

ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
GENERAL ASSEMBLY



THIRTY-SEVENTH REGULAR SESSION
PANAMA, REPUBLIC OF PANAMA
June 3–5, 2007

PROCEEDINGS VOLUME I

AG/DEC. 52 - AG/DEC. 56 (XXXVII-O/07)
AG/RES. 2259 - AG/RES. 2353 (XXXVII-O/07)

CERTIFIED TEXTS OF THE DECLARATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

GENERAL SECRETARIAT
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

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I hereby certify that this volume contains the official texts of the declarations and resolutions adopted by the General Assembly of the Organization of American States at its thirty-seventh regular session, held in Panama City, Republic of Panama, from June 3 to 5, 2007.

José Miguel Insulza
Secretary General
Organization of American States

AG/RES. 2308 (XXXVII-O/07)

**ERADICATING ILLITERACY AND FIGHTING DISEASES
THAT AFFECT INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT**

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

Resolutions CIDI/RES. 180 (XI-O/06) and CIDI/RES. 196 (XII-O/07), “Eradicating Illiteracy and Fighting Diseases That Affect Integral Development”; and

Resolution AG/RES. 2204 (XXXVI-O/06), “Eradicating Illiteracy and Fighting Diseases That Affect Integral Development,”

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that achieving integral development entails the consolidation in the Americas of basic and essential goals upon which such development can be built, such as increasing the literacy of our populations and alleviating the diseases that undermine this objective;

CONSIDERING that the Fourth Summit of the Americas set out, in paragraph 13 of the Declaration of Mar del Plata, the commitment of the Hemisphere’s leaders to developing comprehensive policies to institutionalize the fight against poverty, consolidating more democratic societies, with opportunities for all, and promoting greater access to education, health care, labor markets, and credit;

RECALLING that, similarly, Article 34.h of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS) speaks of the rapid eradication of illiteracy and the expansion of educational opportunities for all, as one of the basic goals to be pursued in the process of attaining integral development;

RECALLING ALSO that achieving universal primary education and fighting HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases were topics expressly included in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals derived therefrom;

BEARING IN MIND:

That illiteracy and functional illiteracy are the reason that a large number of people are deprived of the possibility of participating fully in processes aimed at achieving integral development and of receiving its benefits;

That there are major shortcomings and precarious conditions in the health area and in health care provision in the Americas, particularly as regards chronic, emerging, and re-emerging diseases, which in some cases seriously affect the ability of people to participate in the aforesaid processes;

That there is a link between higher levels of literacy in the population and the capacity to have ready access to and benefit from the contents of publicly disseminated materials, programs,

or campaigns—of an informative, preventive, or palliative nature—aimed at reducing health care inequities and improving health conditions in the countries of the Hemisphere;

That, at the Special Summit of the Americas and the Fourth Summit of the Americas, the Heads of State and Government expressed their concern about chronic, emerging, and re-emerging diseases, and pledged to strengthen cooperation and the exchange of information in the fight against these diseases, as well as to develop promotion, prevention, control, and treatment programs, with a view to implementing integral public health actions;

That the Declaration of Scarborough and Commitments to Action, adopted at the Fourth Meeting of Ministers of Education within the Framework of CIDI, recognizes the need to work on the high illiteracy rates in the countries of the region, proposes that the design of a regional literacy program be considered, and entrusts the OAS with studying this possibility;

That the Declaration of Mar del Plata of the Fourth Summit of the Americas supports the recommendations contained in the Declaration of Scarborough and Commitments to Action, adopted at the Fourth Meeting of Ministers of Education, and promotes literacy to ensure a democratic citizenry, foster decent work, fight poverty, and achieve greater social inclusion;

That the Plan of Action of the Fourth Summit of the Americas (Mar del Plata, Argentina, 2005) calls for the study of a literacy program within the framework of the OAS before 2008, taking into account successful experiences in the field, in order to advance towards the eradication of illiteracy; and

That the Strategic Plan for Partnership for Integral Development 2006–2009 includes, among the priority actions in the area of education, “supporting the efforts of member states to reduce high levels of illiteracy so as to ensure a democratic citizenry, facilitate decent work, fight against poverty, and achieve greater social inclusion for the entire population”;

CONVINCED that full literacy is a fundamental element in achieving more just and inclusive societies, in consolidating democracy in the Americas, and in transmitting such basic democratic values as respect for institutions and individual freedoms, tolerance, and human rights;

CONCERNED about the obstacles to integral development that arise from diseases, principally from those that have a social impact or may be related to poverty or lack of education; and

UNDERSCORING its conviction that the difficulties and challenges posed by illiteracy, poor-quality education, and health problems in the Americas can be overcome only through an approach based on solidarity that involves governments and civil society as a whole, taking into account opportunities to incorporate modules on health into formal education curriculums,

RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm the determination of the member states, as reiterated in the Declaration and Plan of Action of the Fourth Summit of the Americas and embodied in resolution AG/RES. 2204 (XXXVI-O/06), adopted by the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) at its thirty-sixth regular session, to take measures and pursue specific programs to achieve full literacy of the Hemisphere’s populations and improve the quality of

education at all levels, as well as to overcome diseases that represent obstacles to integral development.

2. To continue, as decided, the process of studying a program to move toward the elimination of illiteracy in the Hemisphere, taking into account successful experiences in the field; and, in that regard, to acknowledge the efforts undertaken in the framework of the Inter-American Committee on Education (CIE) on the proposed “Literacy Initiative” and extend the period for completing this study to December 2007.

3. To recommend that, in that process, consideration be given to best practices in member states; and, to that end, to instruct the General Secretariat to conduct, through its relevant technical areas, a study of such practices in the member states, in order to share the results obtained.

4. To request the General Secretariat, through the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) and pursuant to operative paragraphs 2 and 3 above, to resolutely support and collaborate with the member states in their efforts related to this matter.

5. To reiterate to the national authorities in the area of education the recommendation that they explore the possibility of setting a tentative date for the eradication of illiteracy in the Americas, bearing in mind the individual characteristics of each member state, in order to attain that goal as soon as possible.

6. To support the member states, through the technical areas of the General Secretariat with specific responsibility in the matter, in their efforts to eradicate illiteracy and improve the quality of education, in coordination, where appropriate, with other regional or international organizations with initiatives in the area, in particular the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

7. To take note of the valuable information contained in the Annual Report (2006) of the Director of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), “Closing the Gaps in Health in Least Protected Populations,” regarding inequities and inequalities in health and the policies and programs addressing them.

8. To strengthen formal dialogue with PAHO through the strategic partnership between the two organizations, in order to coordinate respective efforts, in the area of competence of each, with regard to health problems in the Americas and their social impact.

9. To instruct the General Secretariat to organize, in the second half of 2007, a joint meeting of the Permanent Council and the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CEPCIDI), to which PAHO and other relevant agencies would be invited, in order to put forward different perspectives and points of view regarding the links between poverty and the health status of communities in the Hemisphere, as well as possible and existing ways of improving those conditions.

10. To call upon ministers and highest-level authorities in the areas of education and health in the Hemisphere to consider the subject of this resolution.

11. To request the General Secretariat, to present an annual report, through the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI), to the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) on the implementation of this resolution.

12. To request the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session on the progress made in implementing this resolution.