

# PAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY



## 41st MEETING OF THE DIRECTING COUNCIL

San Salvador, El Salvador November 19-21, 2008

### RESOLUTION 4

#### **DECLARATION OF THE PAIGH SYMPOSIUM: "RISKS AND DISASTER PREVENTION DURING VOLCANIC EVENTS"**

The 41st Meeting of the Directing Council of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH),

#### CONSIDERING:

That Resolution 11 of the XVIII General Assembly (Venezuela, 2005) provided that activities developed by the commissions of the PAIGH be encouraged and to that end, it agreed to prioritize the subject of "Prevention, response and mitigation of effects caused by natural disasters";

That at the 41st Meeting of the Directing Council, the Commissions of Geography and Geophysics of the PAIGH, the Geographic and National Cadastre Institute of El Salvador, headquarters of the National Section of the PAIGH in El Salvador, and the General Secretariat called for a PAIGH Symposium to be held on the subject of "Risks and Disaster Prevention During Volcanic Events" so as to foster processes that will add value and contribute to the 2010 – 2020 Pan American Agenda of the PAIGH;

The recommendations of the 70th Meeting of Officers and the Scientific Policy Committee,

#### RESOLVES:

1. To accept the final declaration enacted by the delegates to the PAIGH Symposium "Risks and Disaster Prevention During Volcanic Events" as their own. The text is attached to this Resolution.

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2. Submit the content to the 2010 – 2020 Pan American Agenda of the PAIGH preparatory committee so multidisciplinary work and scientific activities connected to natural disasters and their consequences is properly incorporated into the Institute's plans and projects.

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### THE SAN SALVADOR DECLARATION

Attendees of the: "Risks and Disaster Prevention during Volcanic Events" Symposium organized as part of the technical projects of the 41<sup>st</sup> Directing Council of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History,

Considering that:

The Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) encourages technical and scientific cooperation among the Member States;

The American continent is extremely vulnerable to threats posed by volcanic activity;

Studies aimed at evaluating volcanic hazards and their possible impact on the land and its inhabitants should not be dealt with by a single discipline;

Atlases of hazards and risks are key tools for the design of development and territorial organization plans;

Globally, volcanic eruptions have a direct impact on changes in the environment;

The work directed at defining the 2010 – 2020 Pan American Agenda,

Recommend:

1. That Officers of the PAIGH and Directing Council back and push for interdisciplinary studies that will lead to an understanding of the behavior of active volcanoes in the region. Said studies must include the PAIGH's four Commissions.

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2. That Hazard and Risk Maps and Atlases be tools that are continuously updated, thus their development must be carried out digitally with IT instruments that allow for interoperability.
3. That when developing the information systems that will act as the foundation of the dynamic Maps and Atlases, they consider the concepts related to Spatial Data Infrastructure.
4. That the unification of methodological criteria for the evaluation of volcanic hazards be fostered so as to have an efficient and objective assessment of the risks involved.

San Salvador, November 17, 2008

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