

The United States and the OAS: Democracy in Action

CONSOLIDATING DEMOCRACY

Support for Free and Fair Elections

In 2009 and 2010, the United States contributed more than \$1.5 million for OAS technical cooperation and election observation missions in Ecuador, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Costa Rica, Colombia, Dominica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Peru, Dominican Republic, Suriname, Panama, Paraguay, and Guatemala, and more than \$700,000 to support Special Commissions to restore democracy in Honduras. The United States contributed \$1.5 million to support OAS-CARICOM observation of the Haitian elections. United States also supports the Inter-American Meetings of Electoral Management Bodies (EMBs).

Promoting and Defending Human Rights

In 2009 and 2010, the United States contributed \$2.2 million to the independent Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), including \$600,000 to support freedom of expression.

Deepening Inter-Regional Cooperation

The United States donated \$150,000 to promote OAS/African Union cooperation to use the Inter-American Democratic Charter as a model for application of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections, and Governance, and exchanges with the African Commission on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR).

Fighting Corruption and Enhancing Respect for Rule of Law

The United States provided \$750,000 over the last two years to the peer review follow-up mechanism of the Inter-American Convention Against Corruption. The United States also contributed \$1 million to the OAS to implement recommendations of the mechanism through the development of national action plans.

FOSTERING PEACE

Demobilization in Colombia

The United States provided \$1.5 million in 2006-2008 to the OAS to help Colombia demobilize and reintegrate more than 30,000 former members of illegal armed groups. The United States plans to continue funding through FY2015 at the same level.

Fostering Stability in Haiti

In 2009 and 2010, the United States contributed nearly \$170,000 through the OAS to provide a senior technical advisor to the Director General of the Haitian National Police (HNP).

Supporting the Peaceful Settlement of Territorial Disputes

Through the OAS Fund for Peace: Peaceful Settlement of Territorial Disputes, the United States is supporting OAS efforts to address the Belize-Guatemala territorial dispute.

Inter-American Defense College (IADC)

The United States annually supports the IADC with nearly \$6 million to provide senior military and government officials with a comprehensive understanding of governmental systems, the current international environment, the Inter-American system, and an overview of security issues.

PROMOTING CITIZEN SECURITY

Destroying Weapons Stockpiles

The United States provided the OAS with \$500,000 to support its efforts to destroy excess weapons stocks and to promote stronger controls on stockpiles that are retained.

Combating Illegal Arms Trafficking

The United States provided the OAS with \$1.1 million to promote firearms marking in Latin America and the Caribbean. This program provides firearms marking equipment and training to 30 countries in the region to build capacity to combat illegal arms trafficking.

Fighting Terrorism

In 2010 the United States provided \$500,000 to the Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism (CICTE) for training and capacity building to improve aviation security and maritime security.

Addressing Drugs in the Hemisphere

The United States contributed \$4 million to CICAD in 2010 to improve the delivery of drug treatment services and the quality of drug treatment facilities, counter money laundering, provide judicial and prosecutorial assistance, and support the peer review mechanism.

Women and Citizen Security

The United States continues to work with the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) to ensure the continued integration of a gender perspective in all OAS programming. As part of the 2011 General Assembly theme of citizen's security, our mission advocated to ensure that gender was included in the negotiation process as well as the final document.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

IACHR Rapporteurships

In 2009 and 2010, the United States contributed almost \$200,000 to the IACHR Rapporteurships on Women; Afro-descendants; Indigenous Peoples; and Migrant Workers. The United States is also working with our partners to support creation of a Special Rapporteur on the rights of LGBT persons.

Support for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

The United States will contribute up to \$1 million to create a network of sustainable small business development centers (SBDC) throughout the Caribbean. The SBDC-model program empowers start-ups, assists existing businesses in becoming part of the formal economy, creates and retains jobs, obtains new financing, and develops new technologies.

Helping the Americas Compete

The United States Government is supporting the upcoming Americas Competitiveness Forum (ACF) in the Dominican Republic in October 2011 as one of the key economic development events in the Americas. The ACF includes a technical forum for policy discussion. The aim is to share programs, policies, and partnerships that improve competitiveness to ensure that all people of the region can share a brighter future.

Building Social Safety Nets

The Inter-American Social Protection Network (IASPN) is a vehicle for regional partnerships on social protection including social insurance, social assistance, and labor. In August 2009, the United States provided \$850,000 to the OAS to establish and design the Network and facilitate technical training. The United States has also pledged \$1.2 million for poverty alleviation under the IASPN.

Clean Energy and Climate Change in the Americas

The United States has invested more than \$60 million in FY 2009-2010 in the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA) to begin 40 initiatives in the Western Hemisphere with regional partner governments. More information is available at www.ecpamericas.org. U.S. Secretary of Energy Steven Chu, with the participation of Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, hosted the first ECPA Ministerial in 2010.