

REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS ON THE ACTIVITIES WITH PERMANENT OBSERVERS IN 2011

January 1 to December 31, 2011

I. INTRODUCTION

This report presents a summary of the activities carried out by the Department of International Affairs from January to December 2011 to promote voluntary cooperation with Permanent Observer countries. It is presented in accordance with General Assembly Resolution 1, rev. 1, from the Forty-Second Extraordinary Session of the OAS General Assembly, which instructs “the Secretary General, as part of his fundraising efforts, to promote and encourage, through the Secretariat for External Relations, in coordination with member states, support for the implementation of the mandates of the General Assembly, and to submit a report to the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs (CAAP) on an annual basis of the results of these efforts.”

Through informational meetings, the negotiation and presentation of projects, resource mobilization, promotion of special events and exchanges of information, DIA facilitated the active participation and collaboration of Permanent Observers in the activities and cooperation programs of the OAS General Secretariat.

In its efforts to strengthen the Organization’s ties with the Permanent Observer Missions, DIA has streamlined the sharing of information regarding the OAS’ priorities and the hemispheric agenda, as well as obtained substantive financial and in-kind support for OAS activities.

II. PERMANENT OBSERVER STATUS

DIA processed and analyzed the requests by the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Republic of Malta and the Republic of Albania to be granted the status of Permanent Observer to the OAS. The requests were considered and approved by the Permanent Council, bringing the total number of Permanent Observers to the Organization to 68¹.

III. MOBILIZATION OF FINANCIAL AND IN-KIND RESOURCES

Throughout 2011, DIA received 142 project profiles from all of the technical areas and dependencies of the Organization. Of those projects, 33 were from the Secretariat for Political Affairs; 58 from the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development; 19 from the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security; 4 from the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights; 7 from the Secretariat for Legal Affairs; 5 from the Inter-American Commission on Women; 7 from the

¹ Albania, Algeria, Angola, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, China, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, European Union, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Holy See, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Malta, Monaco, Morocco, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Vanuatu, and Yemen.

Secretariat for External Relations; 3 from the Justice Center for the Americas (CEJA); 2 from the Inter-American Children's Institute; and 2 from the Office of the Assistant Secretary General.

Based on the foreign policy objectives and international cooperation priorities of the Permanent Observers, DIA presented more than one-third of the projects received from the technical areas to the Observer countries over the course of the year. As a result of these resource mobilization efforts in conjunction with the OAS technical areas, the Organization received important cash and in-kind contributions from Permanent Observers amounting to a total of **\$16.6 million**. Still, the global financial crisis and change in regional development priorities by major donor countries continues to play a significant role in the decline in Permanent Observer contributions to the programs of the Organization.

The areas that benefited most from the cash contributions received in 2011 were the Secretariat for Political Affairs (59%), the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (12%), the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security (8%), the Secretariat for Legal Affairs (8%), and the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (4%). Moreover, the Inter-American Commission on Women, the Office of the Secretary General, the Secretariat for External Relations and other dependencies of the Organization also received contributions that added to the strengthening of their programs in the region.

Overall, the OAS received funding for over 50 different programs across all technical areas and dependencies of the Organization. Among contributions received, the top donors were: The Spain (US\$6.12 million; or 38.84%); Netherlands (US\$3.50 million; or 22.2%); Sweden (US\$1.52 million; or 9.70%); European Union (US\$1.15 million; or 7.07%); Norway (US\$643,056; or 4.08%); and France (US\$430,857; or 2.73%). In addition, the OAS obtained in-kind contributions, such as the Professional Development Programs offered by both the Governments of China and Germany; fellowships provided by the Governments of Spain, Israel, China, and The Netherlands; and the Korea-OAS Internship Program.

IV. PERMANENT OBSERVERS AT THE XLI GENERAL ASSEMBLY

DIA coordinated the annual Dialogue on Cooperation between the Heads of Delegation, the OAS Secretary General and the Heads of Delegation of the Permanent Observer Countries at the XLI Regular Session of the OAS General Assembly in San Salvador, El Salvador. At this session, representatives from 32 Permanent Observer countries met for a luncheon at the Hall of Honor of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador with the Heads of Delegation of the 34 active Member States of the OAS, the Secretary General and Assistant Secretary General to dialogue on the cooperation between the Observers and the Organization, as well as to discuss points of interest relating to the topic of the General Assembly, "Citizen Security in the Americas."

Moderated by Hugo Martinez, Minister of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador, the Dialogue saw interventions from the following Permanent Observers: Spain, France, Netherlands, Serbia, Luxembourg, Sweden, European Union, Germany, Israel, Finland, United Kingdom, China, Italy, Korea, Switzerland, Slovenia, Turkey, Belgium, Greece, Azerbaijan, Japan, Austria, Croatia, Monaco, Thailand, Qatar, and Russia. The Observers spoke on topics relating to the theme of the Assembly, their historic levels of contribution, collaboration between the OAS and other regional organizations, as well as elaborated on their intended contributions for 2011. Additionally, Observer delegations affirmed their commitment to maintaining their presence within the

Organization and to supporting, as best and as often as possible, the work of the OAS in all technical areas.

V. RELEVANT MEETINGS WITH PERMANENT OBSERVERS

In order to promote OAS programs, DIA coordinated a series of meetings and events throughout the year, in addition to the formal occasions in which the Permanent Observer representatives announce their support to the programs of the OAS.

The Secretary General traveled to Davos, Switzerland in January to participate in the World Economic Forum during which time he met with the State Secretary, Peter Maurer. During the same month, Secretary General Insulza met with the French Foreign Minister for the Americas, Elizabeth Beton-Delegue and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Serbia, Vuk Jeremic. In February, the Secretary General received a visit from a Polish delegation headed by Ewa Kinast, Deputy Director of the Department of Americas responsible for Latin America in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and later that month, hosted Christian Leffler, Deputy Director General for External Relations of the European Commission.

In March, Ambassador Alfonso Quiñonez, Secretary for External Relations, met with the Deputy Director General for the Western Hemisphere in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, Peter Potman. Secretary General Insulza likewise spoke with José Badia, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Monaco. At the end of the month, Irene Klinger, OAS Director of International Affairs, received Dorit Shavit, Deputy Director General for Latin America in the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In April, the Secretary General met with Ambassador Nuno Brito, Permanent Observer of Portugal to the OAS. The Deputy Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Israel, Haim Divon, also visited OAS Headquarters in May, and met with the Secretary General as well as other authorities of the General Secretariat.

The Director of the Department of International Affairs also had the opportunity in April to travel to Seoul, South Korea to participate in the International Conference on the Strengthening of Regional Cooperation to Promote Democracy. In maximizing her visit, she met with various authorities of the Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MOFAT) and the Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) to discuss cooperation and present priority projects for potential support.

In July, Director Irene Klinger and other specialists from the OAS technical areas received a delegation from the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany to discuss current initiatives funded by that government and to learn from the technical experts about new programs emerging from their respective areas. In August, the Secretary General met with Ambassadors Yashar Aliyev, Permanent Observer of Azerbaijan to the OAS, and Agshin Mehdiyev, Ambassador of Azerbaijan to the United Nations, to receive their contribution to the Organization in 2011, valued at US\$20,000.

Secretary General Insulza also received the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Portugal, Paulo Portas, in September. In October, the Assistant Secretary General, Ambassador Albert Ramdin, met with Anne Lammila, Ambassador of Finland to Mexico, Haiti and Cuba as well as Angus Lapsley, Director for the Americas in the United Kingdom Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Later in the month of October, the Secretary General received Ambassador Koukku-Ronde, Permanent

Observer of Finland to the OAS, and the Director of DIA met with Maria Lundqvist of the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Also in October, through coordinations made by DIA, Gianfranco Bochicchio, International Relations Officer from the European External Action Service, met with several colleagues in the OAS technical areas to discuss areas of cooperation and current initiatives of the Organization. In November, Assistant Secretary General Ramdin met with Christian Leffler of the European Union to outline the upcoming EU-OAS Policy Dialogue, to take place in the framework of the MOU signed with the European Union in 2009.

At the end of the year, meetings were arranged between Ambassador Ramdin and Ambassador Graf van Waldersee of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Germany, as well as Ambassador Quiñonez and Isabel Rauscher, Director of the Americas for the Austrian Foreign Ministry.

VI. COOPERATION AGREEMENTS BETWEEN OAS TECHNICAL AREAS AND PERMANENT OBSERVERS

In conjunction with the technical areas, DIA promoted exchanges between select Permanent Observer countries and the Department for Electoral Cooperation and Observation as well as the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR). As the IACHR prepared to unveil its Strategic Plan 2011-2015, DIA coordinated a preparatory meeting with the Permanent Observers in January to discuss the purpose and expected outcomes of the technical meeting of donors of the Commission in Ottawa, Canada on March 1-2, 2011. In September, DIA similarly arranged a meeting with the Department for Electoral Cooperation and Observation and the Permanent Observers to highlight the upcoming electoral observation missions of the Organization and spark discussion on how to better coordinate fundraising for the missions.

DIA also worked closely with the technical areas to finalize important cooperation agreements signed between the General Secretariat and specific Permanent Observer countries. The General Secretariat formalized support between the Government of France and the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights on two separate occasions for contributions totaling €183,770. Additionally, the Government of France and the General Secretariat signed an agreement for a contribution of €200,000 to the OAS Electoral Observation Mission Fund.

Likewise, DIA worked with the technical areas and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) of Germany on agreements for two major programs of the General Secretariat. The first agreement authorizes a contribution of €420,000 to the program "Promotion of the Right to Identity in Bolivia, Ecuador, Paraguay and Peru (PUICA). The second agreement, for a contribution of €500,000, supports a partnership between GIZ and the GS/OAS for the OAS Mission to Support the Peace Process in Colombia (MAPP).

DIA also began negotiations with the Government of Finland on partnering with the Organization on a program entitled, "Reconstruction of Haiti's Education Sector: Creating and Validating School Management Model and Supporting Digital Services," which will facilitate greater access to digital services across the country's education sector at a cost of approximately €2.5 million per year for at least two years. Based on conversations with the Permanent Observer Mission of Finland, the Department of Human Development, Education and Culture, as well as

representatives from the Office of the Assistant Secretary General, the OAS will best contribute to this program by serving as an interlocutor with the Haitian authorities as well as maximize the OAS' on-the-ground resources to enhance the efficiency of the program's implementation. DIA anticipates further discussions on this program and the Organization's role in the first half of 2012.

In August, DIA and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights completed an agreement with the Government of Ireland for a contribution of €100,000 to a specific component of the Commission's Strategic Plan 2011-2015, involving protection of human rights defenders in Colombia, Venezuela, and Ecuador. An agreement between the Government of Sweden and the GS/OAS was also signed for a contribution of US\$153,565 to the OAS Electoral Observation Mission to observe the elections in Guatemala. In addition, Sweden formalized its cooperation with the GS/OAS in August with a contribution of US\$1,083,345 to the MAPP program for 2011.

In September, DIA advanced with the Government of Korea through a US\$190,000 contribution to the Orchestra Program for Youths at Risk in the Caribbean: Music for Social Change. DIA also finalized in November the contribution of the Netherlands for US\$6 million, serviced in three yearly installments of US\$2 million, to the MAPP. At the same time, the Netherlands and GS/OAS also signed an agreement which allocates US\$127,594 for the OAS Electoral Observation Mission to observe the Local Elections in Colombia.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS

DIA promoted and encouraged Permanent Observer participation in OAS activities through regular announcements, communications and updates to its website regarding important events and significant contributions to OAS programs. In 2011, DIA aimed to improve access and successfully increase visibility of Permanent Observer participation in the Organization's events through enhanced outreach strategies, as well as improved donor recognition in various publications, including its 2010 Permanent Observer Success Stories, available on the website and unveiled to the Observers at the XLI Regular Session of the OAS General Assembly.