



ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

FIFTH MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE
FOR THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF
DISCRIMINATION AGAINST
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (CEDDIS)
November 17-20, 2015
Cancun, Mexico

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FINAL REPORT

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I. BACKGROUND

The Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (CIADDIS) was adopted in Guatemala City, Guatemala, on June 7, 1999, at the twenty-ninth regular session of the OAS General Assembly, and came into force on September 14, 2001.

To follow up on the commitments undertaken in the Convention, Article VI thereof provides for the establishment of a Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (hereinafter CEDDIS), composed of one representative appointed by each state party and two alternates.

As of the date of this report, the Committee has held the following meetings:

Regular meetings:

- First Meeting: February 28 to March 1, 2007, Panama City, Panama
- Second Meeting: July 28 to August 1, 2008, Brasilia, Brazil
- Third Meeting: April 26 and 27, 2010, San Salvador, El Salvador
- Fourth Meeting: November 27, 28, and 29, 2012, Santiago, Chile
- Fifth Meeting: November 17 to 20, 2015, Cancun, Mexico

Special meetings:

- First Special Meeting: May 4 and 5, 2011, San Salvador, El Salvador
- Second Special Meeting: April 25 and 26, 2012, Lima, Peru
- Third Special Meeting: November 21 and 22, 2013, San José, Costa Rica
- Fourth Special Meeting: May 28 and 29, 2014, Panama City, Panama
- Fifth Special Meeting: October 7 to 10, 2014, Buenos Aires, Argentina

The Fifth Meeting of CEDDIS was held with the purpose of considering the first batch of country reports on the implementation of the CIADDIS and the Program of Action for the Decade of the Americas for Persons with Disabilities (PAD). This entailed detailed assessments by country and the adoption of general recommendations on the information reported. Time was also allotted for the election of the First Vice Chair of the Committee, for the exchange of inclusive national experiences, and for a dialogue with representatives of civil society organizations.

II. PARTICIPANTS

1. Argentina

- Silvia Bersanelli (principal member), Chair of CEDDIS
Chair of the National Advisory Committee for the Integration of Persons with Disabilities (CONADIS)
- Mariano Godachevich (first alternate)
Attorney, independent expert
- María Sofia Albertelli (support staff)
Advisor from the Human Rights Bureau of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship

2. Bolivia

- Javier Salguero (first alternate)
Director General for Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Justice

3. Chile

- Daniel Concha Gamboa (principal member)
National Director of the National Service for Disabilities (SENADIS)
- Christian Finsterbuch (support staff)
Chief, Law and Disabilities Subdepartment, SENADIS
- Natalia Nesbet Reus (support staff).
Attorney, Law and Disabilities Subdepartment, SENADIS

4. Colombia

- Juan Pablo Salazar Salamanca (principal member)
Chair of the National Disabilities Council (CND) and Advisor to the Presidential Plan for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities

5. Costa Rica

- Francisco Azofoifa (principal member)
Executive Director of the National Council of Persons with Disabilities (CONAPDIS)

- Ericka Álvarez Ramírez (first alternate)
Office Director of the Vice Presidency of the Republic of Costa Rica, Permanent Spokesperson for the Presidential Social Council on disability issues, and Coordinator of the Advisory Council for Persons with Disabilities
- Damaris Solano Murillo (second alternate)
Civil Society Representative to the CONAPDIS Governing Board
- Mariana Villareal Amayo (support staff)
CONAPDIS Legal Advisor

6. Ecuador

- Giovanni Rivadeneira (second alternate)
Disabilities Ombudsman of the National Council for Disabilities (CONADIS)

7. El Salvador

- Darling Azucena Mejía Pineda (special accredited participant)
Head of issues relating to persons with disabilities and elderly adults for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

8. Guatemala

- Miriam Noemí Leal de Stwolinsky (principal member), Second Vice Chair
Treasurer of the Executive Board of the National Council for the Care of Persons with Disabilities (CONADI)
- Julio Roberto Bámaca Delgado (first alternate)
Principal member of the CONADI's Organizations of Persons with Hearing Impairments
- Ana Verónica Simaj (special accredited participant)
Representative of the Guatemala Social Security Institute

9. Mexico

- Jesús Eduardo Toledano Landero (principal member)
Director General of the National Council for the Development and Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (CONADIS)
- María Juana Soto Santana (second alternate)
CONADIS Deputy Director of Training and Inclusion
- Aridahí Quijada Alva (support staff)
CONADIS Director of Health and Social Welfare Strategies Advancement

- Alicia Loza (support staff)
CONADIS Director of International Affairs and Autonomous Bodies

10. Panama

- Magali Díaz Aguirre (first alternate)
Deputy Director General of the National Secretariat for Disabilities (SENADIS)
- Sister Ana Fisher (second alternate)
President of the *Totus Tuus* Foundation
- Emna Espinosa (special accredited member)
SENADIS National Director of Sector Policies

11. Paraguay

- Rocío Soledad Florentín Gómez (principal member)
Minister, National Secretariat for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (SENADIS)
- Mirtha López Filippini (first alternate)
SENADIS Office Director
- Alejandro Penoni (special accredited member)
SENADIS Director of Technical Aid

12. Peru

- Gloria Elizabeth Calle Ato (second alternate)
Director of Regulations for the National Council for the Integration of Persons with Disabilities (CONADIS)

OAS General Secretariat

- Betilde Muñoz-Pogossian
Director of the Department of Social Inclusion/Technical Secretariat of CEDDIS
- Mercedes Carrillo
Legal Officer of the Department of Social Inclusion/Technical Secretariat of CEDDIS

Special guest

- Jorge Araya
Secretary of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

III. PROCEEDINGS

The Fifth Meeting of CEDDIS took place at the Presidente Intercontinental Hotel in the city of Cancun, Mexico. The working sessions were chaired by the Committee Chair, Ms. Silvia Bersanelli.

The inaugural session was led by Mr. Juan Lorenzo Ortégón Pacheco, Secretary of Health, on behalf of the Constitutional Governor of the State of Quintana Roo; Mr. Jesús Toledano Landeros, Principal Representative of Mexico to CEDDIS; Ms. Silvia Bersanelli, Chair of CEDDIS; and Ms. Betilde Muñoz-Pogossian, Director of the OAS Department of Social Inclusion (DSI), which acts as Technical Secretariat for the Committee.

The speeches all emphasized that the inter-American system was the world pioneer in adopting the first legally binding instrument (the CIADDIS) designed to bring discrimination against persons with disabilities to light and to guide the quest for inclusive public policies, thus paving the way for the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities adopted seven years later.

The speakers emphasized that one of the Organization of American States' most important contributions to the continent has been the establishment of forums like CEDDIS through which the states can review the progress made and difficulties encountered in eliminating discrimination, while at the same time building strong international-cooperation ties. They also stressed that the information collected and processed through the CIADDIS compliance reports constitutes an important reference on the situation of persons with disabilities in the Americas, due to the diversity of countries that participate in this process and the credibility of the national participants who compile the basic information. The inaugural speeches echoed the slogan of the OAS Secretary General, Mr. Luis Almagro: "*more rights for more people*," which means working together with the member states to generate conditions for the enjoyment of the rights already enshrined in the region's legal frameworks; they also noted that the evaluation of the CIADDIS country reports will reveal the areas that must be strengthened in order to guarantee the full exercise of rights for persons with disabilities. In turn, this will make it possible for the OAS to prioritize its technical-assistance initiatives for the member states.

After the welcome speeches, Mr. Juan Lorenzo Ortégón Pacheco formally opened the Fifth Meeting of CEDDIS.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2015

The CEDDIS Chair requested that the participants introduce themselves and welcomed the new members of CEDDIS. Immediately thereafter the working sessions began, as set forth on the agenda.

A. FIRST SESSION

1. *Overview of 2014-2015 CEDDIS activities*

1.1 Monitoring of the CIADDIS-PAD

The CEDDIS Technical Secretariat began with a presentation of the meeting's context for the new Committee members appointed over the course of 2015, reviewing the objectives of the CIADDIS, its adoption by the OAS General Assembly in 1999, the status of signatures and ratifications (the instrument currently has 21 signatures, 18 ratifications, and 1 accession, from Honduras), and the monitoring mechanism. To that end, the Technical Secretariat explained the makeup of CEDDIS, its roles of examining the progress made in the implementation and enforcement of the Convention and providing a forum for the exchange of experiences among the states parties, and the status of its ongoing activities.

With regard to the Second Country report on compliance with the CIADDIS, the Secretariat reviewed the various meetings that have been held by CEDDIS since 2008 in order to draw up and adopt a set of targets, indicators, and descriptors in several thematic areas, which culminated in the 2015 adoption of a single form for evaluating the CIADDIS and the PAD.^{1/} This form was circulated to the permanent missions of the member states to the OAS on July 15, 2015, together with the official request for the Second Compliance Report to be evaluated at the Fifth Meeting.

1.2 Regional observatory for inclusion

The Secretariat presented the prototype of the regional observatory for inclusion that it had created for monitoring the PAD (SEDISCAP) and that is expected to be launched in the first half of 2016. It was explained that this platform will thematically group the public policies, national programs, legislation, and good practices being implemented in the various countries of the region in order to improve the inclusion of persons with disabilities based on the information reported by the countries in their national CIADDIS-PAD compliance reports, with the idea of improving the visibility of their efforts. The observatory will also serve as center for the dissemination of national and international regulatory frameworks, events, publications, articles, and all types of information of interest to persons with disabilities, at the service of society and the government organizations that may find such information useful in designing their public agendas.

The Committee agreed to form a working group that will monitor the development of the observatory until its formal launch. This monitoring will include the validation of accessibility standards. The group will be formed by the following six countries, with Mexico as overall coordinator:

- Argentina
- Bolivia

1. For detailed information on the course of this process, see the Final Report of the Fifth Special Meeting of CEDDIS held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from October 7 to 10, 2014 (document CEDDIS/doc.9(V-E/14)), available at (in Spanish): http://www.oas.org/es/sedi/ddse/documentos/Discapacidad/Informe%20final_V%20Reuni%C3%B3n%20Extraordinaria.docx

- Chile
- Mexico
- Panama
- Paraguay

1.3 CEDDIS data bank of good practices

The data bank of good practices will be a catalog of successful and innovative experiences fostered by CEDDIS that will be disseminated in order to promote the visibility and recognition of the domestic efforts undertaken by government, private sector, and civil society entities that have had a positive, effective impact on the social inclusion of persons with disabilities. The data bank will disseminate experiences in the categories of accessibility, awareness raising, access to justice, labor and educational inclusion, innovation/new technologies, community-based health/rehabilitation, social awareness, public or private management, and sports/leisure/recreation.

The Secretariat presented the progress made on the platform that will store this data bank, which was developed through a consultancy executed out of Chile's SENADIS.

The Committee agreed to form a working group that will monitor the development of the data bank of good practices, to include validation of the accessibility and content standards. This group is made up the following six countries, with Chile as overall coordinator:

- Argentina
- Chile
- Colombia
- Costa Rica
- Guatemala
- Peru

1.4 Instruction manual on supports and safeguards

The Technical Secretariat explained that, during the Third Special Meeting of CEDDIS in November 2014, a working group formed by Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Chile, Panama, and Peru was set up to draft an instruction manual targeted at legal stakeholders, legislators, and other civil servants of the states of the region in order to help clarify "how" to establish the supports and implement the safeguards referred to in Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The Secretariat recalled that at the May 2014 Fourth Special Meeting, this group had agreed to use questionnaires addressed to public-sector employees and civil society representatives as a tool for gathering the basic information needed for the manual. To that end, Peru initially proposed five questionnaires, four of which were addressed to public-sector employees (i.e., of the justice, prison, notary, and registry systems), and one of which was addressed to civil society organizations. These proposals were reviewed during the working group's first meeting, held in Lima in April 2015, where it was recommended that the four questionnaires addressed to public-sector employees be merged into one single questionnaire.

Argentina and Brazil presented a new proposal with two questionnaires (one for the public sector and the other for civil society), which were distributed to the countries for comments in April 2015. Brazil, Colombia, El Salvador, Panama, and Uruguay returned comments, and several validation rounds were held at the Committee and Chair levels. The countries began to distribute the questionnaires among their domestic agencies on September 1, 2015, with October 30, 2015 established as the deadline for returns.

The Technical Secretariat reported that, as of the date of the Fifth Meeting, a total of 143 questionnaires had been received (70 from the public sector and 73 from civil society) from among the following seven participating countries:^{2/}

COUNTRY	GOVERNMENT/PUBLIC SECTOR	CIVIL SOCIETY	TOTAL/COUNTRY
ARGENTINA	11	11	22
BRAZIL	6	3	9
CHILE	25	48	73
COLOMBIA	6		6
EL SALVADOR	9	6	15
PANAMA	11	4	15
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	2	1	3
TOTAL	70	73	143

On the suggestion of the Committee authorities, time will be allotted for reviewing the status of this issue on the agenda of the Sixth Regular Meeting. During that review, the date will be set for the working group's next meeting, which will be held to process the information collected in the questionnaires and to develop the manual's initial contents.

1.5 Synergies with the United Nations

The Technical Secretariat reiterated the cooperation commitment entered into in 2011 by and between CEDDIS and the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which consists in the duties of disseminating information about either body's events or publications in their political forums and civil society networks; sharing, at the Secretariat level, issues that deserve to be raised for the consideration of either Committee or of their political forums; moving to always have a representative of the UN or of the OEA, as applicable, present at their institutional events on disabilities, in order to incorporate the regional or global perspective on the issue being addressed; and mutually recognizing each other as resources for consultation; among other actions.

2. Ecuador and Bolivia also sent new questionnaires on January 13 and February 9, 2016, respectively.

The Secretariat explained that because of that commitment, a representative of the United Nations Committee was present at CEDDIS's First, Second, Third, and Fourth Informal Meetings in New York (2011-2012-2014-2015), as well as at its Fourth Regular Meeting in 2012.

At the Fifth Regular Meeting, the Chair and Secretariat of the United Nations Committee were invited to explore joint initiatives for the celebration of the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities (2006-2016) and of the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Convention.^{3/}

2. CEDDIS financial situation

In Resolution AG/RES. 2663 (XLI-O/11) of June 2011, the OAS General Assembly resolved “to reaffirm the importance of voluntary contributions to the ‘Specific Fund for the Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities’ (CP/RES. 947 (1683/09), created to supplement the financing of the activities of the Committee and its Technical Secretariat; to invite member states and permanent observers, as well as individuals and institutions, both public and private, national and international, to make contributions to the Fund; and to request the Secretary General to take steps to raise new resources for the Fund.”

The Second Special Meeting of CEDDIS in Lima, Peru, on April 25 and 26, 2012, addressed the annual operational needs of CEDDIS and its Technical Secretariat, and concluded that the approximate amount of US\$222,751.47 would make it possible to:

- carry out activities aimed at furthering the CIADDIS and monitoring compliance therewith;
- hire a full-time employee to handle large Committee-assigned tasks;
- translate CEDDIS documents;
- publish CEDDIS observations or manuals;
- engage in specific consultancies for investigations, diagnostics, or other products mandated by the Committee;
- hold meetings, among other activities.

The then-Chair of the Committee, Ms. Vanda Pignato, First Lady of the Republic of El Salvador and Secretary of Social Inclusion, suggested to the delegates in attendance that the estimated budget be divided equally among all of the states parties in order to guarantee a larger margin of efficiency. This suggestion was unanimously welcomed by the plenary.^{4/}

The experts in attendance expressed their willingness to make their utmost efforts towards attaining the backing of their respective governments, and to that end, they adopted resolution CEDDIS/RES. 3 (II-E/12) “Contributions to the Specific Fund for the Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities,” in which the Committee states that

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3. These initiatives are discussed further below in the section on the speeches by the Chair and Secretary of the United Nations Committee (See *infra* sixth session, point 2)
 4. A total of 12 out of 18 states party to the CIADDIS were present at the Second Special Meeting of CEDDIS.

it has taken note of the estimated annual cost of its operations and has committed to taking measures to garner the support of its governments for a reasonable amount with regard to the amount reflected in the annual budget and the number of states parties to the CIADDIS, with the value of each annual contribution being calculated starting from US\$15,000 (fifteen thousand United States dollars) per state.

As of the date of the Fifth Meeting of CEDDIS, the following contributions were reported to have been received since 2012:

TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED (IN US\$)					
	2012	2013	2014	2015	CONTRIBUTION/COUNTRY
CHILE			27,926.19	13,148.37	41,074.56
COLOMBIA		10,000.00			10,000.00
ECUADOR	14,978.69				14,978.69
EL SALVADOR	15,000.00				15,000.00
PANAMA			11,704.00		11,704.00
PERU	5,000.00	15,002.28	8,840.88		28,843.16
TOTAL	34,978.69	25,002.28	48,471.07	13,148.37	121,600.41

The Technical Secretariat reported that a total of US\$97,092.75 had been executed from 2012 to 2015 and that the available funds came to US\$24,507.66. This amount was a priori predicted to be insufficient for covering the Committee's operating costs for the entire year of 2016, which will include, among other expenses, those derived from the following activities:

- Sixth Meeting of CEDDIS;
- Translation of the CIADDIS-PAD country reports submitted by Brazil and Haiti, for evaluation by the Committee;
- Support for the host country in terms of expenses for the second meeting of the working group for developing the instruction manual on supports and safeguards; and
- Launch of the regional observatory on disabilities.

The CEDDIS Authorities appealed to the countries on the importance of their contributions in ensuring the continuity of the Committee's work.

3. *Official presentation of the rapporteurship on the exercise of legal capacity by persons with disabilities*

The Secretariat of CEDDIS presented and handed out the electronic version of the first regional diagnostic on the exercise of legal capacity by persons with disabilities to the delegations. This diagnostic was prepared by Mr. Pablo Rosales, former principal delegate of Argentina to CEDDIS and Special Rapporteur on the topic. The Committee adopted this rapporteurship in November 2013. The Secretariat explained that the published version would be sent by courier (multiple copies) to the delegates who requested it at the postal address that they would be so kind as to indicate.

B. SECOND SESSION

1. *Methodology for the evaluation of the Second CIADDIS-PAD Compliance Report*

The Technical Secretariat reminded the participants of the methodology for the evaluation of the CIADDIS-PAD reports discussed at the fourth informal meeting of CEDDIS held in New York in June 2015 and set out in the minutes thereof, which were circulated as a working document for the Fifth Meeting of CEDDIS. The Secretariat explained to the delegates that, pursuant to the discussions held in New York, the reports will be evaluated through individual country data sheets containing the following fields:

- Progress made;
- Aspects that concern the Committee;
- Observations/recommendations to ultimately further an agenda for compliance with the CIADDIS and PAD objectives.

Since the original timeline for the presentation of the second CIADDIS reports was between July 15 and October 15, 2015, the original methodology suggested that as the reports were received (which would occur before the end of the period) they would be given to the evaluating working group for initial review during the month prior to the Fifth Meeting (from October 15 to November 15, 2015).

The working groups were set up as follows:

GROUP	MEMBERS	RESPONSIBLE FOR EVALUATING REPORTS FROM:
Group 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guatemala • Paraguay • Venezuela 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colombia • Chile • El Salvador
Group 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bolivia • Colombia • Peru 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecuador • Mexico • Dominican Republic

Group 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chile• Costa Rica• El Salvador	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Brazil• Peru• Uruguay
Group 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Argentina• Dominican Republic• Uruguay	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Guatemala• Haiti• Nicaragua
Group 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Haiti• Nicaragua• Panama	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bolivia• Paraguay• Venezuela
Group 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Brazil• Ecuador• Mexico	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Argentina• Costa Rica• Panama

At the Fifth Meeting in Mexico, the six aforementioned groups would participate in roundtable discussions in order to consolidate their opinions and incorporate them into one data sheet per country. To that end, the Secretariat circulated a proposed data sheet (Document 7) that would serve as a tool for analyzing the information contained in the country reports. This data sheet included three parts:

- (i) A first part for evaluating the quality of the information provided (evaluation of form) that would assess the following aspects (one per indicator):
 - Credibility of the source: to be evaluated as “high,” “medium,” or “low”
 - Topicality: to be evaluated as “high,” “medium,” or “low”
 - Applicability: (meant to determine whether the report contains all of the information requested): to be evaluated as “high,” “medium,” or “low”
 - Relevance: to be evaluated as “high,” “medium,” or “low;”
- (ii) A second part for evaluating the progress made and difficulties reported (qualitative evaluation) that would include the following aspects (one per thematic area):
 - Advancements
 - Opportunities
 - Strengths
 - Challenges
 - Threats;
- (iii) Lastly, a third part for making recommendations or suggestions to the country that would propose solutions to the concerning aspects specifically identified in the analysis.

2. *Changes made to the methodology for evaluating the national CIADDIS-PAD reports*

After reviewing the originally proposed methodology, the Chair of CEDDIS explained that it would necessarily have to be modified due to the following reasons:

- Not all of the countries were in attendance, which a priori made it impossible to form the six working groups planned;
- Not all of the countries had submitted their reports as of the date of the Fifth Meeting;
- The one-month period originally agreed upon for each report to be reviewed by the corresponding group (October 15 to November 15) had been considerably shortened due to the report submission extension requested by several countries.

Due to the foregoing reasons, the Chair opened a round of comments on the changes that would have to be made to the evaluation methodology, which gave rise to the modifications explained below.

2.1 Changes to the evaluation form

The following three sections, which were suggested in the debate of proposals held among the experts, were approved for the new evaluation form:

(i) *Quality of the information provided.* This section evaluates three criteria per indicator:

- Applicability of the information, to be determined as follows:
 - High: 67% to 99% of the requested descriptors were appropriately responded to
 - Medium: 34% to 66% of the requested descriptors were appropriately responded to
 - Low: 0% al 33% of the requested descriptors were appropriately responded to
- Topicality, to be determined as follows:
 - High: information issued between 2010 and 2015
 - Medium: information issued between 2005 and 2009
 - Low: information issued in 2004 or before
- Source of the information, to be determined as follows:
 - Official information: information issued by public state bodies
 - Unofficial information: information from a non-government source such as private corporations or civil society organizations

- (ii) *Qualitative evaluation:* This section evaluates the following aspects by thematic area.^{5/}
- Notable actions
 - Challenges
- (iii) *Recommendations or suggestions for the countries:* In making these, the Committee will follow these guidelines:
- One recommendation will be made per indicator;
 - Simple language must be used;
 - The aim is to influence the decision-makers/stakeholders with the capacity to define/modify policies or generate the information;
 - The recommendations must be “SMART,” that is, specific, measurable, available, relevant (proactive), and time-bound;
 - The recommendations must encourage the creation of an action / improvement plan that leads to compliance with the CIADDIS-PAD objectives.

The foregoing changes to the evaluation form were all unanimously approved by the committee members present.

2.2 Changes to the makeup of the working groups

At the suggestion of Paraguay’s principal representative, Rocío Florentín, the Committee unanimously approved setting up new working groups by draw, in which all of the experts in attendance at the Fifth Meeting would participate. Since some delegations were represented by more than one member (as they had an alternate member and/or support staff present in addition to the principal member), the possibility of the same country participating in several working groups was approved, in order to optimize the expertise of all the members of the delegation.

As a result of the Technical Secretariat’s drawing of lots in the conference room, the new groups were set up as follows:

-
5. That is, one evaluation each on education; health; employment; societal awareness-raising; accessibility; political participation; welfare and social aid; participation in cultural, artistic, sports, and recreational activities; access to justice; violence-free lives; services during emergencies, catastrophes, and national disasters; international cooperation.

GROUP	MEMBERS	RESPONSIBLE FOR EVALUATING THE REPORT OF:
Group 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chile • El Salvador • Paraguay 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bolivia
Group 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Argentina • Bolivia • Peru 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chile
Group 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costa Rica • Mexico • Panama 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peru
Group 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colombia • Ecuador • Guatemala 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Argentina
Group 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costa Rica • Guatemala • Panama 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paraguay
Group 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Argentina • Mexico • Paraguay 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panama
Group 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chile • Mexico • Paraguay 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costa Rica
Group 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costa Rica • Guatemala • Panama 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mexico
Group 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Argentina • Chile • Costa Rica 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colombia

Brazil's report, which was also received within the established period, will be evaluated during the Sixth Meeting of CEDDIS since there were not enough experts in attendance at the Fifth Meeting to set up a tenth evaluation group.

After the working groups had been established, the CEDDIS Chair explained that the days of November 18 and 19 would be dedicated to the working groups' evaluation of the country reports, to be followed by a plenary session in which groups would share the following:

- Difficulties in processing and analyzing the information;
- Aspects of the analysis or ways to expedite it;
- General considerations or recommendations for improving the agreed upon report-analysis methodology.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18-THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2015

From 9:00 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday November 18 and 19, 2015, the nine evaluating groups met in roundtables in order to begin reviewing the country reports assigned to them by draw.

The following are some photos of the working groups:



Group 1
Experts from Paraguay, Chile, and El Salvador
at the roundtable



Group 2
Experts from Peru, Bolivia, and Argentina
at the roundtable



Group 3
Experts from Costa Rica, Panama, and Mexico
at the roundtable



Group 4
Experts from Colombia, Ecuador, and Guatemala
at the roundtable



Group 5
Experts from Costa Rica, Guatemala, and
Panama
at the roundtable



Group 6
Experts from Paraguay, Argentina, and Mexico
at the roundtable



Group 7
Experts from Paraguay, Chile, and Mexico
at the roundtable



Group 8
Experts from Guatemala, Panama, and Costa Rica
at the roundtable



Group 9
Experts from Chile, Costa Rica, and Argentina
at the roundtable



Photo of all of the roundtables

C. THIRD SESSION

1. *Comments on the implementation of the methodology*

At the end of the two days of evaluation (November 17 and 18) and before the meeting closed for the day on November 18, a session was held so that the groups could share their experiences of the evaluation process. These were the main observations made by the experts:

- (i) When consulting certain web pages that were listed by some countries as information sources, the groups often found relevant information that the countries had not

included in their reports. The experts considered it more appropriate to complete their evaluations based on data strictly provided in the report they were charged with assessing, but indicated that the country's omission of information could have a considerable impact on the results of the evaluation, as such omissions would make it impossible for the experts to fully take into account all of the progress made.

- (ii) For some indicators, the countries provided information unrelated to what was requested. For example, some responses discussed initiatives planned for the future rather than ongoing ones, but activities yet to be completed cannot be evaluated. Some experts noted that when the information provided is irrelevant, neither the source nor the topicality thereof should be evaluated, and the omission should be documented in order to make it possible to assess the progress made from the time of this first evaluation until the Third Compliance Report.
- (iii) Figures obtained using calculation methodologies other than those requested by CEDDIS were identified in the quantitative indicators.
- (iv) Some responses to certain indicators were based on sources of information issued on different dates, which made it difficult to measure the "topicality" variable.
- (v) Some responses named institutions that were not well identified or that were not the entities par excellence responsible for the subject, as sources of information. The Committee reiterated that, pursuant to the form's methodological note, the internal process of gathering information on certain issues should be coordinated with the entities in charge of same (for example, health indicators should be worked on with the Ministry of Health, while education indicators should be worked on with the Ministry of Education).
- (vi) The countries identified important pieces of data in the report's "General Information" section, but did not readdress them in the sections on the related indicators. Despite this oversight, the experts recommended taking such information into account when devising recommendations for the countries.
- (vii) It was not possible to make recommendations regarding all indicators in all cases due to the holes identified in the reports.
- (viii) The recommendations must be ordered by importance and implementation potential. It was noted that when no response was given for a certain indicator, the recommendation necessarily addressed the need to provide such information.
- (ix) Numerous abbreviations were used without the name of the entity or program having been spelled out.

2. *Reflections with a view to the Third Report*

Based on the observations made by the experts after the pilot evaluation exercise, it became apparent that the following issues, which will be applicable to the Third CIADDIS-PAD Report to be presented in 2019, must be addressed at a later meeting:

- (i) The need to extend the deadline for preparing the reports: Numerous experts were of the opinion that one of the significant issues that could have had led to the lack of more detailed responses to the indicators (since in many cases the information was in fact available, as gleaned from the sources consulted by the evaluating groups themselves) was that the timeline established for completing the report (three months) was not long enough for gathering and filling out all of the information, especially due to the number of government agencies involved in the process. The experts concluded that this timeline should be rethought.
- (ii) Glossary of abbreviations: A request for a glossary of all of the abbreviations to be used must be included in the methodological note.
- (iii) Controversial indicators: Indicator 2.3 of the Section on Political Participation ((POL 2.3 “Persons with disabilities exercise the civil right to vote”) was flagged. In the opinion of some experts, although this indicator was designed to measure the accessibility of electoral processes, the very generation of the data requested could lead to discrimination insofar as it would entail the creation of a parallel electoral register that would “label” persons with disabilities as such. The experts spoke of the need to review the indicators in order to eliminate or reformulate potentially questionable ones.
- (iv) Crosscutting indicators: The experts felt that the indicators in the “Accessibility” section applied to all thematic areas, making it necessary to analyze whether this individual section should be eliminated in order to include the issue of accessibility in all of the different areas.
- (v) Breakdown by thematic area: Difficulties were reported in measuring “Participation in cultural, artistic, sports, and recreational activities” due to the variety of actions that had been reported within the same indicator. This meant that the experts were faced with the complex task of separating out the information by area, and the state had the equally difficult job of combining all of the inputs it received from different government entities into one single response. The experts recommended adopting separate indicators for each area in order to facilitate monitoring of the progress made and the difficulties encountered therein.

3. *Decisions adopted*

After a lengthy exchange of opinions, the Committee adopted the following decisions:

- (i) *To request supplementary information from the nine states^{6/} whose reports were evaluated (unanimously approved);*

The CEDDIS Authorities acknowledged the efforts made by the countries who had submitted their reports by the set deadlines, concluding that the omission of certain information that was in fact available partly resulted from the brevity of the period established for completion. Because of this, the Committee approved the concession of a new deadline, namely, **March 1, 2016,**^{7/} for these nine states to expand their reports pursuant to Article 3.f of the CEDDIS Rules of Procedure, which sets forth the following:

Article 3. Terms of reference of the Committee

The Committee shall consider and analyze the reports presented by the states parties and serve as the forum for assessing progress in the application of the Convention, for the exchange of experience among states parties, and for providing guidance on uniform preparation of reports to be presented by the states, as provided in Article VI, paragraphs 3 and 5. In fulfillment of these mandates, the Committee shall have the following terms of reference:

- f. Request the states parties to expand their reports, provide additional information on specific aspects or supplementary documentation, or address any other matter deemed advisable to achieve a better understanding of the contents of the reports presented and to facilitate their consideration with a view to assessing the progress made in fulfillment of the Convention's objectives.*

The Chair of CEDDIS stressed that the deadline was not extended in order for the countries to generate nonexistent information but rather for them to add the information that was available at the time of the Fifth Meeting but had not been included due to the pressing nature of the previous deadline. This is because the baseline must be established based on current conditions in order to make it possible to measure the evolution over the next four years.

- (ii) *To invite civil society organizations to submit supplementary reports to accompany the official report that will be submitted by the state and published by the OAS, indicating that if they prefer to directly participate in the preparation of said official report in cooperation with the national office in charge thereof (CONADIS/SENADIS or similar agency) they may do so, and to that end, must contact that office in order to establish how they will coordinate (unanimously approved);*

6. Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru.

7. On February 25, 2016, the permanent missions and representatives of these nine states to CEDDIS were informed that, by instruction of the Chair and at the request of two countries, this deadline was extended to **March 30, 2016.**

The Technical Secretariat recalled that, in order to promote civil society participation, in July 2015, CEDDIS sent an invitation to all of the organizations registered with the OAS, asking them to submit their reports keeping in mind the following guidelines approved by CEDDIS at the fourth informal meeting in New York in June 2015:

- (i) Civil society organizations may prepare their reports using the same official form that has been distributed to the OAS member states. This does not, however, mean that they may not submit free format reports when it would be too complicated to use the official form.
- (ii) The reports should contain an introductory page with a list of the civil society organizations that participated in the preparation thereof.
- (iii) The period established for civil society organizations to submit their reports was the same as the period granted to the states: from July 15 to October 15, 2015.
- (iv) It is highly recommended that only one report be submitted per country, and the Committee thus encouraged the civil society organizations to work together in order to avoid duplicating their efforts.
- (v) Sources must be listed for all of the information reported by the civil society in the report, in order for that information to be considered.
- (vi) When the civil society does not have the quantitative data required for certain indicators on the official form, those indicators can be responded to with qualitative data (narratively).

By the end of the report-submission period, no contributions had been received from the civil society, and therefore, other forms of potential civil society participation were analyzed. The Secretariat recommended to the experts that the call issued by the OAS also be published by the CONADIS in order to ensure maximum dissemination.

The Committee recommended substituting the idea of *alternative* reports with that of *supplementary* ones, making it possible for the civil society to consult the official report already submitted by the states prior to making its own contributions. To that end, the need to publish the official reports was discussed, and the Committee unanimously decided that the country reports to be published would be the reports that already include the expansions requested pursuant to Article 3.f of the CEDDIS Rules of Procedure, rather than the preliminary versions assessed at the Fifth Meeting. The purpose of this is to ensure that the civil society will be able to prepare its reports using the most complete version of the country report as a reference.

Once the expanded reports are received from the first set of countries evaluated at the Fifth Meeting, they will be published on the OAS web page and the civil society will be asked to submit their supplementary reports before the Sixth Meeting of CEDDIS.

It was also agreed that the foregoing does not rule out the possibility of civil society organizations participating in the preparation of the official report itself, for which they must coordinate with their respective CONADIS/SENADIS.

(iii) *To eliminate indicator 2.3 from the Section on Political Participation “Persons with disabilities exercise the civil right to vote (approved with 10/12 votes in favor).^{8/}*

For the reasons indicated in point 2 supra, the Committee decided to eliminate this indicator in order to avoid the risk that it could result in discrimination.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2015

D. FOURTH SESSION

Expansions requested by the evaluating groups

In accordance with the Committee’s decision to request supplementary information from the nine states whose reports were evaluated, the evaluating groups were asked to tell the plenary which specific sections of the reports needed to be expanded, so that this information could then be passed to the countries through their permanent missions.

The spokespersons for the groups each reported the need to expand Part II of the report, entitled “Compliance Report,” as follows:

Group 1

Group 1 recommended that BOLIVIA expand the information provided on the following areas:

- Participation in cultural, artistic, and recreational activities;
- Access to justice;
- Specialized services in emergencies, catastrophes, and natural disasters;
- International cooperation.

Group 2

Group 2 recommended that CHILE expand the information provided on the following areas:

- Education;
- Health;
- Accessibility;
- International cooperation;
- Political participation;
- Anything else that the state deems advisable.

8. Mexico and Peru abstained from voting.

Group 3

Group 3 recommended that PERU expand the information provided on the following areas:

- Education;
- Health;
- Employment;
- Accessibility;
- Political participation;
- Participation in cultural, artistic, sports, and recreational activities;
- Access to justice;
- Specialized services in emergencies, catastrophes, and natural disasters.

Group 4

Group 4 recommended that ARGENTINA expand the information on all of the areas it deems relevant.

Group 5

Group 5 recommended that PARAGUAY expand the information provided on all areas of Part II of the report.

Group 6

Group 6 recommended that PANAMA expand the information provided on all areas of Part II of the report.

Group 7

Group 7 recommended that COSTA RICA expand the information provided on all areas of Part II of the report.

Group 8

Group 5 recommended that PARAGUAY expand the information provided on all areas of Part II of the report.

Group 9

Group 9 recommended that COLOMBIA expand the information provided on all areas of Part II of the report, except for the “international cooperation” area.

E. FIFTH SESSION

Inclusive national experiences

At the Fifth Meeting of CEDDIS, time was allocated to the sharing of inclusive national experiences in order to encourage international cooperation in the region:

- (i) Guatemala: Advancements in inclusive education. Available at the following link: <http://www.refie.org/resources/videos/>;
- (ii) Costa Rica: Bill to promote the personal autonomy of persons with disabilities;
- (iii) Mexico: State policy on persons with disabilities 2014-2018;
- (iv) Ecuador: Manual for Serving the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the Judiciary Available at the following link: <http://www.consejodiscapacidades.gob.ec/descarga-manual-de-atencion-en-derechos-de-personas-con-discapacidad-en-la-funcion-judicial/>;
- (v) Argentina: Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, illustrated version for children. Available at the following link: http://www.conadis.gov.ar/doc_publicar/convencion_en_historieta_ONU_CONADI_S_UNICEF.pdf.

F. SIXTH SESSION

1. Consideration of various issues

1.1 Site of the Sixth Meeting of CEDDIS

The Sixth Meeting of CEDDIS will be held in the first week of May 2016. Guatemala expressed interest in hosting the meeting, indicating that it would consult with its relevant governmental authorities.

1.2 Events to commemorate the end of the Decade of the Americas

The CEDDIS authorities invited the experts to propose ideas for celebrating the end of the *Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities 2006-2016*. The following suggestions were made:

- (i) Hold an event within the OAS framework to review the progress made in the region over the course of the decade based on the CIADDIS-PAD monitoring reports, and to give the countries the recommendations made by CEDDIS. The states parties to

the OAS, their representatives to CEDDIS, representatives of civil society, and volunteers from other organizations, will all be called to that event, tentatively planned for the second half of 2016. It is expected that the CEDDIS regional observatory on disabilities and data bank of good practices will be launched at that meeting.

- (ii) Hold a joint activity with the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, to celebrate not only the Decade of the Americas, but also the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, at an event intended for the region that will take place in Chile in July 2016.
- (iii) Make a video of CEDDIS members to be broadcast in the CONADIS, at the OAS General Assembly, and at the Paralympic Games, in order to widely publicize the Committee's contributions to the region.
- (iv) Prepare a publication entitled *Memories of CEDDIS*, with the participation of members and former members, in order to publicize the history of the Committee, its defining moments, and experiences of cooperation among countries generated at meetings, among other subjects of interest.
- (v) Develop a communications strategy to spread the CEDDIS agenda on social networks.

1.3 Work plans

The CEDDIS Chair reminded the working group on legal capacity of the need to reformulate the work plan originally drafted at the Fourth Special Meeting of CEDDIS. Likewise, the Chair also requested that the working groups on the observatory and the data bank of good practices each submit a proposed plan to be considered at the Sixth Meeting.

2. Synergies with the United Nations

The Chair of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), María Soledad Cisternas, sent a video of greetings to CEDDIS expressing the CRPD's full willingness to cooperate with the Committee on such initiatives as a parallel event at the Conference of States Parties to the United Nations Convention next June. Ms. Cisternas provided a review of the activities currently being carried out at the United Nations Committee, which was then taken up by the Secretary of the Committee, Jorge Araya, who was attending the meeting as a special invitee. Specifically, the Chair and Secretary of the UN Committee shared with CEDDIS the following information on the Americas and potential cooperation initiatives:

- (i) As part of the review process of countries in the region, the CRPD will hold dialogues with Chile on March 31 and April 1, 2016, and with Guatemala, Bolivia, Colombia, and Uruguay at the 16th session (from August 15 to September 2, 2016).

- (ii) A draft general comment is being prepared on inclusive education, and the process of consultation with all of the interested parties is currently under way. The deadline for comments was set as January 15, 2016.
- (iii) Likewise, a general comment on women with disabilities is also being prepared, and is expected to be adopted at the CRPD's 15th session.
- (iv) A day of general discussion on the right to live independently and to be included in the community will be held on April 19, 2016, in Geneva, Switzerland. Written contributions may be sent to jaraya@ohchr.org between January 15 and February 29, 2016.
- (v) The CRPD has drawn up guidelines on the right of persons with disabilities to liberty and personal safety, which have been published on the Committee's web page.
- (vi) The Committee has adopted a statement on the inclusion of persons with disabilities that it will bring to the World Humanitarian Summit, to be held in Istanbul, Turkey, in May 2016.
- (vii) On June 14, 2016, at the Ninth Conference of States Parties to the Convention to be held in New York, nine CRPD members will be elected. It was explained that the nomination period will last from February 14 to April 14, 2016, and that the states parties should consider nominating candidates with an eye to maintaining the Committee's gender balance.
- (viii) The CRPD is currently drafting guidelines for the presentation of periodic reports expected to be adopted in September 2017 and for the participation of national human rights institutions and national mechanisms for the independent monitoring of the United Nations Convention in the various Committee proceedings.
- (ix) The speakers noted that, at the request of a state party, of a Convention implementation agency (coordinating body or focal point), or of a monitoring agency, the CRPD may issue its opinion on any matter for which that opinion may be required in order to strengthen national capacities, provided that the matter falls within the CRPD's jurisdiction according to the Convention.
- (x) Lastly, the speakers emphasized the CRPD's interest in continuing to cooperate with CEDDIS to promote the exercise of the full legal capacity of persons with disabilities in the region.

3. *Election of the CEDDIS First Vice Chair*

The Technical Secretariat read a note from the outgoing First Vice Chair Erick Hess, previous permanent delegate from Costa Rica to CEDDIS, in which he took his leave and expressed his appreciation and best wishes for the Committee. Immediately thereafter, the Secretariat reiterated

the provisions of Article 15 of the Committee Rules of Procedure, according to which the adoption of decisions concerning the election of authorities shall require the affirmative vote of two thirds of the Committee members present at the meeting, which, at the Fifth Meeting, came to eight votes.

The delegations of Chile and Costa Rica nominated the Permanent Delegate of Mexico to CEDDIS, Jesús Toledano, who, after a round of voting, was elected First Vice Chair of the Committee, having obtained the affirmative vote of the following 11 countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Paraguay, Panama, and Peru.

4. *Adoption of Resolution “Vote of Thanks to the People and Government of Mexico”*

With this resolution the Committee expresses its gratitude to the delegation of Mexico to CEDDIS and to the entire Fifth Meeting organizing team for the hospitality and support received before and during the meeting and for the efforts made to ensure the success thereof (See Annex 1).

DIALOGUE WITH CIVIL SOCIETY

In accordance with Article V of the CIADDIS, the Committee set aside time for the participation of representatives of organizations of persons with disabilities, in order to hear their concerns, recommendations, and inputs. Representatives of the following organizations attended the meeting:

- Acción para la Justicia Social
- Asociación APAFHDEM
- Asociación Pro Niños Excepcionales
- Centro Estratégico de Impacto Social, CEIS
- Comunidad crecer IAP
- Documenta análisis
- Fundación Teletón Mexico
- Libertad y Superación sobre Ruedas

CLOSE OF THE FIFTH MEETING

The working sessions having been concluded, the CEDDIS Authorities congratulated all of the Committee members for their successful work and significant efforts, which made it possible to meet all of the proposed objectives. They recognized their colleagues at the United Nations for their distinguished participation as special invitees, thanked the Technical Secretariat for the support provided during the sessions, and declared the Committee’s Fifth Regular Meeting closed.

ANNEX 1

FIFTH MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE
FOR THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF
DISCRIMINATION AGAINST
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (CEDDIS)
November 17-20, 2015
Cancun, Mexico

OEA/Ser.L/XXIV.3.3
CEDDIS/doc.1 (V-O/15)
26 February 2016
Original: Spanish

CEDDIS/RES.1/15 (V-O/15)

VOTE OF THANKS TO THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT OF MEXICO

(Adopted at the twelfth plenary session, held on November 20, 2015)

THE COMMITTEE FOR THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION
AGAINST PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES,

CONSIDERING that the Fifth Meeting of the Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of
Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (CEDDIS) was held from November 17 to 20, 2015,
in Cancun, Mexico; and

RECOGNIZING the hospitality and welcome, as well as the kind attention, extended by the
Government of Mexico before and during the meeting,

RESOLVES:

1. To express its appreciation to the people and Government of Mexico for their generous hospitality and their decisive and effective support, which contributed to ensuring the success of the Fifth Meeting of CEDDIS.
2. To thank the National Council for the Development and Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities, CONADIS, and its staff for their outstanding efficiency, dedication, and professionalism, which were a valuable logistic contribution before and during the Fifth Meeting of CEDDIS.
3. To express its thanks to the national representatives of Mexico to CEDDIS and to the local support team for the welcome and cordiality extended.