



# Achievements of the Summits of the Americas Progress since Mar del Plata

## Report of the Joint Summit Working Group



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Progress since  
Mar del Plata

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# Introduction

On behalf of the member institutions of the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG) and in its capacity as the Chair of the Group, the Summits of the Americas Secretariat is pleased to present this compilation of individual institutional reports on the implementation of the commitments assumed at the Fourth Summit of the Americas, held in Mar del Plata in November 2005. The Summits Secretariat would like to extend its appreciation to the Organization of American States (OAS), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the World Bank Group, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the Andean Development Corporation (CAF), the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the International Labour Organization (ILO), and the Institute for Connectivity in the Americas (ICA) for their contributions and collaboration.

The reports compiled here, which highlight the projects, activities, as well as national and regional initiatives that JSWG members have implemented since Mar del Plata, clearly demonstrate and reaffirm these institutions' commitment to serve the citizens of the hemisphere. This Secretariat has dedicated itself to deepening the JSWG's role as a resource in the Summit process, particularly in providing support to the preparations for the Fifth Summit of the Americas in Trinidad & Tobago in 2009.

Lastly, I wish to underscore that while the JSWG is comprised of institutions with individual missions and expertise, its members also comprise and represent a group. Indeed, the Summits process offers these members excellent opportunities to work in partnership to advance the development of the region, and many of these joint efforts are noted in this report. The Summits of the Americas Secretariat hopes that the information presented here will serve to further foster such collaborations within the Summits of the Americas process.

**Carmen Marina Gutierrez**

Director

Summits of the Americas Secretariat  
General Secretariat of the Organization of American States



# Acronyms

Member Institutions of the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG)

<b>OAS</b>	Organization of American States
<b>IDB</b>	Inter-American Development Bank
<b>ECLAC</b>	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
<b>PAHO</b>	Pan American Health Organization
<b>World Bank</b>	World Bank Group
<b>IICA</b>	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
<b>CAF</b>	Andean Development Corporation
<b>CABEI</b>	Central American Bank for Economic Integration
<b>CDB</b>	Caribbean Development Bank
<b>IOM</b>	International Organization for Migration
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organization
<b>ICA</b>	Institute for Connectivity in the Americas



# Declaration of Mar del Plata

Creating Jobs  
to Fight Poverty  
and Strengthen  
Democratic  
Governance





## Growth with Employment

In search of sustained, long-term, and equitable economic growth that creates jobs, reduces poverty, eliminates hunger, and raises the standard of living, including for the most vulnerable sectors and social groups, and in the framework of national strategies, we are committed to continuing the implementation of sound macroeconomic policies geared toward maintaining high growth rates, full employment, prudent fiscal and monetary policies, appropriate exchange rate policies, sound public debt management policies, and working to diversify economic activity and improve competitiveness. At the same time, we will stimulate income growth and better income distribution, increasing productivity, and protecting workers' rights and the environment. We recognize that the appropriate role of government in market oriented economies will vary from country to country. (Paragraph 4)

The work of **The Organization of American States (OAS)** in the area of competitiveness aims at providing support to member States' efforts to enhance their competitiveness and prepare them to better take advantage of the benefits of trade and integration. One of the main objectives is to promote the exchange of best practices, experiences and innovative approaches, as well as assist member States in the analysis and adaptation of those practices to their national development needs, with a special attention to the micro, small and medium enterprises. The activities recently implemented by the Department of Trade, Tourism and Competitiveness include "The Critical Pathways Program for the Small and Medium Enterprises Sector of the

Caribbean," and a series of workshops for the private sector, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises: to address the Caribbean Single Market and Economy in services, competitiveness in the context of the Free Trade Agreement with the United States in Panama, exporting agricultural goods in the Dominican Republic, private sector development, and quality and productivity for the Salvadorian private sector.

In connection with the economic agenda of the region, as always, much of the work of the **Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)** has consisted of monitoring economic developments in order to perform its role as one of the leading sources of comparable information for the

region. In this connection, ECLAC has published *Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean* (August 2006), *Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean* (December 2006) and *Foreign Investment in Latin America and the Caribbean* (April 2006).

Among the subjects of economic policy analysis and technical assistance provided by the Commission, a prominent concern has been how to use the propitious conditions now prevailing to reduce the vulnerability of the region's economies, focusing particularly on the relationship between fiscal policy and commodity prices in resource-producing countries, as well as the link between taxation and equity, especially as regards the collection of direct taxes.

The **World Bank** funded the "Enhanced Competitiveness for International Market Integration Project for Nicaragua", which aims to strengthen the capacity of the Presidential Commission of Competitiveness (CPC) to provide technical leadership and coordinate the efforts of government agencies, municipalities, the private sector, civil society and donors in the field of competitiveness.

The Bank's "Second Business Product and Efficiency Development Policy Loan for Colombia", supports policy reforms in three areas: (a) strengthening competitiveness policies by facilitating the implementation of the Agenda Interna (region and sector-specific competitiveness plans); (b) enhan-

cing quality standards and technological innovation; (c) making the financial sector sounder and deeper. In addition, the "Fiscal Management and Competitiveness Development Policy Loan for Peru" supports the Government of Peru's (GoP's) reform plan to improve the functioning of Peru's public sector institutions and business environment.

To stimulate economic growth, in 2006, the Competitiveness Support Program (PAC) of the **Andean Development Corporation (CAF)** continued to focus on cluster development and entrepreneurial capacity building, as well as dissemination of experience and lessons learned. In the area of cluster development, in Colombia, PAC promoted the implementation of three initiatives: the first consisted of carrying out a development program for autoparts suppliers; the second, was the project, *Methods for Reinventing your Business Logistics (MERLIN)*, which centers on logistics development for exporters of perishable products; the third project was designed to develop competitive advantages in the personal hygiene and cosmetics chain. In Ecuador, PAC contributed to projects for strengthening supply of furniture and decorative objects for export, as well as the development, improvement and value-adding of fishery products for export.

In Peru, PAC gave approval for a project to strengthen the paprika chain to enable Peruvian paprika to consolidate its position in international markets, in particular by raising product quality. In





Venezuela, approval was given for a project to boost the development of providers and distributors in several productive chains with export potential. Furthermore, in Bolivia, Peru, and Venezuela, PAC promoted the development of national tourism strategies designed to improve quality of service, promote different destinations, and raise competitiveness in the sector. In Argentina, PAC provided advisory services for a review of the national urban system for the purpose of raising competitiveness.

As regards entrepreneurial capacity building, PAC devoted particular attention to the development of a national entrepreneurship support system through universities in Bolivia. At the same time, it continued with the Entrepreneurial Ideas Competition and the formation of business incubators in that country. In Venezuela, in partnership with universities and private business, PAC actively contributed to the design and development of the Enterprise Creation Support System in Venezuela, an initiative that has proved critical in promoting entrepreneurial capacity building in that country.

As part of its dissemination efforts, PAC organized the event, CAF Empeño in Medellín, Colombia, where discussions centered on aspects connected with enterprise building and development of risk capital funds in the region. The PAC disseminated information about its activities at the seminar Exporting to win MERCOSUR [Exportar para Ganar de Cara al MERCOSUR] promoted by Venezuela Competi-

tiva. Other events where PAC was present were the First National Forum for Competitiveness (Panama, May 24, 2006); the International Forum on Public Policy in Support of SME (Montevideo, October 23 and 24, 2006); the Ibero-American Seminar on SME Globalization and Competitiveness (Chile, October 26, 2006); and the Central American Entities and Institutions Fact-Finding Mission to Andalusia (Seville, October 2 to 5, 2006).

The purpose of the Research Support Program is to establish support ties with researchers in the region, both to assist them in implementing their projects and to form an international network of experts. Thanks to contributions provided by the corporation in these areas, keep partnerships have been successfully set up with other think tanks in the region, such as ECLAC, Corporación de Estudios para Latinoamérica (CIEPLAN), and the Fernando Henrique Cardoso Institute, among others. In 2006, the program centered on the issues of diversification and productivity; the role of clusters and foreign direct investment in the creation of new exports; and the impact of different policies on business productivity. It also undertook studies, inter alia, on experiences in export diversification in various Latin American countries.

In 2006, the activities carried out by the Corporate Governance Program continued to focus on the development of conceptual contributions and rules, as well as dissemination, implementation,

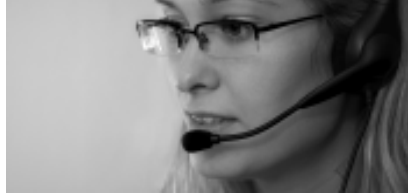
and measurement of progress in the application of corporate governance good practices in the region. In this connection, CAF published the Corporate Governance Guidelines for Non-Listed Companies, and made available a corporate governance practices evaluation software application to interested parties. It also continued to provide support for public and private-sector institutions in the region to carry out local-level projects. Thus, CAF was directly involved in several awareness raising events, including international seminars on the topic in the cities of Caracas,

La Paz, and Cartagena. Furthermore, a number of four-day training workshops on implementation and evaluation of corporate governance guidelines were held for consultants in the cities of Bogota, Caracas, La Paz, Lima, and Quito with the purpose of disseminating information about their application in companies in the region. In addition, a second stage of support was initiated for implementation of the Guidelines for an Andean Corporate Governance Code (LCAGC) in 10 new state-owned and private companies in the region.

We emphasize the importance of the participation of the business sector in achieving our objectives. We recognize, in particular, that micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises, providers of goods and services, constitute a fundamental component for economic growth, job creation, and reduction of poverty and social inequality in our countries.(Paragraph 5)

Regarding the support to the promotion of public-private partnerships, the OAS has actively engaged the private sector in the Summit of the Americas, General Assembly and Ministerial meetings in the context of the OAS Private Sector Forum. Recognizing the role that the private sector plays as a source of growth and employment, the OAS works to further the relationship with this sector by organizing the OAS Private Sector Forum that meets before the OAS General Assemblies and the Summits of the Americas, with the purpose of promoting public-private dialogue as well as concrete initiatives linked with the integral development agenda of the Hemisphere. The Third OAS Pri-

private Sector Forum "Inter-American Public-Private Partnership for Competitiveness and Job Creation in the Knowledge Society" was organized in conjunction with the Government of the Dominican Republic, Private Sector of the Americas, CONEP-Dominican Republic and business leaders from the Western Hemisphere in the Dominican Republic on June 2-3, 2006, in the context of the XXXVI OAS General Assembly. The conclusions and recommendations of the Forum were communicated to the Governments of the Hemisphere in the context of the Dialogue between the Heads of Delegation, the OAS Secretary General and Private Sector Representatives before the OAS General Assembly, on June 4th, 2006.



The Conference “Competitiveness Agenda for the Americas: Contributions of the Private Sector to the Development of the Hemisphere” was organized in conjunction with Private Sector of the Americas and the Caribbean-Central American Action, on December 4th, 2006, within the framework of the 30th C-CAA Annual Conference in Miami, Florida. As an input to the discussion, the OAS commissioned the reports “Successful Practices in Public-Private Partnerships on Education and Skills Training in the Americas” and “Best Practices of Public-Private Partnerships on Education and Skills Training in the Caribbean.”

In order to promote the participation of the business sector, in 2005 and 2006, the OAS implemented the project, Development of Micro and Small Enterprises as a Strategy to Generate Employment and Confront Poverty in the Americas with sponsorship provided by the Spanish International Cooperation Agency (AECI). The main purpose of the project was to

analyze and identify social development and employment generation strategies based on micro and small enterprise promotion. In this framework and to examine the implications of the specific mandates of the Fourth Summit of the Americas in this area, a working meeting was held with the SME Congress of the Americas Directive Committee. In addition, the document, Microenterprise, Poverty, and Employment in Latin America and the Caribbean: a Working Proposal was prepared and presented at a technical meeting that brought together ministries of labor and of finance, as well as members of the Social Network, in order to examine specific inputs and comments and identify opportunities for joint action. This activity gave rise to specific thematic guidelines for future work, such as targeting microenterprise from a poverty alleviation and employment generation perspective, which is where the OAS will center its efforts in this area.

We reaffirm our commitment to the Monterrey Consensus that each country has primary responsibility for its own economic and social development through sound policies, promotion of good governance at all levels and respect for the rule of law and that, at the same time, the international community should support national development efforts. In this context, we reiterate that trade and investment opportunities are necessary for countries in fighting poverty and in their development efforts. Also, in this context, we commit to coordinate international efforts in support of sustainable development policies, to identify secure sources of financing, and to mobilize resources for development and the fight against poverty and hunger. (Paragraph 6)

As economic and market integration continues, the OAS has been working to better align environmental protection with economic

development. These efforts include identifying opportunities derived from trade and investment that could benefit the sustainable

development agenda and also supporting countries anticipate health and environmental issues and standards associated with trade and increased market access, to promote and adopt integrated policy recommendations that have sustainable development at the center. Some of the initiatives in follow up to this mandate include the “Environmental Assessments and Capacity Building for Trade Liberalization Project in the Americas”, the “Trade and Environment in the Americas Initiative” and the “Sustainability impacts of the Soy Sector in MERCOSUR”. OAS-DSD funding towards meeting this mandate is derived from projects in the DSD area of Environmental Law, Policies and Economics which in 2006 had a portfolio of 10 projects, totaling US\$2.83 million

The OAS supports the efforts of member States to promote economic diversification and integration, trade liberalization, and market access that can lead, through expanded market and investment opportunities, to enhanced economic development, job creation, and poverty reduction. In this context, work has focused on strengthening the human and institutional capacity of member States to participate in the economic integration and trade processes taking place in the Americas, to implement and administer trade agreements and to take advantage of expanded market and investment opportunities.

To this end, the OAS organized regional and national training courses, workshops and seminars

on the main issues of the trade agenda including: the continuation of the “Masters Program in International Trade Policy (MITP)” and a four-week “Certificate in International Trade Policy” for Caribbean government trade officials and private sector representatives in conjunction with the University of the West Indies (UWI); the Project “Regulatory Reform and Services Trade Liberalization in the Andean Community: Telecom and Financial Services;” as well as a series of seminars on investment and investor-state dispute settlement, services exports and intellectual property. Taking advantage of the valuable experience of member States in the administration of trade agreements, the OAS provided support in the design, programming and execution of horizontal cooperation initiatives such as the “Program on Best Practices in the Administration of Trade Agreements” initiated in 2004 with the support of the Secretaría de Economía of Mexico. Under this and other similar programs, participating Latin American and Caribbean countries continued to benefit from the expertise and best practices developed by countries like Mexico, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, and the United States in the administration of dispute settlement regimes, sanitary and phytosanitary measures and investment disputes.

In keeping with this mandate, the OAS has worked to coordinate international efforts, and to identify and secure sources of financing for development and the fight against poverty and hunger. As a cooperation mechanism of the



Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor (IACML), the Inter-American Labor Administration Network (RIAL) is an example of the foregoing measures, as is the financing obtained from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) in support of the efforts of the “Social Network for Latin America and the Caribbean” in the area of knowledge transfer on how to improve and ensure greater access to social protection mechanisms in the countries of the region. (See also Paragraph 72).

Administration of social funds has been a mechanism in which CAF has demonstrated competitive advantages. Through its administration and management of the Debt Swap Fund for Social Investment set up between the Kingdom of Spain and the Republic of Ecuador (US\$ 50 million), CAF promotes social investment projects in education and the Clean Development Mechanism (MDL) with funds from the bilateral debt that the Spanish government has condoned in favor of Ecuador. In the case of the MERCOSUR Educational Fund (FEM) (US\$ 650 mil), CAF is technically and financially managing the first fund created with funds provided by the regional bloc to advance social integration through education.

In Colombia, the launch of the Drinking Water and Sanitation Program of the Department of Cesar (US\$ 42.5 million) marked the start of a CAF sectoral strategy designed to promote the region-level management and operation of drinking water and sanitation services under local coordination and leadership. This approach enables municipal and regional authorities to support loans by securing them with future profits and income, facilitating the planning and implementation of projects according to principles of equity, efficiency, and sustainability. The success of the way in which the Regional Program in Cesar Department was organized and implemented has earned it the support of the Colombian State and led national and departmental sectoral entities to seek financial support from CAF for an investment plan in excess of US\$100 million that would benefit 24 municipalities.

The same territorial approach was promoted outside the Andean region. In this framework, CAF approved the Municipal Assistance Program on behalf of the State of Brazil, worth US\$200 million, the purpose of which is to promote development in less-developed areas while ensuring good governance and sound finances.

We are concerned also to note that poverty is a phenomenon found in all the countries of the Hemisphere and that extreme poverty affects millions of people. In that regard, we are committed to intensifying our efforts toward attaining the goals agreed to at the Millennium Summit, especially that of reducing, by 50%, the proportion of persons living in extreme poverty by 2015 given the fact that, despite the efforts made by the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, more than 96 million people still live in extreme poverty. (Paragraph 7)

In November 2006, ECLAC launched the report *Social Panorama of Latin America*, which highlighted the notable economic and social performance the region has rendered in the last four years (2003-2006). This period has been the best for 25 years in terms of progress with poverty reduction, falling unemployment, improving income distribution in several countries and an upswing in numbers of jobs.

This positive trend in the region is reflected in the latest poverty and indigence estimates, which show a fresh reduction in 2005, for the third year running. According to these estimates, in 2005, 39.8% of the region's population, or 209 million people, were poor and 15.4%, or 81 million, were extremely poor or indigent. This represents a drop of over four percentage points in relation to 2002, when 44% of the population was poor and 19.4% was indigent.

The *Social Panorama* also gives projections of the magnitude of poverty for 2006. The number of poor and extremely poor is expected to decrease again, to reach 38.5% of the population (some 205 million people) and 14.7% (79 million), respectively. The report also notes that, although the overall progress in Latin America is encouraging, it must not be

forgotten that poverty figures remain very high and that the region still has an immense task ahead.

As regards the commitment to intensify efforts towards attaining the first of the Millennium Development Goals deriving from the outcome of the Millennium Summit, that is, to halve the proportion of people living in extreme poverty, in the framework of the project entitled "Strengthening the capacity of Latin America and the Caribbean countries to fulfil the Millennium Development Goals", ECLAC has developed a proposed set of goals and indicators for evaluating the particular situation of the Latin American and Caribbean countries in relation to the Goals and to conduct comparative assessments of relevant statistics produced by the countries and by international agencies.

In order to analyse these issues and discuss the implications of monitoring the Millennium Development Goals from the point of view of the region's national statistical systems, ECLAC organized the Regional Seminar entitled "National Statistics Offices and the Millennium Development Goals: A new look," (Santiago, Chile, 9 and 10 November 2006). The aim of the meeting was to discuss



the role of national statistical offices in follow-up to the Millennium Development Goals and the actions necessary to meet monitoring challenges. The seminar evaluated the information available to track advances on the Goals in the countries of the region and proposed supplementary indicators in the areas of education, gender and the environment. The discussions centred on specific measures to enhance the availability of national data and incorporate these into the reports and databases of international agencies, and to improve coordination between national statistical systems and international agencies.

The development objective of the “Bahia Poor Urban Areas Development Project in Brazil” funded by the **World Bank** is to reduce urban poverty in a sustainable manner, targeting the poorest and most vulnerable sections of Salvador, and of strategic cities of the state of Bahia, including access to basic services, improved housing, and social support services, and aligned with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The World Bank funds the “Poverty Reduction and Public Management Operation (PRPMO) for Guyana”, which supports the implementation of critical reforms in public sector Management. In particular, the operation will contribute to improving the transparency, accountability, and efficiency with which public resources are utilized. In addition, the PRPMO will help improve the Government's institutional capacity to monitor progress

under the PRSP, evaluate the impact of poverty reduction programs, and improve the statistical information for poverty analysis and targeting. Finally, the operation will support actions to strengthen environmental management and regulations to ensure the sustainable use of Guyana's natural resources.

The **Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)** focuses its activities on the reduction of poverty in the region. It recently hosted a demography workshop to support the work of achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In addition, work in the area of poverty reduction is mainstreamed using a “Poverty Prism” and operationalized through three pillars: reducing vulnerability, enhancing labor capability, and governance. Since the 1990s, the CDB has been instrumental in conducting “Country Poverty Assessments (CPAs)” for all of its Borrowing Member Countries, and assisting them with their “National Poverty Strategies”. Also, the CDB published the book “A New Perspective on Poverty in the Caribbean” to share experiences from the region. In cooperation with the **Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)**, a project on capacity building in survey design and implementation, dissemination of survey data and building capacity for poverty measurement and analysis was developed. The “Basic Needs Trust Fund (BNTF)” is the CDB's flagship direct poverty reduction program which disburses grants in: education and day care facilities (44%), water supply systems (26%), roads, drains & footpaths (12%), facilities

for health and vulnerable groups (12%), skills training (3%), community markets (3%).

**The International Organization for Migration (IOM)**'s Community Development Projects in Guatemala promotes social investment in the rural area of Guatemala, benefiting populations living in poverty and extreme poverty. To date, more than 53 projects have been implemented, of which 13 have been concluded. Under the land provision component 4 farms have been purchased to solve agrarian conflicts between poor rural communities, benefiting 80 families. The implementation of two land registry projects has been continued in two communities, benefiting 260 families. It is

important to highlight that the execution of the "Project for the Construction of the Second Phase of the Instituto Tecnológico Guatemala Sur" has been started.

In addition, the "Sustainable Development Program of Border Populations –PRODESFRO" aims at financing sustainable development projects in the border zones Guatemala-Mexico. Started in early 2006, the project contributed to the construction of an existing road section including paving of 28 kilometres of road. Moreover, IOM is currently working on the construction of two new road sections which will have a total length of 54 kilometers.

We recognize that economic growth is a basic, indispensable, but not sufficient, condition to address the high rates of unemployment, poverty, and growth of the informal economy. We recognize that only countries that have had years of sustained economic growth have successfully reduced poverty. However, in the recent past some countries of the Hemisphere have experienced periods of economic growth that did not translate into equivalent employment gains, compounding existing problems of high income concentration, poverty, and indigence. The challenge is to sustain higher rates of growth with equity and social inclusion, and to generate expanded opportunities, social investment, and social development. (Paragraph 8)

In relation to this resolution, the **World Bank** funded the "Programmatic Development Loan for Guatemala." This loan is part of a programmatic series of three to four Development Policy Loans (DPLs) to support the fundamentals and three main pillars of the government's development plan "Vamos Guatemala". It focuses on actions aimed at improving the business and investment climate, creating fiscal space for greater so-

cial investment and achieving key milestones in improving the fiduciary environment. Future DPL operations are expected to maintain the focus on the growth agenda (trade, investment climate, public private partnerships, access to credit by SME), social sector financing, transparency and efficiency in public spending. The objective of the "Rural Poverty Reduction Project" is to assist the State of Minas Gerais to reduce high levels of rural poverty.





The World Bank's "Ceara Rural Poverty Reduction Project for Brazil" will: (1) improve well-being and incomes of the rural poor through greater access to basic social and economic infrastructure and services and support for productive activities, using proven community-driven development techniques; (2) increase the social capital of rural communities and capacity to organize collectively to meet their own needs; (3) enhance local governance by greater citizen participation and transparency in decision-making, through strengthening of community associations and municipal councils; and (4) foster closer integration of development policies, programs and projects in rural areas at the local level, by assisting the project's participatory municipal councils to extend their role in seeking funding from, setting priorities for and making decisions concerning the allocation of resources from other programs beyond the Bank-supported project.

CAF continued to contribute to debate on social development in the region. In particular, discussion workshops were held on the topic of the Situation of the Rural and Agricultural Sector in Andean Countries, in order to discuss and establish a plan of action in the sector for the short and medium terms. Assistance was provided to programs and projects implemented by the International Fund for Agricultural Development in support of rural populations in the countries of the region.

One of the priorities of the 2004-2009 Global Strategy of the **Central American Bank for Economic**

**Integration (CABEI)** is poverty reduction. To that end, the strategy proposes: 1) to generate opportunities that lead to the creation of formal employment; 2) support countries in the development of sustainable solutions for meeting basic needs in the areas of health, education, and housing; 3) facilitate access to credit, promoting the leadership of the bank in the micro finance sector; 4) help to strengthen public administration, in particular by local government in programs that enhance their economic autonomy and management capacity; and, 5) stimulate experience and knowledge transfer between member countries of the Bank and the world.

In 2006, CABEI approved US\$249.3 million for programs and projects on poverty alleviation. Attention should also be drawn to other poverty alleviation measures, such as the design of a low-cost housing facility, agribusiness promotion, the design of a disaster bond scheme, funneling of the funds to municipalities in border areas in the framework of the Border Zone Development Program, and promotion of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprise.

CABEI continue to contribute in 2007 to two of the Millennium Development Goals: Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger and Ensure Environmental Sustainability. Specifically, the Bank proposes to increasing the number of beneficiaries of the microfinance program from 148,000 to 250,000, and to improve access for low-income populations to sustainable financing mechanisms for home buyers and home improvement.

We note with concern the increased intensity of natural and manmade disasters and their devastating impact on human lives, infrastructure, and economies in the Hemisphere. We call for action at the national, regional, and international levels to strengthen disaster management programs, including through increased capacity for disaster preparedness, development of early warning systems, risk mitigation and post-disaster recovery, and reconstruction and technical and financial assistance as appropriate, particularly for disaster-prone countries, to reduce the impact of disasters. We also support efforts under way to explore private and public sector involvement in comprehensive approaches to catastrophic risk insurance. (Paragraph 11)

In compliance with this mandate, the OAS provides technical advice to the Joint Consultative Organ (JCO) of the Committee on Hemispheric Security and the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CEPCIDI) on Natural Disaster Reduction and Risk Management.

To this end, the OAS with support of Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) established in 2006 an “Inter-American Network for Disaster Mitigation (INDM)” as a mechanism for the sharing and exchange of information, knowledge and experience in the area of natural hazard risk management. The INDM seeks to: (a) assist OAS member States with the sharing and exchange of information, knowledge, and experience on Natural Hazard Risk Management; (b) strengthen the planning and disaster management activities of the OAS in order to respond more effectively to natural disasters; (c) provide for a mechanism to coordinate efforts and promote collaboration among the organizations of the Inter-American System, Regional Inter-governmental Organizations, International Organizations, Donors, Banks and Financing Institutions, and National Agencies responsible

for the coordination of natural disasters management; (d) support the follow-up and implementation of the decisions of the Inter-American Committee for Natural Disaster Reduction (IACNDR); and (e) coordinate the implementation, monitoring and periodic revision of the Inter-American Strategic Plan for Policy on Vulnerability Reduction, Risk Management and Disaster Response (IASP).

With support of the **Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)** and the Government of Argentina, the OAS coordinates the “White Helmets Initiative” to expand and consolidate execution and financing mechanisms for specialized volunteers’ participation at the national and regional levels in Latin America and the Caribbean to support humanitarian assistance, the prevention and response to emergency situations.

In a joint effort with the International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC) and Red Crescent and the ProVention Consortium, the OAS will implement a second phase of activities to strengthen the capacity of Red Cross National Societies working at the local, national, and regional levels by providing them with appropriate training tools to prepare communities and reduce



their vulnerability to the impact of disasters. Between June 2004 and December 2005, the OAS and IFRC through its Panama Regional Delegation, supported by the ProVention Consortium, implemented the community based “Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) Methodology” in four Central American countries: Belize, Costa Rica, Guatemala and Honduras, developing new community based disaster management tools.

The OAS is collaborating with the International Federation of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in the execution of the “International Disaster Response, Laws, Rules and Principles Program (IDRL)” in the Americas. This program aims to enhance disaster recovery and reconstruction capabilities in collaboration with relevant international and regional institutions through identifying and addressing legal and institutional challenges faced by countries of the region in the area of natural disasters management, including mitigation and assistance.

Finally, in response to the aspects of this mandate related to exploring private and public sector involvement in comprehensive approaches to catastrophic risk insurance, the OAS has been collaborating with the **World Bank** in their efforts to establish the “Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility”. In particular the OAS developed a proposal jointly with the World Bank to assess current legal frameworks in the Caribbean with a goal of

improving the legislative and administrative framework triggered in a state of emergency. Global best practice will be considered and a set of recommendations will be identified for the implementation of clear transparent procedures that enable countries to appropriate and use resources efficiently in state of emergency circumstances. This initiative is expected to benefit participation of the Caribbean Region in the “World Bank Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility” and will result in an improvement in mitigation actions, management and response to state of emergency situations. The OAS Funding towards meeting this mandate is derived from projects in the area of the Department of Sustainable Development of Management of Natural Hazards Risk, which in 2006 had a portfolio of 9 projects, totaling US\$3.50 million.

The **IDB** is currently working to improve the capacity for risk mitigation, early-warning, and disaster recovery and reconstruction in its member countries. In 2006 the Bank continued to implement its “Action Plan for Improving Disaster Risk Management (DRM)”. Contributions in DRM were included in the country strategy and programming dialogue for 10 countries and portfolio reviews for two countries. Disaster risk indicators were completed for two countries and more detailed country disaster risk evaluations were initiated for four countries. Two loan projects and 13 technical cooperation operations were approved during the year. The implementation of the “DRM

Action Plan" will continue in 2007 supported by resources from a special budget initiative. Contributions to additional country strategy and programming dialogue exercises and portfolio reviews for countries are expected to take place. At least 10 new projects are expected to be financed with non-reimbursable financing of the DPF and the Multi-donor Fund.

Following an extensive consultation process, Bank Management approved the draft DRM policy in August 2006. The Board approved the establishment of two new instruments for non-reimbursable financing, the "Disaster Prevention Fund (DPF)", and the "Multi-donor Disaster Prevention Fund". A working group was established to review other financial instruments as well as the Bank's role in the development of risk transfer markets in the region. Meetings were held with capital market and reinsurance companies. Two disaster finance events were organized 2006; at the IDB's Annual Meeting in Brazil, March 2006 and with the Caribbean Development Bank on budget planning in the context of DRM in Barbados, June 2006. Two working papers were published by on disaster finance.

The draft DRM policy draft is scheduled to be presented to the Policy Committee of the Board of Directors in February 2007 and for the subsequent approval by the Board of the Bank. The corresponding guidelines will be prepared for the implementation of the new policy within six months of its approval. The Disaster Finance Working Group is expected

to prepare a white paper on the IDB's role in risk transfer.

In the area of Regional Disaster Policy Dialogue, in 2006 the Bank organized a region-wide Disaster Network meeting in Washington that included a special joint session with the Regional Poverty Network. Two sub-regional events took place in Barbados and Bolivia. The dialogue themes were disaster indicators, budgetary planning and how to put DRM into practice among government agencies. One hemispheric and at least two sub-regional meetings will be organized in 2007 on topics such as DRM in sustainable cities, protection of critical infrastructure and local disaster risk indicators for land use planning.

One of the four pillars of the Bank's Sustainable Energy and Climate Change Initiative (SECCI) is climate change adaptation that is closely related to disaster risk management. The topic was presented at the SECCI conference in November 2006. Projects will be prepared in 2007 to receive financing from the Global Environment Funds. A white paper document on mainstreaming climate change adaptation will be produced by the DRM group.

A new Internet platform, including a DRM website to be prepared as part of the implementation of the Communication Strategy should be fully functional. At least three staff training events are expected to be completed in 2007.

Fortunately, 2006 was relatively free of natural disasters in the



region, and ECLAC has taken the opportunity to move forward in the development of a methodology for assessing needs at the post-emergency stage and a “toolkit” to facilitate the planning and coordination of efforts to reactivate various sectors, with a risk reduction approach.

The **World Bank’s** Board of Directors approved a US\$14.2 million zero-interest credit from the International Development Association (IDA) to four country members of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines), and an IDA grant of US\$9.0 million to Haiti to support their participation in the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF). The CCRIF will enable governments to purchase catastrophe coverage akin to business interruption insurance that will provide them with early cash payment after a major hurricane or earthquake. Pooling their risk will save the participating countries some 40 percent in individual premium payments.

The IDA credit will provide Dominica, Grenada, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and St. Lucia with resources to meet their payments of annual insurance premiums over the next 3 years. The funds will be disbursed in four installments to the CCRIF at the request of each country’s Ministry of Finance.

On February 26, 2007, the **World Bank** hosted a donor pledging conference where Bermuda, Canada, France the United

Kingdom, the **Caribbean Development Bank** and the World Bank pledged US\$47 million for the CCRIF’s reserve fund. A total of 18 Caribbean countries are participating in the CCRIF, which is expected to become operational before the 2007 hurricane season, which begins in June.

Adopting a preventive vision that acknowledges the responsibility of development actors in the creation of vulnerabilities, CAF created the Andean Regional Program for Disaster Risk Prevention and Mitigation (PREANDINO). Since its inception in 2000, a total of 287 national, sectoral, and territorial institutions have joined this program, which is organized into 73 working groups in which more than 1500 professionals take part. The overarching aim of the Program is to support the efforts of Andean countries to design national, sectoral and territorial policies on disaster risk mitigation and prevention. The Program involves more than 161 high-ranking government officials, and it seeks, by the end of their terms in office, to ensure that they have succeeded in improving institutional organization. Institutional schemes were also developed to take account of the impact of adverse natural phenomena in planning. Furthermore, solid technical and institutional support was provided to encourage the inclusion of disaster risk prevention and reduction criteria in laws and regulations already in place or in the pipeline; for collection and systematization of information on hazards and vulnerability, and to raise aware-

ness among users at the sectoral and territorial levels.

At present, as a result of PRE-ANDINO, all of the Andean countries are engaged in the development of planning instruments (Plans or Strategies for Disaster Risk Reduction in Development). At the regional level, included among many other accomplishments was the creation of the Andean Committee for Disaster Prevention and Assistance (CAPRADE) and the design of the Program for Disaster Prevention in the Andean Community (PRE-DECAN), with financing provided by the European Union (•13.5 million) and currently in operation through the General Secretariat of the Andean Community (CAN).

Recently, since the PREDECAN has ensured the continuity of the work of PREANDINO, CAF has decided to adopt a new approach in its efforts and to move from the planning support phase to one in which it provides the added investment and financing necessary to tackle natural disasters threats in the region in a more robust and timely manner through its Natural Disaster Risk

Management Program, where prevention remains the core guiding principle.

The **CABEI** has designed a disaster bond scheme through which governments in the region can subscribe to these bonds, which would lower the risk for international markets and help to mitigate the potential material and human costs of acts of nature. The scheme would benefit the populations most vulnerable and exposed to natural disasters.

The **CDB** provided technical assistance, loans, and debt relief to countries that have natural disasters (hurricanes, floods, landslides, beach erosion, etc.) in Caribbean, and works very closely with the regional bodies such as Caribbean Disaster Response Agency (CDERA) to provide immediate relief in the aftermath of a disaster. Also the “Catastrophic Risk Insurance Initiative” was recently launched. Furthermore, the foundation work of “Disaster Mitigation Facility of the Caribbean (DMFC)” was completed and fully integrated into the CDB’s work program.

Sustained economic growth, with equity and social inclusion, is an indispensable condition to create jobs, fight extreme poverty, and overcome inequality in the Hemisphere. To achieve these ends, it is necessary to improve transparency and the investment climate in our countries, build human capital, encourage increased incomes and improve their distribution, promote corporate social responsibility, and foster a spirit of entrepreneurship as well as strong business activity. (Paragraph 12)

The **OAS** has been working closely with several countries in the region to assist them in improving their

investment climate, and in so doing, in attracting investment with a view to creating jobs. There



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is an increasing recognition in the region that investment-related legal and administrative procedures –and the costs and delays associated with them– can significantly influence the location of firms and their resulting productivity. Time and transparency matter for investors –both foreign and local. In view of the establishment of the Caribbean Single Market, and at the request of members of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, the OAS is providing assistance to these countries in creating a more streamlined and investor-friendly policy environment, using the “One-Stop Shop” concept as a way to fashion a

vehicle dealing with administrative procedures.

In order to stimulate human development, the OAS, through its Special Multilateral Fund (FEM-CIDI), provided financing for the project, “International re-cognition for the accreditation systems of the countries of the Americas to facilitate free trade in the region.” The aim of the project is to enhance the accreditation infrastructure of agents that rate compliance by accreditation agencies in the Americas region, in order to lower technical trade barriers and facilitate free trade.

Recognizing that the reduction of inequality and the elimination of poverty cannot be achieved solely through welfare-oriented social policies, we commit to undertaking comprehensive government policies that institutionalize the fight against poverty. We commit to consolidating more democratic societies with opportunities for all, and will promote greater access for our people to education, health care, labor markets, and credit. (Paragraph 13)

**ECLAC** has continued its analytical activities, seeking synergies between economic growth and social equity as part of a productive modernization process that focuses on boosting competitiveness, safeguarding macroeconomic balances and strengthening a participatory and inclusive form of democracy. The idea at the core of this proposal is that the Latin American and Caribbean economies will need to transform their production structures, as well as embarking upon an intensive process of human capital formation.

In the social arena, particular importance has been placed on fostering greater equality of opportunity by promoting education and the positive returns it has for poor households, on addressing and working to counteract the exclusionary dynamics of structurally heterogeneous labour markets, using social expenditure to redistribute assets, and on promoting the full exercise of citizenship, thereby strengthening democracy and laying the political foundations for more inclusive societies.

ECLAC has also helped to introduce the concept of social cohesion as a principle for the comprehensive guidance of economic and social policy. This has been reflected in publications, a high-level expert seminar held in Panama, and a contribution to the Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government to be held in 2007. In the context of these efforts, a book entitled *Cohesión social: inclusión y sentido de pertenencia en América Latina y el Caribe* (Spanish only) was published in January 2007. The book examines some of the

dimensions of social cohesion, in particular those in which resources and political will are needed in order to bridge gaps in the area of social exclusion and give individual people a feeling of belonging to society, based on effective enjoyment of citizenship and a democratic ethic. The document is based on the idea that the social cohesion agenda for the region must take into account both the constraints and the scope for action which are present in the economic, political and institutional fields and which affect its viability.

Taking into account the efforts made in the Hemisphere in the struggle against drug trafficking, we reiterate our support to ensure that alternative development projects contribute to economic growth, promote the creation of decent work, and support the sustainable economic viability of communities and families in those countries affected by the presence of illicit crops. (Paragraph 14)

Funding limitations have forced the **OAS** to rethink how it can best implement Summit mandates related to alternative development. The OAS has phased out several successful but costly pilot projects that benefit a relatively small number of people, and instead have begun to focus its efforts on actions where impact will be more broadly felt. For example, on the policy side, the OAS has been active in the international fora currently debating whether economic development in drug producing areas should be addressed in the context of overall national development and not as a separate activity.

The OAS also sees a role for itself in serving as a centre of excellence to share best practices with and provide information, technical assistance and policy advice to member states and to international organizations, development agencies and financial institutions. The OAS will concentrate on improving its coordination with the national counterpart agencies in order to prevent duplication of efforts and avoid supporting activities that are isolated from other similar initiatives.





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We express our commitment to the progress of the negotiations on the Doha Development Agenda. We will make every effort to attain an ambitious and balanced outcome at the Sixth World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference, which will lead to a successful conclusion of the Doha Round in 2006 based, *inter alia*, on the principle of special and differential treatment for developing countries. We remain committed to achieving substantial progress on all elements of the Doha Negotiations, in order to gain, in particular, greater access to markets for our exports, the elimination of all forms of agricultural export subsidies, and a substantial reduction of trade-distorting domestic support. We remain committed to achieving an ambitious outcome to the negotiations and to the full and effective implementation of the Work Program related to small economies. Our objective is to expand our trade, as a means of boosting growth and our capacity to generate more, higher quality, and better-paying jobs. (Paragraph 18.)

To contribute to the strengthening of the human and institutional capacity of member States to participate in the multilateral trade negotiations, the OAS has continued to partner with the World Trade Organization (WTO) to organize the “Annual Multilateral and Regional Trade Issues for the Americas course”, ongoing since 1998, and held, in 2006, in partnership with George Washington University Law School.

CAF has actively accompanied the trade talks among the countries of the region as part of its role in support of its shareholders. In that connection, the implementation in 2006 of the Program in Support of Increased Partnership in World

Trade for Latin American Countries” enabled financing to be provided for five research studies on trade agreements, in particular in connection with agriculture and the impact of the various negotiation scenarios of the Doha Round. In this context, it is important to draw attention to the discussions held at the World Trade Organization on the trade facilitation initiative, where the need was proposed for regional development banks to play an active role to ensure its success. It is also worth mentioning the event held in Santiago, Chile, in conjunction with the Trade Division of ECLAC, to discuss the research agendas of the two institutions on trade-related issues.





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## Jobs to Fight Poverty

We commit to implementing active policies to generate decent work and create the conditions for quality employment that imbue economic policies and globalization with a strong ethical and human component, putting the individual at the center of work, the company, and the economy. We will promote decent work, that is to say: fundamental rights at work, employment, social protection and social dialogue. (Paragraph 21)

ECLAC produced the document *Social Panorama of Latin America 2006*, which examines the changes in the main labour-market indicators and compares trends recorded in the period 1990-2002 with those for the last three years (2003-2005). It is concluded that the upturn in employment and, partly, in wages seen in the more recent period has not significantly improved the quality of new jobs. It also notes that the current levels of coverage of employment-based contributory social security schemes are insufficient to sustain

progress towards the institution of a universal pension and retirement scheme in which minimum benefits can be properly financed in the long term.

In order to contribute to the analysis of labour markets and, in particular, the concern at both the regional and the global levels over the issue of employment and unemployment among young people, **ECLAC** conducted a number of studies on labour-market integration for young people.

We reaffirm our strong commitment to confronting the scourge of racism, discrimination, and intolerance in our societies. These problems must be fought at all levels of government and the wider society. The Inter-American System also has a vital role to play in this process by, among other activities, analyzing the social, economic, and political obstacles faced by marginalized groups and identifying practical steps, including best practices, on how to combat racism and discrimination. To this end, we support the implementation of the OAS Resolution AG/RES. 2126 (XXXV O/05) that led to the establishment of a Working Group in charge of, inter alia, the preparation of a Draft Inter-American Convention Against Racism and all Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance, and lend encouragement to that Working Group to combat racism, discrimination, and intolerance through available means as a matter of the highest priority. We also recall our commitment to fully implement our obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. (Paragraph 24)

The Office of the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Afro-Descendants and against Racial Discrimination of the OAS engages in activities to stimulate, systematize, strengthen and consolidate measures adopted by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in that area. From that perspective, the core objectives of the Special Rapporteurship include work with OAS Member States for the following purposes: to generate awareness of States' duties to respect the human rights of Afro-descendants and eliminate all forms of racial discrimination; analyze the current challenges that confront the countries of the region in this area, formulate recommendations designed to overcome obstacles, and identify and share best practices in the region in this connection; and monitor and provide any technical assistance that member States might request to implement recommendations in their domestic laws and practices.

As part of this activity, the Rapporteurship supports the Working Group of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs of the Permanent Council of the OAS that is working on a Draft American

Convention against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination. It is currently analyzing the draft and contributing to the discussions on the final draft.

The Rapporteurship also supports the work of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights with respect to Afro-descendants and racial discrimination in the preparation of special studies and reports on the rights of Afro-descendants and, furthermore, studies on matters connected with the elimination of racial discrimination. In relation to the foregoing, at the 126th regular session the Rapporteurship submitted a report on affirmative action in the Americas, one on admissibility and another for publication on racial discrimination in the workplace.

The Rapporteurship makes recommendations to the Inter-American Commission regarding hearings to be granted at regular sessions and takes part in discussions on alleged violations. At its 124th regular session, the Commission held hearings on general and specific situations of human rights in various countries and regions. In the framework of



the hearings of a general nature the Commission received information on the situation of economic, social, and cultural rights in Brazil.

The Special Rapporteurship also works with parties to reach a friendly settlement of matters submitted to the OAS in this area, as well as preparing consultations and recommendations to member states on amendment of standards and provisions in force on the rights of Afro-descendants and racial discrimination.

The Rapporteurship also accompanies the Inter-American Commission on its on-site research visits to countries in the region. During such visits the Office of the Special Rapporteur collects information and investigates the main visible problems regarding Afro-descendants and racial discrimination; prepares, as appropriate, draft reports on admissibility, merits, and friendly settlement; and collaborates in the preparation of thematic reports on the situation in countries in the region and the annual reports to the OAS.

At the 123rd Regular Session of the Commission, the Special Rapporteur gave a presentation on the “Interagency Consultation on Race and Poverty in Latin America”, which, apart from the IACHR, included the **Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)**, the **Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)**, the **World Bank**, the UK Department for International Development (DFID), the Ford Foundation, and the Inter-American Foundation, as well as

the Inter-American Dialogue that serves as secretariat to the Inter-Agency Consultation

The OAS also issued a vacancy notice for an Afro-descendent lawyer to work under a grant at the Rapporteurship for one year. This fellowship is part of the promotion activities that the Rapporteurship carries out to provide training to Afro-descendent lawyers.

The Special Rapporteur also works with the other Special Rapporteurships of the Commission in matters that intersect with Afro-descendants and racial discrimination and their respective mandates. With civil society, the work focuses on amplifying awareness in the region of the guarantees and mechanisms the inter-American human rights system offers for the protection of the rights of Afro-descendants and against racial discrimination. Also, the Rapporteurship maintains a database on the most current information received through its informal hemispheric network related to the rights of people of African descent and racial discrimination in member States or progress in this matter; promotes the Inter-American system through its participation in education and training activities as well as seminars, conferences and fora, among others. Finally, the Special Rapporteurship works in collaboration with the pertinent UN Bodies, including CERD, the Working Group of Afro-descendants, and the Special Rapporteur on Racial Discrimination.

The Rapporteurship also participated in different meetings on this issue in the Americas, including the International Conference of African and Diaspora Intellectuals held in Salvador, Bahía, Brazil, in 2006. The Rapporteur also attended the Regional Conference of the Americas on accomplishments and challenges in the program of action against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related forms of intolerance held in Brasilia, Brazil.

In the future, the Office of the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Afro-

Descendants and against Racial Discrimination will continue to carry out activities with the States, provide technical support to the Working Group of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs of the Permanent Council of the OAS on the Draft American Convention against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination; analyze the current challenges in this regard that face the countries in the region; and formulate recommendations to overcome obstacles and share good practices in the region.

We commit to protecting children from economic exploitation and from any tasks that may interfere with their education and integral development, according to the principle of the effective abolition of child labor, which is contained in the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (1998). In addition, we will take immediate and effective measures to prevent and eradicate the worst forms of child labor according to Convention 182 of the ILO (1999). We will strive to improve access to and the quality of basic education for all children, recognizing that providing educational opportunities is an investment in the future of our societies. (Paragraph 25.)

Within the framework of its continuous labor dedicated to the protection and defense of the rights of children and adolescents victims of economic exploitation in the Americas, the **Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN)**, a specialized organization of the **OAS**, has undertaken actions directly related with the implementation of this Mandate throughout 2006. We first highlight among them, the permanent co-operation and technical assistance given to the National Committee for the Eradication of Child Labor and the National Committee for the Eradication of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of children and adolescents of Uru-

guay in the design and elaboration of their respective National Work Plans, in conjunction with the **International Labor Organization (ILO)** and UNICEF. Secondly, the development of a preliminary study for the creation of an "Inter-American Observatory on the Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents", through the signing of a tripartite agreement with ECPAT International and Save the Children Sweden. Thirdly, the elaboration and presentation of the VII Annual Report to the Secretary General of the OAS on the Condition of the Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents in the Americas<sup>1</sup>, keeping with the OAS

1 This report details the progress made in Member States in fulfilling of the 1996 Stockholm Goals, the 2001 Montevideo Compromise and the 2001 Yokohama Declaration.



General Assembly resolution AG/RES. 1667 (XXIX-O/99). Finally, the initiation of the project “Integral Study on Legislation and Public Policies against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of children and adolescents in Latin America”, in concordance with Save the Children Sweden, the results of which were presented during the VI Meeting of High Authorities on Human Rights and Foreign Ministries of MERCOSUR – Niñ@Sur Working Group, in December 2006, being a concrete contribution from IIN to this relevant theme promoted in both the fields of the OAS (AG/RES. 2240 XXXVI-O/06) and MERCOSUR’s Associated States.

To continue the implementation of this Mandate, the IIN will promote a series of measures to combat child labor and to promote access to basic education in two complementary fields. In the first field, the IIN will seek not only to reinforce its strategic alliances on a national and regional level with government and civil society actors, but will also aim to expand cooperation and working relationships with other countries and agencies, particularly with the ILO and their “International Program for the Eradication of Child Labor (IPEC)” in Latin America and the Caribbean. In the second field, the IIN will advocate for greater depth in the knowledge of the characteristics of child labor, its incidence in the region, and its direct relationship with the violation of the right to education. In order to do so, it will conduct specific diagnostics and will elaborate several instruments to collaborate with

national governments in facing this issue. These and other actions, which the IIN can promote based on its functions and mandates, will have as their central goal the protection of children and adolescents from all types of economic exploitation in the region, the progressive elimination of child labor, specially in its worst forms, and the promotion of access to quality education for all.

With respect to this priority area, in the framework of the OAS, the Ministries of Labor have attended meetings for discussion and analysis of the effective abolition of child labor. This issue has been taken up by the meetings of the OAS Working Groups and targeted by the International Program for the Elimination of Child Labor (IPEC).

The OAS also works to support member States in their efforts to expand and improve the quality and equity of educational opportunities by focusing its efforts in several critical areas identified as priorities by Ministers of Education: early childhood care and education; teacher quality; education indicators and assessment; and the development of democratic practices and values through education. The OAS concentrates its efforts on policy dialogue, horizontal cooperation, and designing and implementing projects to inform and strengthen policies and build human and institutional capacity. In 2006-2007, the following was achieved:

■ **Early Childhood Education .**

Research shows that investments in early childhood education can lead to greater success in educa-

tional achievement and life opportunities. To this end the DEC worked with member States to develop and begin executing a project aimed at strengthening policy and practice to promote a successful transition for young children from the family to early childhood education programs, and from preschool to primary school. Research activities including a survey of Member State policies and programs are underway, and an international symposium on the state of the art in attention to children ages zero to three will be held in Caracas, Venezuela in mid-May 2007. The OAS, with the support and collaboration of the Bernard Van Leer Foundation, is also analyzing policy tendencies for attention to young children in indigenous, rural and border communities in selected countries. The OAS will be supporting Colombia in the organization of the V Meeting of Ministers of Education, for which the topic of early childhood education has been selected as the central theme.

#### ■ **Teacher Development and Quality.**

The quality of education depends in no small measure on the quality of classroom instruction and quality of preparation of the teachers at all levels to provide that instruction. The OAS is promoting both research and collaboration across teacher educators in member states to articulate what students are expected to learn with how teachers are prepared. In collaboration with universities and governments from across the hemisphere, in September 2006 in

Trinidad and Tobago the OAS launched the “Inter-American Teacher Educator Network and its Teacher Education Portal” to collect and disseminate new approaches to policy and practice in this important area, and the OAS continues to support and expand this network of teacher educators. ([www.oest.oas.org/iten](http://www.oest.oas.org/iten))

#### ■ **Education for Democratic Citizenship.**

An important purpose of schooling is to prepare students for civic engagement in a democracy. In 2006, the OAS worked with Colombia and other member States to launch the “Inter-American Program on Education for Democratic Values and Practices”, an alliance of ministries and NGOs working to improve citizenship competencies and youth engagement through research, professional development, and information exchange.

In the first phase of the “Inter American Program” in 2006, activities included the first meeting of its Advisory Board held April 17-19, 2006 in Bogotá, Colombia; the development of a Web Portal for the Program launched in June 2006; a mapping of current policies and programs in the hemisphere in education for democratic citizenship; and the organization of an “International Seminar on Best Practices in Citizenship Education” held July 5-7, 2006 in Mexico City. ([www.educadem.oas.org](http://www.educadem.oas.org))

In 2007 key Program activities include the organization of the “Inter-American Summit on





Education for Conflict Resolution in Ohio”, USA from March 14-17, the launching of the new bilingual online academic journal “Inter-American Journal on Education for Democracy”, and the continued implementation of two distance courses for educators on teaching democratic values and practices in Peru and in the Caribbean.

■ **Educational indicators.**

Effective decision making requires accurate and up-to-date information. For this reason, in 2006-7 DEC continued to partner with the Public Education Secretariat of Mexico and UNESCO to implement the Summit-mandated “Regional Program on Educational Indicators (PRIE)”, to help countries build the capacity to collect, analyze and use internationally comparable educational indicators in their decision-making processes for educational improvement.

The **IOM** Regional Office in Lima, along with its partners the **IDB** and the offices of the First Ladies of Bolivia, Colombia, El Salvador and Paraguay, are implementing the project “Regional Prevention of

Trafficking and Smuggling in Children and Reinforcing their Knowledge About Sexual Reproductive Health”. It aims at combating the trafficking of children and raising awareness and educating on sexual and reproductive health issues. Related subjects, such as domestic violence, unwanted pregnancies, and sexual and reproductive health are included.

The 15 month project will make use of best practices of previous counter trafficking experiences in Peru. More than 100 teachers from each participating country will be trained on the subject of human trafficking. The training is expected to have a multiplying effect, as this information will trickle down to more than 4,000 students in primary and secondary schools.

All participating schools will take part in a contest with the winner in each country becoming the national representative in charge of transferring the acquired knowledge. The project also aims to place the subject of human trafficking in school programs and on the public’s agenda.

We reaffirm that all migrants, regardless of their immigration status, should be accorded the full protection of human rights and the full observance of labor laws applicable to them, including the principles and labor rights embodied in the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (1998). (Paragraph 26)

In order to promote the rights of migrants, the **OAS** held, in the framework of the Inter-American Labor Administration Network

(RIAL), the hemispheric workshop seminar on “Migrant Workers: Protection of their Labor Rights and Labor Market Programs” in

November 2006, in Ottawa, Canada, with support provided by the labor program of Labor Canada. This event brought together 28 Ministries of Labor in the Hemisphere, which, together with representatives of the OAS, ILO and Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, shared experiences and best practices for promotion of the labor rights of migrant workers, as well as specific bilateral agreements and programs designed to ensure orderly management of migrant flows.

Among the main issues that came out of the event was the need for

governments to work together to ensure transparent and orderly management of migrant labor; the importance of bilateral or multilateral agreements on social security so as to enable the transfer of pensions; the impact of remittances; awareness raising and communication strategies to inform migrant workers of their rights; the urgent need for cooperation between countries of origin and destination of migrants; the coordination, law enforcement, inspection, and surveillance roles that Ministries of Labor are called on to perform in migration management, among other issues.

We will promote decent work for migrant workers in the context of the Declaration of Nuevo León and encourage support for the Inter-American Program adopted by the General Assembly in resolution AG/RES. 2141 (XXXV-O/05). Likewise, the state parties to the International Convention on the Protection of the Human Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families reiterate the importance of its full implementation by the parties. (Paragraph 27)

During 2006, the **Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN)**, a specialized organization of the **OAS**, actively participated in different meetings, conferences and regional forums on the current characteristics of the migratory phenomenon, its impact on communities, homes, and people, and its more preoccupying outlying effects, such as the situation of separated families, the effect of remittances, trafficking, and the condition of extreme vulnerability in which the undocumented migrants find themselves. In this sense, IIN was present at the "Meeting of National Authorities dealing with Human Trafficking", held in Isla Margarita, Venezuela, during

which it held a conference on this topic. Likewise, IIN participated in the III Conference of Childwatch International's Latin-American and Caribbean Network, "Childhood and Youth: Dislocations and Moves", for which the document "Migration: Childhood and Rights" was prepared. IIN was also invited to participate in the editing of the rough draft of the document "The Impact of Migration in the Rights of Children and Adolescents" for the final statement of the III Forum of Latin America's Childhood and Adolescence NGOs, in collaboration with UNICEF, IOM, and the forum organizing NGOs. Lastly, the General Director held the Conference



“Migration: From Solidarity to Insensitivity” during the VIII Latin American Conference of Ministers Responsible for Infancy and Adolescence, entitled “Migration and its Effects on the Rights of Children and Adolescents”, during which IIN also offered technical aid in the organization and development phases of the event. In all these instances, IIN tried to introduce as the first order of debate the most pressing problems for the childhood and adolescence of the region, seeking the exchange of experiences from a perspective of the rights of children and adolescents. Lastly, we highlight the general agreement of cooperation signed with the “Pan-American Center against the Disappearance, Exploitation, Treating and Traffic (CIDETT)”, to carry out joint actions in this matter, through the prevention, protection and attention of the rights of children and adolescents.

**CABEI** is currently exploring the possibility of offering a remittance service that is more economical than the current mechanisms for sending money to the region, as a way to help combat poverty and improve quality of life in Central America.

In its second phase, the **IOM**’s “FOINTRA-project (Fortalecimiento Institucional en la Lucha contra la Trata de Personas en Argentina) on Capacity Building on Counter Trafficking in Argentina” is set to expand its scope to an additional four provinces (Córdoba, Tucumán, Entre Ríos and Neuquén) and to enhance the counter-trafficking sensitizing, training, capacity build-

ing and information processes that began with the previous phase. The previous phase of the project was implemented between March 2005 and March 2006 in four localities (Jujuy, Misiones, Santa Cruz provinces and the City of Buenos Aires) and reached over 2000 beneficiaries.

The capacity-building component promotes the creation and institutionalization of regional/provincial counter trafficking inter-institutional boards (including parliamentary representatives, judicial and assistance operators) and provides technical assistance on prevention, prosecution and policy-making related to trafficking. The training component targets governmental and non-governmental organizations and provides tools for planning, assessing and implementing counter-trafficking actions and assistance to victims of trafficking, including the “Train the trainers” program to ensure the independent replication of training activities for federal government agencies. The public information component is designed to sensitize the public as regards the causes and risks of trafficking, as well as to strengthen the knowledge of trafficking as a crime that requires urgent action.

In Venezuela, IOM is working with the Ministry of Labor to develop a media campaign to address human rights of migrant workers and their families. This mass information campaign will inform migrant workers of their rights and duties as well as the institutions obligated to guarantee their rights. The general objective of this project is to

assist in the improvement of working conditions and life style of migrant workers and their families in Venezuela.

At the request of the Guatemalan Government, IOM is implementing a project that benefits migrants and employers, in both the countries of origin and destination. Through established criteria, IOM assists in the selection, pre-departure and transfer of seasonal agricultural workers from Guatemala to Canada, and monitors their return. Besides being an efficient mechanism for the recruitment, protection and return of workers, the project provides an alternative to irregular migration and generates economic benefits to all parties concerned.

IOM published a series of counter-trafficking training modules (Information Campaigns, Return and Reintegration, Capacity Building, and Cooperation and Networking) in English, which have been translated into Spanish and French. Adaptable to the training group's specific context, the participant obtains an excellent introduction to each topic, which is essential to a comprehensive, rights-based approach to counter-trafficking. The next three topics in the series currently under development are: Children, Direct Assistance, and Victim Identification and Interviewing Techniques.

The "6th South American Conference on Migration (SCM)" was hosted by Paraguay in Asunción in the month of May 2006. The participating South American states discussed and agreed to co-

operate on a number of themes related to migration and development, including the promotion and respect for the human rights of migrants and measures to combat smuggling and trafficking of persons. The outcome of the conference was formally agreed in the "Declaration of Asuncion" and formed part of the region's contribution to the UN High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development that took place in September 2006.

In view of the relevance the Sixth Conference attached to human rights and in accordance with the Declaration of Asuncion, IOM Buenos Aires arranged a seminar on "The Human Rights of Migrants – the Main Challenges in Argentina" under the auspices of the National Human Rights Secretariat and the Lower Chamber's Commission on Human Rights. The objective of the seminar was to analyze Argentina's international commitments regarding the protection of human rights and migrants and to provide a space for reflection. The next and 7th South-American Conference is scheduled to take place in Venezuela in 2007.

In the MERCOSUR region and in Bolivia and Chile, IOM is implementing the second stage of a "Project to Counter Trafficking of Children and to Prevent Child Pornography", which will contribute to a common approach to counteract the phenomenon of trafficking in persons, especially children and to deepen the results achieved during the first phase of the initiative. The project consists of two components entailing better



understanding of trafficking by means of a “Regional Training Workshop” and the development of specific research.

IOM’s “Assistance to Victims of Trafficking Program (AVOT)” aims to assist victims of trafficking (VOT) through a multi-pronged strategy including: the protection, return and reintegration of victims of trafficking. To this end, the “AVOT Program” employs a mechanism to promptly identify victims, after which the assistance component is implemented. This component was conceived as a flexible tool to be adjusted to the peculiarities of each case; as such it comprises medical assistance, psychological support, social assistance (basic consumption needs, food, and clothing), temporary shelter, legal advice, and assistance in personal documentation procedures, voluntary return to places of origin in safe conditions and the formulation of a social reintegration plan.

Reinsertion actions for victims of trafficking in their countries of origin are coordinated by the AVOT-team and implemented by local counterparts. For example, the formulation and implementation of reintegration plans for the Paraguayan victims of sexual exploitation were jointly managed with the Childhood and Adolescence Secretariat and the Women’s Secretariat of Paraguay, and articulation regarding the return of victims of labour exploitation and child victims of trafficking in Bolivia was carried out through the IOM Office in La Paz, along with governmental and/or civil society counterparts res-

possible for monitoring reinsertion.

In the tri-border of Paraguay, Brazil and Argentina, IOM is raising public awareness and increasing knowledge on the risks and consequences of trafficking through dissemination of information. Mainly, the project addresses potential and current victims as well as relevant Triple Border NGOs and social stakeholders in view of preventing and discouraging trafficking. In this sense, an initial database with key stakeholders involved in counter-trafficking measures has been processed in order to ensure a common approach and to ensure sustainability once the completion of the project has been achieved.

Country missions under the Regional Office in San Jose, Costa Rica are undertaking many projects to prevent trafficking in persons and to assist the victims of trafficking. In Costa Rica, a “Project to Assist Trafficking Victims in the Pacific Coast” has been in full implementation since April 2006. Following an IOM report detailing the dimension of human trafficking, its trends and prevalence in the country, the Costa Rican Government has asked IOM to participate in the drafting of a “National Plan of Action to Combat Human Trafficking”.

Other advances in counter trafficking efforts include the signing of a commitment letter by high level authorities of key governmental institutions in support of the “National Protocol for the Return of Victims of Trafficking, especially

Children and Adolescents". Additionally conversations are underway to launch the number of the hotline for migrant children in coordination with the **IDB** through the Ricky Martin Foundation. A new phase in the fight against human trafficking is also underway in Costa Rica with the official launching of the "National Coalition to Combat Human Trafficking."

In El Salvador, the "Temporary Shelter for Victims of Trafficking" has been operating since April 2006. It has assisted a total of 60 victims of trafficking, some of them, particularly foreigners, staying up to 1.5 months. Elsewhere in Central America, IOM is working closely with government officials and international organizations to implement its many counter trafficking programs. In the framework of the National Counter Trafficking Coalition, with the support of the Judiciary Office of

Nicaragua, the "Protocol for the Repatriation of Children Victims of Trafficking" was validated by key governmental leaders. UNICEF and **ILO** joined efforts with IOM for this last task with the aim of continuing the project by training government officials in applying the protocol.

In 2005, 18,941 Hondurans were returned from the United States and 20,318 migrants (16,937 men 2,860 women and 521 minors) in 2006. IOM and its partners meet the returning migrants at Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula Airports and provide initial assistance such as shelter or onward transport to their places of origin, food, medical care, clothing, as well as legal and psychosocial counseling. The project also helps those who wish to return to school or to join vocational training programs, micro-credit schemes, and assist them in their job search.

We call for an increase in inter-American cooperation and dialogue to reduce and discourage undocumented migration as well as to promote migration processes in accordance with the national legal system of each State and applicable international human rights law. We commit to dialogue in order to reduce the cost and facilitate remittances and to increase efforts to combat smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons, in keeping with international instruments of human rights; to provide for the dignified, orderly, and safe return of migrant, and to invite states to exchange best practices on establishing bilateral programs for migrant workers. (Paragraph 28)

For information relating to the **OAS's** activities for this mandate, please refer to Mandate 26 of the Declaration.

Since 2005 the **IDB**, through its Multilateral Investment Fund (MIF), has supported several activities that are consonant with

Mandate 28 of the Mar de Plata Declaration, on migrant remittances. These include ongoing efforts to raise awareness of the magnitude and development potential of migrant remittances, to promote competition and thereby lower the costs of sending remittances, to promote financial



democracy by expanding access to financial services and products, to generate more accurate data on remittances flows, uses and applications, and industry practices, and to explore new mechanisms by which migrants and their families can leverage remittances. Since May 2006, the MIF approved a regional project to assist Latin American and Caribbean central banks to adopt general principals for the remittances services. In addition, the MIF has approved 11 additional remittances projects through a joint facility with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

Also since May 2006 the MIF has completed the following studies on remittances: (i) A Survey of Latin Americans in the U.S., (ii) Study of Barriers to Entry into the U.S. Financial System for non-Mexican Migrants, (iii) Remittances, Investment and Local Economies in Latin America, (iv) Sending Money Home: Remittances to Mexico, and (v) Sending Money Home: Remittances to Paraguay. Since May 2006, the MIF has hosted 5 conferences on various topics germane to remittances; two in Washington, D.C., one in Portugal, one in Brazil, and one in Paraguay.

In 2007, the MIF will conduct studies on remittances in Mexico, Haiti, and between Spain and Latin America. Events are planned in Haiti, Mexico, and Spain. MIF is also conducting an “International Call for Masters Theses and Dissertations” on the issue of migrant

remittances in 2007, and will execute a project on intra-regional remittances and microfinance with the Microfinance International Corporation (MFIC), as well as continuing to co-finance projects on remittances in collaboration with IFAD. MIF is also collaborating on remittance-related issues with the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank/Committee on Payment and Settlement Services (CPSS) Task Force on Remittances, the World Bank Task Force on Data, the Inter-Agency Remittance Task Force, and the Consultative Group to Assist the Poor (CGAP).

A document entitled “International Migration, Human Rights and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean” was presented at the thirty-first session of ECLAC, held in Montevideo, Uruguay, in March 2006, and delegations adopted a resolution on the subject. ECLAC also played an active part in the various preparatory processes and events for the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, and in other intergovernmental forums such as the sixteenth Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government, at which ECLAC made a substantive contribution on the subject of international migration. Work also continued on a number of studies on the role of international migration by highly qualified people.

For information relating to the IOM’s activities for this mandate, please refer to Mandate 27 of the Declaration.

We reaffirm our commitment to respect indigenous peoples' rights and we commit to successfully concluding negotiations on the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The full exercise of these rights is essential for the existence, welfare, and integral development of indigenous peoples and for their full participation in national activities. For this reason, we must create the necessary conditions to facilitate their access to decent work and living conditions that allow them to overcome social exclusion and inequality, and poverty. (Paragraph 31)

The OAS has actively participated in events to promote the rights and social inclusion of some of the most vulnerable groups in the Americas. The OAS hosted the Eighth and Ninth Meetings of Negotiations in the Quest for Points of Consensus of the Working Group to Prepare the Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in December 2006 and January 2007, respectively. These meetings served as a forum for dialogue for representatives of OAS Member States and of the Indigenous Caucus on the first through third sections of the Declaration, and in so doing, to negotiate consensus on topics of self-determination, fundamental liberties, cultural identity, education, as well as individual rights and collective rights of indigenous peoples of the region. The ongoing process of consensus building in other topics of the Draft Declaration officially resumed during the Tenth Meeting in April 2007 in Bolivia.

In addition, the OAS organized consultations with representatives from civil society organizations and indigenous peoples, including a virtual consultation to promote public participation prior to the First Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High Level Authorities on Sustainable Development on

December 4-5 in Santa Cruz, Bolivia. The end result was a document containing recommendations from these groups, which was disseminated to the Permanent Missions of the Member States of the OAS for their consideration and subsequent preparation of the Declaration of Santa Cruz.

Within the List of Priority Activities of the Inter-American Committee on Culture (CIC) approved at the III Meeting of Ministers of Culture in Montreal, Canada in November 2006, which was organized by the OAS, two activities were approved within the priority topic of 'culture and the role of indigenous people'. The first activity is a workshop for the Americas developed within the framework of the Canadian Symposium "Preserving aboriginal heritage: traditional and technical approaches". The second activity is a meeting for indigenous organizations where the objective is to develop partnerships on approaches to urban indigenous peoples, sharing information on aboriginal peoples in Canada and other countries and discussing how the Friendship Centre Movement model addresses urban Aboriginal needs, and how it could be adapted to other contexts.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> "Partnership on approaches to urban indigenous peoples between the National Association of Friendship Centres (Canada) and the Organización de Naciones y Pueblos Indígenas en Argentina". Presented by the Delegation of Canada. At the Planning Meeting of the Authorities of the Inter-American Committee on Culture. Washington D.C.: OAS (Jan. 16, 2007). CIDI/CIC/RPA/INF.3/07. Though this meeting was initially bilateral, the Delegation of Canada declared that it will be opened for other indigenous organization from all of the countries of the Americas to join it.





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We affirm our commitment to respect the rights of Afro-descendants and to ensuring their full access to educational opportunities at all levels, and to decent work that will help them overcome poverty and social exclusion and contribute to their increased participation in all sectors of our societies. (Paragraph 32)

Three of the priority topics identified by Ministers of Culture during the III Ministerial Meeting, address this mandate, opening opportunities for the future development of specific OAS activities geared toward afro-descendent

populations in the Americas.

For information relating to the OAS activities for this mandate, please refer to Mandate 24 of the Declaration.

We will promote integrated frameworks of public environmental, employment, health, and social security policies to protect the health and safety of all workers and foster a culture of prevention and control of occupational hazards in the Hemisphere. (Paragraph 33)

The OAS has been working with member states of the region in the development of a regional approach for the sound management of trade related agro-chemicals. The approach aims to address import and export of these chemicals, health and safety issues, occupational health and gender related issues, among other member state priorities that will overall benefit health and safety of workers in the hemisphere.

The OAS provided member states in the Andean Region with capacity building and policy options to protect human health and the environment and promote sustainable development within trade expansion. These capacity building priorities and policy options were identified through the Environmental Assessment and Capacity Building for Trade Liberalization in the Andean Region project that

addressed economic, social and environmental impacts of trade, including those affecting workers health in Colombia, Peru and Ecuador.

Through a joint OAS/**Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO)** initiative to address implications of globalization and trade for environmental health in the Americas, the OAS also provided practical recommendations to improve environmental health at the hemispheric and national level. The initiative looked at the relationship between trade liberalization and contagious diseases in resource-intensive sectors and analyzed possible changes or impacts to public health and environmental degradation, including case studies of activities, such as agriculture and aquaculture, linked to trade and foreign direct investment (FDI).

With respect to integration of environmental policy frameworks, in 2006, CAF's Latin American Carbon Program (PLAC) made it part of its mission to promote and stimulate clean and alternative energies and energy efficiency as an integral response to the problems of climate change, through financing for innovative wind, biomass, geothermic, solar, and small-scale hydro-power projects with a low socio-environmental impact. Thus, the new PLAC+e demonstrates its aim to continue to work toward the development of the GHG market by both promoting and providing financing for energy efficiency and clean and alternative energies.

The new mission of PLAC+e has meant diversification of its portfolio of its GHG buyers and the involvement, in addition to the governments of Spain and Holland, of the private sector and the international voluntary sector. To further the promotion of clean and alternative energies and energy efficiency, CAF has created new financing mechanisms and services both independently and in partnership with other entities, the first of these initiatives being the CAF-KFW Line of Credit.

The PLAC+e has identified a portfolio of approximately 16 million tons of GHG and has another 9 million under evaluation. It has also registered six projects with the UN and has five others in the pipeline. PLAC+e has been a world pioneer in developing the only methodology to verify reductions in this connection in the area of Urban Mass Transport. It has also made pioneering meth-

odological contributions in the area of biodigestors and renewable energies, which are currently available at the UN.

In order to build capacity in the region, PLAC+e has contributed to the creation and strengthening of responsible national authorities, at the government level, for the Kyoto Protocol, through the provision of technical cooperation funds. It has also provided support for holding training workshops to strengthen negotiating capacity in the region in connection with the Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol. At present, CAF is recognized in the region as the entity that has arranged discussion and integration forums so that countries can negotiate more favorable outcomes for regional interests and climate change. The Corporation has held eight of the above-mentioned workshops and, at the same time, provided support for several events to promote the carbon market organized by designated national authorities, interest groups, and associations.

The CAF-KFW Line of Credit is a financing mechanism that offers relatively soft conditions designed to stimulate the implementation of clean and alternative energy projects and energy efficiency programs. The aim, through this initiative, is to promote capacity building for countries in the region to increase the participation of these energies in the energy basket, so as to reduce the environmental impact caused by the intensive use of conventional energies, in particular through the reduction of GHG emissions that cause climate change.



The CAF-KFW Line of Credit has US\$160 million to distribute in biomass, wind, geothermal, solar, hydropower, and energy efficiency projects in the region and is seeking any available additional resources.

In response to the increasing urban and industrial environmental pollution faced by countries in the Andean region and the high costs associated with the implementation of conventional decontamination treatments in industrial processes in the manufacturing and services sectors, the Cleaner Production Program (PML) was implemented in July 2006 in order to promote preventive measures to bring about a reduction in solid, liquid, and gas waste, energy efficiency, and appropriate use of raw materials and inputs in production processes in large, and medium-sized, and small industry. In this context, the Program aims to encourage, through demonstration pilot projects that can be duplicated in the region, the appropriate and efficient use of existing natural and energy resources, thereby averting the environmental pollution problems associated with industry, while at the same time promoting competitiveness and strengthening environmental and social responsibility.

To carry out that mission, CAF has established close coordination ties with the different Cleaner Production Centers located in Latin American countries as well as with international agencies, such as the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), and other public and private

national entities associated with the productive and environmental sectors, thereby strengthening the scope of action of companies in a global market subject to increasing environmental and social demands.

From the beginning, this program has made significant strides in support of setting up specific agreements, between the public sector and industrial companies in the private sector, in order to meet industrial decontamination goals in the framework of the PML. In addition, a regional meeting was held to assess progress and needs in relation to this important issue in the region and efforts have continued in the area of institutional strengthening for shareholder countries to help them accomplish their objectives. At the same time, CAF has been creating and designing specialized financing mechanisms for this area, through partnerships to help promote business opportunities with PLAC+e, thereby strengthening its commitment to the environment and industrial development.

The International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) developed the web-based application, "Condor Portal," which is published on the CAF web site and that of its strategic partner Conservation International. At present a comprehensive personalized training program is under way in the use of the Condor Tool that encompasses more than 230 key officials connected with the main infrastructure and environmental agencies in the region. The current version is being updated on the web platform to make it com-

patible with existing infrastructure development needs in the southern hemisphere as a whole, in keeping

with the integration plans to be implemented in the framework of the IIRSA Initiative.

We will strengthen cooperation and exchanges of information in the struggle against chronic diseases as well as emerging and re-emerging diseases such as HIV/AIDS, SARS, malaria, tuberculosis, avian flu, and other health risks. We commit to fighting the stigma, misinformation, and discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS in the workplace and favor their full access to employment with dignity. We propose to develop crosscutting strategies and cooperation mechanisms, principally within the framework of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), to combat these diseases, including the strengthening and adequate financing of the Global Fund to Combat AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria as well as the development of national preparedness plans to fight potential pandemics, such as avian flu. We urge all countries to accelerate the process of ratification of the new international health regulations and seek to enhance the cooperation mechanisms that would facilitate access to pertinent measures of prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of the population at risk. (Paragraph 34)

In collaboration with **PAHO**, The AIDS Institute and the Art Center College of Design, IOM's MRF Washington developed a "HIV and AIDS Public Information Campaign" that resulted in the development of three public service announcements for the English-speaking Caribbean. They were validated during the "XVI International AIDS Conference (Toronto, Aug 06)" with participation from CARICOM Youth Ambassadors. The partnership experience was presented in a specialized workshop at the "UN 59th Annual DPI/NGO Conference". The Kaiser Family Foundation-Caribbean Broadcast media partnership on HIV/AIDS will support the dissemination of some of them.

In addition, IOM held a workshop for Caribbean Ministers of Health in Washington, DC. Under the title "Building a Health Strategy for Migrants and Mobile Populations in the Caribbean", the workshop

had as objectives to improve the institutional knowledge of IOM's work in the Caribbean and beyond; to exchange views about migration and health concerns and priority issues in the Caribbean; to brainstorm about program synergies between PAHO and IOM to better serve the Caribbean Caucus goals.

In Guatemala, IOM continues to work with Government authorities to help improve healthcare for Migrants. By means of a cooperation agreement signed with the Ministry of Health, IOM has executed technical engineering studies in order to build a hospital with capacity for 50 beds. This Project contributes to an improved access to health services as well as to an improved living standard for local population and Guatemalan temporary migrant workers in the border zones and the Adjacency Zone between Guatemala and Belize.



Recognizing the need for comprehensive social protection systems, we will examine the forms of unemployment protection most appropriate and possible for our respective countries. As part of a package of social safety nets for the unemployed, we also recognize the positive contribution of unemployment insurance systems in temporarily alleviating the socioeconomic suffering of individuals, reducing the need for workers to resort to subsistence activities through precarious jobs and facilitating their reentry into the work force. (Paragraph 35)

Social protection was the main substantive issue addressed at the ECLAC session held in Montevideo, Uruguay, in March 2006. In this connection, the Secretariat presented the document “Shaping the Future of Social Protection: Access, Financing and Solidarity”, which seeks to promote advancement towards the construction of more inclusive societies. This document affirms that the issue of social protection has now reached a historic turning point, which calls for a change of approach in dealing with the new world order and its implications for national societies. The main reason why solidarity-based social protection mechanisms need to be rethought is that the labour market has not demonstrated a capacity for greater inclusiveness either through the creation of decent job opportunities or through the level of social protection contributions. It is important certainly to promote policies to create more and better jobs, but in the short and medium terms, employment cannot be expected to serve as the sole mechanism for protecting the majority of the population from the risks associated with a possible loss of income, health problems and ageing.

The structural changes reflected in the current situation call for a fresh approach to social protection within a framework of integral solidarity that combines con-

tributory and non-contributory mechanisms. A new social covenant must therefore be formed in which social rights are seen as the normative horizon and existing inequalities and budgetary restrictions are the limiting factors to be addressed. In other words, the ethical imperatives that underpin a social rights-based covenant must be reconciled with existing financial constraints. Emphasis must also be placed on efficient resource use with a view to expanding the coverage and raising the quality of services, especially for the lowest-income sectors of the population.

The proposals put forward in this document are designed to build bridges between social rights and policy guidelines aimed at making them more enforceable through improved access, better financing and greater solidarity. To this end, the study devotes particular attention to some of the main issues relating to social protection, such as the reform and design of health and pension systems, taking into consideration both labour market dynamics and the countries’ fiscal capacities. Programmes aimed at providing support to society’s poorest groups are also examined. The analyses offered here are thus intended to delineate some of the issues that should be encompassed by a new social covenant founded upon the right to social protection.

We recognize the fundamental and unique consultative role of employers' and workers' organizations in shaping employment and labor policies. We undertake to promote and facilitate tripartite dialogue in national, sub-regional, and hemispheric frameworks. (Paragraph 37)

The **OAS** effectively promotes tripartite dialogue at the hemispheric level through all the activities of the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor (IACML). Indeed, the meetings of the Working Groups, hemispheric workshops, and activities of the Inter-American Labor Administration Network (RIAL), are actively attended by governments, workers, and employers who have the opportunity to discuss the various issues addressed, reach consensus, and settle on joint measures. The IACML has two advisory bodies that represent the main business groups (CEATAL) and trade unions (COSATE) in the hemisphere, which permits progress in tripartite social dialogue at the hemispheric level.

We recognize the important link between development and culture and we agree that support for culture in its many dimensions contributes to, among other things, the preservation and protection of national heritage, the enhancement of the dignity and identity of our people, the creation of decent jobs, and the overcoming of poverty. (Paragraph 38)

**OAS** worked closely with the Department of Canadian Heritage to organize a successful "III Meeting of Ministers and Highest Appropriate Authorities of Culture", whose four priority themes were taken primarily from Mandate 38 of the Mar del Plata Declaration. The Meeting approved a "List of Priority Activities for 2007-2008" focused on concrete cooperative actions within these themes.

On the theme of preservation and protection of cultural heritage, on March 21 – 23, 2007, the OAS along with the U.S. Department of State and the government of México through CONACULTA and INAH, hosted the Seminar "Case Studies on the Prevention of Illicit Trafficking and Looting of Cultural Heritage". This event provided the occasion for cultural policy makers,

archaeological site and museum administrators, and customs and justice-sector officials from Mexico, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Belize and all of the Central American countries to share their practical experiences in dealing with this matter within their own countries as well as on inter-American cooperation. This is the first of a series of planned sub-regional workshops on the preservation and protection of cultural heritage, which intend to result in concrete cooperation projects to protect heritage goods and sites.

On the priority topic culture and the enhancement of the dignity and identity of our people, on February 27 – 28, 2007, the OAS supported a sub-regional meeting for the Ministers of Culture of Central America on "Arts and Culture as a



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Strategy to Prevent Social Violence” hosted by the CECC and the government of El Salvador. This activity was aimed at sharing successful experiences on how to use cultural programming as a counterweight to the attraction of gangs to young people. In addition, the OAS and the CIC are working with the Ministry of Culture of Brazil to develop a “2007 International Seminar on Cultural Diversity”. This seminar will allow experts and policy makers to exchange views and research findings on such topics as globalization and culture.

On the topic of culture and the creation of decent jobs and the overcoming of poverty, the OAS along with the Instituto Hondureño de Antropología e Historia (INAH) developed a one-week seminar on December 4 – 8, 2006, where participants were able to learn about the experience of the Honduran government in the implementation of the program “Rescue and Promotion of the Artisan, Indigenous and Tra-

ditional Production of Honduras”. In 2007 the President of the CIC addressed the annual meeting of the **BCIE** Board of Governors on how culture contributes to job creation as well as to social inclusion. Further BCIE-OAS cooperation on this topic will be pursued in 2007.

On the transversal theme of Cultural Information Systems, on April 19 – 20, 2007 the OAS along with the Ministry of Culture of Colombia and the Andrés Bello Agreement, will host an interagency meeting in Bogota, Colombia drawing upon the results from three OAS sub-regional workshops on cultural information systems held during 2006 -- in Trinidad and Tobago (Caribbean sub-region), Mexico (Central American sub-region), and Chile (South American sub-region). The objective of the interagency meeting is to design a joint plan of action that can support the strengthening of Cultural Information Systems in Latin America and the Caribbean.

We underline the importance of the OAS Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities on Sustainable Development to be held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, in August 2006. We encourage the participation of member states and we call upon the OAS to continue to support the preparatory work necessary to make this meeting a success. (Paragraph 39)

In 2006, the **OAS** successfully completed the preparatory process for the “First Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High Level Authorities on Sustainable Development” holding 3 workshops on: integrated water-resource management, risk

sharing, and risk transfer arrangements of natural disasters which provided valuable input to the ministerial agenda and decision-making process. The meeting resulted in the adoption of a ministerial declaration on sustainable development and the Inter-

American Program for Sustainable Development (PIDS).

Also in preparation for the Ministerial, the OAS hosted a consultation with the private sector, which provided valuable input to the ministerial themes.

Additionally, the OAS hosted a Meeting of Experts in Washington, DC which reconvened in Santa Cruz to finalize the negotiations of the Santa Cruz “+10 Declaration and the Strategic Plan of Action 2006 – 2009 – PIDS”.









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## Training the Labor Force

We recognize the essential role of life-long learning opportunities, especially technical and professional training of our population. Investing in knowledge, skills, capacities, and abilities facilitates access and re-entry to the labor force, supports personal and professional development, and maximizes economic productivity and institutional strengthening. (Paragraph 40)

The goal of the OAS “E-SME Program” is to provide technical and professional training for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs). Participating countries include: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Panama. In each country, pilot projects were carried out with SMEs (120 in total), to improve their ability to use and benefit from Internet services and information and communication technology (ICT). In Guatemala, Nicaragua and El Salvador, the tools developed in the framework of the project have been adopted by the national institutions responsible for supporting SMEs, and will continue to develop skills and training to SMEs beyond the life of the initial project.

In El Salvador, an entry-diagnosis tool for SMEs was developed, to measure the use of ICTs throughout the business operation. This will guide the National Commission on Small and Medium Sized Enter-

prises (CONAMYPE) in the delivery of appropriate technical assistance to SMEs and measure the use of ICT throughout business operations. Additionally six courses, previously available only in CD formats, were made available online for SMEs using resources from the project. This substantially increased the reach of these courses and the feedback from users to CONAMYPE, which is being used as a guide for continued improvement and course tailoring to SMEs.

In Guatemala, a course previously designed by the Vice-Ministry for SMEs was made available online. The course was tested on SMEs participating in the project and continues to be operational to date. In Nicaragua, the Department for SMEs (DPYME) of the Ministry of Development, Industry and Commerce (MIFIC) executed the pilot through a national university, Universidad Americana (UAM). The university designed a “Certificate Program (Diplomado) for

SME Owners in the Use of ICT in Small Business". This certification will continue to be offered to SMEs in Nicaragua.

The OAS has provided technical input to the Special Multilateral Fund of the Interamerican Council for Integral Development (FEM-CIDI)-funded Project "Key and Labor Competencies in Secondary Education" currently executed by Brazil, Mexico and Costa Rica to harmonize education curricula with the needs of the labor market.

The IDB has incorporated and integrated labor markets and employment within the "Building Opportunities for the Majority" initiative. The "Enterprise Compact for the Majority" commits the IDB to supporting greater human capital investment in the region, integrating human capital more fully in value chains and labor market operations. Among the commitments are: an increase in labor market operations, support to productivity increases, increasing secondary school quality, and addressing job quality through reductions in informal jobs (e.g. via incorporating more workers within social security or other forms of formal insurance.)

The Bank is fulfilling and advancing these commitments under a series of loans and technical cooperation grants currently in execution related to labor market development that total more than US\$1 billion. These include comprehensive labor market loans in Mexico, Panama, Peru and the Dominican Republic and new technical cooperation grants to

support improved labor capacity in Central America and the Dominican Republic related to CAFTA, youth training in the region, and quality employment creation in Colombia. In line with the Mar del Plata Summit mandates, the Bank is expanding its pipeline and activities in the links between education, training and competitiveness. In Nicaragua, the emphasis is on training and basic education and relevancy to the job market.

As part of its commitments, the Bank is advancing as well on research and systematic evaluation of labor market programs as technical input to improve the quality and outcomes of labor market interventions in the region. The Bank's Office of Evaluation recently completed a comprehensive review of Bank labor market programs. This evaluation reviews the impact of labor market programs financed by the IDB in a range of countries including: Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Chile, Argentina and the Dominican Republic, assessing the efficiency and effectiveness of different instruments with recommendations for future labor market policies and programs. The Bank completed the first comprehensive evaluation of the effectiveness and gender impact of a public employment service using the case of Mexico as well as a series of research studies on the Mexican labor market in anticipation of a new phase of the Bank's labor markets operation there.

Expansion of the Bank's labor markets, employment and com-



petitiveness program is planned under the upcoming 2007-8 programming and planning cycle. New labor markets analyzes for Paraguay are planned as an input to the new government. A labor markets and employment dimension has been incorporated within the Bank's upcoming "Economic and Social Progress in Latin America and the Caribbean Report" on social inclusion for Fall 2007. The Bank is advancing as well on an evaluation and gender impact analysis for Chile, similar to the innovative methodology used in the case of Mexico. In support of improved labor market and training programs in Honduras and Nicaragua, the Bank is working on technical cooperation grants to support both these countries.

In keeping with this priority, in 2006, CAF launched the Modernization Project for Technical and Technological Education (US\$25 million), which, also with a territorial approach allows an innovative form of public-private linkage. The project encourages the creation of key partnerships between the productive/business sector, universities and training centers, civil society organizations and the authorities, through which to develop their own ways, consistent with regional and local realities, to modernize the technical and technological services available in the region. Demand exceeded the expectations of the Ministry of Education of Colombia

and, therefore, it is expected that the project's implementation will be completed in just two years.

In an attempt to establish closer ties with direct beneficiaries, CAF approved its first loan to a departmental authority not secured by the State. The "Proyecto Bogotá Una Gran Escuela" [Project Bogota, One Big School] (US\$ 50 million) is designed to accelerate the investment efforts of the Colombian capital to improve the quality of education for more than 60.000 students.

Furthermore, CAF adopted a social investment shielding instrument as a way of helping member states to meet their debt obligations without that hindering their social spending plans. This instrument facilitates access for finance ministries to funding as they meet their goals set in sectoral social spending budgets. In this frame-work, the Second Support Program for Social Investment in Ecuador (PRAISE II) (US\$ 200 million), includes a strategy to ensure the availability of resources for the universalization of basic education and widening of access to basic health services for low-income groups. By the same token, the Habitat Program pledges funds for the housing policy efforts of the Government of Venezuela and collaborates in the design of a mechanism to facilitate performance monitoring (US\$ 400 million).

We support the recommendations contained in the Declaration and Plan of Action of the Fourth Meeting of Ministers of Education, held in Scarborough, Trinidad and Tobago, August 10-12, 2005. We will strive for quality public education at all levels and promote literacy to ensure a democratic citizenry, foster decent work, fight poverty, and achieve greater social inclusion. Achieving these goals requires a substantial financial investment by our governments and international financial institutions. We note with satisfaction the suggestion of the Ministers of Education that our governments explore innovative forms of increasing financing for education with international financing institutions, such as debt swaps for investment in education. (Paragraph 43)

The recommendations emanating from the IV Ministerial Meeting and the Declaration of Scarborough became the basis for the “2005-2007 Work Plan of the Inter-American Committee on Education (CIE)”, for which Department of Education and Culture (DEC) of the OAS serves as Technical Secretariat. Actions and results from this Work

Plan are summarized under the response to Mandate 25, above. Presently OAS is assisting the CIE in preparing the V Meeting of Ministers of Education, to be held from November 14-16 in Cartagena, Colombia. That meeting will review the achievements and challenges of implementing the Declaration of Scarborough.

We understand that the potential for developing the capacity of our citizenry and attaining greater productivity depends on a well-educated and well-trained labor force. In this sense, we recognize the advances made in increasing access to education and we reiterate the need to expand coverage, improve quality, strengthen the teaching profession, and improve the efficiency of our education systems. We reiterate the importance of incorporating new information and communication technologies in the training of our citizenry to increase their productivity. (Paragraph 44)

For millions of men and women in the hemisphere who live below the poverty line, the information revolution is still a privilege for the few. **The Institute for Connectivity in the Americas (ICA)** is supporting a variety of initiatives that contribute to build and improve the local capacities of the region’s workforce through the use of innovative and low cost technologies. To this end, ICA is supporting the implementation of Wi-Fi pilots to connect low-income communities (from the Amazon Rainforest to an urban favela in Brazil) and to a regional portal to share and support efforts on the

subject (WiLAC, [www.wilac.net](http://www.wilac.net)). ICA also provided support to the “Enlace Quiché” project in Guatemala, to develop training materials that combine ICT skill building with practical applications to meet the needs of rural, indigenous populations, in addition to providing support to the design of a “Regional Training Model for Rural Women on Citizen Participation (Modemujer, Mexico)”.

ICA has been actively exploring the issue of Telework, New Forms of Work and Employment through a regional project aimed at identifying opportunities in which



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the use of ICT will provide means and solutions to some of the challenges faced by certain sectors of the population (such as youth, disabled and elderly) in actively participating in the labour market.

As part of these efforts, ICA supported the “1st Brazilian Telework Congress” held in September, 2006, and the “11th International Workshop on Telework” held in Fredrickton, Canada.

We commit to support the improvement of the quality of the teaching of science and we will strive to incorporate science, technology, engineering, and innovation as principal factors in national strategies and plans for social and economic development, for the fundamental purpose of reducing poverty and generating decent work. In this vein, we support the Declaration and Plan of Action adopted at the Ministerial Meeting of Science and Technology held in Lima. (Paragraph 45)

The initiative “Engineering for the Americas” (EftA), which aims at working with engineering accreditation bodies to establish recognized accreditation systems, was launched to improve the quality of engineering education in the Hemisphere. Three workshops were planned to review the situation and make recommendations to improve the current status of science education. The workshops were organized with the participation of representatives of industry, government and academia. Two of the workshops were held in Brazil and the United States in 2006 and one in Chile in 2007; a fourth one will be held in Argentina in 2007. In collaboration with the OAS and four OAS member states, the Permanent Executive Committee of “EftA” designed a project to improve the quality of engineering education in the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Panama, and Trinidad and Tobago. The IDB will be the funding agency through its Regional Public Goods program.

The OAS supports the National

Institutes of Metrology (NIMs) in the 34 OAS member states and is now preparing a plan of expansion for the year 2007. In collaboration with the IDB, the OAS will soon implement a large project to improve the quality of the metrology units in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama and the Dominican Republic. The OAS has also been invited, in March 2007, to Santiago, Chile, to speak on the role of the OAS in the reinforcement of metrology and its importance in the regional capacity building.

In collaboration with the Gender Advisory Board (GAB) of the UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the UNESCO Chair on Women, Science and Technology in Latin America, the OAS has prepared a joint four-year program entitled “Advancing the Integration of a Gender Perspective in Science and Technology Policies and Programs in the Americas.”

The OAS has also participated actively in activities in the region

that facilitated dialogue and exchanges with advisory groups and networks in the field, including: a) the “Virtual Program for Career Development and Capacity Building for Latin America and Caribbean Junior Women Scientists,” June 2006; b) the promotion and support of key civil society organizations during the dialogue with civil society in preparation of the XXXVI General Assembly, particularly through the “Virtual Forum on Good Governance and Development in the Knowledge-based Society,” May-June 2006; c) an international symposium on gender issues organized by the UNESCO Chair in Buenos Aires, Argentina, within the “Primer Foro Iberoamericano de Ciencia, Tecnología, Empresa y Sociedad” November 2006; d) the “Global Forum: Building Science, Technology, and Engineering Capacity for Sustainable Growth and Poverty Reduction,” organized by the World Bank, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), and other entities of the region, February 2007.

The OAS is currently planning a meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Science and Technology (COMCYT) to be held in Washington, D.C., in June 2007, at which gender issues will be addressed during a special session.

The OAS has established a 3-year program to develop and support science journalism in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The understanding of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and its application to Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) and food safety is fundamental to increase the Caribbean and Latin America institutional capacity. The OAS cooperates in this field with the **Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)** and is developing a new program on biotechnology that will be partly financed by Mexico.

**ICA** is supporting science research as a response to pre-existing and emerging health threats (such as HIV/AIDS), through mechanisms that contribute to increase the quantity, quality and availability of crucial health information. In this regard, ICA is supporting innovative projects such as “Punto ‘J,’” a portal to educate on Health and HIV/AIDS from youth to youth ([www.puntoj.com.pe](http://www.puntoj.com.pe)), as well as to a regional Caribbean initiative titled “Linkage for Education and Research in Nursing (LEARN),” responding to the regional challenge of ensuring the adequacy and quality of nursing professionals to assist the region in its ability to meet the Millennium Goals and achieve adequate levels of health care provision.





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We will continue to increase investment in science and technology, with the participation of the private sector and the support of multilateral institutions. We will also intensify our efforts to encourage our universities and higher institutions of science and technology to increase their linkages and deepen basic and applied research and promote greater incorporation of workers in the agenda of innovation. We will facilitate the greatest interaction possible between scientific and technological research communities by fostering the establishment and consolidation of advanced research networks and synergies among educational institutions, research centers, the public and private sectors and civil society. (Paragraph 47)

The **OAS**, through its Special Multilateral Fund (FEMCIDI), has financed the multi-national project “Metrology for the Americas,” which is coordinated by the US National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), and centers on strengthening and consolidating the Inter-American Metrology

System (SIM), and fostering the development of standards and standard reference materials acceptable through the Americas.

For further information relating to the **OAS** activities for this mandate, please refer to Mandate 45 of the Declaration.

We recognize that the protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights should contribute to the promotion of technological innovation and to the transfer and dissemination of technology, to the mutual advantage of producers and users of technological knowledge and in a manner conducive to social and economic welfare, and to a balance of rights and obligations. Therefore, we reiterate our commitment to their protection in accordance with the WTO Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights. (paragraph 48)

The **OAS** supports countries in the Americas in strengthening their institutional and human capacities in the area of intellectual property rights (IPR) so that they are able to implement and administer trade agreements, design public policies in view of best practices and innovative approaches in other countries, and take advantage of the benefits of broader markets and increased investments. The **OAS** has promoted horizontal co-operation in IPR among countries in the Hemisphere to share the practical experience of countries facing the challenges of adapting their legislation, administrative

procedures and institutional infrastructure.

The **OAS** program for capacity-building on intellectual property has included support to Peruvian efforts to identify and prioritize needs in the IPR in the context of trade agreements, dialogues with the Colombian private sector and civil society in copyright and related rights, addressing the challenges of modernization of the IPR regime in Ecuador, as well as a multi-country exercise to exchange best practices and experiences on the implementation of intellectual property provisions in trade agreements.





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## MSME as an Engine of Job Growth

We will promote and support actions to facilitate the participation of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in domestic markets and international trade. We will support the SME Congress of the Americas and encourage wider participation in this initiative. We stress the importance of opening new markets for SME goods and services. (Paragraph 51)

With financing supplied by the SME Development and Investment Fund (FIDE), CAF continued to provide support for capital strengthening and innovation in small and medium-sized enterprises in the region in 2006. In the course of the year, six new operations were approved, taking the total to 14 operations in 10 countries. Through investment in funds in Brazil and Argentina, CAF increased its portfolio of risk capital investments targeting technological and agroindustrial SMEs. It also provided support for the creation and implementation of an Integral Enterprise Support Program in Costa Rica, which offers financing facilities to SMEs at different stages

of development. The Corporation also encouraged the generation of alternative SME financing mechanisms by granting a line of credit to Financiera Desyfin in Costa Rica and through investment in Fondo Compass in Peru; both facilities offer invoice discounting and factoring services to this business segment. CAF also supported the generation of alternative energy sources by approving a loan for a project in Colombia to produce biodiesel from African palm oil. This project would also have a strong social impact by enabling the reintegration of demobilized combatants of the autodefensas paramilitary groups.

We are committed to the fight against poverty and inequality and we recognize the contribution to the economy and to the creation of decent work by productive organizations, in accordance with each nation's characteristics, such as cooperatives and other production units. (Paragraph 52)

For information relating to the OAS activities for this mandate, please refer to Mandate 5 of the Declaration.

We will foster the development of entrepreneurial skills and technical competence of SMEs, with the objective of facilitating their entry into new markets, aimed at strengthening SMEs and consequently increasing employment. (Paragraph 53)

As regards development of small and medium-size enterprise, the OAS, through its Special Multilateral Fund (FEMCIDI), provided financing for the project, Support for Microenterprises Managed by Women Food Producers in Rural Areas of the Trifinium Region (Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador) to improve the food and nutritional insecurity of families in that region. The project sought to strengthen and develop the technical, management, and marketing capacities of micro enterprises managed by women food producers in rural areas, as well as to transfer new technologies to enable them to produce safe and nutritious foods. One of the most notable accomplishments of the project has been its ability to ensure the availability of and access to safe foods produced by micro enterprises that are consistent with the eating habits of the population, thus fomenting a culture of healthy eating.

In order to support SME business capacity, the Program of Assistance to Small Hotels in Central America, financed with funds provided by FEMCIDI/OAS, provides direct support to hundreds of small hotels through in-person and online training courses created by Pro-

gram ([www.centralamericasmall-hotels.com](http://www.centralamericasmall-hotels.com)) on aspects such as quality of service, staff qualifications, use of communication technology, hotel management, and environmental awareness building. The Program coordinators secured a contribution of US\$ 600,000 from IDB-FOMIN for additional activities under the Program. The Program also submitted several project proposals to the **World Bank** and other international agencies, in order to continue its implementation and pave the way for its transfer and long-term adoption by the target countries.

Recognizing the important role that SMEs play within the region's economies, ICA has been actively promoting the use and integration of innovative ICT tools as a way of contributing to strengthen SME's competence as engines of growth. To this end, ICA, in cooperation with the Inter-American Bank's Korean Trust Fund and the **Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI)**, launched a project to enhance the competitiveness of SMEs in Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica, and Nicaragua by improving their use of digital technologies for business



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skills development. In the project's first phase, ICA's local partner, Costa Rica-based Comisión Asesora de Alta Tecnología (CAATEC) assessed the training needs, available resources, and e-readiness of MSMEs in the five countries. In the second phase, entitled "Lanz@", Fundación Omar Dengo has designed and is implementing a sustainable training program for the development of entrepreneurial and citizen participation skills in Central America

ICA is working in partnership with the Multilateral Investment Fund

of the **IDB** in the "ICT-4-BUS (Information and Communication Technologies for Business)" program, aimed at improving the competitiveness, productivity, and efficiency of SMEs in region by improving their business operations and expanding their access to new ICT solutions and services. As part of this project ICA supported "Terra Inka: Tourist Market Access" based in Peru, as well as the Brazilian "SME Metasys" project, a complete ICT infrastructure solution that provides full access to all services required in an ICT system for SMEs.

We will support the efforts that the multilateral development banks make with the micro, small and medium-sized enterprises as fundamental factors of economic growth and we will welcome the increased efforts of the World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and other regional development banks to create the enabling environment for strengthening such enterprises. (Paragraph 54)

During 2006, the **IDB** Group continued to undertake several activities to strengthen the competitiveness of the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) and to increase the awareness of the issues that directly and indirectly affect the sector. In accordance to this, the Group, conformed by the IDB, the Inter-American Investment Corporation (IIC), and the Multi-lateral Investment Fund (MIF), embarked on 209 operations, for almost US\$1.8 billions in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). Among these projects, the Bank channeled 36 loan operations for US\$1.3 billions aimed at promoting a more favorable business climate, fostering financial democracy, and enhancing the competitiveness of a

variety of economic sectors through enhancing MSME access to technology, business services and financing. Furthermore, through the "Social Entrepreneurship Program (SEP)", it empowered 16 initiatives for US\$11.1 millions aimed at overcoming poverty by creating business opportunities for poor micro and small entrepreneurs, promoting corporate social responsibility and linking large enterprises' activities with those from small producers, to name some.

The IIC, on the other hand, approved 46 operations for US\$337 millions to directly or through a financial intermediary assist the small and medium enterprise sec-

tor and their value chains. Two of the projects (US\$35 millions) were regional programs, while the remaining 44 were distributed among 13 countries.

Lastly, the MIF approved 111 projects for a total of US\$128.5 millions, including 31 (US\$42 millions) to support the MIF Clusters of Projects which allows for efficiency gains through the sharing of lessons learned among the group of beneficiaries; and 23 lines of activity (US\$8.5 millions) channeled primarily to foster microfinance development in the region. Besides, the MIF approved 12 investment operations, 5 of which promote innovative financial services for MSME, and supported the creation of three investments funds (Argentina, Brazil and a Regional one) to cope with the financial needs of the sector in LAC.

In addition to the operations, the IDB Group strengthened its knowledge dissemination efforts through research studies, the organization of the "IX Forum on Microenterprise" (Ecuador) and other activities.

In 2007, the IDB Group will emphasize its support to MSME activity, as it understands the reinforcement of the sector as an effective mechanism to enhance the quality of life of those who inhabit in the region. In this sense, the "Initiative of Building Opportunities for the Majority (OM)", launched in 2006, is expected to channel additional resources directed to generating opportunities for those defined as the

majority (some 360 million people in the region). Last, it is safe to mention that the Bank will continue with its knowledge dissemination strategy and will seek for new innovative mechanism to promote regional development. The "X Forum on Microenterprise", which will take place in El Salvador in 2007, will be an excellent opportunity to assess the IDB institutional strategy on MSME, which primarily focuses on fostering financial democracy, facilitating MSME access to technology, promoting firms formalization and cultivating entrepreneurial spirit; and at the same time will constitute a propitious occasion to better assist an increasing demand for knowledge transfer on the topic.

In 2006, CAF continued to implement a strategy of broad support for micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises in the region, through business operations that provide access to capital, as well as initiatives that boost their competitiveness. Traditionally, the Corporation has granted loans to entities such as private commercial banks and official development agencies which, in turn, issue loans to micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises. Also, in order to support these private enterprise segments more directly, CAF, in partnership with public and private sector institutions, develop custom-made solutions for sectors with limited access to financing.

With the aim of supporting small business owners, CAF provides financing to microfinance institu-



tions and is the principal multilateral agency serving this sector in Andean countries. In this connection, 2006 saw a surge in this sector in terms both of number of operations approved and amounts disbursed. The portfolio of approved loans closed the year at US\$92.5 million, which represents a rise of 49.6% compared with the December 2005 figure (US\$61.8 million). This growth stemmed from several factors, such as the inclusion of new clients, the increase in the number of lines of credit and the securitization of stock market offerings. At present, the corporation serves 36 microfinance institutions in 10 countries in the region, the most significant developments being the incorporation in the operations portfolio of clients in Uruguay and the operations growth in Mexico.

Furthermore, 2006 saw the first time that loans denominated in local currency (two of them) have been approved, structured, and disbursed. In 2006, capital investments in microfinance institutions were also given an added boost with the acquisition of four new holdings: one in Peru, one in Uruguay, and two in Mexico. In relation to dissemination of best practices, 2006 was a notable year in light of the active participation of CAF in the sponsorship of events, such as forums and workshops that enabled analysis of best practices and trends in the area of microfinance at the regional and global level.

CAF developed various alternative financing mechanisms to serve small and medium-sized enterprise (SME). In Bolivia, the Corpo-

ration contributed funds to the Fondo Aval Bursátil [Stock Market Collateral Fund], which issues guarantees to partially collateralize debt instruments traded over the counter by SMEs on the Bolivian Stock Exchange. CAF also approved a Partial Guarantee Line in favor of a micro-finance institution to enable it to increase financing to a group of between 60 and 80 of its SME clients with sufficient cash flow to take on further debt but insufficient additional collateral with which to secure more than their outstanding loans and which, therefore, have difficulty accessing fresh credit to allow them to grow.

Collateral inadequacy is one of the obstacles that limits access to credit for SMEs. In this connection, countries' collateral systems, when managed efficiently and sustainably, have shown that they have a core role to play in support of SMEs. For that reason, CAF maintains a refinancing line for the National Collateral Fund of Colombia and provides support for a study that would facilitate the creation of a national collateral system in Ecuador.

In order to reorganize and give added momentum to its efforts in the MSME sector, **CABEI** approved its MSME Support Strategy on May 27, 2005, with the following lines of action: 1) facilitate access for MSMEs to financial services; 2) strengthen the development of the financial sector that serves MSMEs; and 3) contribute to the business development, growth and productivity of MSMEs. In carrying out the first line of action, in 2005 new MSME Support Programs were

created in order to facilitate the financing provided to this sector through financial intermediary institutions.

For the second consecutive year, and through its Intermediation Programs in Support of MSMEs, CABEI successfully met its goal to again expand its portfolio in this sector by at least US\$100 million, and reached a balance of US\$324 million, compared to the portfolio of the previous year which recorded a balance of US\$196 million. In order to accomplish this increase, given the returns on its short-term portfolio, the CABEI disbursed a total of US\$223 million in 2006. With the funds it channeled in this way, the CABEI succeeded in providing support to 26,069 microentrepreneurs, 28,717 small businesses, and 3,897 medium-sized businesses, thereby meeting its objectives to contribute to employment generation and poverty reduction in the region.

Thanks to these efforts, the CABEI has become the principal source of funding to this sector in the region. Its efforts have been particularly notable in the microfinance sector, a mechanism by which it channels financing through microfinance institutions to serve entrepreneurs in low-income sectors.

The outstanding role that the CABEI has played has also enabled it to become the main conduit of external funding sources interested in providing support to Central American MSMEs through CABEI. In this way, in 2006, it was the exclusive intermediary of funds from the German Development

Bank (KfW) (US\$19.1 million), in addition to the funds from the Spanish International Cooperation Agency (AECI) previously placed (US\$24,8 million). At present it is engaged in negotiations with KfW to channel •20 million to microenterprise and small-business owners, and with AECI to funnel •10 million to victims of Hurricane Stan and future natural disasters. These funds will start to be channeled in mid-2007.

In addition to the foregoing, and also in keeping with its first line of action, implementation has started of the Central American Productive Chains Program designed to inject liquidity into the MSME sector through invoice discounting. According to forecasts, in the first five years it is estimated that a portfolio will be amassed of US\$268.0 million that would benefit more than 4,500 small and medium-sized businesses in Central America.

Furthermore, in keeping with the second and third lines of action and with the need to strengthen and widen the CABEI intermediation network to funnel more funds to MSMEs, in 2006, approval was given for the Program of Technical and Financial Cooperation for the MSME Sector, aimed at organizing the technical assistance funds earmarked for this business sector. Implementation of this program will commence in 2007 with non-refundable resources provided by CABEI, KfW (US\$1 million in total), and AECI (US\$1.5 million).

The CDB has a "Private Sector Development Policy" which has as





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its central focus the promotion of small and medium-sized enterprises. The “Caribbean Technological Consultancy Services (CTCS)” network contributes to strengthening private sector capabilities by linking people who have business and technical experience with businesses that need consulting advice and assistance. “CTCS” also contri-

butes to technical and managerial skills of the Region’s small entrepreneurs, especially young persons and women, and promotes gender equity

For information relating to the ICA’s activities for this mandate, please refer to Mandate 53 of the Declaration.





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## Framework for Creating Decent Work

We are committed to building a more solid and inclusive institutional framework, based on the coordination of economic, labor, and social public policies to contribute to the generation of decent work, which must comprise: (Paragraph 55)

A labor framework that promotes decent work and reaffirms our respect for the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and its follow-up. We shall continue to strengthen the application of our national labor laws and promote their effective enforcement; (Paragraph 55a)

Decent Work has been in the centerfold of the agendas of the main UN bodies and the European Commission, which indirectly affect aid-donor and technical cooperation agendas in the Americas. The Decent Work Agenda was adopted by the 2006 High-level Segment of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)'s Ministerial Declaration, pushing the Decent Work Agenda as an essential part of poverty reduction in the Millennium Development Goals. Full employment and decent work was the theme of recent session of the UN Commission for Social Development, and in the 2006 Spring and Autumn sessions of the High-level Committee of the UN system Chief Executives Board (HLCP/CEB). The Committee asked **International Labor Organization (ILO)** to develop a "toolkit" for mainstreaming

employment and decent work in UN system activities, and will be discussed and approved by the HLCP and submitted for final endorsement by the Executive Heads, including those of the IMF, the WB and the WTO, at the next CEB session, hosted by the ILO in Geneva, on 20–21, April 2007.

**ILO** and the **World Bank** agreed to jointly conduct two initial country studies focused on growth-employment linkages and related decent work issues. **ILO** is working with the WB to help effective mainstreaming of the Core Labor Standards in the Bank's operations, and is also cooperating with the International Finance Corporation in the implementation of its "Performance Standards on Environment and Social Development", including a joint program ("Better Work") focused on global supply chains.

“Decent Work Country Programs (DWCPs)” are the main vehicle for ILO engagement with the “One UN” objective in the UN reform. In this vein, ILO and UNDP agreed in January 2007 to a common plan of action focused on employment-poverty linkages. Countries that will be covered are: Brazil, Trini-

dad Tobago, Honduras, Chile, Peru, Costa Rica, and Uruguay (with others to follow). Broader “DWCPs” are ongoing in Argentina, Brazil, Panama, and are now being negotiated with Uruguay, Honduras, Bolivia, Colombia and other countries.

A business climate that attracts investment, fosters new enterprise creation, and promotes competition; (Paragraph 55c)

The main objective of the IDB’s “Business Climate Initiative (BCI)” is to identify and then reduce or eliminate critical barriers that impede the growth-promoting expansion of private sector activities through legal and regulatory changes in the institutions and policies that affect the investment climate.

gnostic study is underway which identifies key business impediments that affect its investment climate. The study also is looking at what is preventing the country from developing a “Global Center of Excellence (GCE)” in the bio-fuel sector and will propose a strategic plan to help overcome those obstacles.

During 2006, progress was achieved at the different stages for “BCI” implementation (signature of Aide Memoire, diagnostic work, validation of analysis, action plan agreement with stakeholders, and project implementation and monitoring).

In addition, diagnostic studies are in progress for Belize and Barbados based on the methodology of the World Economic Forum. The BCI is also financing the completion of a road map for improving business climate in the Bahamas.

In addition to the 22 countries participating in this initiative, in 2006, Belize and the Province of San Juan (Argentina) jointed the “BCI”. A new approach focusing on the sub-national level in large countries (e.g. Brazil, Argentina) was used to address local impediments to private sector development. Diagnostic work was completed for the Province of San Juan (Argentina). In Brazil, a dia-

In addition, the Bank completed, in partnership with the **World Bank**, the “Business Enterprises Economic Performance Surveys (BEEPS)” for eight countries (Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay) that will be used as basic diagnostic tool for the BCI as well as for the countries’ private sector development strategies.

In 2006 several projects were



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identified and are now in the implementation phase. The Province of Mendoza (Argentina) has agreed to the “Action Plan” and started to implement the prioritized actions, through a technical cooperation for enhancing business start-up procedures and licensing. In the Province of Buenos Aires, the Municipality of Moron is implementing a MIF project that will tackle bureaucratic delays in starting up and licensing for businesses. In Uruguay the prioritized actions for the BCI implementation were included in the Policy Matrix of the Policy Based Loan. This operation was prepared during 2006 and will be considered by the Board in January 2007.

Based on the “BCI Action Plans” prepared for the Dominican Republic and El Salvador, two new projects entered the pipeline in 2006. In El Salvador, the “BCI” will support work to improve access for SMEs to government procurement, while in the Dominican Republic technical assistance will focus on updating the firm registry system.

Also, a project aimed at defining and implementing a methodology for SMEs bank portfolio securitization in Colombia was designed and is in execution.

In Argentina, at the Federal level, the BCI financed the “Peer Review of the Antitrust Law, Institutions and Policies” that was carried out by the OECD and was presented as the case study for the Latin American Competition Forum co-organized by the Bank and the OECD. Additionally, work financed by the BCI was completed to update the business incorporation law in the Dominican Republic and the new law was submitted to Congress for approval. In Honduras, an international consultant was retained to advice on Business-Government Relations and prepared a report for the President of Honduras to develop a “Government Agenda for the Private Sector Development”. Finally, a consultancy was launched to identify barriers to linking local firms in the Dominican Republic to link to export value chains.

A public policy framework for integral and sustainable development that can reduce poverty and inequality, advance human health, and protect the environment in harmony with international environmental agreements to which we are all party, including those that address endangered and migratory species and wildlife, wetlands, desertification, ozone depleting chemicals, and climate change; we take note, with satisfaction, of the upcoming United Nations Conference on Climate Change in Montreal; (Paragraph 55e)

The **World Bank’s** “Mexico Second Programmatic Environment Development Policy Loan Project” will support the second stage of the government's medium-term, outcome-based program to pro-

mote sustainable development. The overarching objective of the program is to balance socio-economic development with environmental protection and improvement.

In 2006, CAF continued to implement a series of specialized environmental programs that promote and support national and regional initiatives for nature conservation and sustainable use of the region's natural resources, as well as strengthening the environmental sector in each shareholder country. They include the Biodiversity Program (Bio-CAF), the Latin American Carbon and Clean and Alternative Energies Program (PLAC+e), the Cleaner Production Program, the Natural Disaster Risk Management and Prevention Program, the Sustainable Development Program in Financial Institutions, and other specific activities in water management and conservation, and preservation of environmental services for ecosystems. The Corporation has also contributed to strengthening the environmental sector in its shareholder countries through loans, technical assistance for several environmental initiatives, and development of computer tools, such as the Condor Geographic Information System, which help increase knowledge of the region and sound decision-making that has an impact on the sustainability of the environment.

In the context of the region's enormous biodiversity, CAF created the Biodiversity Program (BioCAF), in order to promote the sustainable use of biodiversity and genetic resources by contributing to sustainable environmental practices and a better quality of life for people in the region.

To carry out its mission, BioCAF has implemented a large number

of different activities, including workshops, seminars, consultancies, publications, and sponsorships in the framework of three subprograms, which include: a) Support for biodiversity negotiators in shareholder countries that participate in international forums and agreements to analyze and negotiate trade matters that affect biodiversity-related environmental issues; b) Support for the development of markets for biodiversity and genetic resources, such as biocommerce and biotechnology; and, c) Promotion of conservation initiatives for ecosystems and species, in particular those related to CAF operations.

With respect to the first subprogram on support for negotiators, BioCAF provides valuable assistance to experts and participants from shareholder countries who take part in negotiations at different international forums. These include negotiations between countries on issues relating to biodiversity in the framework of the World Trade Organization, the World Intellectual Property Organization, the Convention on Biological Diversity and Free Trade Agreements. The support of BioCAF has taken the shape of various technical publications, as well as organization of technical discussion workshops attended by different country representatives, including environmental, commercial, and foreign ministry officials. The workshops provide an opportunity for participants to share views and have served to strengthen the positions of the region, in general, and of the



countries, in particular, at those forums or to determine ex post courses of action. The most important publications worth citing include, “Elementos para la protección sui generis de los conocimientos tradicionales colectivos e integrales desde la perspectiva indígena” and “Propuesta para un Sistema de Certificación de Recursos Genéticos y Lineamientos Técnicos – Apoyo a la Negociación internacional de los países miembros de la Comunidad Andina en materia de acceso a recursos genéticos y conocimientos tradicionales”.

As to the second subprogram, BioCAF has centered its efforts on market development through biocommerce and promotion of biotechnology. Biocommerce has been defined as the array of activities to collect and/or produce, process, and market native biodiversity (species, genetic resources, and ecosystems) goods and services according to principles of environmental, social, and economic sustainability. Biocommerce has become globally widespread and is protected by the Convention on Biological Diversity, the most important multilateral environmental treaty on biodiversity.

Conscious of the potential of this activity, BioCAF has taken a number of steps, creating important partnerships and encouraging synergies with different stakeholders in the region, including ECLAC, the General Secretariat of the Andean Community (SGCAN), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Global Environment Fund (GEF), and the

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

Among the activities carried out in the framework of this subprogram is the project Facilitation of Financing for Biodiversity Businesses and Support for the Development of Market Activities in the Andean Region. The project was carried out in Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela from June 2004 to June 2006. Other activities implemented by the subprogram of support for biocommerce and biotechnology that had a great impact include the direct assistance provided for consolidation of National Biocommerce Programs and the organization and sponsorship of forums to promote investment in biodiversity products and services, such as the Biocommerce Investor Forums in Mexico (2002) and Peru (2004) as well as BioExpo in Colombia (2006). This program has also produced important publications, in keeping with its aim to raise awareness about and promote the issue, in particular, “Biocomercio en la Subregión Andina: Oportunidades para el Desarrollo y Biotecnología para el Uso Sostenible de la Biodiversidad.”

The activities of the third subprogram have sought to support conservation initiatives within CAF operations. Thus, funds have been channelled to support conservation of natural areas in different countries, including Avila, Guatopo and Canaima National Parks (Venezuela); Tambopata, Amarakaeri and Titicaca Natural Reserves, and Bahuaia - Sonene

National Park (Peru); Vilcabamba - Amboró Conservation Corridor (Peru-Bolivia) and the Chaquilla Bofedales [saturated pasture lands] (Bolivia).

A comprehensive framework for rural and agricultural development, to promote investment, job creation, and rural prosperity; (Paragraph 55g)

The **World Bank**-funded “Second Agricultural Technology Project for Nicaragua” provides rural households and communities with broader access to sustainable agricultural, forestry and natural resource management services and innovations, thereby stimulating higher agricultural productivity.

In order to ensure a framework for agricultural and rural development, with the support of **IICA**, as Secretariat of the Ministerial Meetings on Agriculture and Rural Life of the Americas, the ministers of agriculture of the hemisphere, at their last two ministerials (Panama 2003 and Guayaquil 2005) adopted and updated the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan, as a global multisectoral framework built on an inclusive institutional process, the basic components of which are: (i) national teams, each composed of a ministerial delegate and an alternate delegate who support the Minister of Agriculture in the convocation of a national dialogue with the participation of the various groups concerned with agriculture, as well as in drawing

up a summarized national proposal; (ii) a hemispheric forum of ministerial delegates (Group for the Implementation and Coordination of the Agreements on Agriculture and Rural Life - GRICA), which, based on the summary of national proposals prepared by the Secretariat, supports the dialogue and the hemispheric negotiation process and builds consensus on draft ministerial decisions submitted to the Ministerial Meeting; (iii) a Secretariat for the ministerial process and its meetings of delegates and of ministers, which function is performed by IICA; (iv) a Hemispheric Ministerial Meeting in the framework of the Summits Process which is the forum of agriculture ministers that adopts hemispheric agreements and proposes new decisions needed from the Heads of State and Government; and, (v) Regional Meetings of Ministers.

In 2007, **IICA** proposes to continue to support the consolidation of this inclusive institutional framework for the sustainable development of agriculture and rural communities in the Americas.



We recognize the vital contributions of Ministries of Labor to the achievement of the objectives of the Fourth Summit of the Americas, "Creating Jobs to Fight Poverty and Strengthen Democratic Governance," and to the promotion of decent work and policies that encourage investment and economic growth with equity. We are committed to strengthening them with the goal of ensuring that they have sufficient national budgetary and technical resources to carry out their duties in an efficient and effective manner. We call upon our respective Ministers of Labor, working with employers and workers, to promote professional training and lifelong learning activities so that workers may adequately insert themselves into labor markets, to facilitate the skills and the knowledge development of workers and job seekers; to implement policies and programs, such as improved employment services and access to quality labor market information, that provide for the efficient functioning of labor markets; and to effectively enforce our national labor laws and regulations.

We encourage the ministers to continue bilateral and multilateral cooperation aimed at capacity building. We also take note of the Declaration and Plan of Action of Mexico and their role in furthering the objectives of the Summit. (Paragraph 56)

In follow-up to the 2005 Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor (IACML) and in preparation for the 2007 IACML, the **ILO** is organizing a Caribbean Ministers of Labour Meeting (15 and 16 May 2007, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago). This is part of a longstanding agreement that the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat and **ILO** organize the Labour Ministers' Meeting in alternate years. The Meeting of Labour

Ministers will discuss items on the agenda of the upcoming session of the International Labour Conference (ILC), subjects raised in early May at the pre-IACML meeting in Costa Rica, and the Canadian-funded workshop in Trinidad and Tobago (July) focused, inter alia, on the labour dimensions of free trade agreements, as part of preparations for the IACML, to be held in Trinidad and Tobago, 11-13 Sep 2007.



**OFFICIAL BALLOT / BALOTA OFICIAL**  
**NONPARTISAN / NO PARTIDARIO**  
PRIMARY ELECTION - ELECCIÓN PRIMARIA

removed and retained by the voter. - El votante deberá desprenderse

VOTERS: ... VOTE, connect the ... write-in candidate ... a new ballot ...

VOTANTES: ... con tinta ... la flecha ... darán una balota de ...

NO USE TINTA ...



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## Strengthening Democratic Governance

Accountability is a key instrument to achieve transparency and efficiency in the use of resources administered by our governments. Fighting corruption is a key aspect of strengthening democracy and economic growth. For this reason, we call upon states to implement the Inter-American Convention against Corruption and participate fully in the Follow-up Mechanism for the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption. We stress the importance of the oversight role of legislatures, as appropriate, in the fight against corruption and the importance of promoting inter-parliamentary exchanges to encourage the development of national and international strategies to fight against corruption. (Paragraph 66)

Currently 33 states are party to the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (IACC), and 28 states are party to its Follow-up Mechanism (MESICIC). The first round of review within the MESICIC framework ended in April 2006. The MESICIC Committee of Experts subsequently published the “Hemispheric Report” which summarizes the results of the first round<sup>3</sup>. MESICIC’s second round is currently in progress, during which all 28 states parties to the MESICIC will be reviewed with respect to selected provisions of the IACAC<sup>4</sup>. To promote both the IACAC and MESICIC, the General Assembly declared 2006 to be the

“Inter-American Year of the Fight against Corruption” AG/RES. 2071 (XXXV-O/05). To promote inter-parliamentary exchanges, the Office of Legal Cooperation has posted on its website country-specific legislation related to specific measures of the IACAC<sup>5</sup>.

The OAS will continue to urge those OAS member states that have not yet done so to consider signing and ratifying, ratifying, or acceding to, as the case may be, the Inter-American Convention against Corruption and to participate in the MESICIC. The MESICIC second round of review will continue through December

3 The Hemispheric Report can be accessed at: [http://www.oas.org/juridico/english/mec\\_ron1\\_inf\\_hemis\\_en.doc](http://www.oas.org/juridico/english/mec_ron1_inf_hemis_en.doc). To access the individual country reports adopted please visit: [http://www.oas.org/juridico/spanish/mec\\_ron1\\_inf.htm](http://www.oas.org/juridico/spanish/mec_ron1_inf.htm).

4 To see the provisions selected for review for the second round please go to: [http://www.oas.org/juridico/english/mesicic\\_method\\_Iround.pdf](http://www.oas.org/juridico/english/mesicic_method_Iround.pdf).

5 Please refer to the country links on the far-left column of the following web page: <http://www.oas.org/juridico/spanish/Lucha.html>.

6 To see a schedule of activities for the MESICIC second round please visit: [http://www.oas.org/juridico/english/mec\\_sched\\_2006.htm](http://www.oas.org/juridico/english/mec_sched_2006.htm).

2008<sup>6</sup>. With regards to inter-parliamentary exchanges, the OAS will continue to facilitate sharing of information by frequently adding to the database on the Office of Legal Co-operation's website of country-specific legislation related to the IACAC.

In 2005, with a contribution from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the OAS began a pilot project to support the implementation of recommendations generated by the Committee of Experts during the first round of Follow-up Mechanism for the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (MESICIC). The pilot project consisted of working individually with Argentina, Paraguay, Nicaragua and Colombia to create a national "Plan of Action to Implement the Committee's Recommendations"<sup>7</sup>. The pilot project funded by CIDA concluded in December of 2006. In August of 2006, the OAS received a grant from the U.S. Department of State to establish an "Anti-Corruption Fund (Fund)". The purpose of the Fund is to continue the work of the pilot project, and further facilitate the implementation of recommendations generated by the MESICIC Committee of Experts.

On November 20 and 21 of 2006, the Conference of States Parties to the MESICIC met to review operation of the Follow-up Mechanism. During the meeting, the Conference of States Parties reviewed and revised the text of the Inter-American Program for the Cooperation in the Fight against Corruption, which provides the overall framework for carrying out OAS anti-corruption activities, including the strengthening of MESICIC.

This year, the OAS will begin working with OAS member states under the auspices of the Anti-Corruption Fund in order to help implement the Committee of Experts' recommendations from both the first and second round of MESICIC. The OAS will also work to fulfill the directives of Inter-American Program for Cooperation in the Fight against Corruption, which includes, inter alia, strengthening MESICIC, promoting exchange of information between states, taking steps to promote cooperation on the recovery of assets, and continuing to improve technical cooperation<sup>8</sup>.

7 For copies of the national Plans of Action please visit: [http://www.oas.org/juridico/english/mesicic\\_cida\\_project\\_I\\_round\\_en.htm](http://www.oas.org/juridico/english/mesicic_cida_project_I_round_en.htm).

8 For a copy of the revised Inter-American Program text please visit: [http://www.oas.org/juridico/english/mesicic\\_conf\\_est\\_parte\\_II\\_prog\\_intam\\_en.pdf](http://www.oas.org/juridico/english/mesicic_conf_est_parte_II_prog_intam_en.pdf)



We will strengthen the timely exchanges of information and the broadest possible mutual legal assistance in order to prevent, combat, and eliminate terrorism, prevent the international movement of terrorists and ensure their prosecution, and, as appropriate, their extradition in accordance with domestic laws and relevant treaties and conventions. We will cooperate to avoid that any individual who participates in the financing, planning, preparation and commission of terrorist acts finds safe haven in our countries. (Paragraph 69)

In the “Port Security Program”, the **OAS** conducted assessments of vulnerabilities in port installations and training needs for port security personnel in Belize, Antigua and Barbuda, and St. Kitts and Nevis, as part of the emphasis on enhancing security in the nine countries hosting the Cricket World Cup 2007. Based on these assessments, 98 officials were trained in Belize on International Ship and Port facilities in compliance with the international standards established in the “International Ship and Port Facility Security Code (ISPS)” approved by the International Maritime Organization (IMO). The contract for assessment and training was awarded for five major ports of the Dominican Republic in 2007. Port assessments were conducted in January 2007, and 40 days of follow-up training will be delivered in April/May. In addition, bids were received for the Grenada project and a contractor selected in February 2007. A training needs assessment for the port of St. George’s, followed by targeted training, is being planned for the second quarter of this year. Later in 2007, the OAS will solicit bids for a port security assessment and follow-on training for Jamaica, Guyana, and the Bahamas. In another instance of cooperation with the Government of Spain, the OAS participated in a “Seminar on Port Management and Security” at

the Spanish training center in Cartagena, Colombia.

The “Airport Security Program” experienced the greatest growth in the last year. More than 600 officials from 18 countries were trained through 31 courses on special aspects of the security standards of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). The Secretariat implemented fully in 2006 the training agreement signed in 2005 with the U.S. Transportation Security Agency (TSA), provided scholarships to various participants to attend training courses offered by ICAO, and funded two ICAO training courses in airport security in Jamaica and Nicaragua. In addition, the Secretariat presented its airport security program in a regional seminar organized by the Government of Spain at its training center in Santa Cruz, Bolivia.

In July 2006 the OAS organized a regional seminar in Miami on “Passports and International Travel Documents and Systems of Issuance”, in collaboration with the **IOM**, for 24 English-speaking participants from Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) Member States. The objective was to improve capacity to detect fraudulent travel documents and thereby enhance border security and links between

immigration and border security agencies, in order to promote international cooperation in combating and controlling fraud.

The lack of funding prevented implementation of training courses in 2006 under “Customs and Immigrations” program. However, a new training program was initiated with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) of the Department of Homeland Security. CBP assessed customs and immigration capacity at ports of entry in Jamaica, St. Lucia, and Grenada, and subsequently conducted four capacity-building courses linked to vulnerabilities identified in those countries in early 2007.

Under the “Terrorism Financing Program”, the OAS contracted for production in CD format of a Spanish-language manual on terrorism financing which was distributed widely to the Financial Intelligence Units (FIU) of CICTE Member States and also to other multilateral and international organizations working on the topic. This constitutes a pioneering effort that unites legislation, analysis of different financing methods, early warning indicators, case studies, and best practices. This manual has been used in the last year in training courses organized by the OAS on money laundering. The two Secretariats formed a partnership, as mentioned above, to organize a new course in Bogota, Colombia, in February 2007 on the specific topic of terrorism financing. Translation of this CD into English for use in courses for English-speaking member states will be completed in the next few months. Finally, the

OAS participated in a seminar in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on terrorism financing organized by the Central Bank of the Republic of Argentina.

The OAS, CICTE, and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) provided extensive technical assistance to CICTE member states that are reviewing their counter terrorism legislation in order to adjust it to their commitments under the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism, the international counter terrorism conventions of the United Nations, and the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council. To date, 22 CICTE member states have ratified the Inter-American Convention—most recently, the Government of Uruguay in February 2007.

The CICTE Secretariat and UNODC organized a ministerial conference in Panama in April 2006 and a workshop in the Dominican Republic in July 2006. Costa Rica, Mexico, and Uruguay also received technical assistance. Also under this program, the CICTE Secretariat and UNODC provided technical assistance, in coordination with the Government of Spain, for a seminar to train judges and prosecutors on legal tools and methods used in prosecuting cases of terrorism.

In April 2006, the OAS together with the Secret Service of the United States of America, organized a seminar related to cyber-security crime and terrorism. Participants included civil servants in areas of intelligence, police and military of



14 countries of the OAS. This training is an addition to the efforts put forth by CICTE and Ministers of Justice or Attorney Generals of the Americas (REMJA) to implement an Inter-American strategy for cyber-security. The Secretariat's highest priority under this program is to help each CICTE Member State establish a "24/7 National Computer Cyber-Security Incident Response Team (CSIRT)" and to train those officials designated by their governments to work in these teams.

The "Inter-American Tourism and Recreational Facilities Security Program (ITRS)" was approved as a pilot project by CICTE in March 2006 at its Sixth Regular Session. It has already filled an important gap in hemispheric security and had a positive impact on the preparations by the countries hosting the Cricket World Cup 2007. During the pilot project, 253 security officials from both the public and private sectors of 10 English-speaking countries of the Caribbean received training.

The OAS entered into a new partnership with the U.S. Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) to provide advanced training in Grenada to security and law enforcement officials in the tourist sector of the host countries. This new course emphasized security, surveys, and risk assessments, inter alia, for hotels, tourist sites, buildings, recreational centers and stadiums, and cruise ships. This security program was presented by the OAS at the United Nations

Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) seminar in Cartagena, Colombia in February 2007. As a result, UNICRI has expressed its interest in coordinating with CICTE and the Secretariat in this growing area of tourism security in order to facilitate sharing of information and experiences through UNICRI's International Permanent Observatory (IPO) with other regions of the world.

The OAS is actively participating in international efforts against terrorism together with the United Nations and other organizations, such as INTERPOL, the Organization for Security of the Council of Europe (OSCE), and the cyber security and maritime committees of the Asia Pacific Economic Commission (APEC).

In order to promote efforts of the CICTE member states to comply with their obligations under United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1540 on weapons of mass destruction, the Secretariat formed a new partnership with the United Nations Regional Office for Peace, Disarmament and Economic Development in Latin American and the Caribbean (UN-LiREC), located in Lima, Peru. The Secretariat gave two presentations at a regional meeting organized by UN-LiREC in November 2006. In 2007, the OAS will cooperate with UN-LiREC in the organization of several other regional events on the topic, including a meeting for scientists and academics on implementation of UNSCR 1540.

We offer our encouragement to the OAS in drafting the Social Charter of the Americas and its Plan of Action, whose principles and objectives will be directed towards the achievement by member states of societies that offer all of our citizens more opportunities to benefit from sustainable development with equity and social inclusion. (Paragraph 71)

Since the negotiations got underway in September 2005, the OAS has provided technical support for the activities of the Joint Working Group of the Permanent Council and the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CEPCIDI) to prepare the Social Charter of the Americas and its

Plan of Action. In that connection, background documents were prepared to initiate the negotiations of the draft preamble -as requested by the policymaking body- and specific technical inputs were offered to help move forward with the consideration of the draft Social Charter.

National efforts to generate decent jobs and good employment must be supported by international cooperation and solidarity. In this context, we will strengthen hemispheric cooperation mechanisms among our countries within the OAS framework and with other multilateral organizations and financial institutions, to ensure an effective use of instruments and resources needed to promote sustainable growth and development. In this regard, we take note with interest of the international efforts, contributions and discussions, such as the Action Against Hunger and Poverty, aimed at identifying innovative and additional sources of financing for development on a public, private, domestic or external basis, according to each country's national development strategies, to increase and supplement traditional sources of financing in support of the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDG's) and reflecting the global partnership of the Monterrey Consensus. (Paragraph 72)

When translated to the realm of ICTs, democratic practices and citizen participation can be strengthened by the use of these tools to support and enhance the collaboration among relevant stakeholders throughout the policy-making cycle without the limitations of space, time, or other physical constraints. ICA has supported a number of initiatives that address some of the challenges that affect the provision and citizen access to government services in the region. In collaboration with the OAS, ICA has supported the

consolidation of the "Network of E-Government Leaders in Latin America and the Caribbean (Red GEALC)" ([www.redgealc.net](http://www.redgealc.net)), which brings together more than 60 e-government leaders from 32 countries in the Americas in a hemispheric space for exchanging knowledge, expertise and proven solutions on e-government issues. Increasingly, the "Red GeALC" has gained an important role in the region by positioning itself as a mechanism to articulate and implement regional projects and initiatives in the field, as the regio-





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nal workshop “Sharing Canadian e-Government Experiences” (Ottawa, Canada, March 2006) demonstrated.

“Red GeALC” is now entering its second phase of operations with renewed support from ICA, with a mandate to promote the adoption

of ICTs as tools to strengthen citizen participation and democratic governance in LAC, contributing to the regional consolidation of e-government strategies through the dissemination of innovative applications and the strengthening of the Network.

We instruct the members of the Joint Summit Working Group, comprised of the OAS, IDB, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), PAHO, Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI), the World Bank, ILO, International Organization for Migration (OIM), Institute for Connectivity in the Americas (ICA), Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), and the Andean Development Corporation (CAF), under the coordination of the OAS, to continue, through their respective activities and programs, to support the follow-up and implementation of the Declarations and Plans of Action of the Summits of the Americas, and of the Declaration and Plan of Action of Mar del Plata, as well as to assist in the preparations for future summits. (Paragraph 75)

In keeping with the mandates and challenges that come with its participation as an institutional partner in the Summits Process, **IICA** has embarked on an institutional modernization process that has inevitably required it to play two complementary roles: (i) a new one, as secretariat of the ministerial process and of the ministerial meetings in the framework of the Summits Process; and, (ii) the conventional –but renovated– role as an international cooperation agency in line with the new institutional dynamic in the Americas.

As secretariat of the ministerial process and meetings on “Agriculture and Rural Life of the Americas,” IICA helps to ensure the continuity of the ministerial process, regional integration in the framework of the ministerial

process, and linkage between the ministerial process and the Summits process.

In its remodeled conventional role as a cooperation agency, IICA has consolidated a new cooperation model, in which its efforts have been redirected through the 34 National Technical Cooperation Agendas (prepared via a process of consultation and dialogue with government authorities, the private sector, and the scientific and academic communities). In this way, IICA is aligning its technical cooperation activities with the new hemispheric dynamic and the guidelines issued by the ministers in the framework of the ministerial process. As expressed in its recently adopted Medium-Term Plan, 2006-2010, some of the priority lines of action for the Institute’s technical cooperation activities include

promotion of trade and competitiveness of agribusiness; plant protection and animal health and food safety; sustainable management of natural resources and the environment; technology and innovation in agriculture; and, strengthening of rural communities with a territorial approach.





# Plan of Action of Mar del Plata

Creating Jobs  
to Fight Poverty  
and Strengthen  
Democratic  
Governance





## Creating Decent Work

To eliminate forced labor before 2010 by strengthening measures and policies, to enable those countries that have not already done so to achieve this goal. To this end, promote the creation of national plans of action with the support of the International Labor Organization (ILO). (Paragraph 1)

The **ILO's** Member States of the Americas agreed to launch a "Decent Work Decade" – an Hemispheric Agenda based on an agreed menu of 4 general policies and 11 specific policies to be further elaborated at country level, using

mainly Decent Work Country Programs (DWCP) under national agreements engaging ILO, governments and employers' and workers' organizations and other multilateral agencies, as appropriate

To eliminate discrimination against women at work through, among other measures, the implementation of a range of policies that will increase women's access to decent, dignified, and productive work, including policies addressing training and education and protection of the rights of women, as well as proactive policies to ensure that men and women enjoy equality in the workplace. (Paragraph 4)

In implementing the mandates of the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality (IAP), the Inter-American Commission on Women (CIM), a specialized organization of the **OAS**, has instituted a process called "SEPIA"<sup>9</sup> to promote and follow up on recommendations

made on the integration of a gender perspective in the agendas of Ministerial level meetings, especially Labor, Justice, Education and Science and Technology.

As follow-up to these meetings, the CIM Executive Secretary met with a Canadian delegation to explore opportunities in implementing the

<sup>9</sup> Spanish Acronym for Follow-Up to the Inter-American Program.

mandates of the “Plan of Action of the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor (IACML)”. As a result, the CIM, in partnership with the Department of Social Development and Employment of the OAS, is preparing a proposal on the

integration of a gender perspective into the policies of labor ministries. The initial phase will result in a research document on hemispheric efforts to integrate gender into said ministries.

To carry out actions towards the promotion of the fundamental principles and rights at work and develop, together with the ILO, cooperation strategies to be complied with by member countries. (Paragraph 13)

The **OAS** has included promotion of the fundamental principles and rights at work in all the activities of the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor (IACML) of the OAS. The meetings of the Working Groups have analyzed strategies implemented by countries in this area with the support of the **ILO**. Promotion of and respect for the fundamental principles and rights at work are lynchpins of the work

of ministries of labor, as recognized in the framework of the IACML; accordingly, the activities of the Department of Social Development and Employment (DSDE) of the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI), as the Technical Secretariat of this Conference, will continue to advance this issue in permanent collaboration with the ILO.

To promote occupational health and safety conditions and facilitate healthy work environments for all workers, and, to that end, ensure effective labor inspection systems. For this purpose, it is essential to foster strategic alliances between the labor, health, environment and education sectors. (Paragraph 16)

The **OAS** has worked with **PAHO** and the **ILO** to promote the analysis and advancement of worker health and safety in the Hemisphere. In May 2006, these organizations jointly staged the Second Hemispheric Workshop on Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) in San Salvador, which was attended by representatives from 23 ministries of labor in the region, as well as representatives of

workers and employers through the Trade Union Technical Advisory Council (COSATE) and the Business Technical Advisory Committee on Labor Matters (CEATAL), collaborating occupational health and safety centers (Fundacentro, the Chilean Safety Association, the Health and Safety in Central America Program (SALTRA), Canadian Center for Occupational Health and Safety





(CCOHS)), and international agencies. At the event participants were informed about experiences of effective labor inspection systems and corroborated the importance of interagency partnerships for achieving a positive impact in this area. Furthermore, as a result of the workshop, strategic lines of action were adopted on the following issues: OHS management systems; mechanisms to strengthen OHS Information Systems; and HIV in the workplace. These lines will serve to implement and guide the work of governments, healthcare and occupational health and safety centers, and international agencies on each of the issues addressed, through measures adopted at the national, sub-regional, and hemispheric levels. (See, also, Mandate 33 of the Declaration.)

The OAS has been working with member states of the region in the development of a regional approach for the sound management of trade related agrochemicals. The approach aims to address import and export of these chemicals, health and safety issues, occupational health and gender related issues, among other member state priorities that will overall benefit health and safety of workers in the hemisphere.

The OAS provided member states in the Andean Region with capacity building and policy options to protect human health and the environment and promote sustainable development within trade expansion. These capacity building priorities and policy options were identified through the

“Environmental Assessment and Capacity Building for Trade Liberalization in the Andean Region Project” that addressed economic, social and environmental impacts of trade, including those affecting workers health in Colombia, Peru and Ecuador.

Through a joint OAS/PAHO initiative to address implications of globalization and trade for environmental health in the Americas, the OAS also provided practical recommendations to improve environmental health at the hemispheric and national level. The initiative looked at the relationship between trade liberalization and contagious diseases in resource intensive sectors and analyzed possible changes or impacts to public health and environmental degradation including case studies of activities such as agriculture and aquaculture linked to trade and foreign direct investment (FDI).

The Fourth Summit of the Americas gave the **Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)** the mandate to collaborate with strengthening of the Strategic Alliance of Ministries of Labor and Ministries of Health, Education, and Environment, in order to advance the Millennium Development Goals and strengthen integration of social policies in the overall framework of development. In response to this mandate, PAHO organized the panel on Inter-Sectoral Partnership at the 47th Directing Council last September, which was attended by the Chairs Pro Temp of the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor;

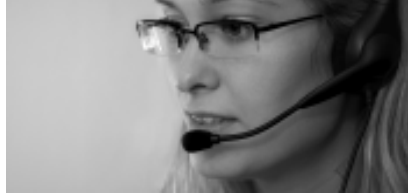
of the Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture, and of the Meeting of Ministers of Health and Environment. The Secretary General of the OAS, and the Director of PAHO again signed the commitment to support the design of comprehensive public policies that helped to accomplish the Millennium Development Goals, giving particular attention to the more vulnerable municipalities in each country through the Faces and Places on the MDGs initiative, which, through integrated and synergic activities make health the foundation stone of development.

**PAHO** also collaborated with the OAS and the government of El Salvador to stage the Second Hemispheric Workshop on Occupational Health and Safety, which was attended by representatives from labor and health ministries of the countries of the Americas in the framework of the commitments set forth in the Fourteenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor. An advisory council was formed to hold this workshop, composed of PAHO, the OAS, and the ILO in support of the Regional Occupational Health and Safety Center (FUNDACERSSO). In connection with this issue, PAHO launched the hemispheric initiative on the health and safety of Health Sector workers in the framework of World Health Day and as a PAHO inter-program activity and with the participation and support of: WHO, the Ministry of Health of Brazil,

PAHO/WHO Collaborating Centers and Centers of Excellence, the ILO, and the World Bank.

The **ILO's** Hemispheric Decent Work Agenda resulting from the XV Regional Meeting (May 2006) stressed as a policy objective: to "make occupational safety and health a priority for social actors in the region" and made it a policy goal that "within ten years (by 2015), to reduce the incidence of occupational accidents and illnesses by 20%, and double occupational safety and health protection for sectors and collectives heretofore not covered."

Several activities are being undertaken in this context with a scope for enlarging and improving already ongoing inter-agency cooperation with WHO/PAHO (and possibly IDB/MIF, United Nations Environment Program), including: the application of the ILO "Code of Practice on HIV-AIDS in the Workplace"; the joint "Occupational Safety and Health Network (RSST)" which disseminates and exchanges Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) information and experience among technical bodies, practitioners and researchers in the Region and beyond (now with 1,617 subscribers in 38 countries and linked with other ILO information systems); and the convergence of OSH statistics on occupational injuries of protected and unprotected workers and related policies.



To criminalize migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons, effectively enforce national laws and regulations to confront migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons, and strengthen institutions and the training of professional staff to be better positioned to investigate and prosecute the responsible parties, undertake prevention initiatives, as well as protect and assist the victims of these crimes. (Paragraph 17)

The OAS helped organize the Meeting of National Authorities on Trafficking in Persons, which was held on Margarita Island, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, March 14 to 17, 2006, which was the first hemispheric forum where the countries of the Americas met to deal with issues related trafficking in persons. It specifically focused on the prevention and punishment of traffickers, the protection of and assistance to victims, the sharing of information and experiences and on international cooperation. The conclusions and recommendations of

the meeting were introduced at the VI Meeting of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA), held in the Dominican Republic, April 24-26, 2006.

Because of the strong gender component of trafficking in persons, the CIM Secretariat of the OAS will continue to collaborate with the Public Security Department to ensure that a gender perspective continues to be integrated into the work on trafficking in persons.

To adopt measures to encourage the full and effective exercise of the rights of all workers, including migrant workers, as well as application of core labor standards, such as those contained in the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and its follow-up, adopted in 1998. Explore ways for the ILO to provide technical advisory services to member states to help them accomplish that objective. (Paragraph 18)

Outside the Decent Work Country Programs (DWCPs) framework in the Region, ILO's studies on employment and related technical cooperation efforts have also been promoted separately, including:

- "Tripartite Caribbean Employment Forum" - Responding to Globalization: A decent work agenda for the Caribbean in the context of regional integration, 10-12 Oct 2006, Barbados (similar forums were carried out earlier for Central America and the Southern Cone);

- "National Employment Reports" in preparation for the ILO's Tripartite Caribbean Employment Forum - Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, Netherlands Antilles, Saint Lucia, Suriname;

- "National Technical and Vocational Education and Training Reports"- To contribute to the regional discussion on reforming TVET institutions and accreditation systems for improved skills and enhanced employ-ability in Caribbean Labor Markets – Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago;

- The “Transition of Jamaican Youth to the World of Work Report” prepared by the Human Development Unit, PIOJ, in coop with ILO;
- “Facing the Employment Challenge (Argentina, Brazil, Mexico)” – comparing country experience on employment and macro-economic policies, as well as other recent studies on employment, working conditions and labor relations, etc.

Both within and outside negotiated DWCPs, ILO’s ongoing technical cooperation activities cover a variety of fields, e.g.: labor statistics and indicators, crisis response emergency employment schemes, minimum wages, skills development and training policy, labor inspection and administration, social security, occupational safety and health (OSH), etc.

To continue strengthening the capacity of the Ministries of Labor to effectively enforce our national labor laws and regulations. We will continue to promote cooperation among the Ministries of Labor, within the context of the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor (IACML). (Paragraph 19)

In compliance with this mandate, in mid-2006 the OAS launched the Inter-American Labor Administration Network (RIAL), the aim of which is to build up the institutional and human capacities of the ministries of labor in the region through horizontal co-operation and technical assistance. The RIAL is essentially the cooperation mechanism of the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor (IACML) and, as such, its guidelines and activities originate from that ministerial forum. Less than a year since its creation, the RIAL can report that it has held three hemispheric workshops for institutional capacity building in the

areas of occupational health and safety, employment services, and labor rights of migrant workers. It has also created a Cooperation Fund to facilitate direct cooperation between labor ministries in the region, in addition to developing web pages and virtual communication mechanisms.

The RIAL will continue to act as the dialogue and cooperation mechanism of the IACML, in order to strengthen labor administrations in the Hemisphere. In developing this mechanism, the OAS will continue to work in close collaboration with the ILO and other international agencies.



To strengthen constructive dialogue on international migration, with a view to full recognition of human rights of migrant workers, reduce their vulnerable conditions at work, as well as advocate effective compliance of the principle of equality and non-discrimination at work in accordance with international instruments in this area and, thereby, ensure that migration is an orderly process that benefits all parties and boosts productivity at the global level. (Paragraph 20)

The **OAS** complies with the mandates in this regard through the activities of the Office of the Special Rapporteur on Migrant Workers and their Families. Owing to the particular interest expressed by several member states, the Office of the Rapporteur decided to address in its seventh progress report, included in the 2005 Annual Report of the IACHR, the issue of the obligation of the State of origin of migrant workers to protect and ensure the human rights of the latter. The Office of the Rapporteur determined that the protection of a migrant worker's rights will frequently depend upon whether the diplomatic mission or consulate has acted quickly and effectively with the authorities of the State in which the migrant worker is located.

That is 122nd regular session, the IACHR convened hearings on the rights of refugees and immigrants and the situation of migrant farm workers.

In 2006, at the 124th regular session of the IACHR, the situation of migrant workers and their families was addressed at three hearings. One was on human rights and natural disasters in the hemisphere, and the effects of State actions on the population of migrant workers. The second was on the situations created by Immigration Law No. 285-04 in the Dominican Republic,

and its effect on the Haitian-Dominican population. The third was on migrant workers in Costa Rica

In the course of the special sessions held in Guatemala City, in July 2006, the Inter-American Commission received information on the free trade agreements and human rights in Central America, an issue that also affects migration.

At the same time, the Office of the Special Rapporteur has continued to collaborate in and study petitions and requests for precautionary measures received by the Commission in connection with migrant workers.

Furthermore, toward the end of November 2006, the Rapporteur, in representation of the IACHR, attended the Workshop "Migrant Workers: Protection of Labour Rights and Labour Market Programs." The event was held in Ottawa, Canada, and organized by the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor (IACML). The objectives of the workshop were to promote dialogue and cooperation among the Ministries of Labor of the Americas on the protection of labor rights of migrant workers and on migration processes undertaken by States according to their national legal systems; to share experiences and programs on the promotion and protection of

labor rights of migrant workers and labor market programs, with special emphasis on Canada's temporary foreign workers program; and, to identify lessons learned and key guidelines for future inter-American action on this topic.

At its next session, the Commission will devote particular attention to the study and review of petitions and cases relating to this topic, analyze situations identified as priorities, and grant hearings in that connection.

For further information relating to the OAS activities for this mandate, please refer to Mandate 26 of the Declaration.

In the Caribbean, IOM organized its sixth Regional Seminar<sup>10</sup>, with the financial support of the Government of the Netherlands Antilles, the United States State Department, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, and the in-kind support from regional and international organizations and experts, such as ECLAC, PAHO, the WB, BCIE, and OECD. Participants discussed the migration and development link, including migrant remittances and migration data; brain drain of health professionals and migrant's access to health, and facilitating the movement of persons while strengthening border security and preventing irregular migration and trafficking in persons.

To strengthen, in cooperation with the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), ILO, and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), national capacities to produce statistics particularly focused on labor matters broken down by gender and race. (Paragraph 22)

**The Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM)**, a specialized organization of the OAS, at Ministerial Meetings in the areas of Labor, Education, Justice and Science and Technology, made specific recommendations on the gathering of statistics disaggregated by sex.

**ECLAC** has continued to generate additional gender indicators and provide on-line data. Working in conjunction with a number of other

organizations of the United Nations system, the Commission has prepared technical assistance guidelines for the production and use of gender indicators with a view to enriching the second round of national reports for monitoring fulfilment of the Millennium Development Goals with additional and complementary indicators proposed by ECLAC to take into account gender equity in the fulfilment of all the goals.

10 Participants included government officials and experts from Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Cuba, The Cayman Islands, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, The Netherlands Antilles, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, and Turks and Caicos, and representatives of observer governments and regional institutions.



Under the project “Information System for Indigenous Peoples (SIPI)”, promoted by the Fund for the Development of the Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean, ECLAC has developed the System of Sociodemographic Indicators for Indigenous Populations and Peoples (SISPPI). These mechanisms are geared to contributing to access to quality information resources for and about indigenous peoples. The project is designed to strengthen intercultural dialogue between the main actors, to increase the visibility of the issue and social heritage of indigenous peoples and lastly to enable and guarantee their effective participation in the design of development policies and strategies and in decision-making. This initiative comes in response to the demand of indigenous organizations and government agencies for relevant, reliable, timely and quality information on the economic, social and cultural rights of indigenous peoples.

SISPPI is based on existing and available census information and its overall objective is to design and disseminate a support tool for the adoption of public policies geared to diminishing ethno-racial inequities and fostering the development of indigenous peoples. To this end, the specific goals established are as follows: (1) to develop SISPPI using census data, encompassing the population dimensions and sociocultural areas included in population and housing

censuses with an approach that helps to identify ethnic, generational and gender-based gaps; (2) to validate the conventional indicators proposed as well as to implement progressively a system of indicators in areas deemed relevant for the indigenous peoples themselves through a participatory process; and (3) to disseminate SISPPI to indigenous organizations, statistical institutes and other relevant agencies at the national and international level.

ECLAC has started a new project entitled “Improving Caribbean Household Surveys,” this project aims to improve the comparison of social statistics produced in the Caribbean region through household surveys. It also seeks to ensure that the region’s statistics can be compared according to international standards. National Statistical Offices and Agencies from 15 Caribbean countries will benefit from the project that will be implemented over a two year period.

The measures adopted by **PAHO** include a review of available data and relational research on health/poverty, urban and rural areas, health/poverty/ethnicity (afro-descendants and indigenous populations), identification of needs and action guidelines, and establishment of partnerships with the Latin American and Caribbean Demographics Center (CELADE) and the PAHO Technical Units.

To request that the Organization of American States (OAS) continue its technical support in the implementation of the Inter-American program adopted by resolution AG/RES. 2141 (XXXV-O/05) of the thirty-fifth period of regular sessions of the General Assembly. (Paragraph 23)

The **Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM)**, a specialized organization of the **OAS**, provided input into the preparatory process for the elaboration of the “Inter-American Program for the Promotion and Protection of the Human Rights of Migrants, Including Migrant Workers and Their Families”<sup>11</sup>. In March 2006, CIM was also invited to make a presentation at the Special Meeting of the Permanent Council’s Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs, on the implementation of the mandates assigned to the various organs and entities of the OAS by this program. In addition, this meeting provided a sharing of best practices and activities conducted since the program’s approval and the new proposals on ways to support it.

In addition, research was compiled on work done by organizations, such as **ECLAC**, the United Nations International Research and Trai-

ning Institute for the Advancement of Women (IN-STRAW), and the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) on the issues of gender and migration. CIM/OAS, will continue to provide technical assistance on gender to the OAS organs that address migration issues. As a result, it is expected that programs and policies developed will include provisions to protect women migrants and their families, especially women heads of household, and to combat violence against women. As a result, information on the human rights of migrants will be available to the CIM Delegates to facilitate their collaboration with the organs responsible for implementing programs and plans of action on the issue.

For further information relating to OAS activities for this mandate, please refer to Mandate 26 of the Declaration.

11 AG/RES. 2141 (XXXV-O/05)









## Growth with Employment

To encourage investment in basic infrastructure having a high positive impact on employment in order to promote growth and productive employment. (Paragraph 28)

In relation to this mandate, the **World Bank-funded** “Third Labor Reform and Social Development Policy Loan Project (LaRSDPL III) for Colombia” will: (a) strengthen Colombia's social protection system and improve the delivery

of social services, (b) raise human capital formation, (c) improve employability, and (d) enhance monitoring and evaluation systems for better transparency, social oversight, and results management in the social sectors.

To favor the research, development, and adoption of renewable and efficient energy sources and the deployment of technology for cleaner and more efficient energy sources, including among them, those that foster the intensive use of labor, which, together with the promotion of sustainable development, and addressing climate change concerns, permit the reduction of poverty. (Paragraph 33)

Work in this area includes the **World Bank's** “Rural Electrification Project for Honduras” which aims to achieve greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions through the reduction of policy, informational, financing and institutional capacity barriers that currently hinder renewable energy technology (RET) dissemination and market development. The “Brazil Environmental Sustainability Agenda Technical Assistance Project” supports the Government on advancing the pace of reforms supporting the

Programmatic Reform Loan for Environmental Sustainability. Its “Mainstreaming Market-Based Instruments for Environmental Management Project in Costa Rica” enhances the provision of environmental services significant at the national and global levels, and secures their long-term sustainability through a scaled-up payment for environmental services system in Costa Rica. The “Brasilia Environmentally Sustainable Project” will meet the growing needs of the Federal

District and the Brasilia Metropolitan Region to reduce regional inequalities and ensure quality water resources. Lastly, the Bank's "Modernization of the Water and Sanitation Sector Technical Assistance Project for Mexico" aims to improve the efficiency of Mexico's water supply and sanitation sector through strengthening the sector policies at the federal and state level; and to develop and demonstrate replicable models of successful and sustainable provision of water and sanitation services.

In order to carry out this mandate, the Investment Strategy and Plan 2005-2010 was developed to support the development of the energy sector in Central America and it includes an investment plan of approximately US\$ 13,124 million, of which **CABEI** plans to finance US\$5,200 million over the next ten years. The areas of emphasis are the following: Efficient and Rational Energy Use, Diversification of Energy Sources, Energy Integration, Search for Renewable Sources, Environmental Pollution and Risk, and Institutions. As of December 2006, disbursements totaling US\$764

million had been approved for different programs and projects in the sector, with a further US\$600 million earmarked for approval in 2007.

In the area of renewable energy, CABEI and the Federal government of Germany negotiated a financial cooperation agreement worth •8 million. The funds are to be allocated to the Renewable Energies Program, which is co-financed by the **IDB** and centers in particular on issues such as energy efficiency and biofuel development.

Furthermore, in conjunction with the UNDP/GEF, CABEI will initiate the project Accelerating Investments in Renewable Energy in Central America, which provides for the implementation of finance mechanisms, such as guarantee funds for renewable energy initiatives, that the CABEI will make available to financial entities in the region.

The CABEI intends to consolidate its leadership in the area of finance structuring for energy projects, encouraging the use of new technologies, through approval for 200 MW generation projects.

To support the implementation of the Ministerial Agreement of Guayaquil in 2005, Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas. (AGRO 2003-2015 Plan). (Paragraph 35)

The **IICA** provides technical support to Ministerial Delegates by coordinating all aspects to enable the progress of the ministerial process and, in particular, implementation of agreements at the

national and regional level. In particular, in the 2006-2007 ministerial process, the IICA has helped the countries to move forward with three strategic lines of action of the Hemispheric Ministerial Agree-



ment of Guayaquil 2005: (i) promotion of a national policy for agriculture and rural life; (ii) development of an information system for follow-up and evaluation of national policy, regional policy, and the AGRO Plan; and, (iii) adjustment of the regional strategy to the hemispheric framework. In order to guide and assist the countries in the implementation and follow-up of these agreements, the IICA has prepared and distributed three technical documents: “Mejorando la Efectividad de las Estrategias y Políticas: Un Instrumento para Analistas, Decidores Públicos y Líderes de Grupos de Interés de la Agricultura y Vida Rural” [Making Strategies and Policies More Effective: A Tool for Analysts, Government Decision-Makers, and Interest Group Leaders in Agriculture and Rural Life]; “Promoción de una Política de Estado para la Agricultura y la Vida Rural: Notas Introdutorias para un Avance Gradual Inclusivo” [Promotion of Public Policy for Agriculture and Rural Life: Introductory Notes for Gradual Inclusive Progress]; and “Sistema de In-

formación para el Seguimiento y Evaluación de Estrategias y Políticas para la Agricultura y la Vida Rural: Una Propuesta Gradual y Modular” [Information System to Monitor and Evaluate Strategies and Policies for Agriculture and Rural Life: A Gradual and Modular Proposal]. The IICA also set up a web site ([www.iica.int/cumbres](http://www.iica.int/cumbres)), which contains complete exhaustive information on the ministerial process since its inception in 2001 and, more specifically, its progress in the 2006-2007 period.

Over the remainder of 2007, the IICA will continue to provide support to countries to ensure that efforts to implement the mandate contained in paragraph 35 continue until the Fourth Ministerial to be held in the city of Antigua, Guatemala in the last week in July of this year. Based on the new Hemispheric Ministerial Agreement of Guatemala 2007 that the ministers will adopt in the last week of July this year, the necessary changes will be made to continue to support implementation of the aforesaid mandate.

To encourage the exchange of experience with regard to the role of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises and access to procurement programs, in the creation of productive jobs, development of competitive skills, reduction of the informal sector, and the fight against poverty. (Paragraph 36)

In encouraging the exchange of experiences with regard to the role of Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs), three working documents have been developed and distributed by the OAS that assess the current situation of SMEs

in the region, particularly in their use of Information and Communication Technologies, as well as international best practices in the support of SMEs through on line tools and ICTs.

In the framework of this SME Program, National Directors responsible for SME support in the region participated in international meetings, which allowed for the exchange of experiences among institutions and related programs, such as the Inter-American Government Procurement Program of the OAS and the Congress of the Americas. These specific activities included:

- II SME Congress of the Americas, Mexico, May 2006
- Inter-American Workshop-Seminar on the Competitive Participation of SMEs in Government Procurement, Mexico, May 2006
- Inter-American Seminar on Strategies for E-SME Development, Panama, October 2006
- Final Meeting of the II Phase of the E-SME Program, Costa Rica, November 2006

In addition, under the Inter-American Government Procurement Program of the OAS, a workshop-seminar was held in Mexico to exchange good practices, discuss lessons learned and strategies that would facilitate access to the market for SMEs. The participants of the workshop-seminar included both the officers in charge of government procurement and those responsible for SME support in member states. This activity provided a comprehensive overview of the barriers faced by SMEs, which have limited its access to this important market.

In relation to SMEs and public policies, ECLAC has carried out information, evaluation, training

and support activities. It has completed a survey of the situation of manufacturing SMEs and of support policies in 14 countries of the region at the end of the 1990s. It also supported the creation of an information system in Argentina for analysis of the creation and destruction of jobs and enterprises, by size, known as the Observatory for Employment and Business Dynamics of the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security. In 2006-2007 this information should be used in the design of employment policies based on SMEs at the national and local level. ECLAC also developed a quantitative and qualitative method to assess the impact of the SME support programmes of the Foundation for Economic and Social Development (FUNDES, Argentina). In Brazil, in 2005, in collaboration with the Brazilian micro and Small Business Support Service (SEBRAE), ECLAC designed and coordinated the implementation of a 400-hour postgraduate course on the management of local clusters. As for activities to support networks, ECLAC worked on the definition and analysis of factors in the success and failure of network support experiences in 12 countries in the region; a manual for the creation of horizontal networks was prepared on the basis of technical assistance experiences.

In the context of a project supported by the German Agency for Technical Cooperation, ECLAC published the book "Agglomeraciones en torno a los recursos naturales en América Latina y el Caribe: Políticas de articulación y articulación de políticas" (Spanish only),



which shows the steps to be taken in order to initiate or strengthen such clusters. The experience now being gained will be used in the preparation of a second manual, aimed at local governments, which

will focus on public and private sector cooperation, and the definition of the most important aspects of the design of network support strategies.

To establish mechanisms to exchange good practices and innovative approaches for the development of micro, small, and medium-sized companies, such as the Small and Medium-sized enterprise Congress of the Americas, and foster greater public and private participation in this Congress. (Paragraph 37)

National Directors responsible for SME support participated in the Second SME Congress of the Americas held in Mexico. The Steering Committee of the SME Congress recognized the importance of the Program for the region and agreed on continuing cooperation and to promote the development of an Inter-American E-SME Program.

During the Inter-American Seminar on Strategies for E-SME Development held in Panama, the 11 member states represented agreed on the necessity to establish an Inter-American Network for E-SME Development, as a mechanism to promote the exchange of good practices and cooperation in the subject (i.e. Brazil, Costa Rica, Colombia, Chile, Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama and Peru.).

To substantially improve the capacity at the national, regional, and hemispheric levels for risk mitigation; to implement cost-effective and robust early warning systems, and to enhance disaster recovery and reconstruction capabilities in collaboration with relevant international and regional institutions. To explore with relevant international and regional institutions the coordinated development of effective public-private catastrophic risk insurance systems. (Paragraph 39)

In response to this mandate, the **OAS** has been working to enhance disaster recovery and reconstruction capabilities in collaboration improve the capacity for risk mitigation; and to implement cost-effective and robust early warning systems through the following initiatives:

The “Grenada Hurricane Resilient Home Reconstruction Project” aims at supporting information gathering and capacity building and training necessary for the effective implementation of a hazard-resistant home reconstruction program in Grenada. Other activities that are being undertaken

under this technical assistance project include: preliminary consultations on institutional arrangements for lending by local banks, credit risk coverage, and insurance coverage by local insurers.

The “Central America Education Sector Retrofit Program” implemented with support of CIDA in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama, to strengthen governance-related activities in the public education sectors, by building the capacity of public and private-sector stakeholders to adopt appropriate building codes and standards, and ensure their effective enforcement.

2006 saw the preparation for the first time of a progress report on the status of health disaster preparedness and response in the Americas. The report was presented and discussed at the 47th Directing Council of PAHO and identifies priority areas for cooperation, inter alia, in institution building, planning, human resource training, and risk reduction.

PAHO has assembled and trained a Regional Disaster Response Team composed of national and international professionals with

wide knowledge and experience of emergency and disaster management. This multidisciplinary team includes experts in crisis coordination, epidemiology, environmental health, health services, mental health, logistics, administration, and vulnerability assessment.

A form was developed for conducting a preliminary analysis of the safety of health facilities in the event of disasters. The form was used in several countries in the Caribbean, Central America and South America, as well as Mexico, and there are plans for its application throughout the Americas as part of the “Safe Hospitals” regional strategy. This topic was one of the areas identified as priority by the Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development.

As the agency with responsibility for disaster preparedness and response of the Inter-American Committee for Natural Disaster Reduction, PAHO has provided support to the OAS Permanent Council and the OAS Inter-American Council for Integral Development in developing agendas for meetings and presenting regional perspectives regarding risk management and disaster assistance in the health area.

To foster multilateral cooperation from development banks in order to identify and provide financing for national and regional infrastructure projects, in particular those designed to promote sustainable development, generate employment, and fight poverty. (Paragraph 40)

The IDB holds a unique place in the region that allows it to interface well with both governments and

businesses. As such, it is working to intensify its financing of infrastructure activities with the sup-





port from public-private partnerships. The IDB intends to direct US\$12 billion towards infrastructure projects in the region during the next five years.

The IDB has identified the lack of funding for project preparation as a major bottleneck for the much-needed scaling up of infrastructure investment in Latin America and the Caribbean. In order to help fill this gap, in April 2006, the IDB decided to contribute US\$20 million for the creation of the “Infrastructure Fund (InfraFund)”. The “InfraFund” is dedicated to assisting public, private and mixed-capital entities in LAC in the identification, development and preparation of bankable and sustainable infrastructure projects that have the potential of reaching financial closure. The “InfraFund”, which is administered by the IDB, is open to funding from other donors, including governments and state and multilateral agencies as well as private concerns interested in investing in the infrastructure sector in LAC. The IDB expects that its initial commitment to the “InfraFund” will have an important catalytic effect in mobilizing additional resources for the preparation of infrastructure projects in LAC.

As of early 2007, the InfraFund has approved five projects. Its first operation was approved in December 2006 with a US\$1 million financing towards the creation of the “Brazilian Public-Private Partnerships Development Facility”. The US\$3.9 million facility, which will be co-funded by Brazil’s Banco Nacional de Desenvol-

vimento Economico e Social (BNDES) and the **World Bank’s** International Finance Corporation (IFC) will promote the development of concessions and public-private partnership projects by financing consulting services and studies necessary to fully develop them. The following are the other operations approved by the “InfraFund”: (i) a US\$1.5 million to prepare an environmental management plan for the Bogotá River Basin (Colombia); (ii) an operation of US\$300,000 for solid waste management and disposal in tourist municipalities (Argentina); (iii) US\$289,880 to support the development of an 80MW private wind project to harness alternative renewable energy (Panama), and (iv) US\$ 363,840 to finance the completion of a comprehensive air traffic and commercial revenues study as well as the development of comprehensive engineering designs that will be used for the project - El Dorado International Airport (Colombia).

IDB’s new “Sustainable Energy and Climate Change Initiative (SECCI)”, launched in 2006, will support the LAC region in its urgent challenge to find economically and environmentally sound energy options. Its core objectives are to expand the development and use of renewable energy sources, energy efficient technologies and practices, and carbon finance in the region, as well as to promote and finance climate change adaptation strategies that reduce the region’s climate vulnerability. “SECCI” will meet these core objectives by: scaling up Bank investments in this area; integrating policy reform and

removal of institutional barriers with innovative policy and project financing for market transformation; mainstreaming sustainable energy investment across sectors and refining financing tools; accessing the carbon finance market to the fullest extent; addressing adaptation needs in existing capital assets in LAC- and IDB-financed projects as part of natural disaster risk management, and collaborating and forming new partnerships with the public and private sectors in LAC, donor agencies, and other financial institutions.

The Multilateral Investment Fund has created a new cluster of activities focused on promoting clean energy markets. This initiative will help small enterprises gain access to clean energy market opportunities while improving their competitiveness. In Latin America and the Caribbean, energy efficiency and renewable energy offer great potential to reduce the negative effects of increasing energy costs. The new MIF cluster will promote new financial instruments in the clean energy market and assist in the creation of capacities required by smaller firms to serve this market. The cluster has already approved financing for two projects to support market opportunities for clean energy: a \$975,000 grant to Fundación Chile and a \$600,000 grant to the Ecológica Institute to work in rural areas of Tocantins, Brazil.

The IDB Group has undertaken non-lending activities as effective instruments to provide policy

advice to governments, assist project identification and design; disseminate information, promote best practices and create the proper environment for infrastructure development. Technical studies and best practice papers, conferences, seminar and forums are some of the instruments that the BID uses to disseminate information and create awareness of the importance of key issues. The dissemination of state-of-the-art knowledge to promote development diminishes barriers and increases the potential for success of the lending operations. The following are some of the most recent activities undertaken:

- Financial Structuring of Infrastructure Projects in Public-Private Partnerships: An Application to Water Projects. This report sets out an approach and a set of tools for structuring the financing of public-private partnership projects, with a particular application to the potable water and sanitation sector.
- Cost-Benefit Analysis of Transportation Projects Manual. In order to support **BID** country members and Bank project teams, the Bank completed a manual that will assist them to improve the quality and design of transportation projects.
- Entre el mercado y el Estado: Tres décadas de reformas del sector eléctrico de América Latina (book)
- Power Sector Reform in Latin America: Accomplishments, Failures and Challenges (paper)
- Financial Structuring of Infrastructure Projects in Public-Private Partnerships A Tool for



Designing Feasible Structures  
(technical paper)

- Electric Sector subsidies in Latin America and the Caribbean: Comparative analysis and policy recommendations (working paper)
- Private Utility Supply in a Hostile Environment: The Experience of Water/Sanitation and Electricity Distribution Utilities in Northern Colombia, the Dominican Republic, and Ecuador (Best practices paper)
- Private Infrastructure: Support from the BID Group 1990-2005 (report)

In looking for alternatives to increase infrastructure financing in LAC, the Bank supports different activities. Among them, the Bank together with its country members created, in 2005, the LAC Debt Group. This Group of Latin American and the Caribbean Debt Management Specialists organizes different activities (studies, meetings, training, and data systems) to support regional cooperation between countries in order to create a more homogeneous framework for the debt and bond markets to contribute to effectiveness of domestic debt offices and to reduce the cost of debt. The Group represents also a forum of discussion and policy review and recommendation in the area of capital market development and local market financing that have a significant impact on the possibility to finance Infrastructure projects undertaken in the countries of the region. Between May 2006 and January 2007, the Bank has approved a total of US\$2.344 billion in infrastructure

projects and almost US\$ 1.5 million in technical assistance operations.

The **World Bank** has provided financing and support for numerous national infrastructure projects to stimulate economic growth, promote sustainable development, and improve the quality of life, including transportation improvement projects in Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Paraguay, and Peru; water resource infrastructure projects in Brazil, Ecuador, and Guyana; as well as urban infrastructure projects in Bolivia and Jamaica.

The **CAF Initiative for Integration of South American Regional Infrastructure (IIRSA)** presents a regional vision of the physical and economic integration of the 12 South American countries under a sustainable and equitable territorial development model.

In 2006, the IIRSA continued to move forward with the implementation of the agenda and investment projects on which the countries had agreed. The Eighth Meeting of the Executive Steering Committee was held in Quito, Ecuador, toward the end of 2006. The purpose of the meeting was to analyze the accomplishments and progress made during the year, as well as to approve the plan of action for 2007. The plan highlights the decision of governments to intensify territorial analysis activities for the review and mobilization of the projects identified, including the incorporation of citizen consultation and participation mechanisms as a contribution to development

planning and investment priority-setting.

As a result of indicative planning activities, toward the end of 2005, the first South American governments identified a portfolio of more than 350 projects divided into 41 groups belonging to eight integration and development corridors. Those corridors encompass socioeconomic dynamics and productive investments targeted by the countries concerned. This portfolio includes specific investment projects in the areas of transport, energy, and telecommunications at different stages of completion.

The meeting in Quito was informed of progress in the implementation of 84 projects in the IIRSA portfolio, 41 of which have been launched with technical and financial support provided by CAF. CAF has granted approximately US\$3,500 million to these projects, permitting the execution of more than US\$ 11,000 million in investments.

In 2007, the governments of the region will continue to give particular attention to implementation of priority projects in the IIRSA portfolio. For CAF, this entails continuing to move forward with the development of new financing formulas and mechanisms as well as providing particular support for institutional capacity building for the preparation, evaluation, implementation, and supervision of infrastructure projects in the countries involved in the Initiative. The Corporation will also devote special attention to management of the social and environmental

impact of projects, development of mechanisms for civil society consultation and participation in planning activities, generation of opportunities connected with the new infrastructure, and socio-environmental impact prevention and mitigation.

In addition to the support supplied to IIRSA, CAF, as a regional development promotion agency, continued to support other integration initiatives, funneling economic and financial resources to the public and private sectors. The Corporation contributed to the financing of strategic projects for regional cohesion, such as those connected with ports, borders, cartography, environment, private sector participation, a regional studies, and pre-investment support. The First-Class Ports Program, Plan Puebla Panama, GeoSur, the Program of Support for Border Development and Integration, and the Fund for Promotion of Sustainable Infrastructure Projects, among others, are part of CAF's contribution in this regard.

In 2006, CAF continued to be involved in the Interagency Technical Group created by the presidents of the Mesoamerican countries to implement programs and projects in the framework of the various initiatives that comprise the Plan Puebla Panama. The Corporation also took part in the meetings of the Executive Committee composed of the presidential commissioners for the Plan each appointed by the president of their respective country, as well as providing financing and technical cooperation to transport infra-



structure projects in CAF shareholder countries involved in the Plan. The inclusion of Colombia as a legally recognized full member of the Plan Puebla Panama will help strengthen integration ties with South America and broaden the possibilities of support from CAF for this regional initiative.

Under the revised and comprehensive perspective of the development agenda for Latin America, this year CAF promoted the Program of Support for Border Development and Integration, which strengthens among its member countries the necessary planning and linkage of programs and projects to best harness shared potential and opportunities for binational synergy, thereby securing the objectives of integration and sustainable human development in the zones.

In the course of 2006, CAF created and continued to promote more than 12 initiatives to support the design and launch of Binational Plans for Border Integration and Development, creation of border integration zones among its member countries, and the subregional policies of the Andean Community and MERCOSUR countries in this area to develop land use planning, coordinated planning, and prioritization of joint projects on physical integration, economic and productive development, and social and cultural advancement in border regions.

To meet the needs of the national authorities with responsibility for implementation of infrastructure projects, in 2006, CAF made

available to the countries special funds to finance the preparation of studies and pre-investment works. Thus, in March 2006, CAF approved the creation of the Fund for Promotion of Sustainable Infrastructure Projects (PROINFRA), the purpose of which is to finance the adequate preparation, financial structuring, and evaluation of sustainable infrastructure projects with a high impact on regional, national, or local economies and that make a consistent contribution to integration among the Corporation's shareholder countries. CAF allocated US\$ 50 million for this Fund, which may be used for:

- General sectoral studies for analysis of infrastructure projects
- Pre-feasibility studies for investment options
- Feasibility and detailed engineering studies
- Environmental and social impact assessments of infrastructure projects
- Advisory services for project financial structuring
- Advisory services on works concession and competitive bidding tender processes
- Evaluation of any special projects financed by CAF that may be necessary during the implementation period
- Technical assistance for creation or strengthening of public investment planning systems and public-private participation schemes.

“PROINFRA” will give priority to those projects that:

- have an impact on integration between the country concerned and its neighbors in the region
- represent an innovative ap-

proach in the use of financing structures

- help to develop or strengthen the country's capacity in terms of planning, preparation or financing of infrastructure projects
- have priority in national or regional development plans; and
- are within the framework of the CAF support strategy for the country in question

In 2006, the Corporation approved the allocation of PROINFRA funds for several pre-investment operations notable among which were the Buga-Buenaventura Road Corridor and the Ruta del Sol Road Corridor in Colombia; and the development of a financing mechanism for small road-building concessions in the Coastal – Highland Network and the Regional Airports System, in Peru.

With the creation of the Infrastructure Industry Strategic Unit, **CABEI** has adopted the goal of continuing to serve the sector through new products and services, which seek, inter alia, to award financing to the public sector that does not entail debt and to encourage the participation of the private sector in conjunction with multilateral agencies.

The CABEI infrastructure strategy was developed in 2006, initially to serve the following development infrastructure sectors: transport, energy, telecommunications, and water and sanitation. The second phase of this process will see the inclusion of “social development,

environment, and information and knowledge” infrastructure. Infrastructure project loan approvals came to US\$544 million in 2006 with the value of the portfolio at US\$1,187.88 million.

The aim in 2007 is to implement the strategy in the hopes of bringing a US\$446.01 million increase the infrastructure portfolio, with loan approvals in the order of US\$867 million and, at the same time, a progressive private-sector participation increase in the portfolio.

Along with the IDB, the CABEI is an initial investor in and sponsor of the Central American Mezzanine Infrastructure Fund (CAMIF), a private capital investment fund that will channel financing through mezzanine debt instruments to medium- and large-scale infrastructure projects.

The infrastructure sector is an important component of the regional initiative Plan Puebla Panama (PPP) and of the efforts that CABEI undertakes to contribute, along with its founding member countries, to the creation of conditions necessary to improve competitiveness, particularly within the Dominican Republic-Central America Free Trade Agreement (DR-CAFTA). As of December 2006, the CABEI had granted financing to projects under the different PPP initiatives for a total of US\$1,000.36 million, 58% of which corresponds to loans in the infrastructure sector.



To promote increased funding and investment in science and technology, engineering and innovation. To request the appropriate multilateral organizations to strengthen technical and financial cooperation activities aimed at pursuing this goal and at the development of national innovation systems. (Paragraph 41)

**ECLAC** has continued to work on information and communication technologies (ICTs). The Observatory for the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (OSILAC), created in 2003 by ECLAC and the **Institute for Connectivity in the Americas (ICA)**, has produced two reports on benchmarking of national action plans. In addition, in conjunction with the national statistical offices and in the context of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, OSILAC has managed to identify and formulate eight key questions which were recommended for inclusion in household questionnaires, and five key questions for questionnaires for enterprises in the region.

**ICA** is collaborating in the “Knowledge Economy Project”, a regional initiative that offers grants for applied research that focus on equality and poverty implications of the transition to new economic and social models, and contributes to building research networks and a stock of knowledge on the issue. Other initiatives include the “E-Waste in Latin America and the Caribbean Toolkit,” aimed at raising awareness among computer users and the broad public on options related to the safe disposal of hazardous personal computer components, the “ICT-4-BUS Project (ICT for Business)” implemented in collaboration with the MIF/IBD, as well as support provided to the project “From Words to Action: ICTs, Youth and Gender Equity and to the Organic Agriculture and ICTs Regional Training Workshop” – Caribbean – May 2006 (women-led farming business training), among others.

To request Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and ECLAC to continue with their efforts to develop an information system for the follow-up and evaluation of the AGRO 2003- 2015 Plan, and the other members of the Joint Summit Working Group to join in those efforts as a contribution to defining goals and indicators for the mandates of the Summit of the Americas. (Paragraph 43)

In collaboration with the **Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)**, **ECLAC** prepared a project profile for a multi-agency effort for the design and updating of indicators to mo-

onitor progress with the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan of Action. The objective of this four-year project is to support governments of the region in monitoring the progress made towards the vision of the

AGRO 2003-2015 Plan for each of the areas covered and, in particular, to update the document presented (in CD format) at the meeting of Agricultural and Rural Ministers of Guayaquil, In August 2005, to improve the indicators and present updates in 2007 and 2009.

In order to support the national efforts of the Caribbean countries in this area, ECLAC and CARICOM, with support from IICA, organized a meeting in February 2006 in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, at which a proposal of components for the information system and the progress made to date in each of its components was presented. The Caribbean countries have made an agreement to improve the quality of their statistics and to select indicators which are particularly relevant for them.

In addition, in conjunction with FAO, ECLAC performed a first calculation of the importance of aviculture and its linkages with the economies of the countries in the region, which was presented by the World Bank at the "Hemispheric Conference on the Surveillance and Prevention of Avian Influenza". This Conference was held in Brasilia in 2005 and organized by IICA and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).

**PAHO** participated in the definition of the goals and indicators for the Summits mandate in the document: Indicators for Plan AGRO 2003-2015 for agriculture and rural life in the Americas and in the development of the information system for the monitoring and evaluation of the Plan AGRO 2003-2015.

To complement Plan AGRO and bearing in mind the key importance of poultry production and exports for the economy and food security in the Americas, to confront the global threat of avian influenza, PAHO and IICA organized several joint activities, such as the Hemispheric Conference on the Surveillance and Prevention of Avian Influenza held in Brasilia in 2005; the "Subregional Workshop on Avian Influenza Pandemic Preparedness (Panama, February 2006); ambassador briefing sessions at the OAS (Washington, D.C., March 2006), and other events.

Furthermore, on the topic of food safety, IICA and PAHO jointly prepared a document on "Performance, Vision, and Strategy for Food Safety Systems."

Since last year PAHO has been working very closely with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) to help member states strengthen animal health, and is actively involved in inter-agency cooperation activities on avian influenza. For example, it developed a proposal for an interagency web page on avian influenza and other activities. Furthermore, in 2006, an agreement was examined with a view to establishing a strategic partnership between the IICA and PAHO to promote health and prosperity in rural communities in the Americas, the Memorandum of Understanding for which was signed by the Directors of the two institutions at a ceremony that was attended by most of the ambassadors to the OAS.





In March 2006, IICA and the Veterinary Public Health Unit met at the PAHO offices in Washington, DC to discuss the two institutions' plans for livestock development in the Region.

In keeping with this mandate, the IICA, with the support of ECLAC, prepared the document, "Information System to Monitor and Evaluate Strategies and Policies for Agriculture and Rural Life: A Gradual and Modular Proposal." This document sets out the structure of the information system based on the definitions provided by the Ministers of Agriculture in the Hemispheric Ministerial Agreement on this specific matter. The document also puts forward three basic considerations and an ad hoc strategy for their development in each country, in such a way that the system can continuously feed information to policy shapers (analysts and officials in the executive, legislative, and judicial branches, as well as interest group leaders). It also permits the comparison of these developments with the mandates of the Fourth Summit and the Third Ministerial.

In the course of the 2006-2007 ministerial process, international organizations have been moving forward with the development of three components of the information system: under the leadership of ECLAC progress has continued on the development of the "Performance Indicators for Agriculture and Rural Life" component; under the coordination of IICA, the "National Experience" component covers the activities that the countries are carrying out

to implement Plan AGRO 2003-2015 and the challenges that they having counted in the course of that process, based on reports prepared by the Ministerial Delegates; the "Leaders' Expectations" component, also coordinated by the IICA, is based on the 2007 National Consultation with agriculture sector leaders in the 34 member states, which was carried out using a 20-point questionnaire and a model designed to analyze expectations.

This interagency effort at the hemispheric level has been repeated at the regional level, particularly in the Caribbean, where IICA and ECLAC, with the support of other regional organizations, are spearheading the development of the "Plan AGRO Follow-up and Evaluation Information System and the Jagdeo Initiative" (which is the Caribbean regional strategy).

For the remainder of 2007, the IICA will continue to provide support for regional and national efforts to develop the above-mentioned information system, seeking, as mentioned in the mandate contained in paragraph 43 of the Plan of Action of the Fourth Summit, greater involvement from other international agencies.

**IICA** recognizes that the lack of reliable statistical data concerning issues related to the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) involves the risk of misallocating valuable scarce resources, which can negatively affect the region's insertion into the information economy. With the aim of contributing to the

formulation of well-informed public policies, as well as to the flow of information, knowledge and policy recommendations among key actors and ICT practitioners, ICA has supported the creation of regional networks such as “OSILAC”, “DIRSI” and “PROTIC”. (a) “The Observatory for the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (OSILAC)” was created in collaboration with ECLAC and the support of the European Commission’s @LIS program, to support national administrations in their efforts to increase the quantity and quality of official statistics related to the emerging information society

and economy in LAC. (b) The mandate of “The Regional Dialogue on the Information Society (DIRSI)” is to help achieve pro-poor, pro-market ICT regulatory and governance regimes in the region, through the consolidation of a regional network for applied policy-oriented research. (c) “The ICT Project Database” provides information resources (databases, maps, experts database and related material), that aim to serve as tools for ICT practitioners, governments, multilateral and funding agencies to share best practices, identify projects that can be scaled up, and find gaps, overlaps and potential synergies among their activities.

To explore ways for the multilateral development banks to provide more assistance to the poorest and least creditworthy countries as performance-based grants, and expand the multilateral development banks role in catalyzing private sector investment. (Paragraph 44)

In 2006 the **IDB** Group, formed by the IDB, the Inter-American Investment Corporation (IIC) and the Multilateral Investment Fund (MIF), reached US\$ 1.384 billion in approvals to non-sovereign clients establish a new record for the Group institutions. IDB Group efforts helped to finance more than US\$5 billion in investments in the region, representing a 100% increase from its historical values.

This level of approvals was the result of several changes under the leadership of the Private Sector Coordinator that the Group introduced to its internal policies since 2005 in order to invigorate its activities with the private sector. This changes included an increase

in December 2005 to the IDB’s lending limits per project from US\$75 million to US\$200 million and up to US\$400 million for highly developmental projects, the adoption of the “Local Currency Framework” in November 2005 to support loans in local currency and the introduction of guarantees in local currency in 2006, the possibility to support companies to restructure their debt and the adoption of new facilities like the “InfraFund” (<http://www.iadb.org/InfraFund/>) to support private investment in infrastructure in the region. In addition, in August 2006 the Bank was allowed to do business with new clients without using sovereign guarantees, including public companies in the



infrastructure sector and private entities in all sectors of the economy.

During 2007 and 2008 the IDB Group will continue to strengthen its non-sovereign guaranteed lending program. As part of the realignment process currently in the implementation at the Group, a new Vice-Presidency for Private Sector and Non-Sovereign Guaranteed Operations (VPSP) will be created which will help to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the Group's efforts towards the private sector. The new VPSP will lead the implementation of several internal operational agreements established at the end of 2006 and will lead further improvements to processes, organization and instruments that are being evaluated as part of implementation of the Bank's realignment process.

**CABEI** is aware of the limited public sector borrowing and spending capacity of its founding member countries as well as their limi-

tations with regard to direct investment in infrastructure.

Accordingly, CABEI is providing innovative services to its founding member countries in order to continue to support regional integration and economic and social development. Thus, it has initiated measures designed to offer the public sector, inter alia, concessions, securitization of flows, public-private partnerships, endorsements and guarantees, and multisectoral programs. To the financial sector, CABEI offers mortgage loan portfolio securitization, liquidity lines, factoring, and working capital. To the business sector it offers, inter alia, loan structuring services, corporate banking, subscription and placement of securities, and working capital lines.

In 2007, the CABEI intends to strengthen its development banking role, mobilizing capital and investment flows toward productive sectors.





## Social Development

To foster the development of comprehensive economic and social policies at the national level, principally aimed at employment growth; reduction of poverty, exclusion and inequality; personal skills development; and access to opportunities for integral development. (Paragraph 45)

In 2006, CAF strengthened and reaffirmed its commitment in the social sector with a responsive, innovative and comprehensive approach and a territorial perspective, in order more directly to meet the needs of less-well-off segments. This year CAF approved programs and projects for more than US\$900 million, in order to partner and boost the social spending efforts of member countries, in particular in the areas of water and sanitation, education, health, and urban and rural development.

CAF continued to consolidate the Social Action through Music Program. Its recent progress can be measured by several recent festivals held in Guayaquil, Lima, Cochabamba, Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Medellin, and Bogota. The program has attracted new students in these cities, in particular children, including pupils from the Fe y Alegría schools who receive voice coaching at the Voces Andinas a Coro workshops. In addition, the choral component

was extended to include the slums [favelas] of Río de Janeiro and Sao Paulo, for both teachers and students. The Luthería Andean Traveling Workshop (TIAL) was consolidated in Medellín with the creation of a company that makes musical instruments, whose first violins were declared part of the city's cultural heritage. The Andean Traveling Conservatory (CAI) continued to strengthen training in musical instruments and orchestra direction for children and young people, as well as launching a new area of training for children with a view to establishing the Children's Andean Symphony Orchestra.

The Sports Training Program has been broadened to include activities that help strengthen fundamental aspects of human development, in particular through a nutrition component and, in some cases, local governments have been included in the program. Generally speaking, sports projects do important work to improve relations in the family and community and act as a preventive

factor against problems of violence. Thus, in the case of Venezuela, the Alcatraz Project widened its scope of action outside of sports to include training in different trades, in order to contribute to the social reintegration of youths enrolled in the project. By the same token, projects in Colombia have also targeted the issue of domestic violence and prevention, as well as expanding to other areas. In Peru and Ecuador efforts have also centered on institution building for counterparts, and in Bolivia activities have been broadened to another area of the country. Finally, a basketball and boxing project was launched in Uruguay.

The Local Opportunity Building Program continued to implement projects with a multicultural approach in the areas of health, education, rural tourism, and culture of saving and investment. In that connection, there has been significant progress, inter alia, in projects such as Randimpak, which involves more than 5000 women in indigenous and peasant farming

communities in the Chimborazo zone; Casa Campesina de Cayambe; VallenPaz, with more than 700 cacao-farming families in the Cauca Valley, who have set up and registered 16 grassroots organizations and a second-tier organization to manage the financing and joint marketing of different products; paria cheese with cacao producers, access to health and education services, and possibilities for community savings and investment; Huaura Communities Network, or with common aspects in terms of organization, financial culture, and marketing; the second stage of the Building Bridges project was launched in Bolivia, which addresses the issue of reproductive and sexual health with Aymara and Quechua-speaking women. Other initiatives were also launched, such as Sembrando Gas en Bolivia, improving hygiene and nutrition conditions in El Alto, and the Quechua Project in Peru with Microsoft to close the digital divide in the indigenous population.

To implement – with the support of the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) – the “Three Ones Initiative: one HIV/AIDS action framework, one national AIDS coordinating authority, and one country-level surveillance and evaluation system” developing primary prevention of HIV/AIDS and strengthening health services for young people and other vulnerable groups, with special attention to the problem of stigma and discrimination in the labor environment, taking into account the ILO Code of Conduct on HIV/AIDS in the workplace. To promote efforts to provide integral prevention, treatment, and care to HIV/AIDS carriers with the aim of providing as close as possible universal access to treatment for all those who need it as soon as possible. (Paragraph 46)

In order to advance the Three Ones initiative, PAHO is actively promoting the Universal Access Initiative announced by the

Secretary General in 2005. It has been acknowledged that regional specifics must be taken into account, and PAHO’s work in the



Americas region is guided by the Regional Plan on HIV/AIDS, which places particular emphasis on the health sector. PAHO will continue to provide direct support to countries in order to help them implement their work plans, and seek to ensure that those plans are compatible with the goals set down in the Regional Plan, so as to have a broad overview from which to assess progress and gaps.

The Universal Access Initiative demands intense efforts on the part of the health sector based on three fundamental pillars: a) clear definition of the extent, location, and behavior of the epidemic; b) necessary measures to prevent and even reverse the spread of the epidemic; and, c) critical measures to meet the healthcare needs of persons already infected.

With respect to the first fundamental pillar, PAHO is coordinating efforts to strengthen epidemiological surveillance systems on all levels, so as to be able to propose prevention and control measures based on a well-documented -- rather than a merely speculative-- situation analysis. This will make it possible to allocate resources according to evidence-based epidemiological trends. At present, in addition to a review of reporting forms, PAHO is providing support to countries through a process of refining data collection and analysis methods to determine how the HIV/AIDS epidemic affects the young.

As regards primary prevention, PAHO continues to collect and disseminate information about

measures and interventions that have had a demonstrably effective and efficient impact on various at-risk groups. PAHO is a member of the Global HIV Prevention Working Group, in which a group of experts discusses developments in the area of prevention, including biomedical interventions (vaccines, drugs, medical-surgical procedures) that could help stem the spread of the epidemic.

To assist countries in scaling up treatment of patients requiring therapy PAHO is making available regional guidelines, and adapting new guidelines from WHO in several areas. These include Regional guidelines for the assessment of quality assurance, rapid testing and monitoring of drug resistance. All such guidelines are specifically adapted to the Regional context through various processes, including expert consultations.

Following the second round of antiretroviral price negotiations in Buenos Aires in August 2005, countries in the Region were able to access reduced prices for medicines and supplies. PAHO's Revolving Fund for Strategic Public Health Supplies is one mechanism through which countries can access these reduced prices and to assure ongoing technical advice on procurement and supply chain management.

In conjunction with the OAS, PAHO has begun a training and sensitization initiative on HIV and human rights, with a workshop in Jamaica in April 2006. While PAHO's focus is on reducing stigma and discrimination in the health

sector, it also actively promotes the revision and updating of legislation to protect the rights of people with HIV and of people who are stigmatized and discriminated against because of their sexual orientation -whether publicly admitted or presumed-, gender identity, and lifestyles.

PAHO has launched an AIDS in the workplace policy for all the Orga-

nization's employees and has begun to implement it in a process that includes guidance sessions for all employees at the headquarters and at focal points of agencies and organizations situated in Washington, D.C. Guidance sessions in different countries in the region are being carried out in conjunction with UNAIDS in the framework of the UN Cares initiative.

To initiate immediately, with the support of PAHO, and finalize by June 2006, national plans on the preparation of influenza and avian flu pandemics in countries that do not have plans. In countries that already have plans; these should be implemented immediately according to the January 2005 decision of the Executive Committee of the World Health Organization (WHO). (Paragraph 47)

Through mandates from PAHO's Governing Bodies as well as from the Summit of the Americas in Mar del Plata, Argentina, in November 2005, PAHO has been tasked with assisting its Member States in the development of (National Influenza Pandemic Preparedness Plans) NIPPPs.

The Director of PAHO created a multidisciplinary Task Force on Epidemic Alert and Response (the EAR Task Force) to advise, coordinate, and monitor all activities of the Organization related to the planning and implementation of influenza pandemic preparedness and response. All activities of the EAR Task Force are framed under the new mandates set forth by the International Health Regulations (IHR) that were adopted in May 2005, which stipulate that countries develop, strengthen, and maintain core capacities to detect,

assess, and intervene to control events of international public health importance. The inter-programmatic nature of the Task Force responds to the complex process involved in the IHR implementation and influenza pandemic planning, which require highly coordinated efforts from a variety of sectors .

The EAR Task Force has developed the "Strategic and Operational Plan for Responding to Pandemic Influenza" (PAHO SOP) to guide the Organization's technical cooperation activities. The PAHO SOP has been conceived as a living document under constant review and revision. The SOP was reviewed by the World Health Organization (WHO) and other partners, and their comments have been incorporated. The SOP objectives are to direct technical cooperation activities to prepare the Region for an influenza





pandemic; to assist countries in their development of national influenza pandemic preparedness; and to support countries in enhancing the capacity to detect and respond to diseases such as influenza. Technical units across the Pan American Sanitary Bureau have been actively engaged in the process, and detailed work plans, including timelines and budgets, have been developed to avoid duplication of efforts and to maximize resources.

As part of its institutional response to a pandemic, the Bureau is preparing to establish an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at Headquarters for the organizational coordination and control of health-related response activities during emergencies and disasters in the Region. The EOC is a facility located in the main building, furnished with the necessary networking capabilities, computers, communications, software, and other office equipment to effectively coordinate PAHO's intelligence and response in emergency situations. In this center, data and media reports on outbreaks are collected and analyzed so as to make decisions on epidemiological events as mandated under the International Health Regulations. An Emergency Operations Center is considered a vital factor in allowing PAHO to work operationally and efficiently to bring the whole Organization together to focus on the response to public health emergencies using audio and video conferencing capabilities for briefings, monitoring, and management decisions.

Under the framework of the EAR Task Force and with the strategic lines set forth by the PAHO SOP, technical cooperation in influenza preparedness includes actively promoting the development of NIPPPs and supporting Member States in this effort. PAHO has translated and distributed guidelines to assist the development of National Plans. Additionally, subregional workshops have been useful in modeling software to estimate the potential impact of a pandemic based on multiple scenarios. This enables countries to ensure the flexibility of their National Plans by preparing for many contingencies, including a worst-case scenario where there are neither available vaccines nor antiviral medications. As of 16 August 2006, all Member States are actively engaged in influenza preparedness activities; and PAHO has received draft national plans for 28 Member States.

PAHO has developed an assessment tool based on WHO's Checklist for Influenza Pandemic Preparedness Planning to assess National Plans. This tool has already been applied in four subregional assessment exercises for multidisciplinary country delegations. These workshops were extremely successful at identifying areas that needed to be strengthened and highlighted the need for further multisectoral collaboration in the development of such plans. Each workshop also included two tabletop simulation exercises to highlight coordination issues that may be encountered during a pandemic or during the pandemic-alert period. Based on these exercises, action plans were

developed to address the needs identified by the self-assessment and tabletop simulations. Technical cooperation actions are now targeted at addressing the identified needs at the national and subnational levels.

To this end, PAHO is supporting its Member States in operationalizing national influenza preparedness plans at the local level to ensure an effective response to a pandemic. It has been widely recognized that an influenza pandemic will be most intensely felt at the community level. NIPPPs are therefore only as strong as their local contingency plans. In order to bridge the current gap between planning and implementation, technical cooperation has been aimed at strengthening core competencies of Member States and communities to respond to any public health emergency, as identified through the new IHR.

To ensure the viability of National Plans, technical cooperation has been aimed at strengthening the supporting actions that are required in order to operationalize such plans. These activities have included the strengthening of early warning systems by expanding surveillance targets, and strengthening the existing network for virological surveillance. A new generic protocol for influenza surveillance is currently being developed in collaboration with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to ensure that influenza surveillance is harmonized and comprehensive throughout the Region. Such new guidelines will ensure compliance

with the IHR requirement that a single case of influenza caused by a new viral subtype be notified to WHO. Also, significant advances have been made in virological surveillance as evidenced by the increased number of countries performing influenza virus isolation and shipping samples to the Regional Reference Laboratory. This has been a result of the support that PAHO, with the collaboration of the CDC, is providing to strengthen surveillance, laboratory diagnosis, and funding of sample shipments. Virological influenza surveillance has also been strengthened through multiple hands-on training in viral isolation, and immunofluorescence, and through on-site laboratory technical cooperation by regional experts.

PAHO is also working with Member States to assist countries in their decision to obtain antivirals and pandemic influenza vaccine, when available. Mechanisms are actively being sought to supply antivirals to the Region. An assessment of regional production capacity is being carried out, and PAHO is participating in negotiations between Brazil and Roche over technology transfer.

Influenza vaccine is gradually being introduced in the Region, and the recommendations of WHO and the Technical Advisory Group on Vaccine-Preventable Diseases concerning the target population are being adapted. The best use of vaccines for seasonal epidemics will help guarantee the production capacity needed to respond to a future pandemic. A survey carried



out by the Immunizations Unit revealed that influenza vaccination has been introduced in the public sector in 19 countries or territories. In nine of these countries or territories, vaccination is administered only in the private sector. The formulation used and the time of the year when the vaccine is administered vary with the country's geographical location. Twenty-eight countries or territories are planning to extend vaccination into additional coverage groups or add influenza vaccine into their immunization schedules. The target groups vary among countries; however, most countries target the very young and elderly. Three countries or territories also vaccinate populations in close contact with birds. Brazil has also included the vaccination of additional at-risk groups, including indigenous and incarcerated populations.

To prepare the Region for the possible overburdening of health care systems during a pandemic, the Health Services Organization Unit has been working with national counterparts in planning and preparing for the capacity needed to cope with a surge in the number of illnesses and deaths, including intensive care requirements. With support from Canada, guidelines for the Health Services Network Response Capacity Plan in the event of a pandemic were prepared and tested in Paraguay. A regional workshop was held in Bogota, Colombia, in April 2006 to assist in the preparation of the response of health services during a pandemic. This meeting was attended by health services

representatives from the Americas as well as experts from Europe, Thailand, and Viet Nam. A collection of documents have been developed and made available through the web, such as best practices, national plans, guidelines, and lessons learned. A network of health services experts was created to foster information-sharing and to coordinate support.

In order to reduce opportunities for human infection, the Veterinary Public Health Unit has been working on strengthening veterinary services and promoting national plans which integrate human and animal health. Interagency integration has been fostered considering the great importance of poultry production and export for the economy and food security of the Americas. Such collaboration has included work with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), and poultry producers associations. Also, PAHO and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) have carried out several joint activities such as the Hemispheric Conference on Avian Influenza in Brasília in 2005 and ambassador briefing sessions at the OAS in Washington, D.C. PAHO has also participated in the interagency Global Frontiers-Trans Animal Boundary Diseases (GFTADs) initiative that aims to assist countries in the control of disease by strengthening and enhancing national veterinary services.

Communication and the transmission of key, unified messages

during a pandemic will be an essential part of a coordinated response. PAHO's technical cooperation in this area has been aimed at training officials in outbreak and crisis communication and having detailed communication strategies included within NIPPPs. Several workshops have been held in the Caribbean with special emphasis on outbreak and crisis communication. In Argentina, a workshop sponsored by the CDC brought together communication specialists from the ministries of health, agriculture, and education of seven countries for risk communication training and assessment of national communication plans based on a PAHO-produced communication assessment tool. In July, a workshop in Washington, D.C., brought together communication specialists (80 participants from 37 countries) from almost every country in the Region for training in how to train others in outbreak and crisis communication.

In addition, an interagency meeting was held at PAHO in July 2006 to develop an Inter-Agency Communication Framework for Avian and Pandemic Influenza in the Americas to set forth a common approach for communicating with the media, government officials, the private sector, and the general public as part of ongoing efforts to prevent and prepare for avian and pandemic influenza. Participants in the two-day meeting included representatives of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the UN Economic Commission on Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), PAHO/WHO,

the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), FAO, OIE, the World Bank, IICA, the International Regional Organization for Plant and Animal Health (OIRSA), the UN System Influenza Coordination (UNSIC), the UN Information Centers (UNICs), and the UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Several US government departments and agencies also participated in this meeting.

Influenza preparedness has propelled further strengthening of interagency collaboration. In a recent meeting of UN Regional Directors in Panama, influenza preparedness planning was discussed establishing the lines of leadership in an effort to garner the expertise of each organization to mitigate the impact on the Americas region. Following instructions from United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Anan, country teams composed of UN system agencies have been established to respond to a pandemic; and PAHO has been designated as the UN interagency coordinator in 22 countries of the Region.

The Bureau has developed guidelines and made resources available to support PAHO/WHO Country Representatives in their function as UN influenza coordinators. PAHO has also participated in discussions with UN agencies in Washington, D.C.—UNIC, FAO, World Food Program (WFP), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and United Nations Development Program (UNDP)—to define preparedness and coordination in the event of a



pandemic. PAHO has volunteered to procure antivirals and other supplies for the UN system in the Region. A briefing session for the UN system, in Washington, D.C., on 18 September 2006, will cover a plan for continuity of operations for the UN system agencies as well as any procurement needs.

PAHO has reached out beyond the health sector by approaching think tanks to advocate for the need for influenza pandemic preparedness at all levels of government. On 24 May 2006, the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) cohosted a conference in Washington, D.C., entitled "Responding to an Influenza Pandemic in the Americas." This conference featured presentations by leading experts from around the Hemisphere and addresses by the OAS Assistant Secretary-General and the US Under Secretary of State for Democracy and Global Affairs. The key message emanating from the conference was that planning for preparedness needs to occur at the national (federal), state (provincial), and local levels, with close coordination among planners at all three levels.

PAHO has also coordinated briefing sessions for the US Congress, Inter-

American Development Bank Board of Governors, Permanent Council of the Organization of American States, US State Department, and World Bank. Such efforts have yielded an interagency project on avian and pandemic influenza between PAHO and the IDB and rekindled the possibility for further interagency initiatives at the country level in the Latin American and Caribbean region.

An intense resource mobilization effort was undertaken in 2006 for the implementation of the above-mentioned activities. Funds for influenza preparedness activities have been secured from the US Agency for International Development (USAID), Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), CDC, and IDB..

As National Plans are being put in place, new challenges emerge in the process of updating plans and maintaining them relevant. Another challenge lies in bringing preparedness to the subnational level, engaging practitioners, and concerned citizens who will be charged with implementing such plans. Also, further mechanisms will have to be sought to strengthen intersectoral and interinstitutional efforts.

To strengthen at the national level the strategy of supervised treatment of tuberculosis, with all of its components, and extend the coverage of the population at risk; in the same manner, coordinate efforts to reduce malaria in endemic countries and strengthen the fight against classic and hemorrhagic dengue. (Paragraph 48)

Dengue and hemorrhagic dengue remain a serious health problem in our region and the dimension of the problem surpasses the confines of the health sector. PAHO/WHO is, therefore, promoting the implementation of an "Integrated Dengue Prevention and Control Strategy," the aim of which is to strengthen national programs and, with an integrating vision, promote community engagement and health education, with particular attention to the coordination of extra-sectoral measures aimed at reducing morbidity, mortality, and the social and economic burden created by dengue outbreaks and epidemics.

At present, National Strategies for Integrated Dengue Prevention and Control have been prepared in 11 countries: Brazil, Colombia, Paraguay, and Venezuela in South America; Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama in Central America; and Dominican Republic in the Caribbean. In addition the Subregional Strategy for Central America was designed with the participation of experts from all of the countries and members of the PAHO/WHO Working Group on Dengue (GT-Dengue).

The Strategies for Peru and Argentina, and the subregional strategy for the MERCOSUR countries are expected to be ready in the first half of 2007.

An ongoing effort is needed to mobilize funds to prepare strategies in the countries and subregions not covered; ensure the full implementation of the strategies already developed; and evaluate the results of the strategies carried out and implementation of national and subregional agendas through validated instruments. Finally, it is important to work to make the results sustainable in each country.

PAHO has provided support for countries' efforts to extend population coverage of DOTS from 78% in 2004 to 88% in recent years, with different results from its application:

Projects on comprehensive management of multi-resistance were prepared and implemented under DOTS in 12 countries and at present around 30 countries are engaged in collaboration activities between TB and HIV/AIDS programs.

The inclusion of private and public health care providers in TB control is being encouraged, and there are plans of action in place based on operational studies conducted in four pilot countries (Mexico, El Salvador, Dominican Republic, and Brazil).

As regards broadening coverage to populations at high risk from TB, support is being provided for implementation of DOTS in



corrections centers in 29 countries; work is underway in 11 countries on the preparation of TB control plans in indigenous populations; and in two countries there are specific programs in place for providing TB care to peri-urban populations

Efforts to reduce malaria have continued in the 21 endemic countries in the region. The reductions in incidence by more than 50% in seven countries, along with lesser reductions in four other countries, accomplished between 2000 and 2005 have been maintained. Overall, the region has recorded a 9% reduction in incidence. At the same time, between 2000 and 2005 a 55% reduction was reported in the mortality rate, which continued to decline in 2006. Efforts to prevent reintroduction of transmission in malaria-free countries have had to be reinforced in the Bahamas and Jamaica where there were malaria outbreaks in 2006.

In 2006, PAHO made efforts to fulfill the mandates of member countries contained in the Resolution on Malaria adopted at its 46th Directing Council in September 2005, and in the resolution on Malaria Control adopted at the 58th World Health Assembly in May 2005. PAHO

designed, unveiled and disseminated its Regional Strategic Plan for Malaria in the Americas 2006–2010 and has encouraged its use to guide the design of national malaria plans to comply with national, as well as regional and global, commitments. Endemic countries use the guidelines contained in the Global Malaria Program to shape treatment policies as well as making decisions based on evidence generated by studies in the region

As a result of the mobilization of financial and human resource, there are subregional projects in underway to combat malaria in the Amazonian countries, as well as in Mexico and Central American countries. Those projects are being carried out by countries in coordination with PAHO. Furthermore, in 2006, seven countries (Bolivia, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Surinam) continued to implement anti-malaria projects financed by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, and for countries in the Andean region (Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela) launched a joint project to combat malaria also financed by the Global Fund. PAHO has provided technical cooperation to countries for implementation of national as well as multinational projects.

To promote efforts to ensure, by 2010, completion of quality primary school education for all children, and promote the setting of goals, before 2007, for the completion of quality middle-school education. (Paragraph 49)

As part of its efforts to ensure the education of the children of the Americas, the **World Bank**-funded

“Support for the Strategy of Inclusion and Quality Education Project in Ecuador” will contribute

towards the achievement of the universal primary completion Millennium Development Goal (MDG) by strengthening the human resources management capacity for enhancing system efficiency, by increasing the number and improved distribution of teachers, and, by increasing coverage at the basic education level in the most disadvantaged areas, particularly at the first grade level.

For the purposes of promoting quality education, administration of social funds has been a mechanism in which **CAF** has demonstrated competitive advantages. Through its administration and

management of the “Debt Swap Fund” for Social Investment set up between the Kingdom of Spain and the Republic of Ecuador (US\$ 50 million), **CAF** promotes social investment projects in education and the “Clean Development Mechanism (MDL)” with funds from the bilateral debt that the Spanish government has condoned in favor of Ecuador. In the case of the “MERCOSUR Educational Fund (FEM)” (US\$ 650,000), **CAF** is technically and financially managing the first fund created with funds provided by the regional bloc to advance social integration through education.

To strengthen, within national health systems, primary health care actions as a step to prevent diseases and their consequences and reduce morbidity with the purpose of ensuring equal access to health services for all people in the hemisphere. (Paragraph 50)

The “Essential Public Health Functions and Programs Project for Argentina” funded by the **World Bank** aims to increase the coverage of ten prioritized Public Health Programs; reduce the population's exposure to principal risk factors associated with collective illness; and improve the stewardship role and appropriate regulatory environment of the nation's public health system.

The **PAHO/WHO** Working Group (WG) on Primary Health Care (PHC) was created in response to the recommendations of member states for strengthening PHC. The main function of the Working Group was to advise the Organization on ways to establish a

strengthened vision of the PHC strategy to confront the challenges posed by the new millennium, in particular those presented by the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The principal objectives of the WG were to examine and reaffirm the conceptual dimensions of PHC as contained in the Alma Ata Declaration; develop operational definitions of concepts relevant to PHC; provide guidance to countries and PAHO/WHO on how to reorient the Region's health systems and services following the principles of PHC. The WG also formulated drafting guidelines for a PAHO/WHO position paper and a regional declaration on renewing





PHC that reflects current realities and future prospects.

To accomplish the above objectives, the WG held consultations at the regional and national level. It also strengthens dialogue with its most important partners, including civil society and nongovernmental organizations, universities, professional associations, and government, with the aim of building consensus and forging key partnerships or the progress of PHC across the region.

The technical recommendations that came out of the regional consultation were included in the drafts of the Position Paper and the Regional Declaration on PHC, both of which were presented for consideration to the 46th Directing Council.

Ultimately, the Regional Declaration on the New Orientations for Primary Health Care (Declaration of Montevideo) was approved by the PAHO 46th Directing Council in September 2005.

Following the adoption of the Declaration of Montevideo, several countries in the region have renewed or strengthened their efforts by seeking to incorporate the values, principles, and core elements of the approach/strategy on primary health care in their national health systems. Both the Declaration of Montevideo and the PAHO/WHO Position Paper on renewing PHC have become a yardstick on the issue and offer a fresh perspective in the debate on health sector reform and health system strengthening throughout the region.

PAHO/WHO has also continued to provide technical assistance to countries on this issue and intensified its efforts to disseminate the renewed PHC approach in the region. Within the Organization efforts have centered on simplifying the PHC approach/strategy in all PAHO technical cooperation activities. Several Areas/Units have adopted or are incorporating the PHC approach/strategy in their planning process and daily operations.

To identify and exchange, within the framework of the OAS, practices in the region regarding policies and programs to confront poverty. (Paragraph 52)

The **OAS** serves as Technical Secretariat to the Social Network for Latin America and the Caribbean, which brings together social investment funds and ministries of social development in the region in order to promote and share experience on the fight

against poverty and social development. For more than 10 years, the OAS has assisted in the organization of the Network's annual conferences, the most recent of which was held in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, in 2006. In accordance with the decisions

adopted, the Department worked closely with the Chair of the Social Network, occupied by FOSIS of Chile, on the programming of cooperation activities to be carried out in 2007.

As preparations progress for the coming Annual Conference, to be held in Belize in 2007, at which the thematic priorities for implementation of cooperation initiatives in the region will be determined, the OAS will start to implement a technical cooperation program on social protection systems that targets Caribbean countries, with financing chiefly provided by the CIDA of Canada, FOSIS of Chile, and the OAS. The overarching aim of

this two-year project is to improve the quality and coverage of social protection programs in the Caribbean, modeled on the successful experience that Chile has had with its Puente-Chile Solidario program.

Furthermore, in order to promote and strengthen experience exchange in the region, the OAS works with the **IDB**, **ECLAC**, and **World Bank** to analyze the impact of the use of a rights-based approach in social policy design and implementation. Four countries in the region were chosen as case studies in the first phase of this activity: Chile, Guatemala, Peru, and Uruguay.

To continue to strengthen regional cooperation and the mobilization of resources to advance in the fight against the production, trafficking and consumption of illicit drugs and psychotropic substances, calling upon the countries of the hemisphere, in cooperation with the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), to: develop, implement, and evaluate substance abuse prevention programs, in particular for children and young people, such as “Life Skills”, among others; expand the “Program to Estimate the Human, Social, and Economic Cost of Drugs in the Americas”; and promote support for the integral and sustainable development strategies carried out by the countries affected by cultivation and production of illicit drugs. (Paragraph 53)

The **OAS** participated in the “Best Practice Marketing for Communities in Mountainous and/or Drug-Crop Producing Regions Project” promoted by the government of Thailand to generate greater knowledge about integrated and sustainable alternative development through a study that analyzed grassroots approaches to resolving problems of marketing agricultural products and identified best practices. Case studies were made of 4-8 communities in each of the following countries:

Thailand, Vietnam, China, Afghanistan, India, Nepal, Bolivia, Peru and Colombia. A detailed analysis of the case studies focused on compiling and systematizing existing knowledge. In 2007, a manual of best practices will be published that contains concrete, feasible recommendations on how to organize community-based marketing.

The OAS facilitated the participation of representative group of producers from Peru and Bolivia in



the “Andean Regional Seminar on Marketing for Alternative Development Products” that took place in Bogotá, Colombia on April 3. The event was organized by Colombia’s Presidential Agency for Social Action and International Cooperation (Acción Social), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Colombia, the Embassy of France, the French wholesaler Carrefour, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the OAS. Participants presented their approaches, projects and enterprises that support former growers of coca and opium poppies, especially through alternative development initiatives.

During 2006, the OAS financed the training of 55 field technicians and also participated in a model consortium of seven Peruvian institutions for the implementation of 48 farm field schools in Peru, achieving coverage of 2,412 hectares. The beneficiaries were 1,229 farms belonging to 145 communities. In late 2007, the results will be evaluated to determine their real impact in terms of crop yield and quality. Next year, the OAS plans to support the implementation of farmer field schools in Peru, and seek additional financing for implementing this methodology in Bolivia, Colombia, and Ecuador.

The “Implementation of the Generalized Land-Use Evaluation and Management (GLEAM) Tool” is a remote imaging-based information system that permits governments to identify the actual use of land for both licit and illicit crops and determine those crops

that can best substitute coca and poppy, taking into account the geographic, climatic and economic conditions prevalent. In 2006, the OAS concentrated on broadening the use of the “GLEAM” tool to the institutions involved in rural development in Bolivia. The goal was to position the “GLEAM” service as a strategic information system specialized in integral development that permits centralization, systemization and distribution of information for operational support. At the same time, the system was used to carry out geographic quantification and soil evaluation for the cultivation of cacao and coffee in the Alto Beni of Yungas region, providing support to the Vice Ministry of Coca and Integral Development with geographic and spatial information of the coca-growing region. “GLEAM” also was employed to evaluate the extent of soil degradation in the Yungas region caused by settlement and coca cultivation. The OAS not only directs its efforts towards the areas where there are illicit crops or where they existed before, but also focuses on lands adjacent to illicit crop zones whose development could inhibit the expansion of illicit crops and avert the migration of workers to areas of illicit crops.

In 2006 the OAS implemented activities for the fulfillment of and for the sustainability of the “School-based ‘Life-Skills’ Substance Abuse Prevention Program” including:

- Sensitization of government officials, school administrators, teachers, district associations, and supporting agencies about

the nature of the substance abuse problem among youth and the importance of developing and supporting life skills programs;

- Formation of a coordinating committee for each country to assess needs, define program goals, operations, and content (drug council, education ministry, youth development organizations, and community service groups);
- Delivery of training courses for teachers who will deliver the course, school principals, Lions liaisons, and support personnel;
- Delivery of a new curriculum to students in target pilot schools (est. 20 schools in year one, to expand geographically and across grade levels in subsequent years);
- Establishment of a multi-level evaluation process (short-term process and long-term outcome), which will be ongoing for the life of the program;
- Sensitization activities for the family and community;
- Adaptation, revision, and finalization of curriculum and didactic materials;
- Expansion to new grade levels and schools in subsequent years.

This prevention program has been operating in Belize since 2005 and in Peru, Paraguay and Colombia since 2006. The program will begin, under the OAS auspices, in Ecuador, the Dominican Republic and Mexico in 2007-2008. So far, the program has trained approximately 800 teachers in the delivery of the program, and expects to train another 800 over the next two years. Prevention materials have been provided for a total 150 schools, grades K-8.

In Colombia, the OAS investment of US\$90,000 has leveraged an additional US\$587,000 for the program from the Government of Colombia, Lions Colombia and the US Embassy in Bogota. The OAS will conduct an independent, scientific evaluation of the program in Peru in 2007 and 2008, using a newly developed "Evaluation Toolkit".

Since early 2006 the OAS has been supporting the "Culture of Lawfulness (COL)" program in El Salvador, which seeks to generate understanding and provide critical thinking skills about the purpose of laws in a society and the need for the rule of law to prevent crime and corruption from undermining them, as well as to internalize the responsibilities of good citizenship. Thus far, one hundred teachers in fifty schools have been trained to deliver the program, and the OAS has provided over 3,000 copies of supporting materials to the schools. With its partner, the National Strategy Information Center, a Washington-based non-profit, the OAS plans to implement the Culture of Lawfulness program on a pilot basis in Costa Rica and Honduras (8-10 schools in each country) in the spring of 2007. It is also anticipated that Tobago and Nicaragua will implement the program in the near future.

The OAS is working to gradually expand the "Program to Estimate the Social and Economic Costs of Drugs in the Americas" to the other countries in the Hemisphere. Although most countries are capable of estimating the direct costs of drugs, the cost estimates



have no meaning if the country does not possess reliable data on the magnitude of the drug problem. Since cost studies, by their very nature require large amounts of aggregate data, the OAS has incorporated the Cost Program into its broad research development agenda.

In addition, the OAS is supporting countries that have carried out basic cost studies to deepen their studies and produce estimates on the avoidable costs of the drug problem. The OAS views the cost program as an integral part of the OAS research program, and will gradually implement cost studies in the hemisphere as the countries develop their research programs.

The OAS' goal is to develop solid research programs including cost studies in each country in the hemisphere by 2015.

In keeping with the mandate to continue to expand the "Cost Program" to other countries in the hemisphere, the OAS has begun working with additional countries that were not part of the pilot study. In addition, the OAS continues to work with the pilot group to help them to refine their studies, and examine the meaning of the economic impact within their contexts. Studies implemented in 2006 have not yet been completed and results from these studies will become available during 2007.

We recognize the positive results of the Global Fund for HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria (GFATM) and we reaffirm our support to their activities and goals. We recommend the continued important participation of civil society in the fulfillment of these goals, and we urge the Global Fund Board to evaluate the eligibility criteria with the intent of addressing middle income countries in the hemisphere. (Paragraph 54)

In compliance with this mandate, **PAHO** provided support for the preparation of 14 Global Fund projects, 13 of which were approved; furnished technical assistance in the implementation of 13 approved Global Fund projects; and participated in the 13 coordination mechanisms of the countries with TB projects

PAHO continues to support project design processes, while at the same time steering its technical cooperation to support implementation of ongoing projects. The experience has shown that the

adoption by the GF of results-based financing has generated strong demand for technical advisory services in the preparation of realistic indicators and effective follow-up and evaluation mechanisms. PAHO has also assisted in the design and implementation of multilateral finance by the GF, which demand particular attention owing to the governance mechanism required by that agency. Efforts to broaden eligibility criteria to include middle-income countries have led to a review of those criteria, the findings of which will be presented at the next Board

Meeting of the GF. The discussions, by nature, are more policy oriented than technical and for that reason

the support of the foreign ministries is critical to removing this barrier to the region's countries.

To develop, within the framework of the OAS, before 2008, the study of a literacy program, taking into account successful experiences in order to advance towards the eradication of illiteracy in our countries. (Paragraph 55)

By decision of the Inter-American Committee on Education (CIE), a Working Group of countries was formed to advise on how the OAS could best meet this mandate, with the following countries volunteering to be part of the Working Group in 2006: Brazil, Venezuela, Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, United States, Guatemala, Barbados, Canada, México, Paraguay and Uruguay. Given the extensive work being carried out by other international organizations in this field, the DEC carried out consultations with OEI, UNESCO, CREFAL, and IDB. The Department of Education and Culture (DEC) of the OAS prepared the base document "OAS Literacy Initiative" for discussion by the authorities of the Inter-American Committee on Education (CIE) at its February 2007 meeting. At the request of the member States, the OAS organized a Virtual Forum for use by member State literacy experts in order to refine a proposal for next steps in this area.

CAF's Vocational Training and Heritage Recovery Program continued its strengthening and expansion process through the forging of new partnerships. A new

regional partnership was consolidated with the Spanish International Cooperation Agency (AECI) in order to strengthen all of the workshop schools in the Andean region through training in basic trades and heritage recovery. At present, CAF provides support through 11 schools in four countries and will incorporate three more in 2007. Measures were intensified in Venezuela through the Escuela del Constructor Popular in the Municipality of Revenga, which provides training for former young offenders in innovative building techniques, as well as two Superatec Centers in Caracas that provide computer and technology training for young people. The purpose of both projects is to help young people from excluded communities to find employment.

These projects have produced solid and successful results that have enabled initiation of a subsequent phase of development and consolidation or involvement of new actors. Thus, a partnership was established with the Ghella business group for the purpose of implementing cooperation projects of an educational and cultural nature in specific areas.



To promote, within the framework of the OAS, the exchange of experiences for the implementation of electronic education programs articulating means, resources, and tools aimed at strengthening and enriching the educational processes in schools, including the use of new information and communication technologies. (Paragraph 56)

The **OAS** is currently implementing a pilot of a distance education course for educators on teaching democratic values and practices, in collaboration with member State governments and civil society organizations. The OAS is also implementing a project to translate and adapt the course to the needs of education ministries in the Caribbean. These initiatives form part of the “Professional Development Component of the Inter-American Program on Education for Democratic Values and Practices”, an initiative of the OAS. (For more information see [www.educadem.oas.org](http://www.educadem.oas.org))

**ICA** has actively supported the articulation of educational efforts at the regional level through initiatives such as (a) “RELPE – Latin American Network of Educational Portals” ([www.relpe.org](http://www.relpe.org)), (b) “Computers for Communities” ([www.cfc.net](http://www.cfc.net)), and (c) “FRIDA, the Regional Fund for Digital Research” ([www.programafrida.net](http://www.programafrida.net))

**ICA**, in partnership with Fundación Chile and the Ministries of Education of several countries of Latin America, launched “RELPE” as a network of national educational portals designed to freely circulate and share educational materials produced locally throughout the region. This regional project aims at increasing the

quality and the quantity of locally developed educational material, while improving access in marginalized and remote locations to a larger volume of educational content.

Based on the successful Canadian Computers for School program (CFS), **ICA** in partnership with Industry Canada (IC) and the OAS’s Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI), has continued to support the regional dissemination of the program, aimed at building local capacity in LAC countries to plan and implement computer-refurbishing programs as part of an integrated national strategy for connectivity, digital literacy and social inclusion.

“FRIDA, the Regional Fund for Digital Research in the Americas”, is a regional fund for the development of ICT research and technical skills to promote development in Latin America and the Caribbean. This program funds research projects that fulfill one of the following objectives: development or adaptation of new technologies and standards; innovative social use of ICT for development; and modernization of public policies and regulations. The initiative aims at increasing the knowledge on ICT for development and, in doing so empowering local research groups.

To encourage the work now under way in the OAS, to conclude successfully the negotiation of the Social Charter of the Americas and its Plan of Action. (Paragraph 57)

For information relating to the OAS refer to Mandate 71 of the activities for this mandate, please Declaration.

To call upon the First Inter-American Meeting of Social Development Ministers to be held in El Salvador, in agreement with resolution AG/RES. 1984 (XXXIV-O/04) of the thirty-fourth period of regular sessions of the OAS General Assembly, to consider, among others, the progress as regards the commitments included in this Plan of Action that pertain to the scope of their competencies. (Paragraph 58)

In a communication sent in March 2007, the Government of El Salvador withdrew its offer to host the First Meeting of Ministers of Social Development, for which reason the OAS is actively working with member states to determine a new venue and the agenda. The Government of Chile recently offered to host the aforementioned meeting.

11 En [www.educadem.oas.org](http://www.educadem.oas.org) aparece información adicional.









## Strengthen Democratic Governance

Taking into account the theme of the Mar del Plata Summit and bearing in mind that our concept of security is multidimensional, to promote through concrete actions, at the national, sub-regional, hemispheric, and global levels, the implementation of the commitments identified in the Declaration on Security in the Americas. (Paragraph 61)

In 2006, CAF continued to implement the governance programs that it has been carrying out at the regional level based on the premise that it is important is to generate potential forums to strengthen democratic governance in countries and strengthen peaceful coexistence among citizens through dialogue and consensus building. The programs, which are framed under four lines of action to do with good governance, incorporate the crosscutting themes of ethics in transparency in government and in citizen administration, as well as human capacity building to enhance implementation and understanding of the exercise of good governance in the context of each country.

The Governance and Political Management Program, which has been underway since 2001 in partnership with George Washington University and with local universities in Bolivia, Colombia,

Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela, has continued to carry out its training activities aimed at forming a critical mass of government officials in the region. The broad objective is to generate a comprehensive overview of the problems associated with economic and social development, and the capacity to articulate that vision in an integral framework of action that takes into account technical elements, negotiation, and political, economic, and social feasibility. The Program lasts eight months a year. By the end of 2006 the Program had turned out 3,844 graduates in the five above-mentioned countries.

The Leadership for Change Program, founded on the principle that there should be a balance between the different sectors that make up a nation –public, private, and civil society– seeks to eliminate existing constraints, pave the way for new generations, and strengthen the recovery of civic and democratic

values in society. The Program, which is taught for eight months per year, aims to train natural leaders, both men and women, in order to enable them to carry out the commitment to build a better future in accordance with the reality of their context. By 2006, the Program had been implemented in four countries (Bolivia, Colombia, Peru, and Venezuela) and provided training to 3,926 leaders, its coverage encompassing 658 municipalities overall in the different countries.

The Efficient and Transparent Municipalities (MuNet) program was created to provide technical assistance and training to local governments in Andean countries, in order to improve their technical and administrative capabilities in providing services through the identification and transfer of best practices and successful experiences in e-government and land registry in similar sociopolitical contexts. By the end of 2006, the total number of officials trained in e-government and land registry came to 614 and municipal coverage across the region stood at 22 municipalities in e-government and five in the land registry

The Tools for Governance and Consensus-Building program is designed to provide public sector and civil society actors who interact on a permanent basis with members of the public with tools and methodologies to build consensus and reach better agreements that satisfy the interests and needs of the sectors concerned. The program is carried out through four workshops:

negotiation, strategic communication, leadership and persuasion, and strategic relations with the public sector. By the close of 2006, the number of participants came to 80 persons per country. The program will continue to be implemented in Colombia, Ecuador, and Venezuela.

The First-Class Ports Program is the result of several years of collaboration between CAF and the Universidad Politécnica de Valencia, Spain. The program, based on previous studies on logistics, competitiveness, maritime transport, and the performance of the principal ports of South America, aims to improve the quality of port services. During the first phase of the program five ports were chosen for their high volume of container traffic: Puerto Cabello (Venezuela), Cartagena and Buenaventura (Colombia), Guayaquil (Ecuador), and Callao (Peru). A Quality Council was set up in each port with 30 members who represent the various associations and collectives in the port community. The task of the Councils was to analyze the chain of services provided by the port and design or re-engineer critical processes

This redesign process led to the definition of requirements to be met by the different operators and other members of the port community in order to benefit from the right to use the *Marca de Garantía*. [Seal of Quality]. This consists of a management model that offers specific service quality guarantees to the clients of each port. With the imminent creation



of the Latin American Association of Port Quality, a non-profit entity that will function as the proprietor of the Marca de Garantía in the

region, the necessary institutional framework will be put in place for the sustained operation of this quality management system.

To continue supporting and strengthening the functioning of the bodies of the Inter-American System of Human Rights, promoting within the political bodies of the OAS, in the framework of the ongoing reflection process, concrete actions to achieve, among other objectives, greater adhesion to the legal instruments, an effective observance of the decisions by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and due consideration of the recommendations of the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights, and the improvement of access of the victims to the mechanisms of the system, and the adequate financing of the bodies of the System, including the fostering of voluntary contributions. (Paragraph 62)

The thematic studies examined by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) at its 122nd regular session included the enjoyment of economic, civil, and cultural rights. In this respect, the Commission held a hearing that emphasized in part the right to education in Colombia and a general hearing on the right to housing in the Americas.

During this session, with a view to the continued strengthening of its dialogue with the Caribbean, the IACHR maintained its practice of meeting with the Permanent Representatives to the OAS of numerous Caribbean Community (CARICOM) member states, in order to discuss human rights and related issues of mutual concern.

Further, the Commission adopted and published its Resolution 1/05 in which it reaffirmed the international obligation of OAS member states to comply with its precautionary measures. In the same resolution, the Commission reiterated the ethical and legal

commitment of each Commissioner not to participate in the discussion, investigation, deliberation or decision of general or specific matters presented to the IACHR's consideration when they are a national of the State under consideration, in accordance with the express requirements of Article 17 of the Commission's Rules of Procedure.

In addition, the Commission, together with the International Service of Human Rights and the Faculty of Law of the American University, co-sponsored a training course for members of civil society organizations, in which 16 sixteen human rights defenders from 10 member states of the OAS participated.

On April 25 and 26, 2006, the IACHR and the Commonwealth Secretariat co-sponsored a workshop in St John's, Antigua and Barbuda, on the ratification and implementation of international and regional human rights instruments. The workshop, convened at the

invitation of the Government of Antigua & Barbuda, provided officials from governments of the Caribbean region with intensive training on the importance of full participation in the United Nations and Inter-American human rights systems as well as the procedures involved in ratifying and implementing international and regional human rights instruments. Over 20 government officials from more than 10 Caribbean states participated.

The IACHR continues annually to hold, within the framework of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs, the dialogue between the member states and the members of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the Inter-American Commission on

Human Rights on the way the inter-American human rights system operates.

At its 126th regular session, the IACHR approved amendments to its Rules of Procedure and to its rules for the designation of special rapporteurs, in order to strengthen and increase their effectiveness.

Finally, and in accordance with the mandates of the Fourth Summit of the Americas, the Second Specialized Course for Foreign Ministry and Government Officials on the Use of the Inter-American System for the Protection of Human Rights, was held in San Jose, Costa Rica, with the sponsorship of the Inter-American Court, the IACHR, and the Inter-American Institute for Human Rights

To consolidate the Hemispheric Information Exchange Network for Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters and Extradition, support the actions for the implementation of a strategic plan for the Justice Studies Center of the Americas (JSCA), and strengthen the institutional development of the General Secretariat of the OAS in these issues, in accordance with the framework of the Meetings of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA). (Paragraph 65)

In order to make progress in the issue of extradition, the Sixth Meeting of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA-VI) was held April 24-26, 2006 in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. At this meeting, the REMJA recognized the efforts and activities of the Justice Studies Center of the Americas (JSCA) and encouraged the Center to continue its valuable work. In addition, it recommended that the Funding Plan proposed by the JSCA

be presented for consideration to the General Assembly and its next regular session. The Third Meeting of Central Authorities and Other Experts on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters and Extradition will be held in Colombia.

With regards to the Hemispheric Information Exchange Network for Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters and Extradition, the OAS has continuously updated both the public and private compo-



nents on the Mutual Assistance website. Currently, all 34 member states have provided information for their respective webpage, which provides an introduction to that country's legal system; links to legislation and model documents related to Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters and Extradition; and links to bilateral treaties and multilateral instruments<sup>12</sup>. The "Hemispheric Information Exchange Network" also includes a secure electronic communication system, which has seen an increase in the number of participants in the project from 17 to 23. Participating countries include: Argentina, The Bahamas, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El

Salvador, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, the United States, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

With regards to strengthening the institutional development of the OAS General Secretariat, the Permanent Council convened the "Special Meeting of the OAS/REMJA Working Group on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters and Extradition" in Montreal, Canada, from March 26 to 27, 2007. The purpose of this meeting was to consider how to order the work of REMJA related to the strengthening of mutual assistance and extradition in the Americas.

To cooperate with solidarity with the Haitian people in their efforts to revitalize the democratic institutions, fight poverty, and foster equitable socio-economic development, including, the creation of decent work through, among others, greater support from the international financial institutions and cooperation agencies, and implement disarmament, demobilization, and reinsertion programs (DDR), with the support of MINUSTAH and the Special Mission of the OAS for the Strengthening of Democracy in Haiti. (Paragraph 66)

The OAS Special Mission for Strengthening Democracy in Haiti has been engaged in joint activities with the Provisional Electoral Council of Haiti on the development of electoral systems that enabled the distribution of identity documents to citizens, as well as the management of vote counting and the attendant transmission of results. A mass registration and identity card distribution campaign was carried out for all citi-

zens over 18. Of a total of 4.4 million persons, 3.56 million were registered. The registration process, which generated the identity cards, also served for the automatic compilation of the voters lists that were used in both electoral processes. The permanence and security of this information will enable Haiti to hold other electoral processes in the future without the need for citizens to re-register.

12 To access the individual country pages, click on any country link on the left-hand side of the following page: <http://www.oas.org/juridico/MLA/en/index.html>.

The main purpose of this project is to transfer and lend support to the Permanent Identity Registry, from the reopening of its offices until the installation of its own identity-card printing system in Haiti, using for that purpose the current information technology resources already acquired as well trained human resources.

The project on integration of the citizen identity card issuing process, electoral processes, and the Civil Status Registry, will ensure that processes are better organized, secure and offer improved services to the general population, resulting in more-efficient services and elections. It will also yield vital statistics to help the government design development plans with consistent and prompt information from the Civil Status and Identity Registry, according to region and/or attributes.

The OAS is committed to strengthening and developing technical capacities to continue the identity documentation process and to the comprehensive modernization of the Civil Status Registry, strengthening institutions in order to hold transparent, participatory and fair elections.

Haiti is one of the **PAHO/WHO** priority countries identified for special assistance, together with Bolivia, Guyana, Honduras and Nicaragua. To these ends, exchange of information and regular high-level meetings within the OAS and PAHO task forces for Haiti took place during 2006, as well as within the Haiti Group of Friends, in which PAHO actively participated.

In these opportunities, it was agreed that a call for systematic information-sharing mechanism as a technical cooperation response to Haitian needs and commitment to improving coordination with respect to technical issues and cooperation approaches should be strongly encouraged.

Within the UN System, PAHO/WHO actively participated in the “UN Transitional Appeal” launched last December 2006 for the stabilization of Haiti.

During 2006, several PAHO/WHO high-level missions to Haiti took place in order to define a strategic agenda for health development jointly with new authorities and different partners. A special session on Haiti – “Haiti Day” – was carried out in September 2006 at PAHO Headquarters and it represented an opportunity both for the Minister of Health and Population (MoH) and his officials as well as for external partners to share views, achievements, challenges and lessons learnt regarding health priorities towards national health development in Haiti.

PAHO is working with the MoH as well as numerous other partners to restore a functioning health system for the country. PAHO/WHO's network of partners in Haiti, apart from OAS and the inter-American entities, includes the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the **IDB**, the **World Bank**, the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), the European Commission





(EC), UN agencies, non-government organizations, local health authorities and many others.

PAHO/WHO has been responsible for the distribution of vaccines and other essential drugs in Haiti through “PROMESS” and for implementing several donor funded projects. Amongst the technical issues addressed through these grants are: strengthening emergency disaster response, implementation of a comprehensive HIV/AIDS care program; regulation and access of essential generic medicines; creating healthy environments; basic health care needs of the most vulnerable and underserved; support to immunization activities; injection safety; and, scaling-up of the strategy for integrated management of childhood illnesses. PAHO/WHO’s recent efforts also included work on both humanitarian relief and addressing post-emergency health constraints.

PAHO/WHO is also working to strengthen the “Unités Communales de Santé (UCS)” and system of regional reference hospitals, applying a strategy of decentralized technical cooperation, which has proven successful in other countries for advancing local health development. The strategy of decentralized technical cooperation will also be applied to border areas with the Dominican Republic. The interdependency of the economies and populations in both Haiti and the Dominican Republic also demand a bi-national approach in many of the economic and social interventions. This bi-national approach is to be applied

particularly to diseases like malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS.

The **World Bank’s** “Haiti Electricity Loss Reduction Project” has the objective to contribute to the sustainable improvement in the quality of electricity services in Haiti to customers and to the strengthening of the financial and operational performance of the electricity public utility (EPH). The “Haiti Community Driven Development Project” will scale-up the direct transfer of public resources to local community organizations in poor rural and peri-urban communities. The “Second Economic Governance Technical Assistance Project” will further assist the Government of Haiti in strengthening its institutional capacity in the areas of public sector resource management and improved responsiveness to citizen needs and demands.

A High Level **CDB** mission visited Haiti in January 2007 to explore areas of focus, following Haiti’s inclusion as a member of CDB in 2007. The Bank is currently processing its first intervention, in conjunction with the World Bank, on education. All of CDB’s interventions in Haiti will be through the Bank’s soft window - the “Special Development Fund (SDF)”. The Bank is using the “Interim Cooperation Framework (ICF)” as the context for its work in Haiti.

**IOM’s** “Rehabilitation and Stabilization Program (PRESE)” (formerly HTI) funded by USAID, has contributed toward the stabi-

lization of troubled neighborhoods in six urban centers through community driven, labor intensive infrastructure projects, sports, culture, etc. To date, HTI/PRESE has generated 657,629 person-days of employment, and enabled 22,000 children in Cité Soleil to return to school.

IOM's "Labor Migration Project in Haiti" seeks to significantly strengthen the capacity of the Government of Haiti (GoH) to provide support and protection to Haitian migrants that regularly take up short-term wage labor opportunities in neighboring countries, and provide technical support to the GoH in formulating bilateral labor migration agreements with neighboring countries that are host to significant and

growing numbers of Haitian labor migrants. IOM achieved these objectives by supporting the formulation of bilateral labor agreements by making available legal and migration management expertise to guide a GoH consultative process that brought together relevant Haitian actors, governmental and non-governmental alike, to draw on the experience from previous bilateral labor migration agreements and formulated a comprehensive legal labor migration management strategy. The expected result of this project is: significantly enhanced GoH capacity to formulate and negotiate bilateral labor migration accords with countries in the region that receive large numbers of Haitian labor migrants.

Recognizing the interconnection between democratic governance and the economic and social development of our peoples and the theme of the Mar del Plata Summit, we request the political bodies and the General Secretariat of the OAS to continue to advance in the effective implementation of the Declaration of Florida, "Delivering the Benefits of Democracy." (Paragraph 67)

The OAS is focusing on the prevention of political-institutional crises through the strengthening of the Organization's institutional capacity to identify and analyze situations that could affect democratic governance. It is developing a multiple-scenario analysis methodology that takes into account regional characteristics that help prevent political-institutional crises and improve the Organization's response capacity. These works are mainly focused on tackling the political aspects of democratic governance, and taking

on initiatives intended to promote and strengthen democratic sustainability in the region.

In this matter, the OAS has given support to countries that have so requested, in the form of special missions. Their principal objective was to achieve understanding among the parties and solve political-institutional crises, facilitating dialogue among a wide spectrum of actors, and seeking consensus in facing the Hemisphere's challenges.



After developing the multiple-scenario-analysis methodology, the OAS will proceed in its implementation utilizing various learned techniques, and will continue to

give technical support to Special Missions that may occur or are requested by Member States and/or the Secretary General.

To request the General Secretariat of the OAS to present for the consideration of the political bodies of the Organization, before 2007, an inter-American program including the exchange of experiences and best practices to strengthen in our countries mechanisms for the participation and collaboration in governance by civil society organizations, the private sector, and the citizenry at large, specifically in the development of public policy for the generation of employment and the fight against poverty, including local governments, in a framework of inclusive social dialogue that takes into account the vulnerability of the most excluded sectors of our societies. (Paragraph 68)

In order to help fulfill its commitment to civil society participation, the OAS, through the Inter-American Government Procurement Program, supported the activities of the “Inter-American Network on Government Procurement.” This initiative seeks to improve transparency, efficiency and equity in government procurement practices in the region. A total of five workshop-seminars were held with the participation of high-ranking officers in charge of government procurement in member states. These workshop-seminars provided opportunities to exchange experiences, discuss lessons learned, and identify specific guidelines of cooperation. The countries also agreed to promote institutional cooperation to comply with the Program’s 2007 Plan of Action.

The Network also identified five priority areas of cooperation for the development of government procurement. Each of these areas was addressed at the following

Inter-American Workshop-Seminars:

- Competitive Participation of SMEs in Government Procurement, Mexico, May 2006.
- Standardization of Government Procurement Practices, Costa Rica, July 2006.
- Professional Development and Training on Government Procurement, Ecuador, September 2006.
- Strategies for Government Procurement Development, Brazil, September 2006.
- Links between Government Procurement and Financial Systems, Paraguay, September 2006
- III Conference of the Americas on Government Procurement, Peru, November 2006.

In addition, the Program’s website contributed to the dissemination of improvements and developments in the area of Government Procurement in the Hemisphere, and provided a mechanism to foster technical cooperation initiatives related to Government Procurement.

**ICA** is providing support to regional initiatives that contribute to strengthening democratic governance in LAC through the use of ICT tools. Supported initiatives in this area include the “Impact of ICTs in Local Democratic Strengthening, Transparency and Citizen Participation”, a project implemented in the municipality of Peñalolén, Chile, with the objective of analyzing the impact of implementing e-democracy and e-government strategies at the local level, with emphasis on the use and adoption of ICTs to strengthen

transparency and citizen participation. The “Hemispheric Network of E-Government Leaders (Red GeALC)”, implemented in collaboration with SEDI/OAS, has proved to be an effective mechanism that continues to be supported by ICA in its second phase of operations, to share and disseminate experiences and lessons learned on e-government practices, as a way to promote synergies, shared learning, and collaborative actions among the region’s practitioners.

To encourage, through the OAS, regional training programs in e-government, and promote the exchange of experiences with the countries that have made progress in this field. (Paragraph 69)

The **OAS** has implemented several activities in this area. With a grant from **ICA**, the OAS created the “Online Course ‘Introduction to the Formulation of Electronic Government Policies’, whose main objective is for participants to acquire and consolidate solid knowledge of the main concepts, benefits and advantages that must be present in an E-Government strategy for increased transparency, and improved administration and performance.

Currently the course, available in English, Spanish and Portuguese, has been offered in collaboration with eight institutions from around the region and to the general public. To date, over 1,880 public officials from Latin America and the Caribbean have participated in the course. During 2006, six courses were offered training 482 public

officials, including the Dominican Republic’s Presidential Office for Information and Telecommunication Technologies (OPTIC); and the Universidade du Sul in Brazil.

Plans for 2007-2008 include offering the course at least 8 more times, six open to the region and two in collaboration with interested institutions. In addition, there are plans to adapt and translate the course into French so that it may be offered in Haiti, in both electronic and traditional text format.

Another initiative supporting this commitment is the “Network of e-Government Leaders of Latin America and the Caribbean (RED GEALC)”, which was created through an initiative from the countries of the region with the support of the OAS, the ICA, as well as the **IDB**.



The members of “RED GEALC”, responsible for the advancement of electronic government in their respective countries, conceived this network as a supporting tool for their daily activities. The supporting institutions found in “RED GEALC” the perfect instrument for promoting horizontal cooperation and joint efforts among Latin American and Caribbean countries in the field of e-Government. The network is comprised of 61 members from 31 countries.

RED GEALC utilizes the following mechanisms to facilitate the exchange of experiences:

- “Virtual Working Platform”, which offers a content management tool for the decentralization of each country’s page content, a training room, virtual forums, chats, calendar, information about e-Government from each country, and an experts database;
- “Onsite Workshops” focusing on best practices in e-Government (Chile, Peru, Brazil, Trinidad and Tobago, Ottawa, Santo Domingo, Bogotá);
- Two facilitators (Caribbean and Latin America) responsible for dynamizing the network, responding to countries’ needs and implementing the working plan;
- “Horizontal Cooperation Fund (FOCOH)” that finances the exchange of experts;
- Working groups for multi-country cooperation and coordination in topics of interest for member countries. Five working groups are currently in operation;

Planned activities to further promote the cooperation and

sharing of experiences on e-Government among the countries of the region include:

- “EGobex”. An online clearing house of e-Government solutions owned by the governments of the region;
- Different workshops on mobile government, interoperability and e-government legislation.

The “MuNet” program, a joint initiative of the OAS and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), supports municipalities in their efforts to take advantage of information and communication technologies to increase efficiency, transparency and participation in their daily functioning. The program has two components, e-Government and Cadastre, both looking at providing benefiting municipalities with access to recognized experiences and experts in both areas.

As part of its e-Government activities, “MuNet” offers the municipalities a comprehensive supporting package that includes: training to the mayors of the participating municipalities; diagnosis on ICT, transparency and efficiency; training of municipal employees; consulting to prepare an e-Government strategy; virtual working space to facilitate exchanges among participating municipalities; and technological kits. Currently, 21 municipalities from 11 countries are benefiting from “MuNet” support.

During 2007, with the support of CIDA, the OAS is planning a second

version of MuNet e-Government that builds upon the experience and methodology developed through MuNet I to set up different national MuNets throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Cadastre component of the “MuNet Program”, which is supported by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA,) integrates the use of geospatial information systems (GIS) to give decision-makers an e-government tool that enables updated cadastre and land property registry to be used for better planning, increased citizen participation and even improved property tax collection.

In addition to the implementation of cadastre and land registry updating projects in participating municipalities from Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador and Venezuela, MuNet provides significant training in the incorporation of technology to improve cadastre management for better governance.

One of MuNet’s training strategies is the CD based self-study course in Spanish entitled “Cadastre Management” (Gestión Catastral). The course introduces best practices from different countries on how the latest technologies, specifically geospatial information systems (GIS), improve governance by making cadastre and land property processes more transparent and more efficient.

Between 2005 and 2006, over 410 courses have been distributed among Latin America’s public officials and practitioners through

institutional capacity building and training alliances with the Instituto Geográfico Agustín Codazzi (IGAC) in Colombia, the National Registry Center (CNR) in El Salvador, the Mexican Association of Municipalities, the International Center for Training of Local Authorities (CIFAL-Atlanta), several of Latin America’s municipal associations and individual public officials. Plans for 2007-2008 include the continued dissemination of the course across the region.

Concerning the promotion of the exchange of experiences of countries with successful experiences in this aspect of e-government, another of “MuNet’s” training components includes the organization of training seminars for information and the exchange of best practices. During 2005 and 2006, over 515 copies of CDs containing the proceedings of the seminars and best practices presented were distributed among the regions municipal associations and public servants.

In June 2006 and in collaboration with the International Center for Training of Local Authorities (CIFAL-Atlanta) and the Municipality of Quito, a training seminar for the Andean countries was organized. During the seminar, over 30 mayors and cadastre directors from Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela shared experiences, projects and plans. Specific recommendations from the seminar, in addition to the advantages of introducing electronic management tools, underscored the need for legislation on cadastre and land registry.



Activities for 2007 include the organization of a similar seminar for the Central American countries.

Through a strategic alliance with the Geospatial Software firm ESRI, specialized training in GIS has been conducted. Cadastre municipal officials from Guatemala, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Venezuela participated in a one-week long practical training seminar. In addition, the OAS has received 200 scholarships for ESRI's specialized GIS on-line training course, of which over 50 have been distributed among officials from seven of the region's countries. Plans for 2007 include the continued distribution of these scholarships on a merit-based strategy that will benefit over 50 additional municipalities in the region.

As previously mentioned, the ICA, in collaboration with the OAS, supports the "Latin American and Caribbean e-government Network (GEALC network, Phase II, [www.redgealc.net](http://www.redgealc.net))" as a concrete contribution to the achievement of

the Summit mandates in the field of democratic governance and the sharing of experiences through the use of ICT tools. Within this framework of collaboration and with the support of the Government of Canada, both organizations conducted an international workshop that took place in Ottawa, Canada, in March 2006, as a space to promote the regional dialogue and face-to-face interaction among more than 40 e-government leaders from Latin America and the Caribbean. At the OAS General Assembly, held in the Dominican Republic in June 2006 on the theme of 'Governance and Development in the Knowledge Society', "Red GeALC" was granted high recognition with Ministers of Foreign Affairs of countries of the region highlighting the role of the "Network to Advance the Knowledge Society in the Region". A paragraph devoted to the importance of the Network in the Resolution of the General Assembly is the most recent testimony of value that key regional players assign to it in the LAC region.