

# PAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY



## 40 Meeting of the Directing Council

Bogotá, Colombia November 7 – 10, 2007

### RESOLUTION III

#### DEVELOPMENT OF SPATIAL DATA INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE AMERICAS

The XL Meeting of the Directing Council of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH),

#### CONSIDERING

That the PAIGH, through the General Secretariat and the Commission on Cartography in particular, has been linked from the technical and budgetary viewpoint to this endeavor from the moment the concepts and methodologies for the development of Spatial Data Infrastructure of the Americas began and which is deemed essential for said Commission's plans and projects;

That on the occasion of the XL Meeting of the Directing Council, the Agustin Codazzi Geographic Institute - IGAC, which is the headquarters of the PAIGH National Section in Colombia, and the General Secretariat announced the "SDI Americas Symposium: Concepts, Practices and Projects". The symposium aims to encourage processes that will provide added value to the Spatial Data Infrastructure of the region;

The recommendations of the 68th Meeting of Officers and the Scientific Policy Committee,

#### RESOLVES:

1. To adopt the final declaration enacted by the delegates of the "SDI Americas Symposium: Concepts, Practices and Projects", whose text is in this Resolution.
2. To transmit the content to the committee which is preparing the 2009-2019 PAIGH Pan American Agenda so the PAIGH may continue to consistently and harmoniously facilitate the development of spatial infrastructure for the economic and social development of the peoples of the Americas.

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### **SDI AMERICAS SYMPOSIUM: Concepts, Practices and Projects Bogotá, Colombia. November 6 and 7, 2007**

On the occasion of the 40th Meeting of the PAIGH Directing Council, the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) and the Instituto Geográfico Agustín Codazzi (IGAC, Agustín Codazzi Geographic Institute) gathered together the persons responsible for supranational geospatial data initiatives in the region, specialists from several countries on the American continent and PAIGH observer institutions for the **SDI AMERICAS SYMPOSIUM: Concepts, Practices and Projects**. The goal was to coordinate actions and facilitate processes aimed at developing the spatial data infrastructure of the region.

At the conclusion of the event, the participants agreed to issue the following:

#### **Declaration**

Considering that:

1. Geospatial information is one of the components of the infrastructure that is necessary for the nations of the Americas to progress and a cornerstone of efficient management of the State. Application of geospatial information is essential in numerous scenarios and realities in which availability, access and use of spatial data is indispensable for society. These range from natural disasters, land management and climate change to food safety and security and the fight against poverty;
2. Within the context of a knowledge society, constructing spatial data infrastructure (SDI) at the continent level and that of the nations corresponds to a long term process. It requires the incorporation of policies, technologies and strategies for the adequate management of geospatial information. This includes the efficient use of Earth observation technologies, geographic information systems and information and communication networks;
3. Consolidation of SDI throughout the subregions of the continent requires effective cooperation and coordination amongst countries, organizations and projects. It also requires a political and institutional framework that considers local characteristics in order to reach the common goal of strengthening national capacity. Stress is placed on the need to produce fundamental geographic data and specialized information and make it available, as it is crucial for national and regional development.

The participants recommend work be carried out harmoniously, prioritizing the following objectives:

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**One.** Seek greater government support for SDI and invite those who have not already done so, to initiate this process soon. The intent is to prove the feasibility and guarantee the sustainability of the spatial data infrastructure of each country in the region within the framework of national connectivity and on-line government strategies and sector plans. It is particularly important to undertake projects aimed at producing and/or maintaining quality, nationwide spatial data.

**Two.** Endeavour, through specific projects, to petition for additional national and international financial resources to back the construction of SDI components (production, maintenance, updating, distribution, access and application of geographic data);

**Three.** Improve the quality of geographic data in order to increase its interoperability and facilitate its application. In connection with this objective, the following must be carried out: the technological production platform must continue to be modernized; national geodetic reference systems must be strengthened; geographic information systems must be consolidated and geographic information must be made available on-line through the development of geoportals. In addition, international standards must be applied and metadata and associated catalogue services must be implemented in order to streamline documentation, inventory and preservation of geographic data.

**Four.** Ratify that of all the entities that produce and apply geographic data and information, it is the institutes responsible for national geography and cartography that are the ideal agencies to promote, coordinate and harmonize SDI initiatives in each country. In order to guarantee the sustainability of actions and the channeling of specific resources, the SDI of every country has to be incorporated into the functions, programs and structure of the geographic institutes.

**Five.** Deal with the subject of pricing, licensing, copyrights, privacy and distribution of data and advocate the publication of geographic information, products and services in order to facilitate access by society and to reach institutional goals.

**Six.** Enhance institutional capacities aimed at: developing geographic services and projects that apply geospatial data; forming and participating in knowledge networks and specialized interaction spaces; implementing geoportals and training personnel involved in managing geographic information.

**Seven.** Identify the synergy and overlap of projects currently being undertaken in the region and back initiatives that focus on improving the availability of seamless databases that assist with dealing with situations of a supranational nature.

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***Eight.*** Acknowledge and back the efforts of entities that foster the development of spatial data infrastructure at all levels and especially encourage those responsible for supranational projects aimed at developing said infrastructure, to continue with their efforts.