources and achievement of strategic goals and objectives in a manner that is useful to member states, management, and donors.
- Clearly align its priorities to available resources, which may lead to some programs and activities being reduced, deferred, or eliminated.

- Develop a plan of action to transition from the Budgetary and Financial Rules to the International Public Sector Accounting Standards. In addition, GS/OAS should begin outreach efforts with both internal and external users of the financial statements so that the users will understand the significant changes to the information included in the financial statements.
- Assess the current staffing structure to ensure that enough emphasis is placed on hiring and retaining long-term staff.
- Agree upon a real property and capital plan to maximize the potential of OAS' historic properties.
- Continue to reexamine the training budget.
- Ensure that each National Office has a reasonable staffing level based on workload and that an appropriate methodology to monitor internal controls at the National Offices is established.
- Assess current controls related to accountable advances and make any necessary changes to policies and procedures to ensure an appropriate level of control.
- Require all employees to be evaluated using the new performance evaluation system.
- Improve the reconciliation of fixed asset tracking records and the inventory accounts.
- Develop a process to adequately protect personally identifiable information.

After the summary of the financial condition of the Regular Fund, the Specific Funds and the special contributions to the OAS, the Board took into account the General Secretariat's initiatives to put into practice the recommendations made by the Board in its report the previous year, as well as other matters of interest to the Board.

The Board highlighted the fact that in the case of the following 2007 financial statements, the firm of independent auditors had issued unqualified opinions ("clean opinions"), which is the best possible outcome of an audit:

- Regular Fund, FEMCIDI, Specific Funds, and Service Funds of the OAS
- Leo S. Rowe Pan American Fund
- Rowe Memorial Benefit Fund
- Trust for the Americas
- Medical Benefits Trust Fund
- Inter-American Defense Board
- Retirement and Pension Fund

3.6 INTER-AMERICAN DEFENSE BOARD

Since 2006, the Inter-American Defense Board has been an entity of the Organization under the terms of Article 53 of the OAS Charter. Its activities are governed by its Statutes and Regulations, approved, respectively, in 2006 and 2007. Its purpose is to provide the OAS and its member states with technical and educational advice and consultancy services on matters related to military and defense issues in the Hemisphere in order to contribute to the fulfillment of the OAS Charter. To that end, the IADB enjoys technical autonomy and carries out its operations informed by the principles of civilian oversight and the subordination of military institutions to legally constituted civilian authority, in keeping with Article 4 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter. The Inter-American Defense Board is composed of a Council of Delegates, a Secretariat, and the Inter-American Defense College. In performing its activities, the Board takes into account the mandates from OAS General Assembly, the OAS Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, and the OAS Permanent Council, as stipulated in Article 1 of its Statutes.

The specific functions of the Inter-American Defense Board include the following: advisory services; advanced academic courses in military and defense issues; promotion of cooperation; strengthening relations between civilians and the military; technical counsel on integrated action against antipersonnel landmines; aid and humanitarian assistance in disasters and search-and-rescue operations; management, security and destruction of weapons arsenals; preparation of studies on defense doctrine and policy; development of transparency-, confidence- and security-building measures; and lastly, fostering cooperation and interaction with other regional and world organizations of its kind.

In 2008, the demining work in Colombia, Nicaragua, Peru, and Ecuador continued. *In situ* oversight by the Inter-American Monitors Group was done in Colombia, and a project was created to offer a course on demining procedure standardization. On disarmament, the Guideline on Ammunition Destruction was updated to include the Nicaraguan experience. The Inter-American Defense College developed a complete Master's Program for Class 47, with 50 students coming from 14 countries. Additionally, the College held six seminars and workshops on issues related to emergency situation, disaster response, peace operations, hemispheric security, crisis management and conflict resolution, human rights, and civilian-military relations. The formal links with prestigious academic institutions were further cemented in 2008. Apart from the foregoing, the Secretariat performed the administrative work and logistics necessary for the Board to function smoothly, analyzed various documents, and digitized archives.

During this period, the members of the IADB Sub-Secretariat for Advisory Services participated in a number of events. At the Conference of American Armies, held to discuss peacekeeping operations procedures, the IADB Sub-Secretariat for Advisory Services was part of a working group. In coordination with UNESCO, the United Nations University, the *Instituto Nacional de Estudios Territoriales de Nicaragua*, Chile's *Servicio Hidrográfico y Oceanográfico*, and the Seismic Network of Puerto Rico, a seminar was organized on the subject of tsunamis and measures to prevent and mitigate the damage they cause. A Conference on Confidence-building Measures was organized to examine the Argentine-Chilean case. A series of lectures was also organized to facilitate dissemination and use of Chile's Emergency Management and Training System. The IADB attended

a meeting with the Pan American Development Foundation to explore cooperative mechanisms for humanitarian relief in natural disasters. It also participated in a workshop organized by the US Department of Defense on Cooperative Security. The Defense Threat Reduction Agency staged an exhibit at the IADB to provide advisory assistance to states on the issues of security and stockpile management. The IADB participated in the Technical Seminar on Ammunition Storage and Depots held in Uruguay, in the sessions of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission, in the Preparatory Meeting of the XLVIII Regional Air Chiefs Conference and in the Maritime Counter Drug Symposium, held in Colombia. During the IADC's annual tour, the officers of the Sub-secretariat for Advisory Services gave presentations on the activities of the IADB at the Ministry of Defense, the *Academia de Estudios Políticos y Estratégicos*, the *Pontificia Universidad Católica* in Chile, and in the Ministries of Foreign Relations and Defense in Peru.

The Chair of the IADB Council of Delegates was present at the Andean Countries Security Conference, held in Key West; the Central American Security Conference, in El Salvador; the Annual Conference of the National Defense University, in Miami; the Meeting of Commanders of the MERCOSUR Armies, in Chile; the Central American, Caribbean, and Dominican Republic Conference; the Conference on Defense of the Southern Cone, held in Brasilia; the Multilateral Planners Conference, held in Denmark; the thirty-eighth regular session of the General Assembly, held in Colombia; the Caribbean Countries Security Conference, held in Puerto Rico; the XLVIII Meeting of Air Force Chiefs, held in Texas; the VIII Conference of Ministers of Defense of the Americas, held in Canada; the Inter-American Naval Conference held in Ecuador; and the VI Exposition and International Maritime and Naval Conference for Latin America, held in Chile.

Throughout the year, the Regulations Commission, Goals and Objectives Commission, Budget Commission, Inter-American Defense College Commission, and the Small States Commissions held numerous meetings. The II Doctrinal Meeting of Humanitarian Demining was held on the subject "Humanitarian emergency relief". A meeting with AICMA was held to determine the general condition of the demining missions' equipment and to survey needs.

3.7 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 this topic, in coordination with the competent national organizations. The IACNDR is composed of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the Inter-American Defense Board (IADB), the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF), the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).

Recognizing the need to have all these key organizations of the Inter-American System under a single umbrella for the sake of better coordination, in resolution AG/RES. 1682 (XXIX-O/99), which established the Committee, the General Assembly acknowledged and underscored how essential it was that these organizations strengthen cooperation with all subregional intergovernmental entities, such as CDERA, CEPREDENAC, and CAPRADE. It also articulated the need to provide additional support to have sensitive gender issues incorporated into projects related to reducing the risk of natural disasters by cooperating with the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), to increase collaboration with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN/OCHA – UN/ISDR), and to reinforce the private sector's involvement in dealing with issues related to the effects of natural disasters, through projects of the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF).

The Report of the Department of Sustainable Development details the efforts to strengthen cooperation among all intergovernmental subregional organizations involved in disaster mitigation in the Hemisphere, including their involvement in the work of the Inter-American Network for Disaster Mitigation and their participation in meetings convened under the auspices of the Hyogo Framework of Action. In 2007, the General Assembly recognized the Inter-American Network for Disaster Mitigation (INDM) “as the permanent hemispheric mechanism for strengthening practical cooperation among intergovernmental agencies in the area of disaster reduction, especially by sharing technical information and best practices.”³/

Following up on the recommendations that came out of the first meeting of the IACNDR, held in September 2007, efforts continue within the Department of Sustainable Development and the INDM with a view to:

- Establishing an information portal to provide government agencies, nongovernmental organizations, private enterprise, and civil society with up-to-date information on various programs within the inter-American system, projects and policies as a strategic element for disaster risk management in the Hemisphere.
- Integrating reduction of vulnerability to natural disasters at every level and within every sector of the OAS member states.
- Prioritizing the need to invest more in hazard reduction, rather than making rehabilitation and reconstruction the priorities.

3. “Natural Disaster Reduction, Risk Management, and Assistance in Natural and Other Disaster Situations” AG/RES. 2314 (XXXVII-O/07).

- Factoring natural disaster considerations into full land-use planning in order to reduce the vulnerability of poor communities in the Americas, and
- Promoting adoption of a gender-based approach to reducing the risk of natural disasters.

3.8 INTER-AMERICAN JURIDICAL COMMITTEE

The Inter-American Juridical Committee is one of the organs through which the Organization of American States 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.

In 2008, the Inter-Juridical Committee held two sessions at its seat in the city of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

The first session was from March 3 through 14; the second from August 4 to 15. The following topics figured on the agendas for both sessions: the Seventh Inter-American Specialized Conference on Private International Law – CIDIP-VII; access to information and protection of personal data; the administration of justice in the Americas; judicial ethics and access to the courts; the International Criminal Court; the fight against discrimination and intolerance in the Americas; the Inter-American Court of Justice; juridical-institutional cooperation with the Republic of Haiti; creation of an Official Regional Bulletin on Latin America; the legal situation of migrant workers and their families in international law; follow-up to the implementation of the Inter-American Democratic Charter; the scope of the right to identity, and implementation of international humanitarian law in the OAS member states.

The Inter-American Juridical Committee approved reports and adopted resolutions on these issues. Particular note should be made of the adoption of a set of interdependent principles that establish the right of access to information and the issuance of an opinion on the Return Directive approved by the European Union's Parliament.

In 2008, the members of the Inter-American Juridical Committee were as follows: Jean-Paul Hubert (Canada, President), Jaime Aparicio (Bolivia, Vice-President), Ricardo Seitenfus (Brazil), Galo Leoro Franco (Ecuador), Ana Elizabeth Villalta (El Salvador), Antonio Pérez (United States), Hyacinth Evadne Lindsay (Jamaica), Jorge Palacios (Mexico), Mauricio Herdocia (Nicaragua), Freddy Castillo (Venezuela) and Guillermo Fernández de Soto (Colombia). At the thirty-eighth regular session of the OAS General Assembly (Colombia, June 2008), Dr. Jean-Paul Hubert (Canada) was reelected as a member of the Committee, and Dr. David Stewart (U.S.) and Dr. Fabian Novak (Peru) were elected to membership. The terms of these members began on January 1, 2009, and last four years. The outgoing members of the Inter-American Juridical Committee, whose terms ended on December 31, 2008, were Dr. Galo Leoro Franco and Dr. Antonio Fidel Pérez.

Staff members of the Department of International Law of the Secretariat for Legal Affairs provided Secretariat services and technical support to the Committee.

Finally, in coordination with the Department of International Law, the Inter-American Juridical Committee organized the XXXV Course on International Law from August 4 to 29, 2008. In attendance were 30 professors from various countries of the Americas, Europe and Africa, 22 OAS fellowship recipients selected from over 100 candidates, and eight students who paid their own expenses. The central theme was "New Developments in International Law in the Americas."

3.9 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 the Vice Presidents are Carlos Mariño of Colombia and Philippe Armand of Haiti. Its Executive Director is John Sanbrailo and the Assistant Executive Director is Amy Coughenour-Betancourt. 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, and from national governments like Canada's, among others. It also accepts contributions from government agencies in the region.

2008 stands out because of the many activities conducted under the leadership of Secretary General José Miguel Insulza and Assistant Secretary General Albert Ramdin. Those activities raised funds for development programs that assisted over four million people, through programs to generate jobs, provide technical training, further agricultural development, advance community and social development, strengthen civil society, protect human rights, and aid victims of natural disasters and humanitarian crises.

In keeping with OAS guidelines, the PADF expanded its program in Haiti. Its contribution of over \$13 million assisted more than one million Haitians through projects in socioeconomic development, assistance to the victims of the three hurricanes and one tropical storm that hit the country, supplying food to cope with the crisis caused by the price increases on basic necessities (at the request of the OAS "Haiti Task Force"), support to combat human trafficking and human rights violations, and promoting greater cooperation between Haitian and Dominican groups along the border.

The PADF also continued to carry out the Participatory Community Development Program (PRODEP and PRODEPAP) with funding from the World Bank and the Haitian government. This assistance went to more than 360 communities in 14 districts, including the troubled neighborhoods of Cité Soleil and Bel Air in Port-au-Prince. This program works to build up democratic participation through local infrastructure projects selected and prioritized by the communities, thereby promoting greater social solidarity and capital.

In partnership with the World Food Programme and Wycléf Jean's Yélé Haiti, the PADF launched a funding campaign that raised over \$500,000 for food, employment, and agricultural development programs. More than 400 tons of enriched rice, valued at over \$1 million, were shipped with the

support of the OAS and the U.S. Southern Command, which financed the shipping costs and local logistics. It also provided relief to the victims of hurricanes Gustav, Hanna, and Ike and tropical storm Fay, under the auspices of various corporate donors like the Haitian-American Chamber of Commerce. USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) contributed additional funds to the PADF for community projects to aid in the recovery from the damage caused by the hurricanes.

In Haiti, the Foundation headed up a program to protect human rights with the goal of building local capacity to monitor, provide direct assistance to and prevent human rights violations. More than 700 victims were assisted, building confidence and social stability and strengthening more than 150 community organizations to combat trafficking in women and children and community violence, while providing counseling services. With funding from the Government of Canada, the prison at Cap Haitien has been refurbished and an administrative complex is being built in the border city of Belladeres, to increase security and the government's presence on the border. Likewise, efforts continued to promote cooperative ties among nongovernmental organizations on the border between Haiti and the Dominican Republic, as one means of fostering greater cooperation and dialogue among nongovernmental organizations and public and private entities in the two countries.

To respond to the most acute humanitarian crises in the Hemisphere, the PADF continued to broaden its programs in Colombia, to support the displaced, Afro-descendants and campesinos who have opted to stop cultivating illicit crops. These programs have helped more than 670,000 people. Working in collaboration with local organizations, the program offers assistance in basic services, generating income and employment and institution building. By the end of the year 2008, the program had already funded 200 projects and benefited over 350,700 people in more than 100 municipalities across the country. The PADF also provided assistance to groups of vulnerable Colombians along the borders with Ecuador, Venezuela, and Panama. Under the ADAM program, and in collaboration with the Colombian government, 52 productive projects have been implemented; assistance has been provided to campesino organizations and cooperatives to cultivate and market new farm products, benefiting over 8,000 families. 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.

In Bolivia, the PADF is implementing a program in the department of Santa Cruz to enable access to land. It provided legal assistance to four communities to help them with the process of acquiring title to lands. The PADF is also providing training in the peaceful settlement of disputes and community development. Also, 350 families are benefiting from revenue-producing initiatives to increase their household income and quality of life.

The Foundation also continued to support projects in corporate social responsibility in various countries of the region, which helped to increase private contributions to integral development projects and programs to assist victims of natural disasters. In 2008, the PADF's Program of In-Kind Donations sent medical equipment, tools and emergency supplies to Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Panama, Peru, the Dominican Republic, and Uruguay, valued at over \$3.7 million.

The PADF successfully conducted the second phase of the project titled Disaster Management Alliance, sponsored by the OFDA/USAID. It also served as an OAS vehicle for raising more private sector funding to respond to natural disasters in the Hemisphere. The Foundation worked with the

Inter-American Network for Disaster Mitigation. 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.

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 22 groups of Salvadorans in metropolitan Los Angeles and Washington, D.C., to co-finance as many education projects in El Salvador. Those projects benefited over 15,000 students by building new classrooms, computer centers, science labs, libraries, and making other improvements.

With the participation of Secretary General José Miguel Insulza, the Foundation's Board of Directors held a meeting in Bogotá, Colombia, in April 2008. The Board's activities there included a meeting with President Álvaro Uribe Vélez. It also went to the city of Quibdó, Chocó, to evaluate the Foundation's projects to serve the Afro-descendent community. In September the Board met at OAS headquarters, with Assistant Secretary General Ambassador Albert Ramdin participating. The Board evaluated the PADF's programs and approved the plans of operations and budgets for fiscal year 2009. The Executive Director and Assistant Executive Director participated in various meetings of different OAS committees such as the Inter-American Committee for Natural Disaster Reduction.

The PADF developed a new Strategic Plan for 2008-2012, which will steer its growth in support of the OAS and the inter-American system, while strengthening the role of civil society and the private sector so as to enhance integral development in the region. The Foundation continued to encourage corporate social responsibility as a mechanism to increase the financing available for integral development projects and to aid more victims of natural disasters and humanitarian crises. The Foundation is preparing to celebrate its 50th Anniversary as a basic private entity of the inter-American system.

3.10 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 prescribed by the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), the CITEL statutes and the mandates of the General Assembly. Its mission is to facilitate and promote the sustained development of telecommunications in the Hemisphere.

The world of telecommunications and of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in general has undergone radical changes. Those changes have had implications for the Inter-American Telecommunications Commission (CITEL), among them the following:

- Recognition that ICTs are an effective tool for driving economic growth, promoting peace, security, and stability and for enabling democracy, social cohesion, and good governance at the regional, national and international levels;
- The convergence of the technological platforms for telecommunications and its impact on the laws and regulations governing the section;
- The growth of the internet and other platforms based on the internet protocol (IP) and related services;
- The rapid and steady development of the wireless and mobile communications network and the emergence of new technologies;
- The steady liberalization of the market, particularly in the developing countries, which has opened up markets to competition;
- Given the rapid pace of technological innovation, the ever-present challenge of capacity building, particularly for the developing countries;
- The need to make the best possible use of the scant financial and human resources available.

In this context and based on mandates received from the OAS General Assembly and the Summits of the Americas, CITEL must continue to be a vanguard organization in which the member states and associate members work together to foster sustainable growth and development of telecommunications and data networks and to enable universal access, so that everyone, in every corner of the globe, can participate in the economy and the global information society and take advantage of its benefits.

Given the rapid pace of technological innovation, CITEL's ever-present challenge is to create personnel trained in telecommunications. Accordingly, in 2008 24 courses (17 distance courses and 7 classroom courses) were offered on telecommunications policy, regulation management, and technology. More than 190 scholarships were granted to participants from 27 countries of the region. CITEL now has 19 regional training centers and coordinates with the Americas Center of Excellence of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU).

In the area of telecommunications technologies and their operation, studies on the following subjects were updated: aspects of power line communication (PLC) to use electric power distribution lines to transmit data; protection of the critical telecommunications infrastructure, bearing in mind that the more interdependent the infrastructures are, the more vulnerable they are; use of regulatory accounting to enable the regulator to determine how efficient service delivery is and practical cases of television over internet protocol; alternative video distribution, which includes stored content, direct programming and video on demand over an internet connection. CITEL also endorsed an

International Emergency Preference Scheme (IEPS) and another on Emergency Telecommunications Service (ETS) and its interconnection framework for national implementations of ETS; the Yellow Book on the Conformity Assessment Procedures for Telecommunication Products in the Americas; a Preliminary Guide to guidelines and practices for interconnection regulation, and a recommendation on implementation of Internet Protocol version 6.

As for policy and regulatory issues, CITEL participated in the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA) where decisions were taken about the future of ICTs, and specifically about climate change, deployment of IPv6, making ICTs accessible to persons with disabilities, and conformance and interoperability testing. OAS/CITEL presented 40 inter-American proposals (IAP) at this meeting, related to various issues critical to the region.

The role performed by regional telecommunications organizations like CITEL in preparing international meetings is essential to avoid duplication of efforts, ensure cohesiveness within the region, and garner better results. Given the excellent results achieved in the preparations for past meetings, interregional coordination continues through reciprocal participation in the meetings that the regional organizations of Africa-the Asian-Pacific, Europe, the Russian Federation-based Regional Commonwealth in the Field of Communications (RCC), and the Arab Group hold on these issues.

There is an ever-increasing appreciation of the importance of wireless technologies, the economic value of the limited frequency spectrum, the need to consider measures to enable interfunctioning of systems, and of the rapid technological development. In the area of radio communications, efforts continue to identify the current state of the use of radio electric frequencies to develop resolutions and recommendations for harmonization of the use of the spectrum for fixed terrestrial services and mobile services and, in particular, to determine the frequencies available for emergency situations and the use of the 54-72 MHz / 76-88 MHz / 174-216 MHz bands that are currently assigned to broadcasting.

In the area of radiocommunication, work was done to develop the means to resolve cases of interference harmful to satellite systems and to prepare guidelines to facilitate the deployment of integrated systems in the Americas; to update the Implementation Guide of Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT), which allows those countries that have undertaken significant efforts in this area to share their experiences; to begin preparations for the World Radiocommunication Conference 2011 (WRC), where the international treaty “Radio Regulations”, governing the use of radio frequencies and of satellite orbits; to constantly update data that are important to the members, which includes the current regulation of satellite systems in the region, the situation of mobile operators in the region, and the situation with respect to generic or block licensing and spectrum assignment.

CITEL held 18 meetings during this reporting period, among them the following events on specific topics:

- Workshop on Analysis of Regional Roaming, held in cooperation with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), for a diagnosis on the topic in the region and to prepare recommendations on best practices;

- Third Workshop on “Technological and Administrative Tools in the Fight against Fraud in Telecommunications,” to focus on the problem from the standpoint of the users and their needs, explaining the magnitude of the loss caused by fraud in the sectors and the main types of fraud;
- Seminar on “Sharing regional experiences and/or models of the implementation of number portability in the Americas” to assist those members that are in the process of introducing this service;
- Joint ITU/CITEL Event to “promote the association between the member states and the private sector for better telecommunications development in the region,” conducted in conjunction with the International Telecommunications Unit (ITU) to foster debate on improving mutual cooperation for development of telecommunications/ICTs in the Americas and to create a framework of policies and regulations that furthers development of this industry and expansion of services into rural, marginalized and remote areas;
- Seminar on “Fixed Satellite Services (FSS) in the region” which discussed types of services and their applications, regulations and the challenges posed by interference, as experienced by the system’s users; and a CITEL Technological Forum on “New technologies and their impact on the information society,” organized in coordination with the Asociación Hispanoamericana de Centros de Investigación y Empresas de Telecomunicaciones (AHCIET) [Hispanic American Association of Telecommunications Research Centers and Businesses] and the ITU, which looked at the work being done to encourage knowledge and use of the new technologies to achieve the millennium goals.

CITEL continued to publish the monthly e-bulletin info@CITEL. As of December 2008, 410 articles and 377 news items from countries have been published. CITEL has also bolstered coordination and cooperation with other organizations. Hence, it is keeping current 18 cooperation agreements on matters of mutual interest, so that the parties can work to greater effect.

Into the future, CITEL will pursue its activities to create greater public awareness of its mission and activities, and to improve access to information on issues that are priorities for the member states.

3.11 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.

In 2008, the Justice Studies Center of the Americas (JSCA) tackled with renewed vigor the cyclical change that has occurred in recent years in the reforms in the Hemisphere. Reforms already introduced in the majority of countries have to be revisited as unfinished business associated with new cases filed with the Prosecution Offices backs up. In some cases, the cyclical change necessitates a more aggressive effort to hone the command of skills in critical phases of the prosecution process, such as the length of pretrial custody. The Center is thus persevering in its efforts to create tools and instruments that enhance management of legal procedure and proceedings, such as indicators and standards.

More effort has also been invested in a strategy to provide information and support in countries that are just now introducing their reforms, so that the mistakes encountered in the first countries to introduce these reforms are not repeated elsewhere.

For its part, the JSCA has bolstered its commitment to continue to tackle regional reform of the civil justice systems from the standpoint of public policy and by designing and producing models of good practices and local discussions.

Finally, the JSCA continues to follow the major legal and judicial debates in the Americas, mindful that rebuilding institutional capacities in the justice area will be an important factor in accountability and democracy. With the UNDP, the JSCA organized a seminar on Reforms to the Justice System and Rule of Law to help build a basic consensus in favor of comprehensive reform in that country.

The following is a detailed summary of the measures taken and their impact or result.

Reforms to the Justice System in the Americas

General promotion of judicial reform in the region

a) Inter-American Seminars

- Second Inter-American Seminar on Reform of Civil Justice

The event was attended by 120 people from various countries in the region, including authorities in the justice sector and members of its institutions who have a special responsibility for judicial management in Latin America. The participants came from 21 countries.

Some 2,000 copies of the publication produced were distributed to over 600 people in the region. The book was introduced on August 5, during a roundtable discussion organized in Santiago, Chile, in conjunction with the Americas Society and Council of the Americas. Some 50 people were in attendance.

- VI International Seminar on Judicial Management “Progress and new challenges in judicial management

The event was attended by 120 individuals from various countries of the region, including high-ranking judicial authorities in Peru and elsewhere in the region. A number of media outlets reported the event.

- International Seminar: “The Challenges That Pretrial Custody Detention Poses in Reforming Criminal Procedure: evaluation and prospects ”

The event was attended by 110 participants from 10 countries of the region.

The day after the seminar ended, a closed workshop began at which 25 experts on the subject, from a number of countries in the region, discussed the specific steps to be taken and possible ways to put a stop to the excessive reliance on pretrial custody. Representatives from Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Peru, and the United States participated.

b) Studies

- Best practices for investigation, prosecution and punishment of the crimes of homicide and corruption in the countries of the Americas.

Based on the experience with four Latin American countries, execution of this project in 2009 has been approved and funded.

- Support to Haiti’s judicial system.

This event received coverage in the local media and led to a request to coordinate a workshop visit to learn how Chile’s adversarial criminal justice system functions. A Haitian delegation will make the visit in January 2009. The JSCA will coordinate the activity.

- Strengthening the Justice System in Panama.

Preparation of the Implementation Proposal and a seminar on dissemination and validation are expected in March 2009.

c) Other activities

- Inter-Institutional Cooperation Agreements.

Framework Agreement for Academic Cooperation between the Superior Court of the Province of Córdoba and the JSCA, signed in Argentina on October 30, 2008.

Cooperation Agreement between the Supreme Court, the Administration of the Judicial Branch, the UDP School of Law and the JSCA, signed in Santiago on September 30, 2008.

Cooperation Agreement between Transparency International and the JSCA, signed in Santiago, Chile, on April 3, 2008.

- Pro Bono Internships

The interns' contribution to each of the aforementioned studies was invaluable.
www.cejamericas.org

- Paid internships

Rosa Reynoso, an attorney with the Supreme Court of the Dominican Republic, had a paid internship from January to July, during which time she collaborated in the Report on Justice in the Americas and other JSCA studies.

Throughout all of 2008, Pierre-Gilles Belanger, senior intern at the JSCA and a representative of the Department of Justice Canada, worked within the institution to help conduct the activities in Haiti, such as the seminar held in October.

Specific support to reforms in criminal justice

a) Innovation projects:

- Support to criminal procedural innovation.

Study titled "Reform of criminal procedure in Ecuador: Experiences in Innovation," done in Ecuador. This study recounts initiatives in Quito, Cuenca, Guayaquil, and Azores to enhance the criminal justice system. The material is the Fifth Volume in the JSCA Project to Follow up on Reforms in Criminal Procedure in Latin America.

More than 2,000 copies were printed; over 1,000 were distributed at the local and regional level. The study is also published at the JSCA website: www.cejamericas.org

- Project in the Province of Buenos Aires

Various training activities were conducted on this issue in 2008, and are done by the project trainers. Among these are the following:

Workshop to reinforce training in flagrancy procedure in the Bahía Blanca Judicial Department, held in that city on April 28, 2008. Participating were 31 justice department personnel and magistrates.

Workshop to reinforce training in procedure when the perpetrator is caught in flagrante, in the Morón Judicial Department, held in that city on May 6, 2008. Participating were 35 justice department personnel and Morón magistrates.

Course on new procedure when the perpetrator is caught in flagrante: Oral Proceedings in the Investigation Phase. La Plata, November 26, 2008. Target audience: judges who oversee

investigations, defense counsel, and prosecutors in the Azul, San Nicolás and La Plata judicial departments. Estimated number of those present: 25.

Course on new procedure when the perpetrator is caught *in flagrante*: oral proceedings during the preliminaries. La Plata, June 27, 2008. Target audience: judges who oversee investigations, defense counsel, and prosecutors in the Quilmes and Dolores judicial departments. Estimated number of those in attendance: 45.

b) Studies

- Challenges that Pretrial Custody Poses for Reform in Criminal Procedure

The local reports and the comparative reports were presented at the International Seminar on “The Challenges of Pretrial Custody in Criminal Procedural Reform: evaluation and prospects,” November 13, 2008, Bogotá, Colombia.

The documents will be published in early 2009.

- Follow-up on Reforms in Criminal Procedure: studies, publication, and dissemination

In partnership with the Supreme Court, the JSCA introduced the study on Peru in Lima and Trujillo in December, through roundtable discussions with the other institutions involved. There were more than 50 attendees present for both presentations. A number of meetings were held between technical teams from the justice institutions and the JSCA experts.

- Report on the Mexican Criminal Justice System

Its publication is expected early in 2009.

c) Training

- V Inter-American Program for Training Trainers for Criminal Procedure Reform

The Program was very well received in the region. A total of 213 people from 17 countries of the region applied, and a total of 58 participants from various countries in the Americas were selected.

The students hailed from the following countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, and Uruguay.

- II Inter-American Encounter: Network of the Inter-American Program for Training Trainers in Criminal Procedure Reform

Products produced:

This time, the seminar was titled “Challenges of Criminal Procedure Reform and Public Security.” Participants discussed issues related to introducing innovative initiatives in regional reform processes. Specifically, experiences in citizen safety and security were presented in order to trigger discussion of the matter and strengthen the teamwork among the participants. The

experts invited to the Encounter to make presentations were Alberto Binder and Andrés Baytelman.

- Virtual Training Course: Challenges for Public Prosecutor's Offices in Latin America

The course had 65 students from 11 countries in the region. It ran from June 30 to September 5.

- Course on the Strategies and Content of Judicial Modernization in Latin America

This course had 42 students from various countries of the region.

- Seminar "New Trends in Justice Systems: Justice Geared Toward Dispute Resolution"

250 attendees participated. Web site with the objectives, justification, program, and other details of the event. <http://www.cejamericas.org>

- First International Seminar on Intelligent Strategies for Reducing Crime: "Criminal Analysis and Intelligent Criminal Prosecution."

237 attendees participated. Web site with the objectives, justification, program, and other details of the event at: <http://www.cejamericas.org>

- Visits / Workshops on criminal justice in Chile

In 2008, the following visits were made:

- Visit by a delegation from the Transitional Unit of the Office of Criminal Public Defense of Ecuador.
- Visit by a delegation from the Council of the Judiciary of the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires.
- Visit by a delegation from the Dominican Republic.
- Visit by the Peruvian National Defender's Office.
- Visit to the JSCA by representatives of The Hague Conference on International Law.
- Visit by a delegation from Panama.
- Visit, Argentine Federation of the Judiciary and *Unidos por la Justicia*.
- Visit by a Peruvian Delegation.

Specific support for reforms in civil justice

a) Studies

- Debt Recovery and Sentence Execution Procedures in Europe

The study was published at the JSCA web site, and is thus accessible to users.

- Bases for Reform of Civil Justice. Date: Throughout 2008

Guide being prepared for release in early 2009.

- Meetings of experts on reform of the civil justice system

Strengthening information and management systems in the administration of justice

a) Judicial information

- Access to Judicial Information Online. Fourth version, 2008

The countries being evaluated determine whether, both at the individual and comparative levels, access to information online has improved or worsened. The document provides a global vision of the Hemisphere.

Cristián Riego, the JSCA's Executive Director, presented this report on November 27, at the 'Roundtable for Transparency and Access to Public Information in the Judicial Branch,' held in Santiago, Chile and organized jointly by the Due Process Legal Foundation (DPLF) and the *Fundación Pro Acceso*.

It was also presented by Jaime Arellano, President of the Board of Directors of the JSCA, at the Andean Regional Seminar "Judicial Transparency: Best Practices from Civil Society and the Judicial Branch," La Paz, Bolivia, November 20 and 21, 2008.

b) Development of management systems

- White Book on the Use of Technology in Justice

The publication titled "Prospects for use and impacts of ICTs in the administration of justice in Latin America" can be found at www.cejamericas.org

- Project on Juridical Indicators for Ibero-America

"Ibero-American Plan of Judicial Statistics" (PLIEF). Presented at Brasilia in March 2008 during the XIV Ibero-American Juridical Summit. Available online at: <http://www.cejamericas.org/doc/proyectos/planiberoamericanoestjudicial.pdf>.

c) Dissemination

- Regional Conference on "Performance Management of the Administration of Justice"

A CD was produced containing the papers presented. A total of 120 people participated in the conference, and came from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, United States, and Uruguay.

IV. SPECIALIZED ORGANIZATIONS

4.1 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 energize governments to craft public policies and programs with a gender perspective so that men and women may enjoy equal opportunity in every realm of life and society. It has its headquarters in Washington, D.C. The Executive Committee for the 2008-2010 period is composed of the CIM President, Laura Albornoz Pollman, Minister Director, National Women's Service of Chile; the Vice President, Jeannette Carrillo Madrigal, Executive Chair of the National Institute of Women of Costa Rica, and the Principal Delegates of Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Colombia, Mexico, and the United States. The Executive Secretary of the CIM is Mrs. Carmen Lomellin.

In the period from January to December 2008, CIM's efforts focused on complying with the mandates of the Summits of the Americas, the XXXIII Assembly of Delegates of the CIM and the OAS General Assembly. Its activities and programs were basically geared toward achieving gender equality and equity and absolute respect for women's rights.

Women's Human Rights – 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)

The Permanent Secretariat of the CIM continued to implement the MESECVI through two important activities:

The Second Conference of States Parties. This gathering completed the first round of multilateral evaluation, adopted country reports and the Hemispheric Report, with recommendations to the states for better implementation of the Convention and the Decisions, Conclusions, and Agreements of the Second Conference of States Party.

The Fourth Meeting of the Committee of Experts: The Meeting began with the *Seminar on Strategies for Monitoring Implementation of the Recommendations of the Committee of Experts (CEVI) to the Governments*. The participants made suggestions for crafting strategies designed to supervise implementation of the recommendations in the Hemispheric Report. The CEVI officially launched that report, approved the indicators for follow-up of the recommendations' implementation and the Declaration on Femicide. The Competent National Authorities are now preparing the responses to the indicators.

b) Trafficking in women and children for purposes of sexual exploitation

CIM continued to work with the Department of Public Security to ensure that the gender perspective is included in the projects and activities conducted to combat the trafficking in persons, especially women, adolescents, and girls.

Through the Focal Point against Trafficking, a presentation on *Engendering Sex Trafficking* was featured in the “2008 Caribbean Anti-Trafficking in Persons Awareness Raising Seminar” (February 27-29) highlighting the importance of including the gender perspective in the fight against trafficking, its extensive work in this area, and recommendations on empowering women and girls.

c) Multicentric project on drugs, women, and violence in Latin America

CICAD invited the CIM, the Department of Public Security and others to form a working group to participate in a meeting (Washington, D.C., February 2008), that examined the approach to be taken to the project : *Drugs, Women and Violence in the Americas – A Multicentric Pilot Study*, to include research into this subject in the 34 member states. This is a combined effort of CICAD and the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health of Canada, with technical support from CIM.

d) Gender aspects of HIV/AIDS

The Thirty-third Assembly of Delegates (2006) made this a priority for CIM. *The Declaration of San Salvador, “Gender, Violence and HIV,”* adopted by the Seventh Special Assembly of Delegates of the CIM (2007), addresses this pandemic from the gender and human rights perspective.

e) Projects on HIV and violence against women

The Integration of Policies and Programs about HIV and Violence against Women with a Focus on Human Rights in Central America is a technical cooperation project involving El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Panama, with financing from the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation. Headway was made in Guatemala and Honduras, where basic information and key actors were identified and the situation of HIV and violence against women was analyzed.

Capacity Building for Integrating Services on HIV and Violence against Women in the Caribbean – A Pilot Project will be conducted in Dominica and Barbados, with support from China, France, and Korea. The activities include a study in Barbados regarding service providers’ Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) on the subject of HIV and violence against women; a preliminary study on masculinity, gender-based violence, and HIV in the Bahamas; and implementation of a course on Empowerment, HIV and Violence, for service providers from 10 Caribbean countries.

CARICOM study on men and masculinities: To examine the impact of masculine values on gender violence and establish and implement strategies to modify those patterns, research was done on Men, Masculinities, Gender Violence, and HIV.

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

a) Gender and Labor

Working with the Department of Social Development and Employment (DDSE), a project was drawn up on *Strengthening women's rights and promoting gender equality, Phase I-Advancing Gender Equality within a Decent Work Framework*, the goal being to have gender mainstreamed into labor and employment policies and programs as part of the Plan of Action of the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor (IACML) and the SEPIA I initiative. The objective is to facilitate implementation of the "Strategic Guidelines for Advancing Gender Equality and Non-Discrimination within a Decent Work Framework" which the Ministers of Labor adopted (2007).

b) Gender, Natural Disasters and Climate Change

Two studies were prepared. The first examines women's vulnerabilities in the face of natural disasters, mitigation and response. It also sets out the framework of a hemispheric strategy. The second is a preliminary investigation that explores the nexus between these two issues and is intended to recommend the best methods and mechanisms for mainstreaming gender into public policy on climate change.

c) Gender and Migration

As part of the Inter-American Program for the Promotion and Protection of the Human Rights of Migrants, Including Migrant Workers and Their Families, a presentation was given at the special meeting that the Permanent Council's Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs held on this subject in March 2008, concerning efforts in this area, including preparation of a case study, creation of a portal on gender and migration, and exchanges with the Department of International Law to put together a course as part of the specialized courses given by the Permanent Council. The CIM Executive Secretariat presented a document at a meeting of the Special Committee on Migration Issues (January 2008). The document was on migration and the gender issues that the Committee should consider. Those issues have already been added to the Committee's business.

d) Inclusion of the gender perspective within the OAS

In furtherance of the PIA, a proposal was prepared titled *Inclusion of analysis of gender and gender equity and equality as cross-cutting themes and as objectives in all OAS programs*, within the framework of the OAS/CIDI Work Plan 2008-2011. The plan is to train OAS personnel and to emphasize indicators of training and development for specific programs and issues, and preparation of virtual courses and a data system.

Thirty-fourth Assembly of Delegates of the CIM and the Third Meeting of Ministers or of the Highest-Ranking Authorities responsible for the Advancement of Women in the Member States (REMIM-III)

The Thirty-fourth Assembly of Delegates of the CIM (November 10-12, 2008) and REMIM-III (November 13, 2008) were both held in Santiago, Chile. The Assembly adopted the "Declaration of Santiago: Strengthening National Machineries for the Advancement of Women with a View to

Gender Mainstreaming in Public Policies” and nine resolutions available at: <http://www.oas.org/cim>. The new officers of the CIM elected for 2008-2010, were: President, Laura Albornoz Pollmann, Principal Delegate of Chile to the CIM, and as Vice President, Jeannette Carrillo Madrigal, Principal Delegate of Costa Rica. The following were elected as members of the Executive Committee: Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Colombia, Mexico, and the United States. REMIM III adopted the ministers’ recommendations, which will be presented to the SIRG as part of its work in preparation for the draft Declaration of Commitment of the Fifth Summit. CIM’s Executive Secretary presented those recommendations during the SIRG’s Fifth Regular Meeting (Washington, D.C., November 17-19, 2008).

In preparation for the Fifth Summit and in coordination with the Summits of the Americas Secretariat, work got underway to prepare a virtual forum to promote the dialogue of civil society. The recommendations will then be submitted to the SIRG for consideration.

4.2 INTER-AMERICAN INDIAN INSTITUTE (III)

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.- Some 97% of the periodicals have been catalogued. All the cataloguing is expected to be completed by late March 2009.
- Historic Archives.- Documents continue to be put in digital format and the records are being reclassified by topic and by country.
- Research.- In collaboration with the National Institute of Anthropology and History of Mexico, the 78rpm records containing original recordings of indigenous music, taken by Professor Henrietta Yurchenco (who died in 2008) over a forty-year period, have been cleaned and preserved. The recordings have been put into CD format, so that they can be heard without damaging the original recordings.
- Internet page.- In 2008, the upward trend in the number of hits received at the site continued. Two 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, 2008, two issues of América Indígena had been published that year. They were made available at the internet site, where users could consult them free of charge.

The Future of the Inter-American Indian Institute

The General Assembly of the Organization of American States adopted resolution AG/RES. 2370 (XXXVIII-O/08) "Future of the Inter-American Institute" at the fourth plenary meeting of the thirty-eighth regular session, held June 3, 2008. A portion of that resolution reads as follows:.

"Acknowledging the financial difficulties faced by the Inter-American Indian Institute, it is recommended that the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Indian Institute evaluate whether it is appropriate to close the institute..."

"That in the event that a decision is made to close the III, the costs thereof will have to be addressed".

"That the necessary measures be taken to salvage, maintain, and disseminate the historical, bibliographical, newspaper and visual archives of the III in order to achieve their widest access so that they may contribute input to research projects related to indigenous peoples."

The Institute is awaiting the Executive Committee's decisions with regard to the points raised in the General Assembly resolution, as the Executive Committee is the only authority that can make decisions of such enormous consequence. Accordingly, the current administration of the Institute has prepared the following documents:

- Document accounting for and verifying the budgetary periods from April 2002 to December 2008;
- Inventories of movables and equipment;
- Inventory of records and archives;
- Report on amounts owed for property tax and water service;
- Report on the commodatum contract on the building that houses the Institute's installations, and
- A calculation of the cost of staff settlements.

These documents can be made immediately available to the member countries of the Institute.

Payment of the member countries' quota assessments

As of December 31, 2008, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, and Venezuela were current on their quotas. Quotas received in 2008 totaled US\$226,094.47. Brazil alone made a payment of US\$87,761, representing its quota for the period from 2002 to 2008.

In April 2007, Ecuador denounced the 1940 Pátzcuaro Convention. Efforts to get the government of that country to pay its quotas in arrears, amounting to 20 years, did not succeed.

The United States continues to owe US\$600,000, corresponding to its quotas from 1996 to 2000. As of December 31, 2008, the total amount of combined quotas owed by all the member countries was US\$1,027,283.08.

4.3 INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE (IICA)

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 mission of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), acknowledged as the specialized agency for agriculture and rural development in the Americas, is to provide innovative technical cooperation to its 34 Member States aimed at achieving food security, rural prosperity and competitive agricultural sectors in the countries concerned.

With regard to the Summit of the Americas process, the Institute assisted the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, other member countries and the OAS Summit Secretariat with the preparations for the Fifth Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Americas. Progress was also made in organizing the Fifth Ministerial Meeting "Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas," due to take place in Jamaica in October 2009.

IICA's Executive Committee held its Twenty-eighth Regular Meeting in July 2008. The committee adopted 17 resolutions on a range of topics, including institutional policy and technical cooperation, budgetary and financial matters, institutional management and matters pertaining to the governing bodies.

As a strategic contribution to the agricultural development of the countries, IICA established the Center for Leadership in Agriculture and Rural Life. The Center made it possible for representatives of the public and private sectors and over 80 young people from the western hemisphere to meet at the Institute's Headquarters, to reflect on and discuss the state of and outlook for the agricultural sector at the global level. Meetings to promote leadership in agriculture also took place in the Andean Region, and at the country level in Guatemala, Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic.

The crisis triggered by rising food prices proved to be a global challenge in 2008. This led IICA to strengthen its activities in the field of food security, convening and taking part in international meetings of experts on the subject, devising methodologies to gauge the impact of price volatility and permanently monitoring trends in markets and food security policies in the countries.

To strengthen business capabilities, IICA continued to implement the "Export Platforms" program, thanks to which producers and entrepreneurs from Panama, Honduras, the Dominican Republic, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, Paraguay and Ecuador became more competitive and are better equipped to export and market their products.

In Ecuador, Colombia, Panama and the Central American countries, progress was made in formulating and implementing policy tools for agroindustry and microenterprises. Members of more than 15 organizations of small-scale entrepreneurs and 25 organizations of 3000 families in Colombia, Peru and Mexico enhanced their capacity to market their products, helping them to maintain a presence in their respective markets. In other parts of the hemisphere, such as northern Costa Rica and the provinces of Lima and Junin in Peru, IICA collaborated in the application of strategies aimed at activating agro-industrial clusters.

In the area of agricultural health and food safety, IICA continued to implement the Initiative for the Americas, which permitted the countries to play an active role in the work of the WTO/SPS Committee. The Performance, Vision, Strategy (PVS) tool was also used to pinpoint the needs of the health services of IICA's member countries and determine the actions needed to meet them. Furthermore, working with the USDA, no less than 500 people from 32 countries were trained in the international standard-setting processes related to animal and plant health and food safety; and primary schools received educational material designed to raise consumer awareness of the importance of good practices in the hygienic handling of foodstuffs.

With regard to the efforts to promote the strengthening of rural communities, IICA focused its actions on collaborating in the design of the Regional Environmental Strategy for Central America and Ecuador's Rural Development Strategy; evaluating the PRODERT program in Honduras; and providing technical guidelines for agricultural research in Venezuela. Moreover, cooperation was provided to develop capabilities for sustainable rural development with a territorial approach in Brazil, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Venezuela, Honduras and Chile. To that end, the Institute formulated and published a series of methodologies for applying the territorial approach in rural development projects and actions.

IICA played an active part in a number of international events related to natural resources and environmental management, including the meeting of the Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission, held in Ecuador. It also carried out a series of technical missions in Mexico, Costa Rica, Bahamas, El Salvador, Panama, Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil and Venezuela that led to the formulation of projects and the identification of areas for joint work with various institutions. Furthermore, the Institute implemented an extensive outreach campaign on the management of natural resources and environmental management.

In the area of the promotion of technology and innovation, IICA strengthened the hemispheric dialogue for the design of policies in technological innovation and the development of a regional agenda in this field under Regional Forum on Agricultural Research and Technology Development (FORAGRO) and Regional Fund for Agricultural Technology (FONTAGRO), which was made possible by the signing of a new agreement with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). In addition, the cooperation programs for agricultural technology research and innovation (PROCI) were strengthened.

IICA prepared the "2008 Report on the state and performance of agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean from the technological perspective." Other important results included the work with IFPRI to update the science and technology indicators of several countries in the hemisphere; a study of the mechanisms for protecting public goods related to the PROCIs and FONTAGRO; and the conclusion, with support from the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR), of the international assessment of the role of agricultural knowledge, science and technology in development and a study on technological innovations for production systems based on family agriculture.

As follow-up to the exercise carried out in 2007 to identify biotechnology and biosafety needs, the Institute discussed and designed a number of projects, including one aimed at diversifying the food supply for vulnerable populations in the Andean Region, and strategies for the adoption of biotechnology in the Andean, Central and Southern regions. Furthermore, IICA organized a meeting to discuss the state of biotechnology in the hemisphere and the implications of agreements reached in international forums such as the Cartagena Protocol and the Codex Alimentarius.

Under IICA's Hemispheric Agroenergy and Biofuels Program, implementation of projects related to those fields got under way in Jamaica; capacity-building efforts in the same areas were carried out in Belize and Saint Lucia; and various international seminars on those subjects took place. IICA and the Latin American Energy Association (OLADE) also signed an agreement for the design and execution of the Regional Biofuels Program.

In its capacity as the Executive Secretariat of the Network of Competent Authorities in Organic Agriculture, the Institute organized the network's first international meeting and helped strengthen it with the creation of the Inter-American Commission for Organic Agriculture. In the same field, projects were implemented and agreements signed in several countries, including Costa Rica, Peru, Argentina, Paraguay and Chile.

With regard to actions at the hemispheric level, IICA made progress in implementing knowledge management strategies designed to strengthen its technical cooperation actions. Among other things, the Institute's information systems and services (e.g., INFOAGRO-Agronegocios, INFOAGRO-Comercio, INFOTEC and the Agricultural Information and Documentation Service for the Americas (SIDALC)) made it possible to promote the development of various communities and intensify the dialogue and information sharing within and between countries. IICA also enhanced the agricultural information capabilities of over 50 professionals from various countries. The actions carried out included those coordinated with the Technical Center for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) and others related to the strengthening of leadership in information management in the Caribbean Region and the implementation of distance training courses using IICA's virtual learning environment, known as E-Vida.

The following are some of the most important results at the regional level: a) the creation and implementation of the Andean Alliance for Dialogue and the Reassessment of the Value of Agriculture and Rural Life, working with institutional partners in that region; b) the promotion in the Caribbean Region of the use of the Agro Matrix and other tools that are useful for repositioning agriculture; c) support for the implementation of animal and plant health policy measures as part of the Central American Agricultural Policy (PACA); d) the continuity of projects such as the SICTA Network and PROMECAFE in the Central Region; e) technical and administrative support for FONTAGRO in the Northern Region; f) the support that IICA provides in the Southern Region as Secretariat of the CAS; and, g) the use of IICA's capabilities in the countries of the Southern Region to identify, formulate and operate projects with the European Union, FONTAGRO and PROCISUR.

Furthermore, in 2008 IICA worked with a wide range of public and private sector organizations, academic institutions and international agencies, including the IDB, the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE), the World Food Programme (WFP), Google Inc., the Caribbean Council of Higher Education in Agriculture (CACHE) and several American universities (Cornell University, University of California, University of Nebraska, etc.), with which it executed various projects aimed at agricultural and rural development in the hemisphere.

As explained in this report, in 2008 IICA contributed to the development of agriculture and rural life in its member countries by means of over 500 actions, the results of which moved the countries closer to achieving the goals of food security, rural prosperity and agricultural competitiveness.

4.4 INTER-AMERICAN CHILDREN'S INSTITUTE

The Institute is a specialized organization that helps craft public policy on children in the Americas, lobbies for laws to protect them, and cultivates a critical awareness of the problems affecting children and adolescents in the Hemisphere.

The principal activity that the Inter-American Children's Institute carried out in 2008 was implementation of its Plan of Action 2007-2011, which the Directing Council adopted in 2007.

This year the Institute organized a Regular Meeting and two events under the Directing Council: The Children and Adolescents Inter-American Forum "My Right to Participate" (April 22 to 24) and Inter-American Meeting on the "Exchange of experience and programs in Child Care" (April 24 and 25), Querétaro, Mexico.

The Directing Council held its 83rd Regular Meeting in Ottawa, October 15 and 16. The meeting was attended by delegates from 26 member states, as well as representatives from a number of permanent observers. There the Directing Council approved the draft agenda and regulations for the XX Pan American Child Congress, to be held in the second half of 2009. The meeting also elected the new officers of the Directing Council for the 2008-2010 period. Mario Vísquez Jiménez of Costa Rica was elected President and Kirsys Fernández de Valenzuela of the Dominican Republic was elected Vice President. Sara Oviedo of Ecuador was President for the 2006-2008 term.

Over the course of this reporting period, the Institute's headquarters in Montevideo, Uruguay was visited by a number of dignitaries, who came to hold working meetings with officials in the Office of the Director General. These included delegates from the International Institute for Child Rights and Development (IICRD) of the University of Victoria, Canada, The Hague Conference on Private International Law, and the ANDI Network (News Agency for the Rights of the Child). IIN headquarters was also the venue for various meetings with authorities on matters related to children, as well as the presentation of IIN publications and other documents, with the Chief of Staff of the Secretary General and the Secretary for Legal Affairs in attendance.

The IIN's Annual Report for 2007 was presented to the Permanent Council of the OAS at the headquarters of the OAS General Secretariat in Washington, D.C. That report was referred to the General Assembly for consideration at its XXXVIII regular session. The Director General of the IIN participated in the meeting held by the Permanent Council's Special Committee on Migration Issues to discuss "Migrations of Children and Adolescents from the standpoint of rights."

The IIN was an observer at the thirty-eighth regular session of the General Assembly, in Medellín, Colombia, which approved resolution AG/RES. 2432 (XXXVIII-O/08) "Prevention and Eradication of Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Smuggling of and Trafficking in Minors."

Officials from the Office of the Director General of the IIN also participated in the following meetings:

- X Ibero-American Conference of Ministers Responsible for Childhood and Adolescence (San Salvador).
- World Congress III against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents (Rio de Janeiro).
- Global Movement for Children (GMfC)– Latin American Chapter (Panama).

- Grupo de Trabajo Niñ@Sur [Southern Child Working Group] (Brasilia).

The IIN concluded cooperation agreements with ECPAT International and Save the Children-Sweden, and with the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB).

Cooperation projects were presented to the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

Other activities in furtherance of the Plan of Action, according to the IIN's Technical Areas:

Promotion and Protection of Rights

- The IIN attended the International Meeting on "Political Socialization: Children and Youth, Trends and Counter-trends" organized by Childwatch, the International Center for Education and Human Development –CINDE-, and the Universidad de Manizales, Colombia, November 13, 14 and 15, 2008.
- Formulation of a proposal aimed at organizing the Meeting on Child Participation, to be held in Ecuador in February 2009, pursuant to resolution CD/RES. 07 (83-R/08).
- Various activities to build upon the theme of Child Participation.

Juvenile Law

- The legal database (BADAJ) was updated and put online.
- Technical Institutional Guidance: In exercise of its functions and authorities, the IIN issued its opinion on possible comprehensive guidelines on legislation, public policies and their practice, to benefit children and adolescents.
- Model Law on International Abduction of Minors under the International Program on Abduction of Minors.

Communication and Information

- Updating and monitoring the IIN web page.
- Reorganization of the Dr. Luis Morquio Library.
- Virtual Training Courses: Refresher Course on the Rights of the Child; Course for attorneys of central authorities and officials working on issues related to the international abduction of minors; Workshop on Child and Adolescent Participation.

4.5 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, circulates publications internationally and organizes technical meetings in the fields of cartography, geography, history, and geophysics.

Pan American Laboratory for Observation of Natural Disasters

The results obtained in the PAIGH project on “Detecting and Tracking Forest Fires in Mexico and Central America,” run by Mexico’s National Meteorological Service, led to an initiative to develop, at Institute headquarters, a “Pan American Laboratory for the Observation of Natural Disasters.” In the initial phase at least, the main purpose is to use a multidisciplinary approach to analyzing risks, hazards, and situations associated with specific disasters that are not necessarily on the regional agenda of priorities. The idea is to draw the attention of academicians, specialists, disaster response agencies, and bilateral and multilateral support institutions. The PAIGH initially will be enabling the formation and functioning of a pan American network of specialists, building capacities and creating a virtual documentation center for scientific activities.

At its 41st Meeting (El Salvador, 2008), the PAIGH Directing Council adopted Resolution 5, in which it approved the Laboratory’s creation.

Pan American Agenda for the Advancement of the PAIGH 2010-2020

The Committee *Pro Tempore* “Pan American Agenda of the PAIGH” was formed in 2008 to direct the planning associated with the 19th General Assembly, to be held in Quito, Ecuador, October 26 through 30, 2009, and to comply with the provisions of Resolution 5. Once the papers were organized, the First Workshop was held in Mexico City on June 25. The areas proposed for the Agenda were the following:

- Consolidation of the Institute as a **Pan American regional forum** to advance geographic information for the integral development of the member states by strengthening necessary infrastructure, scientific networks, and institutional ties. It must also undertake cartographic, geographic, history, and geophysics studies and analyses which are vital to the understanding and development of the peoples of the Americas.
- Identification of actions that articulate and pinpoint institutional competencies that contribute to **regional integration** in specific fields such as climate change, territorial organization, and natural disasters.
- Fostering development of spatial data bases, including information obtained from the systematic observation of earth from space in order to assist decision-making processes and especially to make early warning systems more efficient and improve disaster response systems.
- In order to improve the logic behind the sustainable use of natural resources, help develop the quality information required to analyze processes connected to specific fields such as soil

degradation, impacts on biodiversity, occupancy of coastal lands, contamination, forest fires, identification and occupancy of risk zones (including adjacent international areas), and the depletion of natural resources, particularly mineral resources.

- Promotion of innovative variants for the study of Pan American history, in fields such as environmental history, historiography, regional integration processes, advancement and conservation of cultural heritage, preservation of historic archives and institutional commemoration of significant regional historic events.
- Foster the identification of pertinent Sustainable Development Indicators and mechanisms in order to share data bases related to the problem, including proposed indicators that allow for the comparison of countries and the development of regional projects.

In 2009, this proposal will be put to the National Sections for consultation, and to the general community associated with the PAIGH. The idea here is to propose to the OAS that a meeting of high-level authorities from the member states be held to secure support for the Agenda from the highest level.

At its 41st Meeting (El Salvador, 2008), the Directing Council adopted Resolution 3 in which it approved the “Pan American Agenda of the PAIGH 2010-2020.”

2008 Assistance and Technical Cooperation Program

As part of the Regular Fund budget for 2008, the 40th Meeting of the Directing Council (Colombia, 2007) approved a Technical Assistance Program consisting of 29 projects, at a cost of US\$174,490. The program has been a success and is 93.16% complete. The following are some of the results:

- The *Cartography* Commission continued to support development of spatial data infrastructures in the region, through projects like SIRGAS, the Geocentric Reference System for the Americas; production of the new map of the Americas in digital format consistent with the specifications for the global map; capacity building through the courses conducted with IGAC/CIAF (Colombia), and the GeoSur and AECI Program (Spain).
- In the case of the *Geography* Commission, particular mention should be made of the papers on comparative natural history and geography; geographic information technologies and their inclusion in the teaching of geography (Chile); and the geographic prospective in the case of detecting and tracking forest fires in Mexico and Central America. Support was also provided for the CEPEIGE international course on “Land-use planning of national and cultural treasures” and the work of the Office of the OAS General Secretariat in the Adjacency Zone between Belize and Guatemala.
- As for the *Geophysics* Commission, the highlights in 2008 were the activities to build capacities on the subject of natural disasters, such as the courses on “Training managers for implementation of the International Charter ‘Space and Natural Disasters’ within the region, the studies on “the prosecution of gravity in the Southern Andes,” and monitoring done of the “Chemical composition of geothermal gases in volcanoes.” The Geography Commission and the Geophysics Commission teamed up for the International Symposium held in El Salvador on “Risks and Preventing Disasters in the Wake of Volcanic Events.”

- The *History* Commission, for its part, supported the holding of the IX Central American Congress on History and continued to support work such as the “Regional History and Integration in the Hemisphere’s Southern Cone,” the “Study on Inter-American Relations in the XXI Century” and continuation of the activities and publications of the Historiography Committee, focusing on building visions of Time and Space in the Hemisphere.

In 2008, the Institute issued a Call for 2009 Technical Cooperation Projects. Assistance was approved for a total of 42 projects presented by 11 national sections, which will benefit the majority of the PAIGH’s member states. The assigned budget is US\$181,600. The purpose of this effort is to support Pan American initiatives in the following areas: (1) Spatial Data Infrastructures; (2); Climatic Change and the Occupation of Geographic Space; (3) Natural Disasters and (4) History of America.

Occasional Publications and Periodicals, 2008

Under the Regular Fund budget for 2008, at its 40th Meeting (Colombia, 2007) the Directing Council approved a Publications Program consisting of periodicals and occasional publications representing the equivalent of 7% of the Regular Fund. Fifteen publications were released in 2008. A book was introduced on the occasion of the 80th Anniversary of the PAIGH, titled “America: Contact and Independence.” The book is a collection of independent contributions from distinguished historians from numerous regions and subregions of the Hemisphere. Spain’s National Geographic Institute contributed to the printing of the book. As its title implies, the book celebrates the bicentennial of a number of countries of the Hemisphere. Commemorative issues were also produced of the PAIGH’s periodicals: *Revista Geográfica*, *Revista de Historia de América*, and *Revista Cartográfica*.

Thanks to the exchanges with the National School of Anthropology and History (ENAH) of Mexico, the PAIGH’s “José Toribio Medina” Library grew. Currently administered by the ENAH, the collection now has 228,168 titles.

Meetings and Statutory Matters

In 2008, the following statutory meetings were held:

- 69th Meeting of Authorities (Mexico City, June 26 and 27)
- I Workshop to Prepare the Pan American Agenda 2010-2020 (Mexico City, June 25)
- 70th Meeting of Authorities (San Salvador, November 18)
- 41st Meeting of the Directing Council (San Salvador, El Salvador, November 19 to 21)

The Institute celebrated its 80th Anniversary on June 24, 2008. A select group of 200 invitees, including representatives from the OAS, the Government of Mexico, academia and intellectuals, joined the officials of the PAIGH and the delegations of the member states that were present for the celebration, and those who received the prizes and awards that the PAIGH bestows.

4.6 PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Established in 1902 by the Second International Conference of American States, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) is the regional specialized organization in health matters in the inter-American system, and the Regional Office for the Americas of the World Health Organization (AMRO/WHO). The mission of PAHO 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.”

Planning national public health actions

Since 2005, PAHO has pursued a country cooperation policy (CCP) to adapt its activities to fit each member state’s individual priorities and needs. Using the CCP, PAHO’s technical cooperation is guided by a strategy developed with each state. A medium-term planning framework (4 to 6 years) is established describing the Organization’s functions and responsibilities in supporting national health development. The strategy is PAHO’s plan for each country. It supports national planning efforts and promotes continuation of public health programs, plans, and policies.

By late 2007, PAHO had developed country cooperation strategies (CCSs) for 27 member states, with each CCS serving as the basis for the biennial work plan of the respective PAHO Country Office.

Some examples of PAHO’s technical cooperation in planning at the national level are: Argentina, strategic planning on HIV and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) for 2008–2011; Bahamas, development of a new strategic plan for the country’s public health services during 2007–2015; Belize, formulation of the new National Health Agenda 2007–2011; Bolivia, the government’s new socioeconomic development plan, “Bolivia: Dignified, Sovereign, and Productive”; Brazil, strategic planning for institutional strengthening as part of a larger national program of goals and investments known as Mais Saúde (“More Health”); Dominican Republic, the 10-year Health Plan 2006–2015; Colombia, key departmental social and health strategies: Primary Health Care, Integrated Attention to Prevalent Childhood Diseases (AIEPI), and Food and Nutritional Security; Ecuador, the health section of the country’s new constitution; in collaboration with the ministries of health of Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay, development of a Proposal for Transformation of the Health Sector. Six countries and territories of the Eastern Caribbean—Barbados, St. Lucia, Dominica, Anguilla, St. Kitts and Nevis, Grenada, and Montserrat—approved national strategic developments plans that are currently being implemented with support from PAHO and other partners, including the European Union, the U.K. Department for International Development, and the World Bank.

Planning Pan American action for health

The “value added” of Pan Americanism in health can be seen clearly in the results of PAHO’s regional public health plans, subregional initiatives, and Technical Cooperation among Countries (TCC) program. In 2007–2008, PAHO supported and promoted strategic planning in all these areas, as well as in the Organization’s flagship Pan American initiative, Vaccination Week in the Americas.

During the sixth annual Vaccination Week in the Americas (VWA), held April 19–26, 2008, more than 56 million people in 44 countries were vaccinated, making this the most ambitious VWA since the initiative was first launched in 2003. Planning was a central part of the initiative, and PAHO provided support in this area to every participating country. This included guidance in defining goals, strategies, and priority populations; coordinating activities at the national level and in border areas; defining indicators for measuring and reporting results; and budgeting for vaccines, cold chain equipment, and other supplies, training, operational expenses, supervision, and monitoring and evaluation. PAHO also provided guidance in planning the countries' communication and social mobilization campaigns.

Throughout 2007–2008, PAHO monitored and participated in the planning and follow-up activities of the Region's leading regional political-technical forums, including the Summit of the Americas, the Ibero-American Summit, the Summit of First Ladies, Spouses, and Representatives of Heads of State of the Americas, and more than a dozen working groups and commissions sponsored by the Organization of American States (OAS).

Planning PAHO action in health

The PAHO Strategic Plan 2008–2012 is based on the results-based management framework that has been adopted by WHO and other U.N. agencies as part of the United Nations reform process. The plan sets forth 16 strategic objectives (SOs), a detailed implementation strategy, and expected results and indicators for measuring progress toward their achievement (region-wide expected results, RERs, and office-specific expected results, OSERs).

To ensure feasibility, the Plan specifies both the resources needed and the expected sources of those funds. New suggestions from member states as well as adaptations of some indicators and goals were incorporated to ensure alignment with the new version of WHO's Medium-term Strategic Plan 2008-2013.

**V. ACTIVITIES OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL AND THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
GENERAL AWAY FROM HEADQUARTERS**

ACTIVITIES OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL AWAY FROM HEADQUARTERS

January

Guatemala City, Guatemala, 13-15	Presidential inauguration in Guatemala.
La Paz and Santa Cruz, Bolivia, 24-26	Official visit made at the invitation of the Honorable Evo Morales, President of Bolivia. The issues discussed on this visit concerned the electoral observation missions, cooperation and development.
Tegucigalpa, Honduras, 30-31	Lecture on the implementation of the Convention against Corruption.

February

Bogota, Colombia, 13	Official visit made at the invitation of the Honorable Álvaro Uribe Vélez, President of Colombia
Paris, France, 14	Official visit made at the invitation of the Honorable Nicolás Sarkozy, President of France
Geneva, Switzerland, 15	Speaker at the Global Forum for Progress
Mexico City, Mexico, 17-19	Inauguration of the Second Conference of States Party to the Inter-American Convention Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials.
Castries, Saint Lucia, 21-23	Official visit made at the invitation of the Honorable Stephenson King, Prime Minister of Saint Lucia
Saint George's, Grenada, 24-26	Official visit made at the invitation of the Honorable Tillman Thomas, Prime Minister of Grenada.

March

Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 6-7	Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Rio Group
Quito and Ecuadoran Border with Colombia, Ecuador, 9-10	Visit of the OAS Mission to the incursion zone
Bogota and Colombian Border with Ecuador, Colombia, 11-12	Visit of the OAS Mission to the incursion zone

April

Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 2-3	Visit to review the beginning of the preparations for the Fifth Summit of the Americas and an official visit with the Honorable Patrick Manning, Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago
Miami, USA, 4	Government Leaders Forum Americas and meeting with Bill Gates, Chairman of Microsoft

Boston, USA, 5	Keynote speaker at the 11 th Annual Latin Conference on Innovation and Growth, organized by MIT
Miami, USA, 6-8	Participant in the Annual Meeting of Governors of the Inter-American Development Bank and meeting of the Andean Development Corporation
Cancun, Mexico, 12-16	Speaker and attendee at the ARCOS Asia-Pacific meetings and World Economic Forum.
Bogota, Colombia, 16-17	Mission of Good Offices and Meeting of the Board of Directors of the PADF
Quito, Ecuador, 18-19	Continuation of the visit – Mission of Good Offices
Port-au-Prince, Haiti, 24-25	Special OAS Mission for Peace in Haiti. The Secretary General headed up the mission.

May

New York, NY, 14	Keynote speaker at the Forum for Democracy, organized by the National Endowment for Democracy.
Lima, Peru, 15-16	Guest at the V Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and of Government of Latin America and the Caribbean- European Union
Atlanta, Georgia, 23	Carter Center: Bi-national Meeting of the Ecuador-Colombia group and working meeting with former President Jimmy Carter.
Medellín, Colombia, 28-31	Inauguration and speaker at the Private Sector Forum of the Americas.

June

Medellín, Colombia, 1-3	General Assembly of the Organization of American States
Panama City, Panama, 4-5	Inauguration of the Secretariat for Persons with Disabilities and signing of the Agreement for the establishment of the judicial facilitators program.
Ottawa and Montreal, Canada, 10-11	Official visit to the Honorable Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada, and meeting with the Deputy Foreign Ministers of Colombia and Ecuador. Speaker at the International Economic Forum of the Americas – Montreal.
Glasgow, Scotland, United Kingdom, 19-20	Speaker at the CIVICUS World Assembly.
Saint Johns, Antigua and Barbuda, 29-30	Official visit made at the invitation of the Honorable Baldwin Spencer, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda.

July

Salamanca, Spain, 3-5	Speaker at the VII Salamanca Meeting on
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	Democracies in the XXI Century
Santiago, Chile, 8-10	Meeting of Ministers of Social Development of the Americas.
Quito, Ecuador and Bogota, Colombia, 29-31	Mission of good offices between Colombia and Ecuador

August

Belize City, Belize, 8-9	Visit to the Honorable Dean Borrow, Prime Minister, and review of the work of the OAS Mission in the adjacency zone between Belize and Guatemala
Panama City, Panama, 13	Working meeting of the Mission of Good Offices between Ecuador and Colombia
Asunción, Paraguay, 14-15	Inauguration of the Honorable Fernando Lugo, President of the Republic.
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 16	Inauguration of the Honorable Leonel Fernández, President of the Republic.
Denver, Colorado, 25-28	Attendee at the Democratic Party Convention (USA)

September

Minneapolis, Minnesota, 1-2	Attendee at the Republican Party Convention (USA)
Banff, Canada, 3-4	Meeting of Ministers of Defense of the Americas
Cochabamba, Bolivia, 18-22	Mission of good offices in Bolivia and opposition governors
Santiago, Chile, 15	Special meeting of Heads of State and of Government of the UNASUR countries
New York, NY,	United Nations General Assembly

October

Mexico City, Mexico, 7-8	Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Security of the Americas, and meeting with the Honorable Felipe Calderón, President of the Republic of Mexico
San Salvador, El Salvador, 29-30	XVIII Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and of Government

November

Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 7-9	World Economic Forum: Global agenda on corruption.
Santiago, Chile, 10-12	Meeting of the Inter-American Commission of Women
La Romana, Dominican Republic, 22-23	Seminar: The emerging global financial order: A regional perspective, organized by ECLAC

December

Paris, France, 3-4	Forum: Latin America and Summit Diplomacy, organized by the Ibero-American General Secretariat
Río de Janeiro, Brazil, 5-6	Seminar: Agenda for Democracy Part 1), organized by the OAS Secretariat for Political Affairs
Panama City, Panama, 9-11	Summit of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Salvador de Bahía, Brazil, 16-18	Summit of Heads of State and of Government of Latin America and the Caribbean on Integration and Development

ACTIVITIES OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL AWAY FROM HEADQUARTERS

January

Paramaribo, Suriname, 25-27	Launch, YABT National Chapter Suriname Keynote, Institute International Relations, University of Suriname
Georgetown, Guyana, 27-28	Launch, YABT National Chapter Guyana Meeting, President Jagdeo and high-level government authorities

February

Port au Prince, Haiti, 14-18	Haiti Mission with Permanent Council Representatives, PADF/Haitian Parliament Forum on the Haiti/Dominican Republic border
Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 24-25	Official Visit, Prime Minister Patrick Manning
St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago, 25-27	X International Conference PAIGH
Tobago, Trinidad and Tobago, 27-29	XLI Meeting of the Summit Implementation Review Group

March

Ottawa, Canada, 12-14	Meeting with Canadian Foreign Ministry and CIDA Officials Round Table discussion, Canadian Foundation for the Americas
New York, 23-25	Meetings at United Nations Headquarters

April

Buenos Aires, Argentina, 1-4	Meeting, OAS Regional Steering committee LAC Platform for the Prevention of Armed and/or Violent Conflict. Meeting with Vice Minister Victorio Taccetti and Senators of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Commissions
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Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 6-7	Official Visit, President Leonel Fernandez Meeting with Minister of Foreign Affairs Carlos Morales Troncoso
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May

Miami, Florida, 1-3	Welcome address, Civil Society Hemispheric Forum
St. John's, Antigua & Barbuda, 7-9	Meeting of Council of Foreign Ministers and Community Relations (COFCOR)
Medellin, Colombia 27- June 04	XXXVIII Regular Session of the General Assembly

June

Paramaribo, Suriname, 5-9	Regional Parliamentary Seminar - International Justice & Security
St. George's, Grenada, 12-14	Electoral Observation Mission Preparatory Visit
Kingston, Canada, 18	Address, Conference on International Security

July

St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda, 1-3	CARICOM Heads of Government Meeting
St. George's, Grenada, 3-10	Electoral Observation Mission (Chief of Mission)
San Pedro Sula, Honduras, 16-19	General Assembly Preparatory Visit Meeting, Minister of Foreign Affairs Edmundo Orellana Mercado
Nassau, Bahamas, 21-23	Address, Caribbean Regional Sustainable Energy Forum Meeting, High-level Government officials
Tampa, Florida, 25-26	Keynote, Tampa Bay World Affairs Council

August

Miami, Florida, 4-6	Address, Southern Command Haiti Meeting
San Salvador, El Salvador, 24-27	Official Visit, President Elias Antonio Saca Gonzales and other government officials Meeting, Secretary General of SICA Lecture, Diplomatic Academy Visit, CICAD- Central American Training and Certification Program for Drug Abuse and Violence Prevention
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 27-28	Meeting, President Leonel Fernandez Workshop- PADF Haiti- Dominican Republic Border Project

September

Port au Prince, Haiti, 11-12	Official visit, post Hurricane Meeting with President, Rene Preval, Prime Minister Michelle Pierre-Louis and other government officials
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Bridgetown, Barbados, 17-18	Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG)
Saint Kitts, Saint Kitts and Nevis, 18-20	Official Invitation, Independence Commemoration
Ottawa, Canada, 21-22	Address, Canadian Foundation for the Americas (FOCAL)

October

Tegucigalpa, Honduras, 2-3	Official Visit, President Jose Manuel Zelaya Rosales, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ángel Edmundo Orellana Mercado Closing Address, SICA Conference- The Structural Causes of Violence in Central America
Bridgetown, Barbados, 15-16	Official Invitation, Signing of the Economic Partnership Agreement CARICOM-EU
St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda, 16-17	4 th Regular Meeting of the SIRG
Mexico City, Mexico, 27-28	2 nd Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities on Science and Technology
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 29	Keynote, Consultative Assembly on Parliamentarians and the Rule of Law Keynote, OAS Trafficking in Persons Seminar
Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 29-30	Meeting with Prime Minister Patrick Manning Meeting with H.E. Paula Gopee Scoon, Minister of Foreign Affairs Address, Civil Society Forum

November

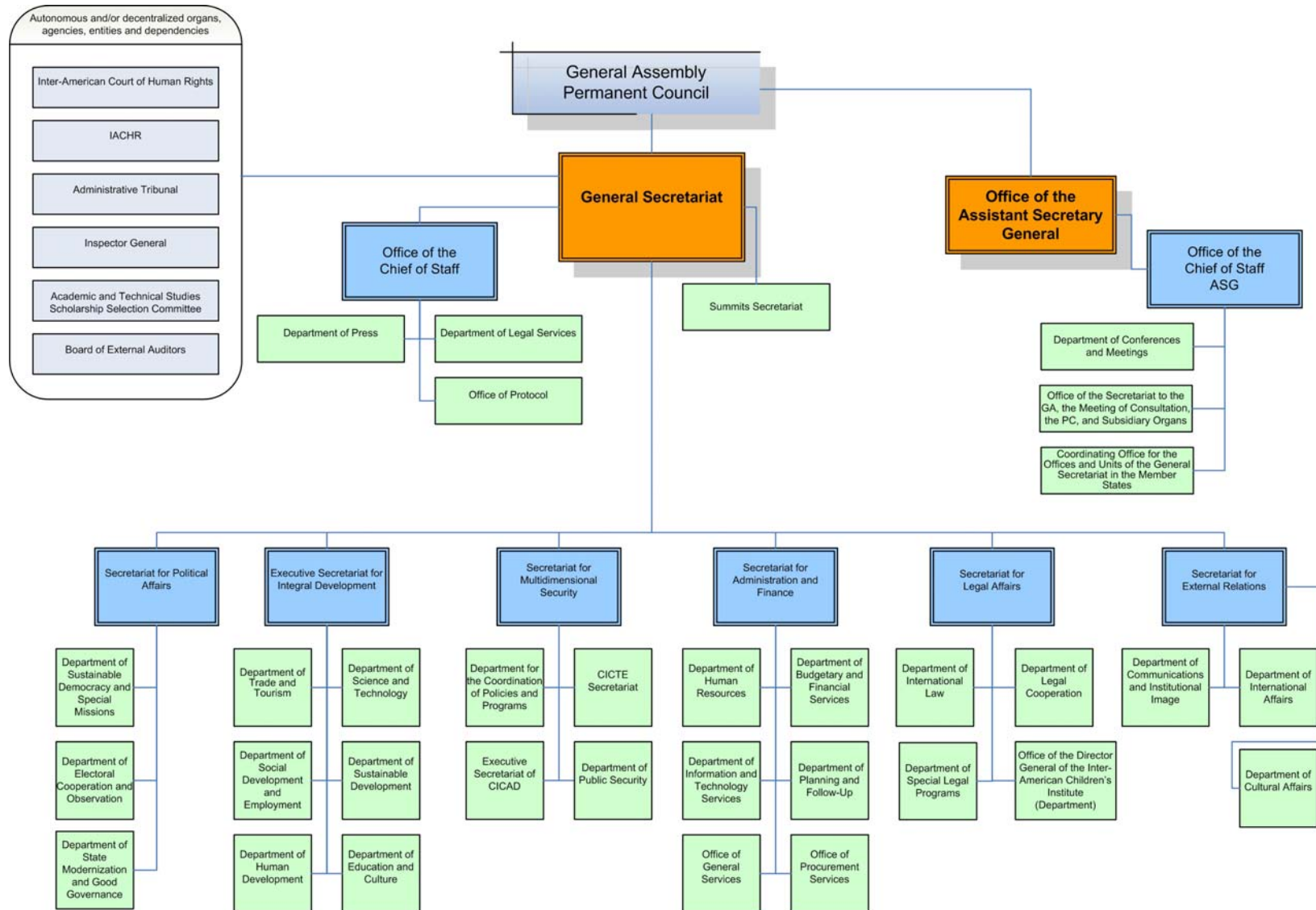
Kingston, Jamaica, 5-8	Launch, Higher Education Initiative, OAS- Universities in Haiti- University of the West Indies Launch, OAS Alumni Association in Jamaica Address, 3rd Meeting of the Association of Caribbean Electoral Organizations
London, UK, 9-11	Address: Chatham House: Making Trade Work for Latin America Meetings with the Commonwealth Secretariat
Rotterdam, Netherlands, 11-14	Address, Club of Madrid First Global Forum on Leadership for Shared Societies
Bridgetown, Barbados, 20-22	4th Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities
Paramaribo, Suriname, 25-30	Lecture, Symposium on Latin American and Caribbean Relations within an Evolving Global Context

December

Miami, Florida 1-2	Keynote, 32 nd Miami Conference on the Caribbean and Central America
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VI. ANNEXES

A. ORGANIZATION CHART



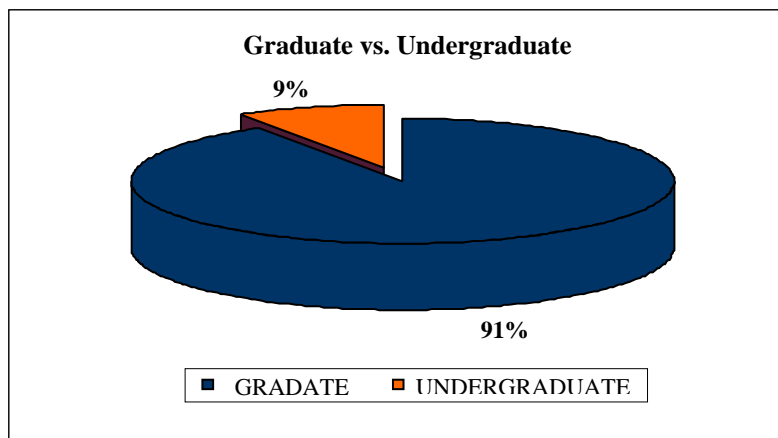
B. ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP AND TRAINING PROGRAMS

2008-2009 Academic Scholarship Cycle Statistics as of December 15th 2008

NOTE: The statistics for 2008-09 reflect the total number of OAS Academic Scholarships grantees. Owing to pending placements, the final number of 2008-09 Scholarship Recipients will change.

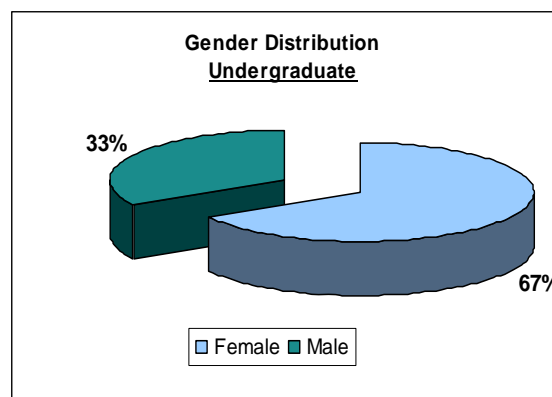
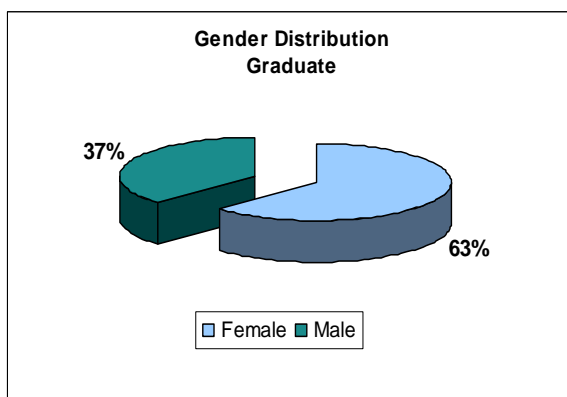
a) Number of Scholarships

	GRADUATE	UNDERGRADUATE
Total selected candidates	279	25
Declinations and cancellations	40	1
Total Awardees	239	24



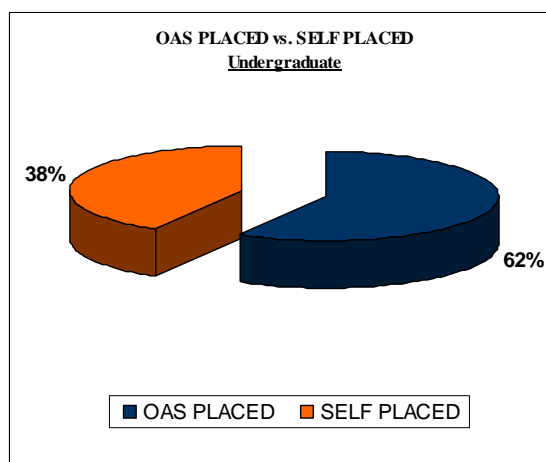
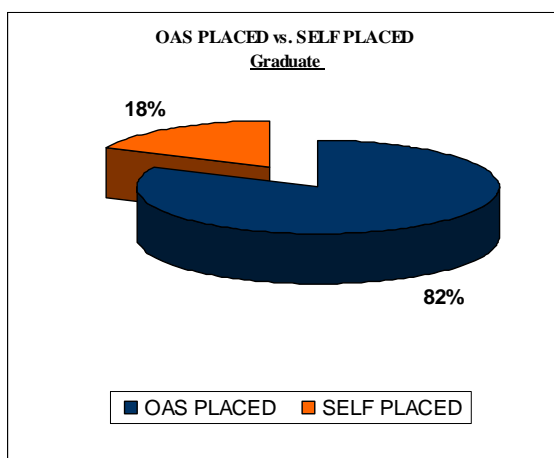
b) Gender distribution

	GRADUATE	UNDERGRADUATE
Female	151	16
Male	88	8



c) Placement distribution

	GRADUATE	UNDERGRADUATE
Self Placed	42	15
Placed by the OAS	197	9



* Placement status as of December 15th 2008

Graduate grantees

	Placement Completed	Pending for Placement
Self Placed	40	2
DHD placement units	151	13
LASPAU	31	2
Total cases completed	222	
Total pending cases		17

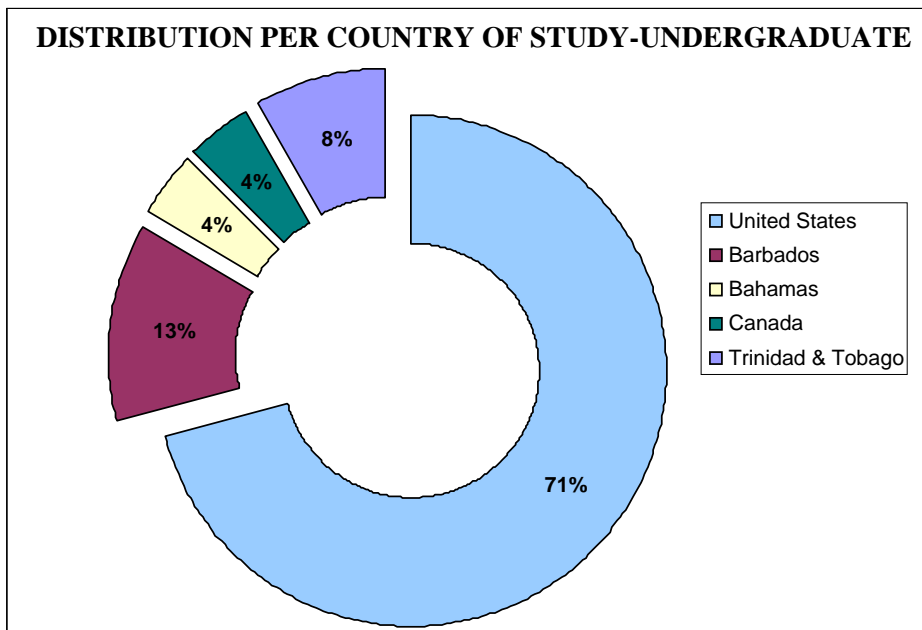
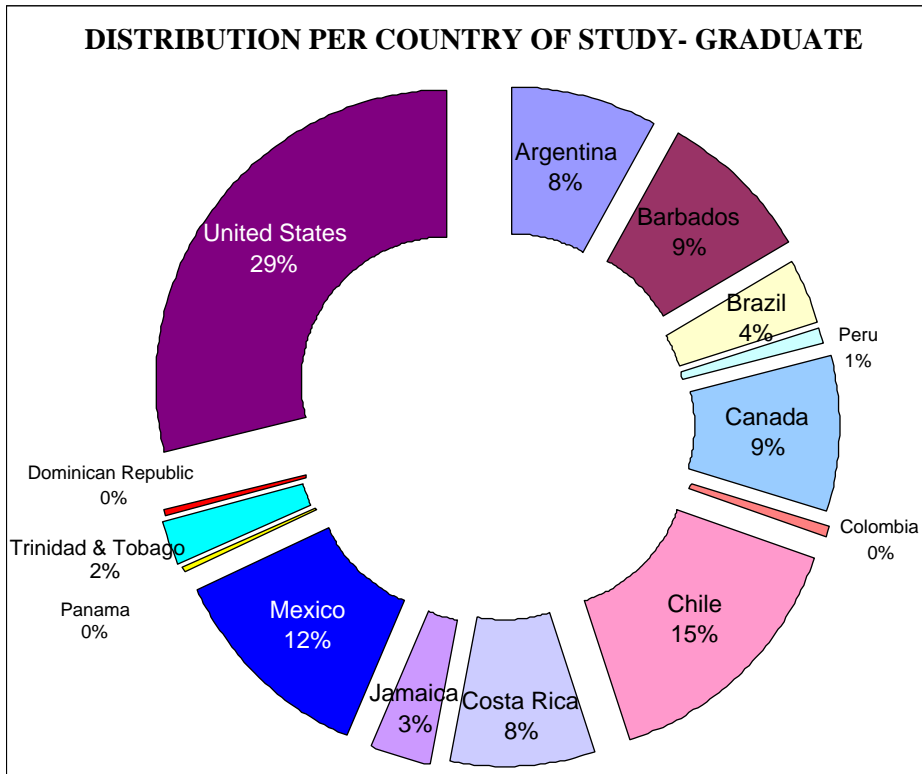
Undergraduate grantees

	Placement Completed	Pending for Placement
Self Placed	15	0
DHD placement units	8	0
LASPAU	1	0
Total cases completed	24	
Total pending cases		0

All the twenty four (24) grantees for undergraduate studies have been successfully placed and received contracts.

d) Distribution per country of study

For this charts, only students that have received and accepted contract have been considered (Graduate: 222, Undergraduate: 24).



Professional Development Scholarships awarded in 2008					
#	Country	Onsite	Online	Onsite/Online	Total per Country
1	Antigua and Barbuda	4	0	1	5
2	Argentina	33	15	4	52
3	Bahamas	2	0	1	3
4	Barbados	5	2	1	8
5	Belize	4	1	0	5
6	Bolivia	12	30	1	43
7	Brazil	13	4	0	17
8	Canada	2	2	0	4
9	Chile	19	29	2	50
10	Colombia	15	44	4	63
11	Costa Rica	5	28	0	33
12	Dominica	0	0	0	0
13	Dominican Republic	9	1	0	10
14	Ecuador	11	45	1	57
15	El Salvador	17	27	1	45
16	Grenada	1	0	0	1
17	Guatemala	9	12	0	21
18	Guyana	0	0	0	0
19	Haití	4	3	0	7
20	Honduras	9	37	1	47
21	Jamaica	4	0	1	5
22	México	15	18	3	36
23	Nicaragua	8	1	1	10
24	Panamá	8	14	0	22
25	Paraguay	12	18	1	31
26	Perú	32	29	3	64
27	Saint Kitts and St. Nevis	2	0	0	2
28	Saint Lucia	5	0	1	6
29	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	2	0	2	4
30	Suriname	5	0	0	5
31	Trinidad and Tobago	0	0	0	0
32	United States of America	2	0	0	2
33	Uruguay	19	40	4	63
34	Venezuela	12	26	0	38
	TOTAL	300	426	33	759

C. FINANCIAL SITUATION
FINANCIAL SITUATION OF THE OAS

Table 1

Combining Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Fund Balance
(PRELIMINARY AND UNAUDITED)

As of December 31, 2008 with comparative totals for 2007
(in thousands)

					Combined	
	Regular Fund	FEMCIDI	Specific Funds	Service Fund ^(A)	2008	2007
Assets						
Cash and Equity in OAS Treasury Fund	\$ 15,445	\$ 12,883	\$ 94,539	\$ 8,593	131,460	130,297
Deferred charges related to future year's appropriations ^(B)	6,135	-	-	-	6,135	6,642
Due from Tax Equalization	4,118	-	-	-	4,118	3,789
Advances to employees and other receivables	161	-	-	20	181	515
Investment in Fixed Asset Fund	55,540	-	-	-	55,540	57,234
Total Assets	\$ 81,399	\$ 12,883	\$ 94,539	\$ 8,613	\$ 197,434	\$ 198,477
Liabilities and Fund Balance						
Unliquidated obligations	\$ 5,613	\$ 1,693	\$ 12,178	\$ 1,888	\$ 21,372	\$ 18,321
Quotas / Pledges collected in advance	132	-	-	-	132	5,315
Amounts to be charged to future year's appropriations ^(B)	6,135	-	-	-	6,135	6,642
Due to Regular Fund	-	-	-	4,118	4,118	3,789
Accounts payable and other liabilities	288	58	1,552	225	2,123	7,418
Payroll Terminations	587	-	-	1,764	2,351	1,761
Mortgage Liability	23,140	-	-	-	23,140	23,530
Total Liabilities	35,895	1,751	13,730	7,995	59,371	66,776
Fund Balances:						
Restricted for Fellowships	203	-	-	-	203	4,095
Financing for 2009 Regular Fund - AG/RES. 1 (XXXIII-E/07)	6,752	-	-	-	6,752	5,352
Unrestricted Reserve subfund	6,149	-	-	-	6,149	6,551
Fund Balance	-	11,132	80,809	618	92,559	81,999
Total Fund Balance	13,104	11,132	80,809	618	105,663	97,997
Restricted for fixed assets	32,400	-	-	-	32,400	33,704
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	\$ 81,399	\$ 12,883	\$ 94,539	\$ 8,613	\$ 197,434	\$ 198,477

(A) Includes Tax Equalization Fund.

(B) Present value of OAS Annuities (life payments to former Secretary Generals and former Assistant Secretary Generals).

Table 2

**Combining Statement of Changes in Fund Balance
(PRELIMINARY AND UNAUDITED)**

For the year ended December 31, 2008 with comparative totals for 2007
(in thousands)

					Combined	
	Regular Fund	FEMCIDI	Specific Funds	Service Funds ^(A)	2008	2007
Increases						
Quota & Pledge Collections	\$ 85,212	\$ 6,237	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 91,449	\$ 85,108
Less prompt payment credits	(431)	-	-	-	(431)	(233)
Contributions	-	-	73,069	16	73,085	62,908
Tax Reimbursement	-	-	-	4,121	4,121	3,127
Transfers	-	-	1,378	5,036	23 ^(B)	92
Interest Income	653	369	2,579	73	3,674	5,240
Administrative and Technical Support	2,179	-	-	5,937	83 ^(B)	1,856
Rental	500	-	-	1,346	1,846	1,789
Americas Magazine Subscriptions	267	-	-	-	267	294
Other Income & Refunds	920	510	722	3,565	4,983 ^(B)	4,963
Total Increases	89,300	7,116	77,748	20,094	179,100	165,144
Decreases						
Expenditures & Obligations	91,059	7,573	59,713 ^(C)	14,037 ^(C)	160,516 ^(B)	148,665
Tax Reimbursement	-	-	-	4,782	4,782	6,780
Transfers	732	-	3,099	1,200	1,739 ^(B)	876
Returns to donors	-	-	4,223	-	4,223	5,122
Supplementary Appropriations	-	-	-	-	-	160
Americas Magazine	167	-	-	-	167	309
Total Decreases	91,958	7,573	67,035	20,019	171,427	161,912
Net increase (decrease) during period	(2,658)	(457)	10,713	75	7,673	3,232
Fund balances, beginning of period	15,762	11,589	70,096	543	97,990	94,765
Fund balances, end of period	\$ 13,104	\$ 11,132	\$ 80,809	\$ 618	\$ 105,663	\$ 97,997

(A) Includes Tax Equalization Fund.

(B) Combining amount excludes interfund transactions.

(C) Net execution, comprised of 2008 expenditures plus 2008 Unliquidated Obligations less Carryover Obligations.

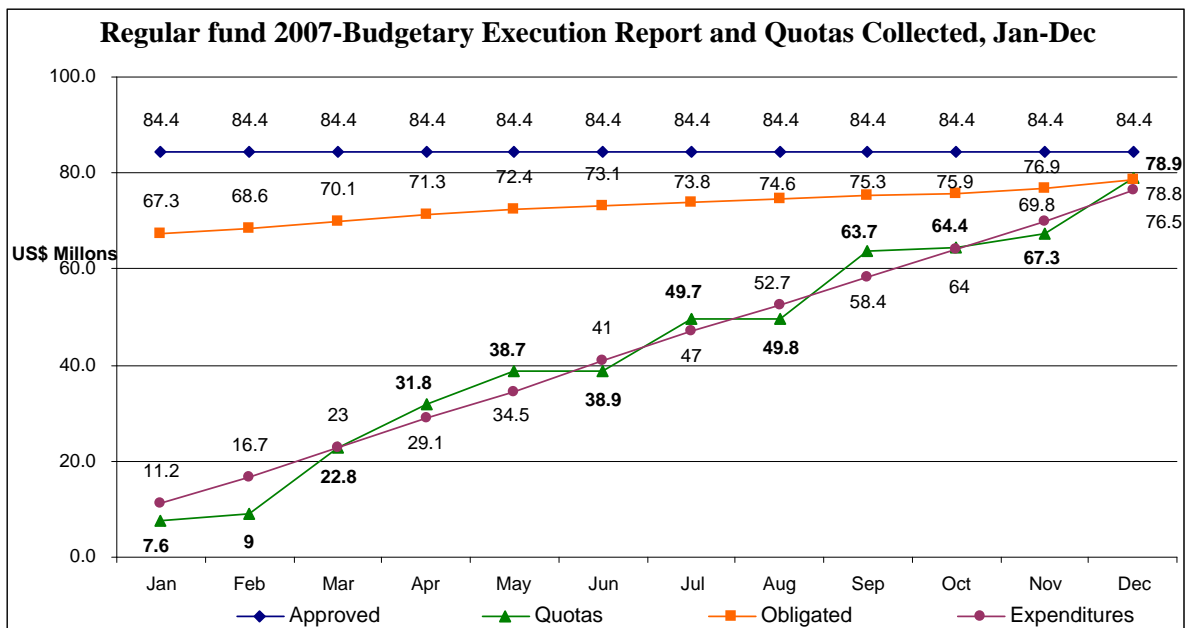
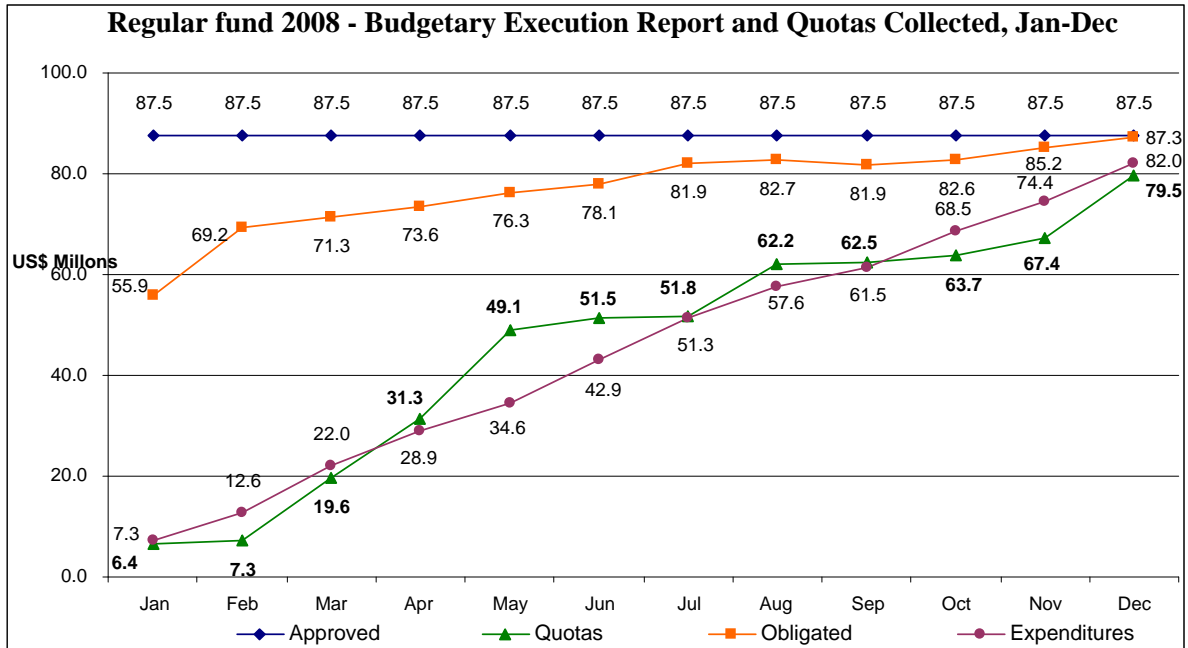
ITEMIZATION OF REGULAR FUND EXPENSES AND OBLIGATIONS, BY CHAPTER
For the year ended December 31, 2008
(in thousands US\$)

	2008*	2007
Secretary General	\$ 5,421.93	\$ 8,004.08
Assistant Secretary General	18,273.89	19,285.22
Autonomous and/or Decentralized Entities	8,257.39	10,748.23
Secretariat for Legal Affairs	3,684.08	2,326.66
Secretariat for Multidimensional Security	4,295.82	3,708.58
Secretariat for Political Affairs	3,732.25	4,171.41
Executive Secretariat for Integral Development	16,157.24	8,361.40
Secretariat for External Relations	3,200.52	-
Secretariat for Administration and Finance	11,819.80	10,376.53
Basic Infrastructure and Common Costs	12,412.78	11,766.52
Fellowships**	3,803.30	5,207.61
TOTAL	\$ 91,059.00	\$ 83,956.24

* During 2008 the structure of the Secretary General was modified according to the Executive Order No. 08-01 Rev. 2

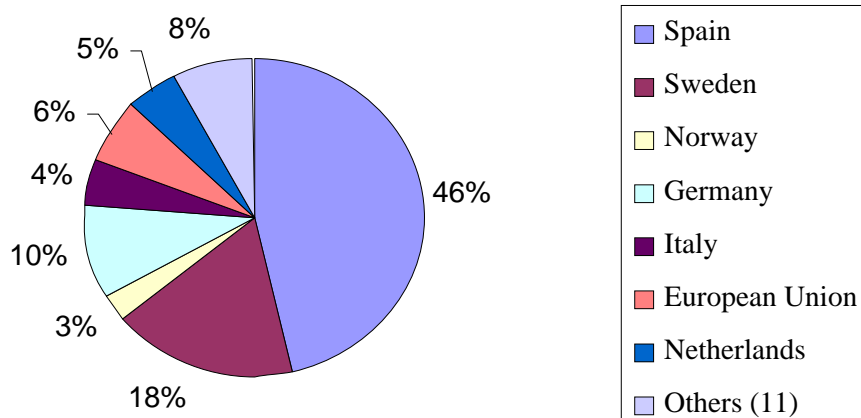
**Authorized for multiannual execution (2006 and 2007 appropriation)

PROGRAM-BUDGET: LEVELS OF EXECUTION



D. PERMANENT OBSERVERS

Contributions - Permanent Observers - 2008



COUNTRY	PERCENTAGE	AMOUNT (US\$)
Austria	0.96%	247,703.00
China	1.09%	282,000.00
Denmark	1.21%	313,557.00
European Union	6.36%	1,642,860.40
France	0.77%	197,596.44
Germany	9.67%	2,496,823.91
Ireland	1.85%	477,525.00
Italy	4.31%	1,112,651.36
Japan	0.01%	2,689.00
Korea	0.39%	100,000.00
Luxemburg	0.27%	70,979.00
Norway	2.84%	733,659.28
Spain	46.30%	11,958,583.07
Sweden	17.60%	4,545,430.00
Switzerland	0.02%	6,000.00
Netherlands	5.13%	1,325,597.32
Turkey	0.14%	35,000.00
United Kingdom	1.07%	277,164.00
TOTAL	100.00%	25,825,818.78

CONTRIBUCIONES EN EFECTIVO OBSERVADORES PERMANENTES 2008

PAIS	AREA/PROYECTO	MONTO US\$	TOTAL US\$
SWEDEN	IACHR – Rapporteurship, Freedom of Expression	\$77,965	4,545,430
	SAP – Modernization Legislative Agenda - Guatemala	\$314,264	
	SAP – Support, Electoral System in Honduras	\$244,918	
	SAJ – Support to Establish National System of Judicial Facilitators in 73 Municipalities in Nicaragua	\$1,163,260	
	SAP – OAS Mission to Support the Peace Process in Colombia	\$1,925,379	
	IIN – Save the Children	\$4,000	
	SAP – Strengthening the Supreme Electoral Authority in Honduras	\$428,232	
	SEDI – Civil Registry in Honduras	\$387,410	
NORWAY	SMS – Demining – Nicaragua	\$406,550	733,659.28
	SMS- Demining – Ecuador – Peru	\$300,000	
	SAP – Electoral Observation Mission – Bolivia	\$22,147	
	Unprogrammed	\$4,962	
NETHERLANDS	SAP – Mission to Support the Peace Process in Colombia	1,234,528	1,325,597.32
	DCM – JSCA Conference	6,866	
	CIM – Gender Participation and Equality, Nicaragua	84,203	
EUROPEAN UNION	IACHR – Promotion of racial equality and ethnicities	408,848	1,642,860.40
	SMS – CICAD – Improving Drug Treatment, Rehabilitation and Harm Reduction: European, Latin American and Caribbean Cities in Partnership	492,809.40	
	SMS – Demining – Ecuador – Peru	228,729	
	SEDI – Sustainable energy sector in the Caribbean	512,474	
SPAIN	CIM – Putting together policies and programs against AIDS and Violence against Women in Central America	180,535.07	11,958,583.07
	SER – Model OAS General Assembly	263,000	
	SAP – SAPEM	511,840	
	DPCE – Building the OAS General Secretariat’s institutional capacities	300,000	
	SMS – CICAD – Health and wellbeing in the Americas	493,068	

	SAP – Fund for Peace	100,000	
	SAP – Electoral Observation Mission – Bolivia	275,000	
	SAP – Mission to Support the Peace Process in Colombia	1,477,100	
	SAP – Strengthening the Electoral Process and the Records Systems of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal of Panama	268,428	
	SEDI – Strengthening the civil registry systems and practical development tools	400,295	
	IACHR – Strengthening the judicial action of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights	547,138	
	IACHR – Information management systems for the individual cases filed with the IACHR	451,755	
	CIM – Program of hemispheric strategies to promote women’s political participation and strengthening the electoral system from a gender perspective	114,000	
	SAP – Political finance reform in the Caribbean	100,000	
	SAP – Strengthening of Electoral Management Bodies’ Institutional Capacity in the Hemisphere	446,176	
	SEDI – Strengthening of Civil Registry and Promotion of Universal Civil Identity in Guatemala, Panama and Peru	439,176	
	SAJ – Creating community mediation centers, Government of Ecuador	250,000	
	IIN – Program to promote and defend human rights for children and adolescents in the Americas	300,000	
	SAJ – Expansion of the Inter-American Program of Judicial Facilitators in Paraguay	530,000	
	IACHR – Promotion of the Adoption of Progressive Means to Improve the Human Rights of Migrant Workers and Their Families	150,000	
	IACHR – Promoting best practices for the protection of persons deprived of freedom in the Americas	200,000	
	IACHR – Itinerant court	316,473	
	IIN – Information network for juridical cooperation on the rights of children and families	185,228	
	Still to be earmarked	3,659,371	

ITALY	SAJ – Program to facilitate access to judicial services – Paraguay	65,006	1,112,651.36
	SMS – Demining – Nicaragua-Ecuador	40,376	
	SMS – Demining – Nicaragua – Mine hazards	17,770.71	
	SMS – Demining – Nicaragua – Victims’ Rehabilitation	172,422.93	
	SMS – Demining – Colombia – Mine hazards and Victims’ Rehabilitation	23,694.28	
	SMS – Demining – Ecuador- Peru – Mine hazards	46,203.84	
	SMS – Demining – Ecuador- Peru – Equipment	23,072.79	
	IACHR – To promote and protect human rights	118,471	
	SMS – Demining – Nicaragua	73,590	
	JSCA – Best practices for investigating, prosecuting and punishing homicide and corruption in the Americas	78,325.63	
	SMS – Demining – Colombia	36,795	
	SEDI – Reconstruction civil records in Huancavelica, Peru – Material and equipment	89,860	
	SMS – Demining – Ecuador-Peru	36,795	
	SMS – Demining – Colombia-Ecuador	85,508.38	
	SMS – Demining – Colombia – Victims’ Rehabilitation	63,575	
	SMS – Demining – Nicaragua – Central America – Victims’ Rehabilitation	77,609.80	
	IACHR – Promoting and protecting human rights in the Caribbean	63,575	
IRELAND	IACHR – Rapporteurship, Freedom of Expression	78,640	477,525.00
	IACHR – Supporting the IACHR in Colombia	223,670	
	SAP – Mission to Support the Peace Process in Colombia	175,215	
LUXEMBOURG	IACHR – Project to promote human rights in the Caribbean	70,979	70,979
DENMARK	IACHR – Support to Inter-American Commission on Human Rights	313,557	313,557
FRANCE	IACHR – Projects in Haiti	60,000	197,596.44
	CIM – Course on empowerment, HIV and violence against women in	23,000	

	the Caribbean		
	IACHR – Rapporteurship, Freedom of Expression	15,000	
	SAJ – Working Group to prepare the American Declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples	12,384	
	SMS – CICTE	10,000	
	SER – Chair of the Americas	5,000	
	FONDEM – Support to the Inter-American Emergency Aid Fund	10,000	
	SMS – Support to CICAD	62,212.44	
CHINA	SER – Chair of the Americas	20,000	282,000.00
	SER – Model OAS General Assembly	23,000	
	CIM – Website for the 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”	15,000	
	SEDI – Educating youth in rural, indigenous and border communities	50,000	
	SAP – Fund for Peace	14,000	
	SEDI – Publication on “Sustainable Development of the Caribbean: contemporary issues, challenges and opportunities”	50,000	
	SEDI – Civil registry in Huancavelica, Peru	10,000	
	SER – Equipment for the General Secretariat	80,000	
	SER – Program for the social inclusion of youth and violence prevention in the Caribbean via orchestral training	20,000	
JAPAN	SMS – CICAD – Nursing Schools in Latin America	2,689	2,689
UNITED KINGDOM	SAP – Fund for Peace	198,910	277,164
	SAP – Fund for Peace – Belize-Guatemala	78,254	
TURKEY	SER – Americas Magazine	5,000	35,000
	SAP – Fund for Peace	30,000	
KOREA	CIM – Strengthening access to justice in the Americas	25,000	100,000
	SER – Model OAS General Assembly	21,000	

	SAP – Electoral Observation Mission – Paraguay	30,000	
	CIM – Course on Empowerment, HIV and Violence against Women in the Caribbean	24,000	
AUSTRIA	SEDI – Regional Follow-up Meetings on Freshwater Management in Latin America	62,700	247,703
	SEDI – International airport in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	185,003	
SWITZERLAND	SAP – Electoral Observation Mission – Paraguay	6,000	6,000
GERMANY	SAP – Mission to Support the Peace Process in Colombia	567,023	2,496,823.91
	SEDI – Central America Small Valley's Flood Alert and Vulnerability Programme	800,000	
	SEDI – Application of quality criteria in the environment and food sectors	672,648.76	
	SAJ – Support to the OAS' activities to promote the rights of indigenous persons in the Americas	126,725	
	SAP – V Inter-American Meeting of Electoral Management Bodies – Strengthening of Electoral Management Bodies' Institutional Capacity	33,426.35	
	SAP – III Meeting of the Association of Caribbean Electoral Organizations – Strengthening of Electoral Management Bodies' Institutional Capacity	113,344.60	
	SAP – Inter-American Conference on Electoral Issues 2008 Strengthening of Electoral Management Bodies' Institutional Capacity	133,656.20	
	SAP – Culture of Peace – Belize-Guatemala Adjacency Zone	50,000	
TOTAL			25,825,818.78