

AG/RES. 2554 (XL-O/10)

PROMOTION OF CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY IN THE HEMISPHERE

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 8, 2010)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT General Assembly resolution AG/RES. 2336 (XXXVII-O/07), “Promotion of Corporate Social Responsibility in the Hemisphere;”

RECALLING previous resolutions adopted by the General Assembly on the subject of promotion of corporate social responsibility in the Hemisphere, AG/RES. 2483 (XXXIX-O/09), AG/RES. 2336 (XXXVII-O/07), AG/RES. 2194 (XXXVI-O/06), AG/RES. 2123 (XXXV-O/05), AG/RES. 2013 (XXXIV-O/04), AG/RES. 1953 (XXXIII-O/03), and AG/RES. 1871 (XXXII-O/02);

BEARING IN MIND the commitment made by the Heads of State and Governments in the Declaration of Mar del Plata, in which they recognized that “sustained economic growth, with equity and social inclusion, is an indispensable condition to create jobs, fight extreme poverty, and overcome inequality in the Hemisphere. To achieve these ends, it is necessary to improve transparency and the investment climate in our countries, build human capital, encourage increased incomes and improve their distribution, promote corporate social responsibility, and foster a spirit of entrepreneurship as well as strong business activity”;

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION that the private sector, civil society organizations, indigenous groups, local communities, and academic institutions play a central part in and may benefit from efforts by member states to promote, disseminate, and encourage the principles and guidelines advancing corporate social responsibility;

RECOGNIZING that member states are responsible for good governance and the promotion and implementation of legislation that meets the needs of their citizens;

RECOGNIZING FURTHER that while companies and civil society play an important part in and share responsibilities for promoting and respecting the observance of human rights within their spheres of influence, governments have the ultimate responsibility for upholding the rule of law and implementing their human rights obligations;

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION that a number of multilateral forums, including the Group of Eight (G8), the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Summit of the Americas, and the United Nations, are taking important steps to foster and promote responsible corporate practices;

RECOGNIZING as well the ongoing efforts of the Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank to encourage and advance good corporate practices with stakeholders and governments; and

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION ALSO the implementation by the Organization of American States (OAS) through the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) of programs promoting corporate social responsibility (CSR) in small and medium-sized enterprise (SMEs) and other participating stakeholders,

RESOLVES:

1. To take note of the holding of the VII Inter-American Conference on Corporate Social Responsibility: “Facing Challenges with Responsibility,” held in Punta del Este, Uruguay, (December 1-3, 2009), and regional workshops and roundtables on corporate social responsibility, organized by the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) of the Organization of American States (OAS), in which international experts on different aspects of corporate social responsibility, as well as private sector representatives, government officials, civil society organizations, and academics participated “...with a focus on how CSR in tough times, can contribute to overcome challenges as well as to capitalize on unforeseen business opportunities.”

2. To take note of the holding of the regional workshops and round table dialogue on corporate social responsibility organized by the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) of the Organization of American States (OAS), including most recently “Promoting Corporate Social Responsibility in Small and Medium Enterprises in the Tourism and Extractive Sectors,” held in Cancun, Mexico (February 23-25, 2010).

3. To encourage member states to support OAS/SEDI CSR programs and initiatives to promote CSR principles and guidelines that contribute to information exchange and capacity-building and enable member states to promote CSR in their own private sector communities, as well as capacity-building and promotion of corporate social responsibility among the private sector communities of the member states.

4. To instruct the General Secretariat, through the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI), to report to the member states on programs and initiatives on corporate social responsibility (CSR) that it seeks to develop for the implementation of this resolution, thereby contributing to the exchange of information on the subject.

5. To urge member state governments to promote corporate social responsibility programs and initiatives, with special emphasis on their respective value chains and on community engagement; to become more knowledgeable about existing internationally recognized voluntary principles and guidelines, as well as private-sector initiatives in this area; and to support and join in the implementation of such principles and initiatives.

6. To further urge member states to promote the use of applicable corporate social responsibility initiatives, guidelines, tools, and best practices, including: the Organization of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, the Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy of the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Global Compact, the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights, and the principles contained in the ILO Resolution on the Promotion of Sustainable Enterprises, and all those in fulfillment of the Millennium Development Goals (UN).

7. To invite the member states to promote as appropriate, best corporate practices in environmental stewardship and social responsibility with stakeholder engagement, particularly in the natural resource extraction and manufacturing sectors; to promote the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights; and to participate in the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), as appropriate.

8. To invite the member states to support initiatives aimed at strengthening their capacity to manage and develop natural resources in an ecologically sustainable and socially responsible manner.

9. To request the Secretary General to work through the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) to join the efforts of the Inter-American Development Bank

(IDB), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the World Bank, and other international organizations that contribute to information exchange and capacity-building on existing internationally recognized principles and guidelines to enable member states to be in position to promote CSR initiatives among their own private sector communities.