

Organization of American States

PAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY



REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

March 2016 – February 2017

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Organization of American States

PAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY

BASIC INFORMATION

The Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) was founded on February 7, 1928 at the Sixth International Conference of the Americas held in Havana, Cuba. In 1930, the government of Mexico offered the use of the building located on Ex Arzobispado number 29, "Observatorio" neighbourhood, in Mexico City, to be the permanent headquarters of the PAIGH. In January 1949, the PAIGH became the first agency of the Inter-American system when it signed the agreement with the Council of the Organization of American States (OAS). Afterwards, in May 1974, within the framework of the Buenos Aires Protocol, a new agreement was formalized, which currently guides the relationship between the OAS and the PAIGH.

PURPOSES

The purposes of the PAIGH, stipulated in the first article of its Organic Statutes, are the following:

- To encourage, coordinate and publicize cartographic, geographic, historical and geophysical studies, as well as studies on related sciences, which are of interest to the Americas.
- To promote and coordinate scientific and technical development, research, relations between institutions and specialists, work and training in the fields of cartography, geography, geophysics and history.
- To foster and further cooperation between the institutions specializing in these four fields in the Americas and among international organizations.

STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION

The Institute's organizational structure is as follows:

- The General Assembly
- The Directing Council
- The Meeting of leading PAIGH officials
- The General Secretariat
- The Commissions on Cartography, Geography, History and Geophysics
- The National Sections

The General Assembly: This is the supreme organ of the PAIGH and its mission is to set the scientific, administrative and financial policies of the Institute. It meets every four years and it elects the officers of the Institute. The General Assembly consists of the delegations from the Member States, the leading officials of the PAIGH and invited Observers. Each delegation from the Member States has the right to a vote.

The Directing Council: This is the Pan American organ of the PAIGH, which is responsible for performing the duties of the General Assembly during the intervals between the meetings of the latter. It meets once a year and consists of representatives from all the Member States and the leading officials of the PAIGH.

The Meeting of Leading Officials: This is the governing organ and coordinates the activities of the Institute between the meetings of the Directing Council. It meets twice a year and consists of the President, Vice President, Commission Chairs and the Secretary General.

The General Secretariat: This is the central and permanent organ of the PAIGH, being responsible for its management, for coordinating the activities of the various elements running the Institute and for the assistance necessary for those tasks to be put into effect. It performs the tasks entrusted to it and monitors the fulfillment of the agreements adopted to ensure that the PAIGH functions adequately. The Secretary General is the representative of the PAIGH and holds this post for a period of four years.

The Commissions: These are the organs entrusted with promoting the scientific and technical development of their respective fields of action in the Member States, as well as coordinating, fostering and overseeing the projects and other research agreements approved by the General Assembly or the Directing Council. There are four commissions: Cartography, Geography, History and Geophysics, which are in turn subdivided into Committees and Work Groups. The Commissions meet every two years.

National Sections: These are the bodies established by each Member State to carry out the purposes of the PAIGH in their own countries. They have the financial assistance of their governments. The National Sections consist of the people named by the governments of the Member States as representatives before each of the PAIGH organs.

MEMBER STATES

Only the states of the American continent can be members of the PAIGH. Countries in other continents may be Permanent Observers. The 21 countries that are currently Member States of the PAIGH are: Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, the United States of America, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Dominican Republic, Uruguay and Venezuela.

The Permanent Observer countries are: Spain, France, Israel and Jamaica.

Institutional Strategies

To fulfill its mission and reach its objectives, the PAIGH has set for itself institutional strategies in each of these areas:

The objective of the **Scientific Strategy** is to set up, strengthen, and consolidate, over the medium and long terms, inspiring and dynamic multinational research projects with the aim of moving to the vanguard of scientific efforts in strategic and priority areas for the member countries. This is put into effect mainly through the Technical Assistance and Publications programs.

In this sense, the application of this strategy is intended to achieve greater and better links with Pan-American and international organisations, such as universities, research centres and others, motivating them to participate actively in the scientific tasks of the Institute in research and public release of information.

The Pan-American Agenda of the PAIGH is part of this strategy, constituting a component of planning that sets priorities for studies in the areas of issues of adaptation to climate change, organization of territorial information, managing natural hazards and historical heritage, these being key elements for contributing to the Inter-American system coordinated by the OAS. This helps towards the plans and objectives for sustainable development in our continent.

At the same time, it is part of the strategy to encourage the process of permanent modernization of the scientific publications that the Institute produces with the support of its four Commissions.



The **Financial Strategy** consists of increasing the financial resources of the Institute, while seeking out new alternatives for resources and making the current system for managing expenses more efficient.

A procedure should be found that enables the acquisitive power of the budget to be maintained and the membership fees paid by the Member States to be brought up to date.

As a complement to this, it is intended to sign agreements, with international institutions of high standing, for shared financing, also to seek out cooperating partners for them to provide additional resources. These actions are to be taken without neglecting the permanent search for other sources of finance.

The objective of the **Administrative Strategy** is to have a system of continual organizational improvement that enables the Institute to lead and to transmit the studies that produce benefit to Pan-American society.

Among the most significant transformations, there are those of achieving a greater operating efficiency and better communication with the PAIGH leading officials and with the National Sections, the active inclusion of specialized and academic entities into the tasks of the Institute, and the strengthening of the relationships between the General Secretariat and all the interested groups relating to it.

In concrete terms, it is intended to encourage former member countries to rejoin and to bring on board other countries that may be interested in contributing actively to the institutional projects.

Authorities of the PAIGH 2013 – 2017



From left to right: Rigoberto Magaña, President (El Salvador); Roberto Aguiar, Vice-President (Ecuador); Rodrigo Barriga, Secretary General (Chile); Carlos López, President of the Cartography Commission (Uruguay); Jean Parcher, President of the Geography Commission (United States of America); Walter Fernández, President of the Geophysics Commission (Costa Rica) and Patricia Galeana, President of the History Commission (Mexico)

The 'Authorities' (leading officials) were elected at the 20th General Assembly, held in Montevideo, Uruguay, in the year 2013. The President of the Institute was elected at the 81st Meeting of the PAIGH Authorities (Mexico, 2014) and the Vice-President during the 45th Meeting of the Directing Council (Chile, 2014).

It should be pointed out that, in accordance with the Organic Statutes, the process of electing the new leading officials at the 21st General assembly will take place during the second half of 2017. To that end, at the 47th Meeting of the Directing Council (Paraguay, 2016), Resolution N° 22 was approved for putting into effect this electoral process.

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

March 2016 – February 2017

Introduction

In this report, the most relevant activities carried in the PAIGH at the level of the General Secretariat during the period between March 2016 and February 2017 are described.

It starts by reporting on the **Technical Assistance Program**, its objectives, the status of each one of the projects of the four Commissions that receive financial support, the submission of projects that have been received for 2017, the distribution for each Commission and for each country. The Pan American Agenda is highlighted, together with its relationship with the UN Sustainable Development Agenda. Moreover, the tasks undertaken in relation to the Joint Action Plan for giving fresh impetus to the Americas Spatial Data Infrastructure is made known, together with the contribution of the PAIGH. The mechanisms for cooperation with the GeoSUR program, the cooperation received from the National Geographic Institute and from the National Centre for Geographic Information of Spain, are also covered, especially where training and technological guidance are involved. The progress made on the Integrated Map of America is also described.

In the part about the **Publications Program**, the achievements and goals in the short term for the printed and on line journals are described, together with their conversion to digital media and distribution, the implementation of the electronic exchange, and the project for improving the quality of the periodic publications of the Institute.

Concerning the **Financial Program**, the approval by the Member States of the increase in the annual dues is reported, as are the tasks intended for obtaining additional resources to support the Technical Assistance and Publications programs.

In the part concerning **Inter-institutional Relations**, the cooperation with the OAS is described, along with the meetings, conferences, seminars and workshops where the PAIGH has been represented, both in Mexico City and abroad. At the same time, reference is made to the visits received at the central office of the Institute and to the cooperation documents signed.

Finally, each of the resolutions approved during the 47th Meeting of the Directing Council (Paraguay, 2016) is detailed, along with the activity that has been carried out and/or which will be performed soon, ending with the plans and estimates of the PAIGH in the medium term.

1. Program of Technical Assistance

The Program of Technical Assistance, together with the Publications Program, constitute the mechanism by which the objectives and purposes of the Institute are reached and the respective scientific strategy is put into effect.

Status of projects submitted in 2016 for the Program of Technical Assistance

During that period, the Program of Technical Assistance continued to make progress, taking effect adequately. As follows the contributions made by the PAIGH to each one of the projects in the four commissions are summarized:

Cartography Commission

No.	Title of the project	Country	Assigned by PAIGH US\$	Assigned from other institutions US\$
1	SIRGAS 2016: building up technical – scientific capabilities for giving fresh impetus to the development of the Spatial Data Infrastructure of the Americas	Argentina	8,000	28,000
2	Proposal for standardizing tactile symbology for Latin America: application in cartography for tourism (2014-2016). Continued from previous year	Chile	7,000	9,800
3	Assessment of the current situation of the methodologies and procedures used to evaluate the quality of Geographic Information in the PAIGH Member States	Ecuador	7,000	800
4	Methodology for creating rural atlases in Latin America	Ecuador	7,200	42,000
5	Towards an integrated system of geospatial information in Central America for adapting to climate change and the management of natural hazards	El Salvador	8,000	17,000
6	UN-GGIM: Americas Regional Committee of the United Nations Committee on Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas	México	8,000	5,990
7	Support for the SIRGAS Commission leadership		1,340	0
Total Cartography			46,540	103,90

Table No. 1 Projects of the Cartography Commission, 2016

Geography Commission

<i>No.</i>	<i>Project</i>	<i>Project</i>	<i>Assigned by PAIGH US\$</i>	<i>Assigned from other institutions US\$</i>
1	An educational approach to encouraging geographic knowledge and the resolution of spatial issues, intended for school teachers (at primary and other levels before High school) in Latin American countries	Chile	5,000	8,520
2	Proposal for standardizing tactile symbology for Latin America: application in cartography for tourism (2014-2016). Continued from previous year	Chile	6,500	0
3	Course-Workshop: Teaching geography through tactile maps and multisensory teaching materials	Costa Rica	7,000	9,650
4	Assessment of the current situation of the methodologies and procedures used to evaluate the quality of Geographic Information in the PAIGH Member States	Ecuador	8,040	0
5	Towards an integrated system of geospatial information in Central America for adapting to climate change and the management of natural hazards	El Salvador	8,000	0
6	Bathymetric, hydrographic and topographic study of the bed of Lake Coatepeque, in El Salvador, using single-beam echo sounding and a lateral SONAR scanning	United States	8,000	35,700
7	Training for capabilities in geography, climate change, tropical cyclones and management of hazards	Dominican Republic	5,800	6,000
Total Geography			48,340	59,870

Table No. 2 Projects of the Geography Commission, 2016

History Commission

<i>No.</i>	<i>Project</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Assigned by PAIGH US\$</i>	<i>Assigned from other institutions US\$</i>
1	Pan-Americanism, latin-Americanism and nationalisms. Debates, critical issues and assertions of identity, 1889-1928	Argentina	5,624	0
2	Climate change and social reaction: towards a compared history of environmental hazards as a basis for formulating a policy for prevention in Peru and Chile (1879-2014)	Chile	5,624	14,000
3	Towards a compared literary historiography of both Americas for the 19th Century	Mexico	5,624	1,500
4	“El Niño”; natural event and social-economic disaster: transdisciplinary Pan-American analysis for setting up preparations and prevention policies in Chile, Ecuador, United States, Mexico and Peru (1891-2015)	Peru	5,624	26,000
5	Territory and environment in portrayals through traditional art	Peru	5,624	0
6	Inventory and atlas of the sites associated with the history of slavery in the Dominican Republic	Dominican Republic	6,570	25,278
Total History			34,690	66,778

Table No. 3 Projects of the History Commission, 2016

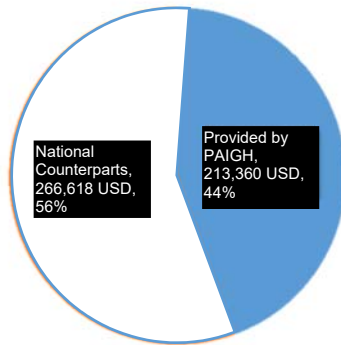
Geophysics Commission

<i>No.</i>	<i>Project</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Assigned by PAIGH US\$</i>	<i>Assigned from other institutions US\$</i>
1	Towards an integrated system of geospatial information in Central America for adapting to climate change and the management of natural hazards	El Salvador	6,600	0
2	Bathymetric, hydrographic and topographic study of the bed of Lake Coatepeque, in El Salvador, using single-beam echo sounding and a lateral SONAR scanning	United States	6,600	0
3	Seminar-workshop about topographic surveying techniques with the Global Positioning System –GPS– (static, rapid-static, kinematic, real time) and post-processing of data	Guatemala	6,600	0
4	Paleomagnetic study of Nicaragua: tectonic and geodynamic evolution from the Cretaceous to the Meocene	Mexico	6,600	1,400
5	Second Pan-American Workshop on Geomagnetism	Mexico	7,140	0
6	Grant for postgraduate course	Mexico	8,200	0
7	Gathering of records of active tectonics, paleoseismic data and hydrology for analyzing interactions between the tectonic and climatic processes in the sub-Andean region of Andean countries: case of Peru	Peru	6,600	34,980
Total Geophysics			48,340	36,380

Table No. 4 Projects of the Geophysics Commission, 2016

<i>Projects</i>	<i>Assigned by PAIGH US\$</i>	<i>Assigned from other institutions US\$</i>	<i>Total USD</i>
27 Technical Assistance projects	177,910	266,618	444,528
Periodic Publications	35,450		35,450
Overall total USD	213,360	266,618	479,978

Table No. 5 Summary of projects, 2016



Graph No. 1 Contributions by the PAIGH and by its counterparts for the Technical Assistance projects of 2016

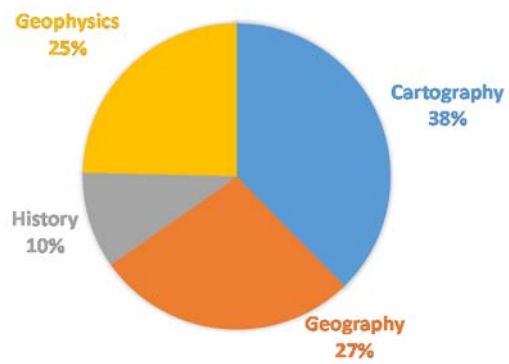
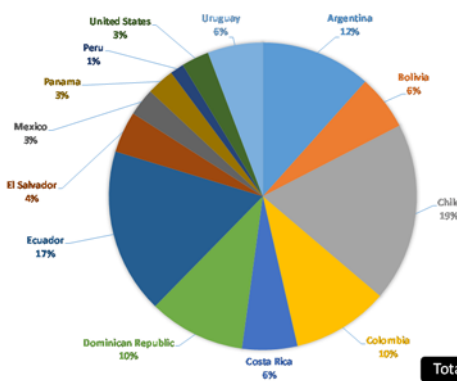
The sum of contributions from the PAIGH and the counterpart institutions has made it possible during the current period to perform projects for about USD\$480,000, of which 56% is from the supporting institutions and 44% is provided by the Institute. In this way the PAIGH has contributed to the fulfillment of its purposes to the benefit of its member countries.

For the Technical Assistance Program of the year 2017, just as in the previous year, submissions were made through an on-line form. One of the main purposes of the program is to encourage the execution of multinational Pan-American initiatives that specialize in the fields of Cartography, Geography, History and Geophysics and that contribute to regional integration and to sustainable development in specific areas such as adaptation to climate change, territorial organization, handling of natural hazards and historical heritage.

For this, three modes of application were envisaged; application as a technical assistance project, a training activity or a ‘seed’ project, in accordance with the specific themes established and made known in the respective announcement and call for applications.

Country	Quantity
Argentina	8
Bolivia	4
Chile	13
Colombia	7
Costa Rica	4
Dominican Rep.	7
Ecuador	12
El Salvador	3
Mexico	2
Panama	2
Peru	1
United States	2
Uruguay	4
Total	69

Commission	Quantity
Cartography	26
Geography	19
History	7
Geophysics	17



Graph No.2 Projects submitted to the 2017 Technical Assistance Program (by country)

Graph No.3 Projects submitted to the 2017 Technical Assistance Program (by Commission)

Considering the projects submitted which requested finance for the year 2017 and are shown in Graph No. 1 broken down by country and in Graph No. 2 by Commission, the evidence shows that is clear that there is interest from many specialists in contributing to and participating in this type of initiative through the PAIGH and its four Commissions.

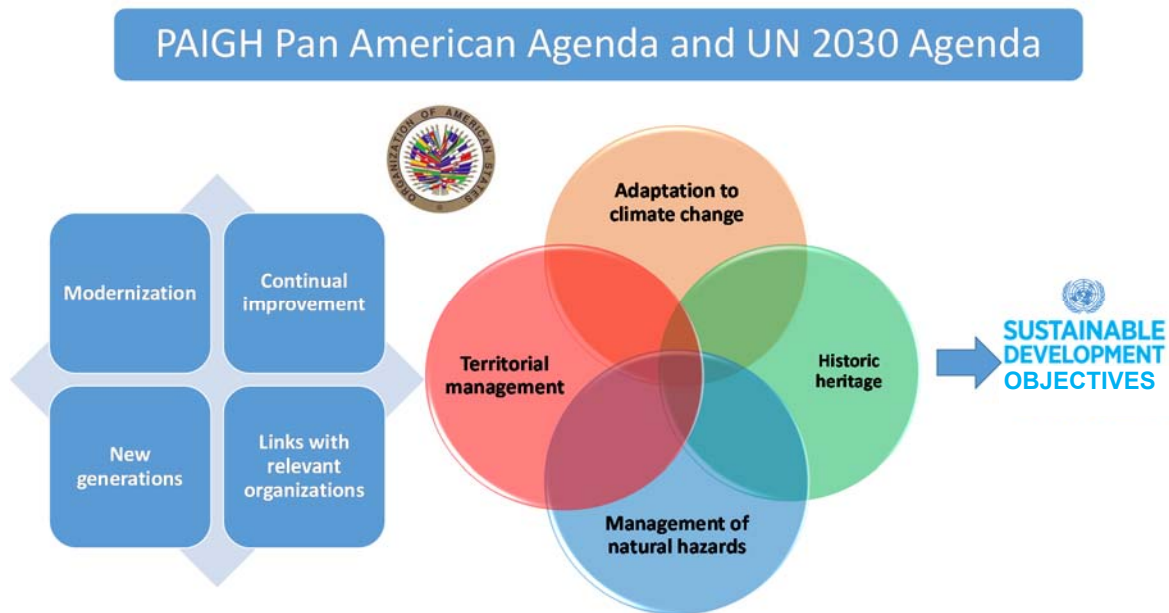
Pan American Agenda of the PAIGH and its relation to the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The PAIGH has defined a strategic policy as a way to contribute, according to its viewpoint, to the objectives of comprehensive and sustainable development in the region. For this reason, from 2009 onwards, the “Declaration and Guide for the Pan American Agenda 2010-2020” was established as a route for institutional actions to follow not only up to 2020 but also allowing adaptation to new proposals for continued contributions to the work of the Institute.

The Pan American Agenda constitutes an instrument for modernization, which, by means of analyses of the territory and of cultural heritage, pushes forwards a continual improvement of the Institute at all its levels, especially for each of the Member States, making possible the inclusion of new generations of specialists by means of links to the relevant organizations for these subjects and issues, at both regional and global levels.

Considering the fact that the United Nations defined, during the year 2015, the Sustainable Development Agenda for 2030, through which 17 Objectives for Sustainable Development were established along with their corresponding schedules, it is considered a priority for the PAIGH Commissions to take the relevant actions for adapting their work plans in order to fulfill the Pan American Agenda of the PAIGH in alignment with the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

It is for this reason that the policy guidelines have been given for the technical and publications tasks to concentrate on the priority themes such as adaptation to climate change, territorial management, natural hazards management and historic heritage, these being the key issues for achieving the fulfillment of the above-mentioned Sustainable Development Objectives of the UN.



Joint Action Plan to expedite the development of Spatial Data Infrastructure of the Americas

By its nature, building a Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) is a dynamic, ongoing process over the long term in which concepts, methods, cultural and institutional aspects all combine together with scientific and technological resources, capital and specialists for making geospatial information available for serving the needs of development at multiple levels.

The Action Plan, signed between PAIGH, SIRGAS (Geo-centric Reference System for the Americas), UN-GGIM: Americas (Regional Committee of the United Nations for the Global Management of Geospatial Information for the Americas) and GeoSUR program of the Latin America Development Bank (CAF), has as its main purpose the harmonization of their efforts and their work plans, improving their specializations, preventing duplicated efforts and preparing the relevant institutions for the continual technological changes and innovations that arise in this field of development.

In this way, the PAIGH has assumed its key role in assembling together the regional processes and in capacity building, as this corresponds to the nature of its Cartography Commission. For its part SIRGAS fulfils the function of providing the geodesic reference framework for the region, while UN-GGIM: Americas has the responsibility of pushing forwards regional and institutional policies and of acting as the direct link to the United Nations system. Finally, GeoSUR acts to develop services and applications derived from the geo-spatial databases of the organizations which participate in this program at institutional and regional level.

In this way, the Joint Action Plan has been updated in order to plan forwards up to, in principle, the year 2020. During the year 2016 the following activities have been carried out:

- On the 16th of June of this year, a work meeting was held at the Ministry of National Assets and Resources of Chile, at which leaders of SIRGAS, UN-GGIM: Americas and GeoSUR participated with the aim of approving the updates to the above-mentioned “Joint Action Plan”.
- On the 3rd of August, 2016, the above-mentioned Action Plan was presented and ratified in the context of the 6th Meeting of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM), held in New York, United States.
- The updated Action Plan was also presented to meetings of the PAIGH 47th Directing Council (Asuncion, Paraguay), of SIRGAS (Quito, Ecuador) and UN-GGIM: Americas (Mexico).



*Attendees at the Work Meeting held on June 16th, 2016 in Santiago, Chile, in order to approve the text of the updated “Joint Action Plan to expedite the development of Spatial Data Infrastructure of the Americas”: Sergio Cimbaro, Director of IGN Argentina and acting representative of South America; Santiago Borrero, Coordinator of GeoSUR; Mónica Aguayo, Executive Secretary; Rolando Ocampo, President and Álvaro Monett, Vice-president of UN-GGIM: Americas; Max Lobo, Director of IGN Costa Rica and representative of Central America; Eric Loubier, representative of North America; Rodrigo Barriga, Secretary General of the PAIGH and William Martínez, President of SIRGAS
(Photograph: PAIGH)*

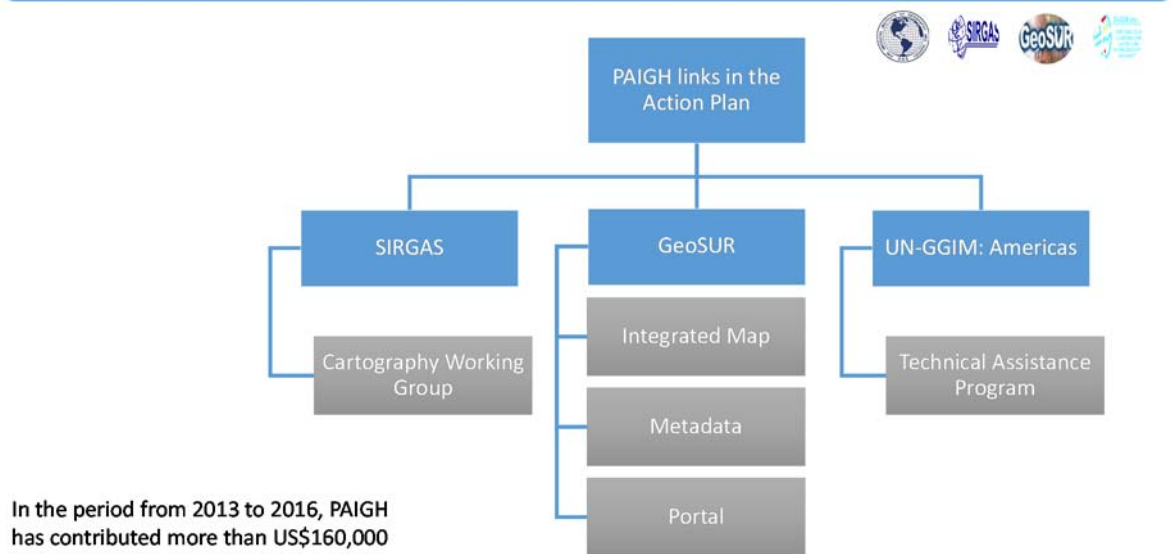


Signature of the Commitment Document for updating the Joint Action Plan. Rodrigo Barriga, PAIGH Secretary General; Rolando Ocampo, President of UN-GGIM: Americas and Santiago Borrero, Coordinator of GeoSUR (Photograph: PAIGH)



Presentation of the Joint Action Plan: Rolando Ocampo, President of UN-GGIM: Americas; Rodrigo Barriga, PAIGH Secretary General and Santiago Borrero, Coordinator of GeoSUR (Photograph: PAIGH)

PAIGH – SIRGAS – UN-GGIM: Americas – GeoSUR Joint Action Plan



Since the first version of this Action Plan was signed, at the end of the year 2012, the PAIGH has supported this in concrete form through the Technical Assistance program with direct contributions of US\$160,000 over a period of four years, as can be seen in Table No. 6.

No.	Project Title	Amount approved USD	Year
1	SIRGAS 2013 in Panama: building up technical-scientific capabilities in reference systems	8,000	2013
2	CP-IDEA Committee for the Geospatial Data Infrastructure of the Americas	8,000	2013
3	Initiative for the integration of geospatial data of Central America	10,000	2013
4	SIRGAS 2014: building up technical-scientific capabilities for giving impetus to developing the Geospatial Data Infrastructure of the Americas	8,000	2014
5	Overviews in the analysis of new tendencies in SDI in Latin America: challenges and opportunities	8,000	2014
6	Integration of geo-spatial data for Central America	10,480	2014
7	Workshop for integrating geospatial information about the “Paz” River basin, between the countries of Guatemala and El Salvador	6,000	2014
8	SIRGAS 2015 symposium: Exchange of experiences and the formulation of supra-national plans for the regional implementation of the fundamental layer of the spatial data infrastructure of the Americas	6,540	2015
9	Workshop for consolidating strategies towards the unification of the Vertical Networks of the member countries of SIRGAS	6,000	2015
10	Usability of SDI geoportals	6,000	2015
11	UN-GGIM: Americas Regional Committee of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management	6,500	2015
12	Proposal for standardizing tactile symbology for Latin America: application in cartography for tourism (2014-2016)	10,000	2015
13	SIRGAS 2016: building up technical-scientific capabilities for accelerating the development of the SDI of the Americas	8,000	2016
14	Proposal for standardizing tactile symbology for Latin America: application in cartography for tourism (2014-2016)	13,500	2016
15	Assessment of the current status of the methodologies and procedures used in quality evaluations of Geographic Information in the Member States of the Pan American Institute for Geography and History	15,040	2016
16	Towards an integrated system of geospatial information in Central America for adapting to climate change and the management of natural hazards	22,600	2016
17	UN-GGIM: Americas Regional Committee of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management	8,000	2016
Total		160,660	

Table No. 6 Contribution of the PAIGH through the Joint Action Plan

GeoSUR Program

This is a Program that integrates the institutions that produce geospatial information in Latin America and the Caribbean with the goal of implementing a regional geo-spatial network and of aiding to establish the basis of a spatial data infrastructure in the region. The network supports the development of geographic services with free access and makes it possible to obtain, locate, query and analyze spatial information by means of maps, satellite images, and geographic data set up by the participating institutions and which have multiple uses for various developments in the region.

The network is led by the Latin American Development Bank (CAF) and the Pan American Institute for Geography and History (PAIGH) and has available the participation of institutions across the region, among which the planning, public works and environmental ministries together with the geographic institutes.

GeoSUR Portal

With the support of the US Geological Survey of the United States of America (USGS), the Program has had a working geoportal that offers free access to maps from each nation published on the Internet by more than 110 institutions of Latin America and the Caribbean, each one of which has implemented an interactive map service and a mechanism for offering access to diverse sets of geographic data. For this purpose, a work meeting was held at the PAIGH headquarters in Mexico City on the days of the 12th and 13th of October 2016, with the participation of the GeoSUR Program Coordinator, delegates from the USGS and the PAIGH Secretary General, for analyzing and coordinating those aspects concerning the optimization of the above-mentioned geoportal.



*Coordinator of the GeoSUR program, delegates of the USGS
and the PAIGH General Secretary
(Photograph: PAIGH)*

9th Meeting of GeoSUR

On November 11th, 2016, at the city of Asuncion, Paraguay, the 9th GeoSUR meeting was held. On this occasion, the Coordinator of the GeoSUR program reported on the progress made during 2016 and the prospects for the Program in 2017. At the same time the PAIGH Secretary General made known the progress made in the cooperation between the PAIGH and the CAF for the GeoSUR program and the development of geospatial information in the region. Presentations were made, among which “Latin American Metadata Profile LAMP v2” from Pablo Morales (Editor of the Profile) and “Prospects for the Latin American Integrated Digital 1:250,000 Map” from Santiago Borrero, Rodrigo Barriga and Antonio Rodríguez should be pointed out. Moreover, the fifth GeoSUR award for 2016 was presented to its winner, which was the Military Geographic Institute of Ecuador for its initiative “Use of the Spatial Data Infrastructure by the Military Geographic Institute of Ecuador for early response to natural disasters: case of the Ecuador earthquake of 2016”. Before finishing, the call for nominations to the sixth award (2017) and the location for the 10th GeoSUR Meeting were made known, concluding with the contributions of the institutions participating in the Meeting.

GeoSUR newsletter

The “GeoSUR Newsletter” continues to be published; this makes known the news that is of interest to the geospatial community of the Americas. During this period six issues have been published and are available to be read on the PAIGH web site and through social networks.



GeoSUR Newsletter, October-November-December 2016 (Source: Newsletter Editor, Dr. Nancy Aguirre)

Instruments for cooperation between CAF and PAIGH in the context of GeoSUR

During the first half of 2016, the following instruments or systems of cooperation were satisfactorily set up between the CAF / Latin American Development Bank and the PAIGH:

- Contract for the development of the Integrated North Andean (MIAN); for running participative mapping workshops which enable the creation of a continuous digital map

at 1:250,000 scale of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama and Peru. The results of this have been published by means of a Web Map Server (WMS) in the GeoSUR geoportal, with a license under the “Creative Commons” system, recognizing the authorship of the participating Geographic Institutes.

- Contract for providing services to support the GeoSUR Program (2015 – 2016); in general terms, this contract is concerned with the following activities managed by the PAIGH to the benefit of the GeoSUR Program:
 - Specialized Catalogue of metadata
 - Latin American Metadata Profile LAMP v.2.0
 - Consultancy service in geomatics
 - Management of: the GeoSUR Newsletter, software, and technical activities of the GeoSUR Program

The above demonstrates, once again, the importance that the CAF gives to the initiative of the GeoSUR Program, the objective of which is to continue providing services for building capabilities that drive forwards the development of Geospatial Data Infrastructures in Latin America and the Caribbean. For this, two new instruments (agreements) of cooperation have been presented during the second half of 2016 for the following initiatives:

- Integrated Map of South America (MIAS)
- Provision of specialized services and advice to support the GeoSUR Program (period of 2016-2017)

Cooperation with the National Geographic Institute and the National Centre for Geographic Information (IGN-CNIG) of Spain

The IGN of Spain and the PAIGH, being members of the “Red Iberoamericana de Infraestructuras de Información Geográfica” (Iberian-American network of geographic information infrastructures - R3IGeo), have encouraged and supported the training of technicians through courses and the running of projects that enable the specialized technicians of the countries that are members of the Pan American Network to improve their knowledge. These training courses and projects have been put into effect directly by the R3IGeo in cooperation with institutions and universities of the member or observer countries, so the performance of the training activities planned have the support of the Operational Secretariat of R3IGeo, which is dependent upon the National Centre for Geographic Information (IGN-Spain). To these ends, in April of 2016, a ‘Singular Specific Document’ was signed between the IGN of Spain and the PAIGH, which covers the following:

- Provision of specialized advice and guidance for the Integrated Pan American Map (including those countries that are members of the PAIGH and others in the Caribbean and Latin America)
- Provision of virtual courses. During the year 2016, grants with no costs have been offered for the following courses:

- Remote sensing, Photogrammetry, LIDAR and land use
- Geographic Information Systems (basic)
- Spatial Data Infrastructure

- Participation in the workshop for Directors of Cartographic Agencies (intended for directors and/or leading executives of Geographic Institutes)
- Continue the work on harmonization for the Pan-Hispanic Glossary of ISO/TC 211 Terminology
- Specialized advice and guidance for harmonizing and updating the Latin American Metadata Profile (LAMP)

Integrated Map of America

The concepts for creating an integrated cartography started with the setting up of the “Americas Global Map Working Group” in the year 2005, as a product of the meeting of the PAIGH Cartography Commission held that year in Caracas, Venezuela. With this, it was intended to achieve and push forwards the development of a continental map based on the standard of the international initiative called the “Global Map”; this objective was partially achieved through the project “Integration of Global Map Data of South America” at a low resolution scale of 1:1,000,000, which was executed by the end of the year 2012, motivating the start-up of participative cartographic activities.

Subsequently, in the year 2009 the PAIGH began — with the cooperation of the CAF, the GeoSUR Program and the USGS — the creation of an Integrated Map of Central America, at 1:250,000 scale, which covered the countries of Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama and part of southern Mexico. For this, three workshops were run; one in Costa Rica and two in El Salvador, at which the technicians of the Geographic Institutes worked to harmonize the data. The Project finished in the year 2013, when it was published through the corresponding Web Map Server (WMS) on the GeoSUR portal.



Area covered by the Integrated Map of Central America (Source: www.geosur.info)

From the year 2015 and up until around the middle of 2016, with continuity from the Map of Central America, the Project titled “Integrated North Andean Map” (MIAN) was put into effect. This had the participation of the Geographic Institutes of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama and Peru, with Panama acting as the link to the Central American map. For this, the specialized advice and guidance of the National Centre for Geographic Information (CNIG) of the National Geographic Institute of Spain was made available, together with that of the USGS of the United States. The finance was provided by the CAF / Latin American Development Bank in the context of the GeoSUR Program; support was also received from the International Technical Assistance Program of the Department of Interior of the United States (DOI-ITAP) and from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). To this effect, four participative cartographic workshops and one, smaller, intermediate workshop were run, at which specialists from the Geographic Institutes of the participating countries established the cartographic integration. This has made it possible to publish the corresponding Map Service (WMS) at the GeoSUR portal. The workshops were held in Colombia, Peru (intermediate), Ecuador, Panama and Brazil.

It should be pointed out that, at the workshop held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, the specialists of the Brazilian Institute for Geography and Statistics (IBGE) were invited with the intention of giving continuity to the project and of visualizing the startup of the new Integrated Map of South America (MIAS) project.



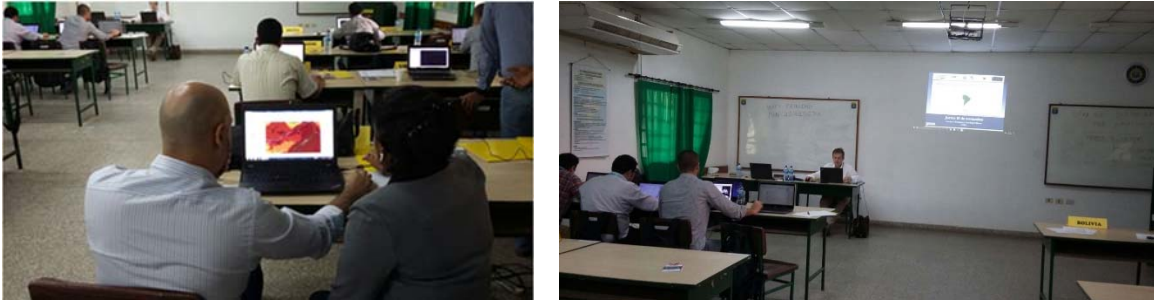
Spatial extent built up by the Integrated Map of Central America ,the MIAN and the recent inclusion of Brazil

Thus, between 7th and the 11th of November 2016, the first workshop of the project for the Integrated Map of South America (MIAS) was run with the participation of delegates from the Geographic Institutes of South America.

Workshop of the Integrated Map of South America (MIAS)

The workshop was held simultaneously with the 47th Meeting of the Directing Council. Between the 7th and the 11th of November 2016, the following matters were worked on: The vision of the PAIGH for obtaining the Integrated Map of the Americas and the Viewpoint of

the GeoSUR Program, then the current status of Digital Cartography at a resolution of 1:250,000 or similar was analyzed together with the associated projects of the participating South American countries. The integration of the Official Cartography was begun. It is intended for a total of three other workshops to be run; these should be finished during the year 2018.



*First MIAS workshop, held in Asuncion, Paraguay, from the 7th to the 11th of November 2016
(Photograph: CNIG Spain)*

2. Program of Publications

The following table gives details of the status of each one of the periodic journals of the PAIGH up to the 28th of February 2017:

<i>Journal</i>	<i>Frequency of publication</i>	<i>Most recent issue published</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Cartographic	Annual	91	Year 2015	Published and distributed
	Twice yearly	92	January-June 2016	Being printed
	Twice yearly	93	July-December 2016	In the process of being edited at the General Secretariat
	Twice yearly	94	January-June 2017	Being prepared by the editor
Geographic	Annual	156	Year 2015	Being distributed as per regulations
		157	Year 2016	Being prepared by the editor
Geophysics	Annual	64	January 2012- Dec. 2014	Published and distributed
		65	January-Dec. 2015	Being prepared by the editor
		66	January-Dec. 2016	Being prepared by an invited editor
History of America	Annual	149	July- December 2013	Published and distributed
		150	January-Dec. 2014	Being distributed
		151	January-Dec. 2015	Being printed
		152	January-Dec. 2016	In the process of being edited at the General Secretariat
American Archeology	Annual	33	Year 2015	Published and distributed
		34	Year 2016	Being prepared by the editor
American Anthropology	Twice yearly	Vol.1, No.1	January-June 2016	Published and distributed
		Vol.1, No.2	July-Dec. 2016	Published and distributed
		Vol.2, No.1	January-June 2017	Being prepared by the editor

Table No. 7 Status of the periodic journals up to the 28th of February 2017

One of the main objectives of the General Secretariat is to continue contributing to the publication promptly and at the right time, through these journals, of the results of research carried out by scientists and specialists of the region, above all, of the information that is created as a result of the projects in the Technical Assistance Program financed by the PAIGH.

For the purpose of bringing the periodic publications up to date, the option of inviting guest editors was taken. This practice has been adopted by the editors responsible for the “Cartographic Journal”, the “Geophysics Journal” and the “History of America Journal”. Moreover, some of these publications will be issued annually.

Digital distribution of the Periodic Publications

The General Secretariat of the PAIGH is distributing and selling articles from its periodic publications via the academic databases Cengage Learning, ProQuest and Ebsco which offer, for consultation and purchase by users, the journal volumes edited from 2001, 2005 and 2006 onwards respectively for the “Cartographic Journal”, “Geographic Journal”, “Geophysics Journal”, “History of America Journal”, “American Anthropology Newsletter” and the “American Archeology Journal”.

At the JStor database, there are the complete collections of the “Geographic Journal”, the “History of America Journal”, the “American Anthropology Newsletter” and the “American Archeology Journal”, while the “LatAm-Estudios” database offers the full texts of practically the whole collection of the “Geographic Journal”.

Moreover, the periodic journals mentioned above form part of the directory and catalogue of “Latindex”. In the future, the link to the digital version of the recent volumes published of the periodic journals will be established.

In addition, and as a way of widely distributing the latest publications, the following titles have been made available through the Amazon portal (in Kindle format): “Cultural Heritage in America, volume I, research and education on heritage”, “Cultural heritage in America, volume II. Conservation and social usage”, “The dark side of international cooperation; discretionary regulation of external aid in the encouragement of democracy and human rights”, “From Colonial to National: the ecclesiastical career of Chilean secular clergy between 1650 and 1810”, “Economic History of the Southern Cone of America (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay); the era of the Revolutions and Independence”, “Art and Letters or the construction of the social imaginarius of the Porfirian elite, 1904-1912”. These titles are offered at a special price. For free download, there is the “Guide to ISO/TC 211 Standards for Geographic Information / Geomatics”, second edition in Spanish. In coordination with the Editors Working Group, other mechanisms for distributing the periodic and occasional publications in digital formats are being studied.

In the same area, the Library of the National Institute for Anthropology and History, under the coordination of its Director and with the cooperation of the PAIGH, is currently developing a project through which the complete sets of the periodic journals will be converted to digital media. Currently one can look at the full set of “American Archeology Journal” and the latest issues of the rest of the journal publications at the following link: http://bibliotecas.inah.gob.mx:8092/INICIO_IPGH.html

Project for improving the quality of the PAIGH Journal Publications

The Coordinator of the Editors Working Group presented a Project with the aim of making the information more systematic in order to strengthen the content of the periodic journals, achieve their recognition at international level and facilitate the work of the editorial process. For this, the following specific objectives have been set:

- Perform the technical and economic assessment of implementing a server or of hiring a service.
- Determine and evaluate the stages by which an Open Journal System (OJS) may be implemented for the editorial management of each journal.
- Propose recommendations for improving the quality of procedures, contents and recognition of the PAIGH journals.

With this Project it is intended to establish a process of continual improvement with the aim of having the periodic publications published reasonably promptly and on time, available to the Pan – American community while positioning them as a means for communicating the results of research financed by the PAIGH in its four Commissions.

“José Toribio Medina” Bibliographic Resource

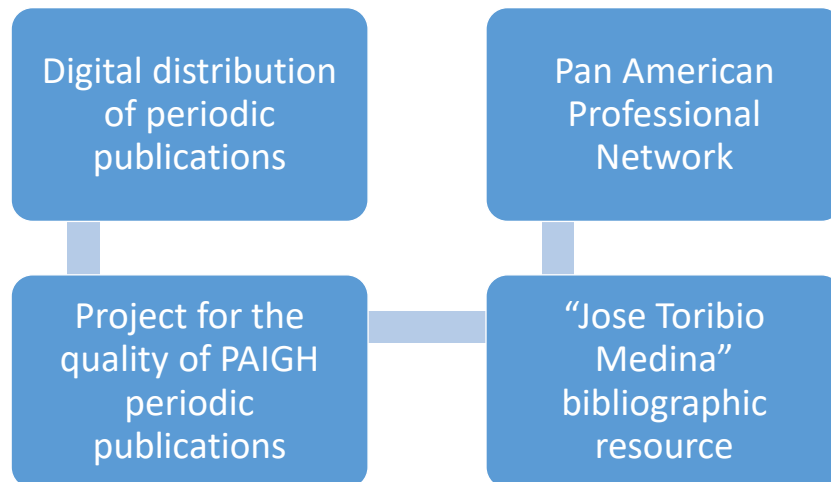
The bibliographic exchange is continuing, made through the National School for Anthropology and History (ENAH). At the premises of the General Secretariat, new journal titles are received at regular intervals under the concept of this Exchange. From March 1st, 2016 to January 25th, 2017; 370 publications have been entered into the “José Toribio Medina” Bibliographic Resource, which has, to date; 232,343 published items.

Considering the fact that, from 2016 onwards, the periodic publications have been placed on line with free access in various media and that having the printing done involves an expense that needs to be reduced, from 2017 the General Secretariat of the PAIGH will implement the electronic exchange mode. In this way a major saving will be obtained which will practically cancel out the expense of dispatch to the ENAH. Nevertheless, it is important to point out that, whenever required, it is possible to print the issues needed, as from 2004 onwards this has been done in accordance with the falling demand.

Pan American Network of Professionals

The General Secretariat manages the Pan American Network of Professionals, through which are made known all of the activities that are of interest to the members of that network. At the same time, that information is distributed through social networks, especially by Twitter.

Continuous improvement of the publications program



3. Financial Program

The membership fees that the Member States contribute have enabled the scientific and publications programs to be financed, also to sustain the administrative functions of the Institute, within an austere budgetary framework and ordered finances.

Concerning the countries that owe the largest amount of unpaid fees, the necessary contacts and liaison tasks have been carried out, trusting that the corresponding authorities are able to provide a solution soon.

During the 47th Meeting of the Directing Council (Paraguay, 2016), by means of Resolution No. 25, the representatives of the Member States approved the proposed increase in the membership fees. These resources are intended mainly for supporting the scientific-technical and publications programs, also for specialized projects with the goal of performing studies on issues such as adaptation to climate change, territorial organization, handling of natural hazards and historical heritage. It should be emphasized that, from this point of view, the Institute contributes to the plans and goals of sustainable development that have been adopted by the Member States, so as to cooperate with both the preservation of the human species and improve the quality of life of the inhabitants of our continent.

With the aim of improving the current economic situation of the Institute, the General Secretariat has planned for the following activities in order to obtain further resources to support the Technical Assistance and Publications Programs:

Activity 1

Resolution No. 6 of the 46th Meeting of the Directing Council (Colombia, 2015): “Cooperation agreements with donor organizations in the region”; obtaining cooperation funds – identification of agencies and organizations involved in international cooperation in order to establish support agreements that make it possible to facilitate the identification of opportunities for joint work on the issues within the scope of the PAIGH.

Activity 2

Search for cooperating partners - Resolution No. 10 of the 46th Meeting of the Directing Council (Colombia, 2015) “Reactivation of Chapter XII of the Organic Statute ‘on the condition of cooperating partner’”

Activity 3

Participation of the PAIGH in academic and scientific events related to the fields of action of the PAIGH such as: seminars, symposiums, conferences, workshops, certifications, among others.

4. Inter-institutional Relations

Relations with the OAS

The PAIGH Secretary General presented the annual report of the PAIGH (2016) at the headquarters of the OAS General Secretariat (Washington, D.C., USA). On this occasion, the most relevant activities of the period were described and explained mainly in the context of the Pan-American Agenda.



*Presentation of the Annual Report of the PAIGH to the OAS
(Photograph: PAIGH)*

During the activities run at the General Secretariat of that organization, important meetings were held with the direct adviser of the Secretary General, Ambassador Gabriel Bidegain, and with the President of the Permanent Council and of the General Commission, Ambassador Juan José Arcuri, Permanent Representative of Argentina. With them, ideas were exchanged about the role of the PAIGH in the context of the Inter American System that the OAS coordinates.

In the same spirit, the President of the PAIGH, engineer Rigoberto Magaña Chavarría, participated in the 46th General Assembly of the OAS held from the 13th to the 15th of June, this year in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

Moreover, the Geography Commission President participated in the 51st extraordinary period of sessions of the OAS General Assembly. This took place on October the 31st of 2016 at the headquarters of the OAS in Washington, D.C. On that occasion the Budget Program of the Organization for the year 2017 was approved.

Just as in previous years, specialized advice was given to the office of the OAS concerning the area around the boundary between Belize and Guatemala, for determining the coordinates of points related to the line between the adjacent countries. The specialized technical contribution of the Work Group “Geocentric Reference System for the Americas” (SIRGAS) was made available.

OAS Initiative: Hemispheric Observatory for Water Security (OHSA)

In the city of Washington, the geographer Jean Parcher, President of the Geography Commission, participated on the 25th and 26th of July, 2016, in the preparatory meeting for developing a platform that supports decision-making and the determination of policies for ensuring hydrous resources in the hemisphere, coordinated by the OAS.

In Mexico City, a second meeting was held on the 20th and 21st of October at the premises of the “College of Mexico”. The Secretary General attended and, together with representatives of the participating organizations, made an analysis of the proposals for setting up and sustaining the OHSA.

Besides the PAIGH, the OAS and the College of Mexico, the other bodies that participate in this initiative are the Catholic University of Peru, as do UN Environment, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, the Inter-American Development Bank, The Costa Rican Institute for Aqueducts and Drains, the Hydrological Program of the UNESCO, among others.



*Second Meeting of the OHSA, held in Mexico on the 20th and 21st of October, 2016
(Photograph: The College of Mexico)*

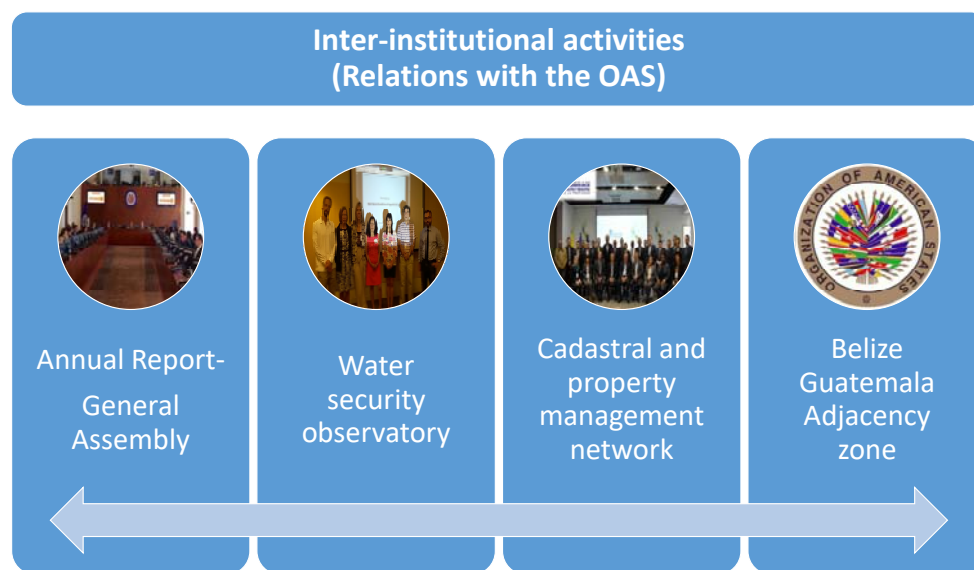
OAS Initiative: II Conference and Meeting of the Inter American Network for Cadastral and Property Records

The PAIGH Secretary General participated in the second conference and meeting that was held in Panama on the 27th to the 30th of September, 2016. This was hosted by the National Authority of Panama for Land Administration (ANATI) and the Public Records Office of Panama (RPP). The Organization of American States (OAS) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) participated and the World Bank and the FAO were represented.

The event in 2016 for exchanging experiences included a workshop about Land Management, an open session structured as a conference lasting a day and a half and a closed meeting also lasting a day and a half dedicated to the Assembly of the Inter-American Network of National Cadastral and Property Records Authorities.



Second Meeting of the Inter-American Network for Cadastral and Property Records, Panama City, Republic of Panama, 27th to 30th of September, 2016 (Photograph: ANATI Panama)



National Sections

During this period, there have been changes in the Presidencies of the following National Sections:

- Bolivia : Gral. Brig. Juan Manuel Piérola Sandoval
- Chile : Col. José Riquelme Muñoz
- Dominican Republic : Eng. Alejandro Jiménez Reyes
- Guatemala : Eng. Melida Lucía Izquierdo del Cid
- Paraguay : Col. DEM Juan Ramón Meza Gómez
- Peru : Gral. Brig. Marcos Rodríguez Monge
- Uruguay : Col. Norbertino Suárez
- Venezuela : Min. Ricardo José Méndez Prieto

The directory of the National Sections can be consulted at:
<http://ipgh.org/directorio/home.html>

Meeting of the National Section of the PAIGH in the United States

Between the 7th and 9th of April of this year, the PAIGH Secretary General participated in the activities of the annual meeting of the National Section of the United States, which on this occasion was held at the Offices of the National Census in Maryland. The status and activities of this National Section was analyzed by means of the participation of those who lead the Cartography, Geography, History and Geophysics Commissions. There were also scientific presentations concerning research matters being performed by US scientists and researchers in the fields covered by the PAIGH. Moreover, a professional visit by the participants was made to the General Secretariat of the OAS in Washington, D.C.; followed by a history-themed tour through the city of Alexandria, in Virginia, near Washington, D.C.



*Visit of the National Section of the PAIGH in the United States at the General Secretariat of the OAS
(Photograph: OAS, Washington, D.C.)*

As part of the activities carried out in the United States, a series of professional meetings were held, in particular the following should be highlighted:

- Greetings to the Permanent Mission of Chile to the OAS
- Activities and meetings at the OAS
- Meeting at the Inter-American Development Bank
- Meeting with the U.S. Department of State
- Participation in a Seminar concerning the International Technical Assistance Program at the Department of the Interior (DOI- ITAP)
- Meeting with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

At all these activities, the intention was to make known the role of the PAIGH and its importance in the Inter-American System.

Visit to Brazil

On the occasion of the 4th Workshop of the Integrated North Andean Map (MIAN) being run, a meeting was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on the 16th of May, 2016, with the National Section of that country. The opportunity was taken to analyze projects and possible activities in mutual cooperation. As a complement to this, the Ambassador of Brazil in Mexico made a courtesy visit to the General Secretariat PAIGH on June the 7th, 2016.



Meeting with the National Section of the PAIGH in Brazil (Photograph: PAIGH)



Visit to the PAIGH of the Ambassador of Brazil in Mexico (Photograph: PAIGH)

Visit of the President of the National Section of the Dominican Republic

On May the 23rd, 2016, the President of the National Section of the PAIGH in the Dominican Republic, the engineer Alejandro Jiménez, accompanied by the Vice-President of that National Section, the architect Nelson Toca, visited the PAIGH General Secretariat in order to analyze aspects of cooperation to support the recently created “José Joaquín Hungría Morell” National Geographic Institute of that country.



Visit of the President and Vice-president of the National Section of the PAIGH in the Dominican Republic at the General Secretariat (Photograph: PAIGH)

Visit to the PAIGH of the Ambassador of Ecuador in Mexico

On the 15th of March, 2016, the Ambassador of Ecuador in México, Leonardo Arizaga Schmegel visited the PAIGH offices. On this occasion topics of shared interest were discussed, especially the way for various Ecuadorean projects to be submitted and performed within the specialized fields of the Institute.



*Visit of the Ambassador of Ecuador to the PAIGH
(Photograph: PAIGH)*

Joint Meeting with the UN-GGIM: Americas and CEA (CEPAL)

The Secretary General participated in a joint meeting of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM: Americas) together with the Statistics Conference of the Americas (CEA) of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), which was held on June the 17th of this year, at the headquarters of ECLAC in Santiago, Chile. On this occasion, besides covering other important issues, the proposal for the Integrated Map of the Americas was presented, along with statistical information about populations.



*Attendees at the Joint Meeting between the UN-GGIM: Americas and CEPAL
(Photograph: UN-GGIM: Americas)*

Sixth Meeting of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management of the UN

The Secretary General participated in the “Sixth Meeting of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management of the United Nations” (UN-GGIM), which was held from the 1st to the 5th of August 2016 at the headquarters of the United Nations in New York. On that occasion, several work sessions were attended, including those concerning: the Global Geodesic Reference Framework; Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters; Geospatial Information and the Objectives of Sustainable Development; the 23rd Meeting of the International Steering Committee for Global Mapping (ISCGM); the Americas Regional Committee of UN-GGIM and the main UN-GGIM sessions.

In the context of the 23rd Meeting of the ISCGM, it was the task of the Secretary General to present the submission titled “From Global Map to a Future Integrated Map of the Americas”. At the meeting of the Americas Regional Committee of the UN-GGIM, the “Joint Action Plan 2016-2020 for accelerating the development of the Spatial Data Infrastructure of the Americas” was signed in the presence of the leaders of the UN-GGIM Americas Regional Committee and of the GeoSUR Program.

As a result of these meetings, relevant conclusions were reached and resolutions made about the important role of geospatial information management, also about the need to strengthen cooperation and joint initiatives for making progress in the development and use of data and geospatial tools for supporting sustainable development. Further information can be obtained at the following links:

http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html

<http://www.iscgm.org/iscgm23/>



Attendees at the 23rd Meeting of the ISCGM (Photograph: ISCGM)

Participation in the 14th Dominican Congress of Geographic Sciences

Thanks to the invitation of the President of the National Section of the PAIGH in the Dominican Republic, the Director of the “José Joaquín Hungría Morell” National Geographic Institute, the Secretary General of the PAIGH attended on the days 15th and 16th of September at the “14th Dominican Congress of Geographic Sciences”, which was held under the theme “Geography and Sustainable Development: the challenges for the Dominican Republic”. The Congress was dedicated to the memory of the late engineer José Joaquín Hungría Morell, who had been linked over many years to this Institute; among other positions he had been President of the Dominican National Section. At this Congress, the Secretary General gave an important presentation and speech titled “The role of the PAIGH in benefiting the Americas”.



*Vice-president of the PAIGH National Section in the Dominican Republic, Nelson Toca , the PAIGH Secretary General, Rodrigo Barriga, the Economy Minister of the Dominican Republic, Isidoro Santana
(Photograph: National Section of the PAIGH in the Dominican Republic)*

Third Session of UN-GGIM: Americas and the Latin American Geospatial Forum (LAGF)

The Secretary General attended the Third Session of the UN-GGIM: Americas Regional Committee, held on October 5th and 6th of this year in Mexico City in the context of the Latin American Geospatial Forum (LAGF). Concerning the UN-GGIM: Americas session, the progress made in and over view of activities undertaken by the leaders and by specific Working Groups was made known, the results of the general survey about the management of geospatial information in the countries that are members of this organization were presented, and moreover aspects of international cooperation and future plans were discussed. In addition, a presentation was given on the “Joint Action Plan for accelerating the development of the Spatial Data Infrastructure of the Americas”. In the context of this Plan, it was the task of the Secretary General to present the proposal of the PAIGH about the Fundamental Geospatial Data at regional level.

At the sessions of the LAGF of 2016, many topics and issues were discussed, such as the role of geospatial technology in the design and implementation of solutions, geo-intelligent infrastructure, the digital economy, the integration of geospatial technology with tendencies

in industry, artificial intelligence, Big Data, and also diverse topics concerning the impact of technological convergence upon a digital economy.



*Third Session of the UN-GGIM: Americas Committee. Mexico City, 6th of October, 2016
(Photograph: UN-GGIM: Americas)*

Webinars

During this period, the Secretary General has attended virtually to conferences and webinars organized by several entities. The following are highlighted.

During this forum, the Secretary General had the task of moderating the Plenary Session dedicated to geo-spatial data practice in projects for national development.

- Webinar: gvSIG Online
- Live on-line presentation UN-GGIM
- Seminar on “Geospatial Information for United Nations”
- Eye on Earth Webinar: “Strengthening Environment Statistics for Monitoring the SDGs”
- Eye on Earth Webinar “A tour of UNEP Live highlighting various functionalities including the SDG Synergies Portal and the Web Intelligence Portal”
- UN Env Assembly Science-Policy Forum (Nairobi)
- Eye on Earth Moving Forward
- Belmont Forum “Cooperative Research Action on Data and e-Infrastructures”
- A new era for Eye on Earth: Help define the new focus area “Data Infrastructure”
- A Big Data Approach to Analyzing Sustainability
- The International Society for Digital Earth
- On-line planning workshop “Data Infrastructure”
- Using machine learning to predict measures of poverty and wealth from satellite imagery
- Briefing and Update on OGC/W3C Spatial Data on the Web Working group
- EoE Webinar: “Introducing SuAVE - a free online system for visual analysis, sharing, and analysis of SDG Indicators - and more”
- Negotiating the SDGs – a participant’s reflection on their origin and evolution - and the challenges and opportunities they afford

Relevant activities in Mexico

Concerning activities carried out in Mexico, the participation in various events with a high degree of protocol convened by the Foreign Relations Secretariat and other activities deriving from the status of the PAIGH being an international organization can be mentioned. Among these, the following can be highlighted: the 34th Regional Conference of the FAO, the conference titled “Achievements and challenges of the citizens revolution in Ecuador”; the exhibition “Memories of Mexico”, the major conference “Mexico globally; interests and principles of foreign policy”; XXXVI Period of Sessions by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the event “Current Challenges to UN Peacekeeping Operations”, the presentation “The last voyage of the frigate Mercedes”; and a visit to the National School for Anthropology and History.

On January 26, the Secretary General participated in the seminar “Building the Future: Sustainable Development and Gender Equality”, organized by the National Council of Science and Technology of Mexico (CONACYT), the National Institute of Ecology and Climate Change (INECC), The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and by the Embassy of Finland in Mexico. On that occasion, issues such as climate change and the reduction of natural hazards were addressed from that perspective.

In this regard, the General Secretariat of the PAIGH, in addition to contributing to gender equality by responding to the questionnaire sent each year by the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), endorses and has adopted gender equity guidelines in its actions.

Cooperation Agreements Signed

In the framework of the Scientific Strategy of the Institute, during this period the following cooperation agreements have been signed between the PAIGH and the organizations indicated here:

- Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Ghent (Belgium)
- Agreement with the Bernardo O’Higgins University (Chile)
- Declaration of Intentions with the Geographic Institute of Aragon (Spain)
- Singular Specific Agreement Document with the National Geographic Institute and with the National Center for Geographic Information, both of these being of Spain
- Declaration of Intentions with the Research Center for Latin America and the Caribbean (CIALC) of the National Autonomous University of Mexico
- Agreement with the National Institute for Historic Studies of the Revolutions of Mexico (INEHRM)
- Agreement with the Further Research and Studies S.C. of the Anáhuac University, northern Mexico



Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Ghent, signed by Rodrigo Barriga, the PAIGH Secretary General and Anne De Paepe, Rector of the University of Ghent (Belgium) (Photograph: University of Ghent)



Agreement with the Bernardo O'Higgins University (Photograph: UBO)



Declaration of intentions with the Geographic Institute of Aragon (Spain) (Photograph: PAIGH)



Declaration of intentions with the Center for Research on Latin America and the Caribbean (Photograph: PAIGH)



Agreement with the National Institute for Historic Studies of the Revolutions of Mexico (Photograph: PAIGH)



General Agreement for academic cooperation with the Further Research and Studies S.C. of Anáhuac University, northern Mexico (Photograph: Anáhuac University)

Statutory Meetings

86th Meeting of the PAIGH Authorities (Paraguay, 2016)

During the 23rd to the 25th of June, the authorities of the PAIGH met in Asuncion, Paraguay. On the agenda, issues involving the Technical Assistance Projects of 2017, the fulfilment of resolutions from the 46th Meeting of the Directing Council, and preparations for the 47th Meeting of the Directing Council, among others, were covered. One of the most relevant matters was the link between the Pan American Agenda of the PAIGH to the Sustainable Development Objectives for 2030 of the UN.



Participants in the 85th Meeting of PAIGH Authorities (Photograph: PAIGH)



Authorities and members of the National Section of the PAIGH in Paraguay (Photograph: PAIGH)

47th Meeting of the Directing Council (Paraguay, 2016)

The 47th Meeting of the Directing Council was held in the city of Asuncion, Paraguay on the 8th to the 10th of November, 2016. It was hosted by the National Section of the PAIGH in that country, which is based at the Military Geographic Service central office.

On this occasion, delegates from the following Member States participated: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, United States of America and Uruguay, with Spain as a Permanent Observer.

It was a very productive meeting, in which the opportunity was taken to exchange ideas among the countries that attended. At the same time, interesting technical presentations were given; among these, the following can be mentioned:

- “Causes and impacts of the devastating earthquake that affected Ecuador; experiences from the viewpoint of seismic engineering”, Roberto Aguiar Falconi, Vice-President of the PAIGH.
- “Lessons learned in the area of natural hazards”, Military Geographic Institute of Ecuador and National Section of Ecuador.

- “The Journals of the PAIGH in one click”, Baltazar Brito Guadarrama, Director of the National Library of Anthropology and History of Mexico.
- “International Cartographic Conference ICC 2017”, “US Topo”, E. Lynn Usery of the “Geological Survey” of the United States.
- “Cooperation Projects; IGN-Spain/PAIGH 2017”, Emilio López, Director of the CNIG of Spain.
- “Version 2 of the Latin American Metadata Profile (LAMP v2.0)”, Pablo Morales (Editor of the Profile).
- “Report from the Coordinator of the Editors Working Group”, Hermann Manríquez Tirado.
- “Youth Mappers”, Patricia Solís, Vice-president of the Geography Commission.
- “Geographic information in regional administrations: philosophy, capabilities and services. The case of Aragon”, Fernando López Martín, Director of the Geographic Institute of Aragon (IGEAR).
- “Towards 90 years of the PAIGH”, Héctor O. J. Pena, Honorary President of the PAIGH 2013-2017.

The delegates participated in determining the prospects and plans of the Institute over the medium-term; in this assessment it was judged that having better economic sustenance would make it easier to fulfill the scientific objectives of the organization.

The main outcome of the meeting was the approval of 30 resolutions, the fulfillment of which is reported at the end of this report.



*47th Meeting of the Directing Council, held in Asuncion, Paraguay on the 8th to the 10th of November, 2016
(Photograph: PAIGH)*

Fulfilment of the Resolutions of the 47th Meeting of the Directing Council (Paraguay, 2016)

- Resolution No. 1* “Updating of the PAIGH Pan-American Agenda”
The Commission Presidents were requested to carry out the actions relevant to adapting their work plans to the fulfillment of the Pan American Agenda of the PAIGH and to the Sustainable Development Agenda for 2030 of the UN. They should submit these plans to the 87th Meeting of the Authorities (June 2017) and to the 21st General Assembly of the PAIGH (last quarter of 2017).
- Resolution No. 2* “Update of the Joint Action Plan to Accelerate the development of the Spatial Data Infrastructure of the Americas PAIGH/SIRGAS/UN-GGIM:Americas /GeoSUR”
The President of the Cartography Commission was requested to organize the Work Plan of this Commission so that the tasks set in above-mentioned “Joint Action Plan” may be fulfilled.
- Resolution No. 3* “Acceptance of the report of the Editing Working Group Coordinator”
The Coordinator of the Editors Working Group was given the task of submitting a preliminary report on the activities for improving the publications process of the PAIGH, at the 21st General Assembly (last quarter of 2017).
- Resolution No. 4* “Recognition to the Director of the National Institute of Mexican Anthropology and History Library”
The General Secretariat, through the Publications Department, will continue to coordinate and support the process of distributing and digital publication of the PAIGH journals, in conjunction with the INAH library.
- Resolution No. 5* “2017 International Cartographic Conference”
Considering the fact that this event will be run in Washington, D.C. from the 2nd to the 7th of July, 2017, the President of the Geography Commission, the geographer Jean Parcher, has been asked to represent the PAIGH at this conference.

- Resolution No. 6* “Recognition to the National Center of Geographic Information of the National Geographic Institute of Spain”
A letter has been sent to the CNIG to communicate this resolution and thanking this entity for its constant specialized support.
- Resolution No. 7* “Version 2 of the Latin American Meta data Profile”
The President of the Cartography Commission has been asked to set up the *ad hoc* Working Group “Latin American Metadata Profile” (LAMPv2).
- Resolution No. 8* “The reach of the products, services, and PAIGH studies”
The General Secretariat will prepare a draft resolution that will be submitted to the 21st General Assembly (last quarter of 2017), including a proposal for updating the related aspects of the Organic Statutes.
- Resolution No. 9* “Recommendations for the strengthening of the Geographic Institutes and Cartographic Agencies of the PAIGH Member States”
The General Secretariat will coordinate with UN-GGIM: Americas to request that a declaration of recognition and economic strengthening be declared for the tasks that the geographic institutes and cartographic agencies perform, emphasizing the importance of the information that is produced for the fulfillment of the objectives of sustainable development. Also requested is the assessment of the potential inclusion of the Geocentric Reference System of the Americas (SIRGAS) in the working group for the Global Geodesic Reference Framework (GGRF).
- Resolution No. 10* “Catalogue of PAIGH Geographic Objects and Symbols (COGS-PAIGH)”
In coordination with the Cartography Commission, the National Section of the PAIGH in Uruguay was asked to set up a Working Group that pushes forwards the development of this catalogue.
- Resolution No. 11* “Proposal of the standardization of tactile symbols and construction of tactile Cartography”
The Cartography Commission was requested to coordinate with the Tactile Cartography Working Group so that a basic design be proposed for tactile cartographic products, for their creation and for ways of using them, by implementing a “Users Manual” intended for students, teachers, technical and other professional staff.

- Resolution No. 12* “Ratification of the subscribed Agreement in between the Bernardo O’Higgins (Chile) University and PAIGH”
The Geography Commission was requested to undertake the follow-up actions for this agreement.
- Resolution No. 13* “Ratification of the Memorandum of Understanding written and Fisheries Information Service (SIAP) of Mexico and PAIGH”
The General Secretariat, through its Finance Department, is undertaking the follow-up actions for this contract.
- Resolution No. 14* “Ratification of the Memorandum of Understanding written between the Belgian Ghent University and PAIGH”
The Geography Commission was requested to undertake the follow-up actions for this memorandum.
- Resolution No. 15* “Ratification of the Letter of Intent written between the Center for Research over Latin America and the Caribbean (CIALC) of the National Autonomous University of Mexico and PAIGH”
The History Commission was requested to undertake the follow-up actions for this Declaration of Intentions.
- Resolution No. 16* “Ratification of the Agreement written between the National Institute of Historic Studies of the Revolutions of Mexico (INEHRM) and the PAIGH”
The History Commission was requested to undertake the follow-up actions for this agreement.
- Resolution No. 17* “Ratification of the Letter of Intent written between the Aragon Geographic Institute (IGEAR) and PAIGH”
The Cartography Commission was requested to undertake the follow-up actions for this agreement.
- Resolution No. 18* “Ratification of the Agreement written between the Anáhuac University (Mexico) and PAIGH”
The History Commission was requested to undertake the follow-up actions for this agreement.

- Resolution No. 19* “Modification to Article 26 of the Publications Rules in reference to the rules of distribution of the published journals”
The General Secretariat, through the Publications Department will propose updating the Organic Statute, the Regulations and Agreements of the PAIGH, for the next version to be published in 2018-2021, were these Rules for Publications, are included.
- Resolution No. 20* “Optimization of the communication mediums among PAIGH members”
The National Sections will be requested to submit the contact details of their members considering:
a) Name
b) Position and/or functions within the PAIGH
c) Organisation that the persons works in
d) Electronic mail address
e) Telephone
- Resolution No. 21* “Honorary Affiliate”
The diploma and medal will be sent to the corresponding National Sections so that these can be given at a special ceremony to the following honorary affiliates:
• Professor Héctor Óscar José Pena (Argentina)
• Doctor Chester José Zelaya Goodman (Costa Rica)
• MSc. Pilar Luna Erreguerena (Mexico)
- Resolution No. 22* “Convene the election of PAIGH Authorities for the time period 2017-2021”
This has been sent by letter to the National Sections in order to formally start this process.
- Resolution No. 23* “2015 Financial Report”
Having been approved by the Directing Council, the full version is now on the web site of the PAIGH.
- Resolution No. 24* “2015 Audit Report”
Having been approved by the Directing Council, the full version is now on the web site of the PAIGH.

- Resolution No. 25* “Annual membership fees of the Member States for 2017”
The General Secretariat is handling the payment of these fees by means of letters.
- Resolution No. 26* “2017 Program Budget”
The General Secretariat, through its financial department, and as the membership fees are paid, will fulfil and do the follow up for this program.
- Resolution No. 27* “Acceptance of the reports of the President, Vice-President, Secretary General, and Commission Presidents”
These are available on the PAIGH web page.
- Resolution No. 28* “Presentation of National Sections Reports”
A message has been sent to those National Sections that have not yet sent their report for the year 2016 requesting them to do so.
- Resolution No. 29* “Gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Paraguay”
A letter of thanks was sent to the President of Paraguay.
- Resolución No. 30* “Recognition to the Command of the Geographic Military Service of Paraguay, and to the PAIGH National Section in Paraguay and Organizing Committee”
A letter of thanks was sent to the President of the National Section.

5. Medium-term prospects

For the medium-term, it is intended to continue with the process of implementing the scientific, administrative and financial strategies. Establishing a mechanism that allows the PAIGH to obtain additional resources in a way that makes it possible to finance its continual modernization and improvement processes is understood to be very important for the future of the PAIGH.

Thus it will be important for the General Secretariat to strengthen the actions intended for putting the financial strategy into effect. It should also continue to work on integrating the concepts contained in the Pan American Agenda of the Institute with the fulfillment of the 2030 Agenda of the United Nations for achieving its Sustainable Development Objectives, which will enable the PAIGH to contribute, from its perspective, to these goals by supporting the Inter American System coordinated by the OAS.

