

PERMANENT COUNCIL



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DRAFT RESOLUTION

ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOINT WORKING GROUP
ON THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY AND COMBATTING INEQUALITY
AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION IN THE AMERICAS

(Presented by the Permanent Mission of Antigua and Barbuda with the co-sponsorship of the Permanent Missions of the 14 Member States of the CARICOM Group and of Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, and Colombia, with the results of the informal consultations, open to all delegations, held on October 24, 2024, and further consultations with Canada, El Salvador, and the United States)

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THE PERMANENT COUNCIL AND THE INTER-AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT (CIDI) OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

PP1. RECALLING previous resolutions and declarations of the Organization of American States (OAS) deploring the persistent challenge of poverty across the Americas, as well as the “Social Charter of the Americas”;

PP2. REAFFIRMING the firm commitment of the OAS and its Member States to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, recognizing that extreme poverty and inequality are obstacles to human dignity, social inclusion, and the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms, as expressed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Charter of the Organization of American States, the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man and the American Convention on Human Rights, the Inter-American Democratic Charter, the Inter-American Social Charter, and other international human rights instruments;

PP3. RECALLING that Article 2(g) of the Charter of the Organization of American States identifies the eradication of extreme poverty as one of the essential purposes of the Organization, and mindful that Article 94 of the same Charter underscores the role of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) in promoting integral development and helping to eliminate extreme poverty across the Americas;

PP4. ACKNOWLEDGING the significant contributions of the Inter-American Committee on Social Development (CIDES) and its ministerial process in the fight against poverty;

PP4 *bis*. NOTING that the Special Rapporteurship on Economic, Social, Cultural and Environmental Rights (REDESCA) has embarked on a project: “Public Policies to Combat Poverty and Interamerican Standards to guarantee Human Rights in the Americas”, aimed at developing policies and best practices for the eradication of poverty;

PP5. DEEPLY CONCERNED that, according to economic indicators from international financial institutions, the Latin American and Caribbean region remains the most unequal in the world and that despite efforts to reduce poverty and all of its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, significant disparities persist on access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities, particularly among women, children, people with disabilities, older persons, people of African descent, and Indigenous Peoples, among others who face heightened vulnerability;

PP6. NOTING that poverty, fueled by persistent inequality, continues to drive social and economic exclusion, irregular migration, refugees, crime, insecurity, and environmental degradation across the Hemisphere, threatening democratic governance, human rights, gender equality and sustainable development; *Argentina in consultation*

PP7. RECOGNIZING that poverty, extreme poverty, and inequality constitute factors that prevent the full realization of human rights, especially for vulnerable populations;

PP8. CONSIDERING that the COVID-19 pandemic has caused an increase in the number of people living in extreme poverty for the first time in a decade;

PP9. GUIDED by the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly Goal 1: “End poverty in all its forms everywhere,” and recognizing the necessity for a multidimensional approach that combines, *inter alia*, social protection systems, inclusive economic policies, investment in human capital, and measures to address inequality and build climate resilience; and further recognizing hunger and malnutrition as both a cause and a consequence of poverty and inequality^{1/};

PP10. ACKNOWLEDGING the importance of international cooperation in the academic and technical fields and by civil society, the private sector, philanthropic organizations and international

1 . The Delegation of Argentina announced that it will submit a footnote.

financial institutions and the multilateral development banks, playing a crucial role in innovation, investment in human capital, and sustainable development partnerships, while bearing in mind the importance of preventing conflict of interest; and

PP11. RECALLING the United Nations Pact for the Future, which stresses that poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, remains the greatest global challenge and its eradication is an indispensable requirement for sustainable development; emphasizes the importance of combating poverty in order to ensure a just and inclusive transition, particularly in the context of economic crises and climate change; reaffirms that gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls is an essential prerequisite for sustainable development; recognizes the importance of accelerating reform of the international financial architecture; and underscores the need to enhance the representation and voice of developing countries in global economic decision making, to support indebted countries and enable them to prioritize the Sustainable Development Goals, which include poverty eradication, as well as reform of the international economic system and giving developing countries a greater voice to overcome the structural inequalities that perpetuate poverty^{2/}, *Paraguay in consultations*

RESOLVES:

1. To establish a Joint Working Group of the Permanent Council and the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) on the Eradication of Poverty, Combatting Inequality and Social Exclusion in the Americas, open to all Member States, and a representative of the Secretary General (in an ex-officio capacity), without duplicating efforts of existing OAS bodies, in particular the process of the Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Social Development (REMDES), and seeking alignments and synergies with other global initiatives, and regional initiatives, such as the *Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty*, tasked with developing a comprehensive strategic plan for the eradication of poverty in the Americas, incorporating their recommendations for both immediate poverty relief measures and long-term strategies that address inequality, access to resources, social protection, and inclusive economic growth, taking account of relevant OAS documents, always respecting the right of Member States to implement the recommendations in accordance with their capabilities and circumstances.

2 . The Delegation of Argentina announced that it will submit a footnote.

2. To request the Joint Working Group to provide an assessment of the resources needed for the effective implementation of this resolution, and to work with the Permanent Council, and CIDI, Member States, and the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs (CAAP), as necessary, to identify the resources that can be allocated within the rules for the governing and costing of mandates; and to request further that the General Secretariat provide all agreed support to the Joint Working Group, including the appointment by the Secretary General of a relevant department to serve as the secretariat of the Joint Working Group, without generating additional costs, to support the functioning of the Joint Working Group, channeling resources from the department appointed to act as the secretariat.

3. To instruct the Working Group to develop its work plan, timelines, and methodology upon commencement of its activities. Within 90 days the Joint Working Group shall present their recommendations, for consideration by Member States in a joint session of the Permanent Council and the Council on Integral Development, a “*Plan of Action for Eradicating Poverty, Combatting Inequality and Social Exclusion in the Americas*” focused on the implementation of effective poverty reduction policies, programs, and measures in the region, taking into account recognized public policies with proven efficiency, including, but not limited to, those contained in the Policy Basket of the *Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty* and the *Global Partnership for Education*.

4. To invite relevant organs, entities, and agencies of the OAS and wider Inter-American system, such as the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) including the Special Rapporteurship on Economic, Social, Cultural and Environmental Rights (REDESCA), the Inter-American Commission on Women (CIM), the Inter-American Children’s Institute, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the Inter-American Social Protection Network (IASPN), the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), as well as other regional institutions such as the Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAF), the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), as well as relevant multilateral organs, entities and agencies, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP), UN-Habitat, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the World Bank and the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UN-ECLAC), among others, to contribute to the

efforts of the Joint Working Group by preparing, for consideration, timely inputs and recommendations aligned with their respective mandates, particularly those related to the realization of human rights, gender equality, social inclusion, sustainable development, and rural development.

5. To request that, upon adoption of the “*Plan of Action for the Eradication of Poverty and combatting Inequality and Social Exclusion in the Americas*”, the Secretary General convene a meeting with the participation of the senior leadership of the institutions of the Inter-American System and, in consultation with member states, invited relevant stakeholders in the academic community, philanthropic entities, civil society institutions, and the private sector, to present the Plan of Action; advise of proposals for its implementation; and seek funding commitments. .

6. To further request the Secretary General to monitor and follow up on the implementation of this resolution with periodic updates and assessments of progress on poverty eradication efforts, including a report to a joint meeting of the Permanent Council and CIDI and an updated report to the fifty-fifth regular session of the General Assembly.

7. To instruct that the final report be presented within one year of the establishment of the Joint Working Group.