



50th Meeting of the Directing Council

Virtual modality, October, 7, 2020



RESOLUTION No. 1

50th MEETING OF THE DIRECTING COUNCIL – VIRTUAL MODE

The 50th Meeting of the Directing Council of the Pan American Institute for Geography and History (PAIGH), in its virtual mode,

CONSIDERING:

The recent developments and exceptional circumstances that have occurred in association with the spread of COVID-19 in the world, which has made it difficult to run as an in-person event the 50th Meeting of the Directing Council, scheduled to be held in Madrid, Spain on the 5th to the 8th of October of this year;

The world economic crisis that affects the PAIGH Member Countries, which has meant budgetary cuts that make travel for delegates to attend international events difficult or, in some cases, impossible;

The uncertainty that has arisen about possible resurgence of contagion or measures to close borders and the consequent cancelling of flights;

The fact that a minimum quorum is needed for a meeting of the Directing Council to be in session formally and to adopt the resolutions;

The fact that in the year 2019 the 49th Meeting of the Directing Council, scheduled to be held in Santiago, Chile, was suspended and then run in virtual mode, which resulted in experience being gained already in the implementation of this way of running meetings;

The lessons learned from the above-mentioned virtual Directing Council in 2019, which led to the fact that decisions need to be taken about this aspect at least three or four months in advance, in order to avoid expenses lost on the purchase of flights for air travel and hotel reservations;

The fact that actions must be taken to ensure that the PAIGH remains operational through 2021;



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The fact that article 18 of the Organic Statute of the PAIGH establishes that “During the period between meetings of the Directing Council, the President, together with the Secretary General, will be able to request decisions on urgent matters by means of official votes* issued by the Member States.”;

The fact that the procedure for remote voting was put into practice in the year 2014, for the election of the President of the PAIGH and then, subsequently, in 2019 for requesting the vote of the Member Countries on the draft resolutions covered by the 49th Meeting of the Directing Council;

Resolution CP/RES. 1150 (2280/20) approved by the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States (OAS), at the extraordinary virtual session held on the 16th of April, 2020;

The virtual meeting held on the 25th of June, 2020 with the National Sections, to determine whether the 50th Meeting of the Directing Council would be in person or virtual;

The recommendations of the 93rd Meeting of the Authorities,

RESOLVES TO:

1. Approve running for the 50th Meeting of the Directing Council in virtual mode, simplifying the agenda and structure, for the purpose of ensuring that the PAIGH remains operational through 2021.
2. Approve the procedure in which the General Secretariat requests, in advance, the votes of the National Sections, with the aim of improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the 50th Meeting of the Directing Council, in virtual mode.

* Resolution 13, approved at the 41st Meeting of the Directing Council, San Salvador, El Salvador, on the 19th-21st of November of 2008 defines “official vote”, as the vote issued by the Ministry for Foreign Relations, by whichever body acts in representation of the Member State or by the President of the National Section, when the nature of the matter being voted on allows.