

PAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY



41st MEETING OF THE DIRECTING COUNCIL

San Salvador, El Salvador November 19-21, 2008

RESOLUTION 5

PAN AMERICAN LABORATORY FOR THE OBSERVATION OF NATURAL DISASTERS

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 provided that activities developed by the commissions of the PAIGH, aimed at their integration, be encouraged and to that end, it agreed to prioritize the subject of "Prevention, response and mitigation of the effects caused by natural disasters";

That since 2007, and with the support of the Commissions on Geophysics and Geography, the "Detection and Follow – up of Forest Fires in Mexico and Central America" project has been backed. Said project is being implemented by the National Meteorological Service of Mexico (SMN). The results point to the appropriateness of scientifically observing the behavior of specific phenomena associated to the growing impact of natural disasters and the need to provide technical cooperation so PAIGH Member States can understand, prevent and respond adequately to them;

That at the Institute's facilities there is a spot which previously housed the PAIGH's "José Toribio Medina" Bibliographic Fund. Said Fund is now located at Mexico's National School of Anthropology and History (ENAH). That this now empty spot has the minimum conditions to set up and develop necessary scientific documentation, accommodate interns, hold workshops to bring together the Pan American community on the subject of "Prevention, response and mitigation of the effects caused by natural disasters";

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That the SMN of the National Water Commission of Mexico has expressed an interest in jointly contributing, with the PAIGH, to the physical and technological development of the center that will allow greater attention to this issue. That several scientific and international cooperation organizations have likewise indicated their interest and desire to support this endeavor;

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

RESOLVES:

1. To provide for the creation of the Pan American Laboratory for the Observation of Natural Disasters at PAIGH's headquarters and support its operation with the resources made available by the General Secretariat with Mexico's National Meteorological Service and other international agencies and organizations.
2. In the scientific work plans for the Laboratory, to initially give precedence to the issues that arise from the development and recommendations of the "2010 – 2020 Pan American Agenda".

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