

INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM: REORGANIZATION, CONSOLIDATION, AND STRENGTHENING

*Resolution approved by the Inter-American Conference on Problems of
War and Peace at México March 6, 1945*¹

*Entered into force March 8, 1945*²

60 Stat. 1847; Treaties and Other
International Acts Series 1548

[TRANSLATION]

REORGANIZATION, CONSOLIDATION AND STRENGTHENING OF THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM

WHEREAS:

The inter-American system and the principles, instruments, agencies, and procedures that give it substance, constitute the living manifestation of the determination of the sovereign American Republics to act together for the fulfillment of their common purposes in the maintenance of peace and security and in the promotion of the well-being of their peoples;

The inter-American system is and has traditionally been inspired by a deep sense of universal cooperation;

The inter-American system, as an expression of the common ideals, the needs, and the will of the community of American Republics, should be further improved and strengthened for the purpose of adjusting and solving inter-American problems;

The inter-American system should, furthermore, maintain the closest relations with the proposed general international organization and assume the appropriate responsibilities in harmony with the principles and purposes of the general international organization,

The Inter-American Conference on Problems of War and Peace

RESOLVES:

1. That the International Conferences of American States shall meet ordinarily at four-year intervals and shall be the inter-American organ

¹ Such provisions as had not already become obsolete were incorporated in the Charter of the Organization of American States of Apr. 30, 1948 (2 UST 2394; TIAS 2361).

² Date of signing of final act.

entrusted with the formulation of general inter-American policy and the determination of the structure and functions of inter-American instruments and agencies. The next Conference shall meet in Bogotá in 1946.

2. The regular Meetings of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs shall be held annually upon special call by the Governing Board of the Pan American Union, unless there should be held in the same year an International Conference of American States pursuant to the preceding article. The next regular Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs shall be held in 1947.

The Meetings shall be charged with taking decisions on problems of great urgency and importance concerning the inter-American system and with regard to situations and disputes of every kind which may disturb the peace of the American Republics.

If, under exceptional circumstances, a Minister of Foreign Affairs should be unable to attend, he may be represented by a special delegate.

3. The Governing Board of the Pan American Union shall be composed of one *ad hoc* delegate designated by each of the American Republics, which delegates shall have the rank of Ambassadors and shall enjoy the corresponding privileges and immunities, but shall not be part of the diplomatic mission accredited to the government of the country in which the Pan American Union has its seat. This provision shall take effect at the expiration of the present period of sessions of the existing Board.

4. In addition to its present functions the Governing Board of the Pan American Union

a) Shall take action, within the limitations imposed upon it by the International Conferences of American States or pursuant to the specific direction of the Meetings of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, on every matter that affects the effective functioning of the inter-American system and the solidarity and general welfare of the American Republics;

b) Shall call the regular Meetings of Ministers of Foreign Affairs provided for in Paragraph 1 of Article 2 hereof, and special meetings, when they are requested, to consider exclusively emergency questions. In the latter case the call shall be made upon the vote of an absolute majority of the Board;

c) Shall supervise the inter-American agencies which are or may become related to the Pan American Union, and shall receive and approve annual or special reports from these agencies.

5. The Chairman of the Governing Board of the Pan American Union shall be elected annually and shall not be eligible for re-election for the term immediately following.

The Governing Board of the Pan American Union shall meet at least once each week.

The seat of the Pan American Union and of the Governing Board shall continue to be in Washington.

The Director General of the Pan American Union shall be chosen by the Governing Board for a term of ten years; he shall not be eligible for re-election, nor can he be succeeded by a person of the same nationality.

In the event of a vacancy in the office of Director General of the Pan American Union, a successor shall be appointed who shall hold office until the end of the term and who may be re-elected if the vacancy occurs during the second half of the term.

The first term shall begin on January 1, 1955.

The appointment and replacement of the Assistant Director shall be made in accordance with the above rules, except that the first term shall begin on January 1, 1960.

It is understood that the Governing Board may at any time, by vote of fifteen of its members, remove the Director General or the Assistant Director, on grounds relating to the efficiency of the organization.

6. Until the Ninth International Conference of American States, in accordance with the procedure provided hereinafter, creates or confirms the various agencies of the inter-American system, the following agencies created by the Meetings of Ministers of Foreign Affairs shall continue to function: The Inter-American Juridical Committee, the Emergency Advisory Committee for Political Defense, and the Inter-American Defense Board.

7. In place of the emergency agency now functioning as the Inter-American Financial and Economic Advisory Committee, there is hereby created a permanent Inter-American Economic and Social Council—subsidiary to the Governing Board of the Pan American Union—the members of which shall be designated by the respective Governments, and which shall be empowered:

- a) To carry out recommendations of the International Conferences of American States;
- b) To serve as the coordinating agency for all official inter-American economic and social activities;
- c) To promote social progress and the raising of the standard of living for all the American peoples;
- d) To undertake studies and other activities upon its own initiative or upon the request of any American government;
- e) To collect and prepare reports on economic and social matters for the use of the American Republics;
- f) To maintain liaison with the corresponding agency of the general international organization when established, and with existing or projected international economic and social agencies.

The Governing Board of the Pan American Union is authorized to organize provisionally the Inter-American Economic and Social Council. The permanent organization shall be established by the Ninth International Conference of American States.

8. The Division of Intellectual Cooperation of the Pan American Union shall be maintained for the purpose of strengthening by all means at its command the spiritual bonds between the American nations.

9. The Governing Board of the Pan American Union, availing itself of all Pan American agencies that it deems appropriate, is charged with preparing, beginning May 1, 1945, a draft charter for the improvement and strengthening of the Pan American system. The Governing Board shall submit the draft to the Governments of the Continent prior to December 31, 1945.

The draft charter shall first of all proclaim:

The recognition, by all the American Republics, of international law as the effective rule of their conduct and the pledge of those Governments to observe the standards enunciated in a "Declaration of the Rights and Duties of States" and a "Declaration of the International Rights and Duties of Man"; these shall serve as the definition of the fundamental principles of international law and shall appear as an annex to the charter, so that, without amending it, the Declarations may be revised from time to time to adapt them to the requirements and aspirations of international life.

For the preparation of the first Declaration, the principles already incorporated into the juridical heritage of the inter-American system shall be coordinated, especially those contained in the "Convention on the Rights and Duties of States" approved at the Seventh International Conference of American States;³ in the "Declaration of Principles of Inter-American Solidarity and Cooperation" adopted at the Inter-American Conference for the Maintenance of Peace;⁴ in the "Declaration of the Principles of the Solidarity of America,"⁵ and the "Declaration of American Principles" adopted at the Eighth International Conference of American States; in the "Declaration on the Maintenance of International Activities in Accordance with Christian Morality"⁶ and the declaration relative to "Reciprocal Assistance and Cooperation for the Defense of the Nations of the Americas,"⁷ approved at the First and Second Meetings of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, respectively; and in the Declarations on "Continental Solidarity in Observance of Treaties" and "The Good Neighbor Policy," adopted at the Third Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs.⁸ The draft declaration on "Reaffirmation of Fundamental Principles of International Law" prepared by the Inter-American Juridical Committee, and any Declaration of Principles that may be adopted by this Conference, shall also be taken into account.

³ TS 881, *ante*, p. 145.

⁴ TS 922, *ante*, p. 338.

⁵ *Ante*, p. 534.

⁶ *Department of State Bulletin*, May 18, 1940, p. 542.

⁷ *Ibid.*, Aug. 24, 1940, p. 136.

⁸ *Ibid.*, Feb. 7, 1942, p. 132.

In regard to the second Declaration mentioned above, the text shall be that formulated by the Inter-American Juridical Committee in fulfillment of the request contained in another resolution of the present Conference.

It is the desire of the Inter-American Conference on Problems of War and Peace that there shall be taken into account the Inter-American Commission of Women, which for sixteen years has rendered eminent services to the cause of America and humanity, and that it be included among the organizations which form the Pan American Union, with the same prerogatives and position that have been accorded to other inter-American institutions of a permanent or emergency character that have functioned within or without the Pan American Union.

10. The draft charter shall provide for the strengthening of the inter-American system on the bases of this resolution and by the creation of new agencies or the elimination or adaptation of existing agencies, specifying and coordinating their functions as among themselves and with the world organization.

The draft shall take into account the need of accelerating the consolidation and extension of existing inter-American peace instruments and the simplification and improvement of the inter-American peace structure, and to this end the Governing Board of the Pan American Union shall utilize the services of the Inter-American Juridical Committee. In addition, the draft shall provide for the consolidation and simplification of all other inter-American instruments so that they may be more effective.

11. The American Governments shall send to the Governing Board of the Pan American Union prior to September 1, 1945, all their proposals relating to the preceding articles.

12. The draft charter shall also provide for the establishment of an equitable system for the financial support of the Pan American Union and of all its related agencies.

[The final act of the Inter-American Conference on Problems of War and Peace was signed on March 8, 1945, by delegates representing Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the United States, Uruguay, and Venezuela.]